

Speaker 1 ([00:00:08](#)):

You're listening to the journey on podcast with Warwick Schiller. Warwick is a horseman trainer, international clinician and author, whose mission is to help people achieve a deeper connection with their horses through his transformational training program, just be causing

Warwick Schiller ([00:00:34](#)):

Welcome back to the Journey On podcast. I'm your host Warwick Schiller. If you've listened to quite a few of the podcasts, you would have heard me talk about a trip that my son and I went on to Mongolia bet a year and a half ago to break Campbell's across the Gobi desert. Well, that trip was organized by a friend of mine from New Zealand named Chloe Phillips Harris and Chloe Phillips Harrison business card says horsewomen journalist adventurer. And I just, uh, I didn't know how to sum her up any other way, but those three things, but it's my great pleasure this, uh, this episode of the podcast to, to have, uh, Chloe join us and, uh, learn more about her amazing life.

Warwick Schiller ([00:01:25](#)):

Phillips Harris. Welcome to the podcast. Thanks. It was good to be here. You know, your, I was always amazed at your business card that says Chloe Phillips Harris journalist horsewoman adventurer, right? That's that's quite the Monica to carry around.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:01:44](#)):

I just thought, I guess, I mean, yeah, I'm a little bit less adventures this last year, but yeah,

Warwick Schiller ([00:01:51](#)):

You've had, you've had just a, a life full of adventures. I mean, I think it's a big, a big cold to put adventure on your, on your business card, unless you are a true adventure and you like live up to that. So like, you know, I think a lot of people would look silly having that on their business card, but you it's like hell yeah. And more, what else could your head add to that?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:02:17](#)):

Thanks. Yeah, I think when I first put it on the business card, I was like, well, I can't think of anything else besides do I decide that I like ride in different parts of the world on different animals or like, what's a good description. So it kind of became in-vitro because I couldn't think of anything else to put, but, um, yeah, these days it kind of feels like it's a legit term to use. Um, yeah. Yeah. I don't know what else I can add to that.

Warwick Schiller ([00:02:42](#)):

Well, you know, people from other parts of the world won't get this, but Australia and New Zealand will get these, um, heaven that on, on, on a business card for most people would just sound like a bit of a wink, but for you, it's not, it's like, what else? Like I said, what else, what else can you say? So, uh, I don't know you, there is, we only get two hours for this podcast. We usually don't go over two hours. And so I don't think we can fit your life into two hours because it's just amazing. So we're going to have to keep it to like the highlights and maybe let's start Mongolia because that's, you know, I did a pod Tal and I did a podcast on the, on the, the Gobi cold camel expedition. And you are a big part of organizing that. So how about we start with, so you first went to Mongolia to do the Mongol Derby.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:03:38](#)):

Yeah, that's right back in 2013, I wrote the Mongo Dabi and just loved it and instantly fell in love with country, the horses, the open spaces, people, everything

Warwick Schiller ([00:03:48](#)):

For people who may not be familiar with it. You want to give us a bit of an outline on, on, uh, the Mongol Derby itself.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:03:56](#)):

Yes. So the Mongo daddy is a thousand kilometer horse race across Mongolia. It's um, builder's the toughest horse race in the world and having been involved with it now for, for a long time, um, I would say it definitely lives up to that title. So the longest as well, it's the longest, the longest and toughest. Um, there's pretty much nothing else like it anywhere in the world. And so basically it's a, multi-day multi-stage race, um, 4,000 kilometers. I'm you change horses? Uh, when I did it, you changed horses every 40 kilometers. Now I think you change horses about every 30 to 35 kilometers, and you've got a five kg settle bag and backpack combined. And that's your gear for the entire race and you, um, basically, um, yeah, cross the country, get to a new horse station, get your horse fitted, make sure it passes and other bits stage Vidi Vici, get on the next horse and ride out again for as long as it takes you to do a thousand kilometers.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:04:54](#)):

And I just loved it. It's just to me like, um, you know, it was definitely tougher than anything I thought I would ever do and talk with than I ever imagined it being, but I just loved being on those horses. They're just so wild, still so fast, so kind of independent. Um, and I think the fact that there's a rice like that in this, in this world that tastes horsemanship as well as kind of a bit of, um, common sense, outdoor survival skills and a whole lot of other things is, is just phenomenal. Um, yeah, I loved it. I, I wrote it in 2013 and then was kind of involved with the race, um, probably got on a horse and rode most of it. Um, two more times after that filming and was involved in, um, kind of the reframing and the blood wagon and the rescue side of it as part of the crew for six years, as well as riding it in 2015

Warwick Schiller ([00:05:49](#)):

For air American listeners. Uh, it's a thousand kilometers, that's about 600 miles and you get a five kilo pack and there's 2.2, I mean, 2.2 pounds, two Akila. So you can carry about 10 to 12 pounds on you. That's amazing. Yeah. Yeah. Um, what, is there an entry fee for the race?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:06:10](#)):

Yeah, yeah, it was basically my entire life savings back then and I think it's even more now. I think it's, I think it's about 15,000 us now, but, um, yeah, I mean, but by the time I got over there, I think it was about, you know, including plane tickets and things like that. It was about 20,000 New Zealand for me back in 2013. And, um, I remember it being like a really big decision, you know, like I'd saved all this money taking years to save all this money. And I'm deciding whether to use all those savings on a horse race or use them to kind of, you know, potentially put down a house deposit or invest in the horses or something was a really big call and having done the Dabi, I would never regret a cent. I spent on it. I think it was the best money I've ever spent in. And, and it just was such a life changing event. Um, it comes with a price tag, but, but I think for me it was, it was worth everything.

Warwick Schiller ([00:07:06](#)):

That's where the adventure bid on your business card comes in. Think about this it's 15,000 us to enter. And when you win, if you win after this grueling a thousand kilometers on a half wild horse across the step of Mongolia, what do you win?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:07:26](#)):

Oh, well, um, as you cross the finish line, you get a bowl of IREG, which is fermented alcoholic, horse milk. And you get that if you are the first person across the line or the last person across the line, and, um, that's about it. There's no prize money and you raise money for your chosen charity as well as cooler while you're doing the race. But yeah, there's, there's no prize money incentive, nothing like that. You, you might get a trophy if you win, but you know, that depends year to year. So I think, I think there's two categories of people who go and do this kind of race. And for me, I wanted to just see what I could do. I really wanted to test myself. And then I guess there is the other people who kind of do it, they think for the, I guess the fame and glory or yeah, the news articles that come afterwards or, you know, to say they won or completed the world's toughest horse race. But yeah, I think, I think for a lot of people who go, um, it's differently, differently, not an incentive on what you went in because there is nothing it's just to kind of test yourself, I guess some people go and climb Everest or climb a mountain and others the best go and ride a thousand kilometers.

Warwick Schiller ([00:08:36](#)):

Wow. So tell us, uh, tell us about your experience with it. Cause you were, you, you know, I've read the whole story. So Chloe has written a book called fearless, which I, which I think is just an absolutely great title for a book about your life. Um, did you come up with that title before we get too far on the, the, the Mongo, uh, Dobie, but, uh, did you come up with a title for the book?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:09:05](#)):

No, I, I wish I decided that I did, but no, I didn't. Um, I wrote the whole book and then, um, you know, I was getting closer and closer to, to publish time and was talking to the editor and, um, we kinda bounced a few ideas around and that was actually his idea. And the only one that kind of stuck was fearless,

Warwick Schiller ([00:09:26](#)):

You know, knowing you, I just can't see you going. Yeah. I'm going to write a book it's about me and I'm going to call it fearless.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:09:35](#)):

Yeah. No differently. It doesn't come naturally coming up with like, if that title and that kind of thing, like, Oh, write a book about myself. I think if it would be not to me, I would have written a book about one of my favorite horses or something and didn't didn't. Yeah. But I just opportunity came up and with a bit of encouragement, um, it all came, all came together.

Warwick Schiller ([00:09:56](#)):

Yeah. Fascinating book. If anybody wants to read that one it's uh, yeah, it's fascinating, but uh, I've read the book. And so now the story of your participation in the Mongol, uh, Darby. So do you want to, let's talk about it a bit because there's some, there's some stuff,

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:10:16](#)):

Some stuff went down. Yeah. Um, well I just like, I mean, I signed up for it wanting to push myself to the limit. Like that is the mindset that I went into this rice, you know, the peered for, I worked with wild horses. I, I done a lot of the venting. Um, I just, you know, I guess I wanted to see what I really was capable of and I knew this was going to be tough. Um, and I'm in, but I talked to another New Zealand rider. Who'd done it a few years before me and I went and met him for coffee. And I said, do you think about the rice? And you get off, will the Mongo Dhabi will break you. And I was like, you will not break me. What are you talking about? You know? And I just, I remember thinking, and kind of rolling my eyes to myself and thinking on that one, they weren't Brittany, but, um, yeah, the Mongo daddy pushes everyone past their limit in some form or another.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:11:18](#)):

And I think, um, while the good parts are so incredibly amazing, you know, getting on good horses, I rode one incredible horse. It was just phenomenal. And it, it just sticks in my mind was I got on the race horse and been a really successful race horse over in Mongolia. And it just galloped for 40 kilometers. Like I just sat up there and it was so light off the rain. It was just so sensitive. It was so beautiful training and it was so fit and it just scallop 40 kilometers. And I just remember thinking, Oh my God, this is, this is cool. This is the most amazing thing I could ever imagine. And then, you know, 500 meters before I saw the vet station, I brought it down to walk. It walked in and it passed its vet check instantly like its heart rate was below 65.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:12:04](#)):

And you know, it probably took me, I don't know, five minutes of walking, um, from when I saw the bit station to when I got there and it passed a bit chicken. I just remember that just blowing my mind, the level of fitness and, and how incredible these horses were. So there's these amazing moments like this on the Dabi. And then there are the others that are not. So, um, and, and I think, you know, like if you're going out to a challenge like that, you kind of have in your mind what you think the low points will be. Um, but when you get to those low points, they can be so much worse than you ever imagined. That could be. And I think you realize how hard it is to get through those low points and how much more you kind of are capable of where you think your limit is. I can guarantee your limit is a lot, lot further our high, or how do you want to say it then you think, um, for my year in particular, we had, we had, uh, a guest drop on going for our field at start camp. And I remember being in the gear and I, I guess,

Warwick Schiller ([00:13:07](#)):

Okay, hang on. Let's, let's talk about that for it. That's a very Australian New Zealand time, a gastro bug would mean would mean a bad case of diarrhea is going through

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:13:20](#)):

Vomiting and diarrhea,

Warwick Schiller ([00:13:23](#)):

Diarrhea. Yes. Very, very, very bad stomach bug yet.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:13:27](#)):

Yeah. And so this thing, the Darby and I'm in Mongolia, you know, like I was okay. It stopped, there was a handful of people sick there, but you know, you're in an environment that can get really, really, really hot, like dehydration is an issue at the best of times. And it can get really, really cold at night. So, you know, looking after yourself is a challenge. Plus you're riding, like, I think I was riding about 120 to 160 kilometers a day as well. So, um, yeah, I mean, it's, it's challenging. Um, and then we got this bug that went through the fields and eat it, laid out some of the medics as well. So at some points, our medics were on IVs. Um, I didn't know this other thing about the diabetes when you're riding it. You have no idea what's going on outside of your little bubble, your rice.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:14:09](#)):

So I had no idea other people were sick. I had no idea of the medics, the sec, anything like that. But, um, at one point I did get really, really ill. It was Friday. Um, and you know, to the point where you're kind of like hallucinating and you're losing the edges of your vision. Um, and again, what I didn't know is that there was probably a big gap in the field behind me at this stage, but I kinda, you know, thought the next is behind me. We're just, just behind the horizon, you know, hold on, hold on my heels. Um, so I just kinda kept, kept riding until, you know, like I thought I was going to fall off the horse and then got off and sat on the ground for a little while. And yeah, it was just in a really, really bad way. Um, um, but yeah, it made it through that day, made it through the gastro bags, survive that, um,

Warwick Schiller ([00:15:00](#)):

Stop there for a second. Cause you're sort of flipping a bit this year. I made it through the gastro bug. You know what? That is not much fun when you're sitting on the couch, let alone riding a horse half while Mongolian horse across the Mongolian Plains at a bit of a Gallup. You know, when we did the Tylenol, I did the podcast about the, the Gobi cold camel trip. Yeah. Tyler had one day where he, you know, you, you guys had told us before we went out there, don't poop too much. Don't poop too little. There's not a lot of water to drink. So, you know, like if you have to we'll tolerate other than the laxatives and spend a whole day trying, not poopies deal ball bouncing on the back of a Camela and having it like a stomach ache all day, bouncing the camel. And later on, on the trip, I got constipated and every camel footstep felt like a punch in the guts. And so it can't, and we're just going slow. I cannot imagine cantering or galloping, uh, you know, with, with that, would that go on on, I mean, that's that cannot like every, every stride has got to go right through your body sort of thing, you know?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:16:20](#)):

Yeah. It was bad. It was bad. I can laugh about it now because a few years have passed, but it was pretty, it was pretty bad then, um, I remember like, just like, you know, you'd be like vomiting off the side of your galloping horse. I remember like my triumph thing was like, I didn't vomit on myself. Um, but yet you're still throwing up off the side of your horse at a Gallop and like the horses. I mean, there's some brilliantly trained horses, but I wrote in there's some that are, dubiously how, you know, trained or even broken in, or maybe the last time they were written was, you know, that morning, right before you got on them or maybe not even then. Um, so yeah, it was a hideous. Um, um, I was riding with one girl when I got sick and she was really, really great.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:17:06](#)):

And I'm like, so I'm like here throwing up off the side of the horse and she's got like a camera, it's got like a GoPro and she's like, Oh, just I missed it. I missed it. Just do it again, like, just throw up again, like, she's trying to record this on the camera. I'm just trying to stay alive. And then like, she actually misses

me like vomiting, all the horses. He's like trying to get me to do it again. Uh, it was just, you know, like in hindsight, hilarious situation at the time you were just trying to survive it. Um, yeah, I ended up actually was she actually went on to win it. Um, and she was great. We were kind of in the lead at the time and I got the gastro bag and she was like, Oh, well, I'll stay with you. I'll stay with you. And I was like, no, no, you go, you go like, um, um, Lara prior Palmer, um, yeah,

Warwick Schiller ([00:17:50](#)):

Really, you know, doing, doing things like that. It's not just the adventure you have, you know what you're doing. Yeah. But it's the other, like the other people you meet. Yeah, absolutely. Who were brave, crazy, whatever enough to do the same thing. I mean, that's gotta be pretty cool. You know, I think it's awesome. You know, like the, the, the, you know, the Gobi cold camel trip thing, you know, just driving out to the desert in the van taken to everybody else that was along on the ride. It's like, Holy cow. There's some pretty cool people.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:18:37](#)):

Yeah. I think, I think that's what I've always loved about this kind of stuff, as well as is other people who are interested in this, they generally have a pretty cool story. And even if you wouldn't come across them in your daily life, there's something you've got in common. That's brought you out to these places, to these kinds of images. And, and I think it's amazing. And I, and I think, I always thought that about the mango daddy was, you know, even the crew, we're all there because we've got a shared passion, even if we're from all over the world. Um, it was just really neat to be around people like that. Cause obviously in everyday life, you know, if I tell people that I go and work in Mongolia part of the year, most people just don't even know what to say. They're like, Oh, well, that's, that's nice. And, you know, kind of go off to Google search where Mongolia is.

Warwick Schiller ([00:19:19](#)):

Yeah. So, okay. So you've survived. The you've survived the stomach bug. Yeah. So that's not the cause in the book, you, you tell the story about how you almost died. That's not almost

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:19:33](#)):

No, no, no. Um, so, so I ended up getting an Ivy from the mid exit, like one in the morning, um, with the, with the stomach bag and you know, like the Ivy makes you feel much better. Um, and you know, the guests are, the guests are, if I get past and this next morning, you know, um, I'd caught up to these riders in front of me. Um, and I just couldn't bear before and I still felt pretty bad and I just couldn't bear the thought of them riding off and me just sitting or lying on the ground, you know, not giving chase. Um, so I talked to the herders via the bits translator and being like, look, I just, I'm pretty weak. I can't like kick a horse along, but if you've got one that'll run, I'll just like, Oh, just get my body back on a horse and keep going.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:20:26](#)):

And I'll ride out the same time as he, like in my mind that was like the logical, um, kind of see like, you know, plan for the next day. And like the medics, like, yeah, you're, you're feeling better. Right. You're feeling better, you know, you can't go on if you don't feel any better, I'm like, yeah, I'm feeling better lying through my teeth. Not feeling that much better. Just, you know, I think nothing lift a woman up at this point. Um, and so anyway, there is the picket line with all the horses on and there's this tiny little pony and I'm like, Oh, it's got quite a hard mouth, but it does go. So I'm like fine, fine. I packed up my staff, I

get on the pony, smallest pony I've written in Mongolia and it just faults it like boats proper. And I just don't have anything left in me to fight it at this point. I'm like, you know what, I'll just let it run itself out. It's kind of not going the complete wrong way, but it's definitely not going in the right direction either. It's kind of going like a skew.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:21:27](#)):

So it goes for like a good, like 20 kilometer bolt and 20 kilometer bolt. Yeah. And like, I didn't realize at this point, but my tracker, so all the competitors in the race have a tracker. And at this point my tracker has like been torn out of its casing and gone flying off as well as like a few bits and pieces. Obviously I wasn't in a great state that day when I was packing. Like I hadn't, I just stuffed everything in and being like, right, I'm going to get on the source and go anyways. So this was spouting. The track has gone. I don't know about this at this point. Um, the settle is like in front of its weather, cause this party is so tiny and uh, just, you know, boat like that way. And it's boating across the swamp plain. So it's like moguls have had lanes, um, mixed up with like just swampy terrain that I think any of that Western horses would be floundering and stuck within five minutes.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:22:17](#)):

But this point he is going at light as fast as it can go and having no problem. And then, um, yeah, and then wild dogs turned up and I saw them in the distance and um, like, uh, like, uh, God, I'm really not in a good way. Now. There's like four of these dogs and I could see them starting to run. And two clearly came behind and two just ran on a tangent where they were just going to cut me off. So at this point, like bolting through a swamp, have no strength. The sat I was in front of the weather, I'm just trying to keep like somehow my white back. So it don't flip the horse and the dogs get closer and closer. And um, I'm like, well, this isn't looking good. This could be the aim I'm gonna like get taken down by picky dogs.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:23:03](#)):

Um, and then just literally as the dogs were like on the horses heels about to like w what felt to me, like they're going to bring it down. We get to one big swampy strairy patch and this horse just launches. Like, it just is the most huge jump of anything if a foul. And, um, yeah, that just basically sails over top of the dogs, um, clears this kind of six footage, creaky, swamp, um, it's the ground running on the other side and does like another, you know, bolt of five kilometers and we escaped and it was just one of, yeah, it would just like, you know, as much as the horse, as a bit of a pain with his bolting, it probably saved both of our lives and I've just never so grateful. And it just hit the ground on the other side and picked up another gear of speed that I've never felt any horse hair before. Like it just grew wings. It was just flying. And, um, yeah, so, you know, that was that day.

Warwick Schiller ([00:24:00](#)):

Wow. Is this so like for lawn Walldogs did that, did they have red colors on them?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:24:07](#)):

They didn't have red collars on, and this was the only patch that was kind of close, close to town. So I think they, might've just been kind of, you know, the big, the Mongolian dogs are quite big as well. They're all kind of bigger than German shepherds. Yep.

Warwick Schiller ([00:24:20](#)):

What I was about to say was if Chloe says she was chased by wild dogs in Mongolia and they, she thought they were going to bring the host down. She's not imagining stuff. And when we're on the we're on the camel trip, they said that, you know, the dogs with red colors on them, don't, don't pet them. Don't pet them, they brought and you know, like all the herders have, have, um, dogs around. And I said, you know, if they got a red column don't bite and even the nice ones without red colors, don't be friendly with them and let them lick your face because out there there's no toilets. And so when you go, you know, a little blood distance away from the camp and do your business, the dogs go there too, and they eat what you left behind. So do not let the dog lick.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:25:06](#)):

Yeah. I think the dogs don't get you finish you off as they pull you off your horse. Maybe the infection from the bites are not going to be not going to be good.

Warwick Schiller ([00:25:13](#)):

Yes. They manage that. Well, that's I only care. That's crazy. That's I was, while you were telling that story, I, you know, having been there, not exactly where you were, but just picturing the kind of they're big dogs. They, they big muscular, strong dogs. And imagine that, and those horses aren't real big either. I mean, there's not much difference from the dogs and the horses.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:25:37](#)):

No, I reckon this party, he was probably like 12 and a half hands, you know, like some of them do get, you know, 14 to 15 hands, but this one was particularly little and, um, yeah, but the dogs, the dogs felt like they were almost the same size as the pony, as it was all happening.

Warwick Schiller ([00:25:51](#)):

So, you know, for, you know, for people who don't have a business card that says adventurer, can you, uh, can you talk us through, what's your what's country head,

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:26:10](#)):

Um, when I'm being chased by wild dogs or just in general?

Warwick Schiller ([00:26:14](#)):

Oh, not in general. I don't wanna hear that. That's probably too crazy. Now what what's going through your head while you're being chased by wild dogs, through swampy land, in Mongolia, to where, you know, the nearest hospitals, six hours drive away, uh, on a horse, that's got no mouth and you can't really steer him. You just got to get what he thinks what's going through your head.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:26:39](#)):

I think, I think, you know, maybe one of the things I've been really lucky with is it in general, in most when most situations like when situations get a bit hectic like that, I'm pretty good at, you know, trying, staying calm and, and kind of trying to come up with a plan. So, you know, when this was happening, I was like, well, I'll just, you know, like there's no point holding onto the horses face. Like he can just have the reins as loose as he wants and he'll navigate us fleeing and I'll just try and stay as far back in the settlers. I can and stop the settle going over its head. And so that's yeah,



Warwick Schiller ([00:27:13](#)):

Because you're not just worried about the dog, you're worried about somersault in the horse to months.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:27:19](#)):

Yeah. It was really, um, when all things go can go wrong, they really did on that day. Um, so yeah, I think in, in, at the back of my mind, I was in a pretty mad, it was miserable state. So I was like, well, at least four dogs. I mean, this is on the back of like the gastro bug, isn't it? Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([00:27:36](#)):

Yeah. Just to add, to just add to the adventure, like you don't put a denture on your business card unless you want to have some adventure.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:27:44](#)):

Exactly, exactly. Um, so yeah, it was on the back of the gastro bug and like, you know, I hadn't eaten in a couple of days. Um, so it wasn't wasn't that, you know, it wasn't at my best really wasn't um, so yeah, I just, I just remember being like really like, well, okay, we're going to figure this problem out to the best of our abilities. And if we can't, well, there's four dogs, at least it'll be kind of a quick end as opposed to just being mauled by one at that point. Um, yeah, it was, it wasn't, it wasn't, it was probably like I had side probably one of the lowest points in my life just because you are just so tired. I think, I think you think, you know, what tired is, but until you go and do something like that and get yourself into that kind of situation, you really don't know what pure exhaustion is. And I just remember like, being like, Oh, well, we'll just see what we can do, but you know, you don't have the energy to be emotional about it. You're just like, wow, I'm not, you know, and I remember like the day before being really, really miserable and I'm like, well, I'm not going to let myself cry because that'll just dehydrate me more. So I was just determined to get on with the job and not, you know, waste tears and dehydrate myself,

Warwick Schiller ([00:28:51](#)):

Keep your, your system dehydrated. I mean, hydrated what day?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:28:55](#)):

Yeah. Um, I think day four, it took me seven and a half days. Yeah. So it was kind of, it was about halfway through the rice at this point. Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([00:29:15](#)):

And this is still not the day you almost died.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:29:19](#)):

Uh, yeah. Yeah. I mean that day. Yeah. Like, yeah, so much happened on this race. Um, so that was a particularly bad day of near death by dogs. But I mean, in the day it got better. Like it did get into the next stage and continue on riding. And, you know, I got to that day finished with like one of the most amazing experiences. So the, where this family took me in and, um, yeah, this is many hours and a couple horses later since the dogs and this amazing family took me in. And, you know, like I basically wrote up to there, did your go. And it didn't really comprehend how bad I looked, but now like thinking back like this crazy random foreigner and a horse turned up at this hurting family store and they just

took me in and fed me and tried, like they could see, I was second kept trying to make me these meals and the head yaks and made like yet yogurt and sugar for me to try and like perk me up.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:30:17](#)):

Um, and we just loved Lee. So I'd had this amazing experience this night after being chased by the dogs and then the following night. And I, I didn't side with families before, um, and had, you know, I just stayed with random hurting families there. No part of the race in Mongolia has got this break custom or great culture where they take taken travelers, um, and a really incredibly generous in that way. But, um, so after having this amazing night, I had kept pushing, kept pushing, kept pushing, and I could see the rides in front of me that would just here. They were kind of always just ahead of me and, and, you know, I'd overcome the sickness and I really want it to catch them and, you know, it was not going to let them ride off. So it was getting close to evening and I couldn't find a place to stay this next night.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:31:02](#)):

And so, um, eventually like found sounds some, you know, like a fan, Oh yeah. Uh, uh, some herders or some such by a road or by not a road, cause there's no roads, but like by a track and, and kind of thought I could stay there. And at the time there was like a woman and a couple of guys and then women just mysteriously vanished lighter. And I was like, Oh, this is, I'm not feeling real easy about this. Like, feeling like the vibes are bad basically, but at this point, riding hours are over. Um, I don't really have another option it's late. And, um, anyway, just, they all left for a bit and it was just me and some kids sleeping in this little cabin and, um, then it must've been after midnight. Um, I could hear like a lot of commotion and, you know, like the general drunk talking and it's easy to find anywhere in the world.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:31:58](#)):

And some guys came, drove a motorbike basically to the edge of this, this girl and tried like dragging me out in my sleeping bag. And, um, yeah, it just one of those horrible experiences. And I remember just being so annoyed, like I just, like, I am just so tired. Like how dare you, like ruin my chance at like recovery and just being so furious about the whole situation then instead of like maybe panicking, I just remember like yelling at them and you know, that the kids that were there with me woke up and started yelling at them too. And, and luckily for me, they left me alone. And then couple, I kind of remember about an hour later, you know, another guy came along and tried dragging me out of my sleeping bag again. Um, and so yeah, just a horrible, hairy situation that was just all sorts of unpleasant.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:32:51](#)):

And as soon as I could, I just got on my horse that next morning and rode out there. But I think that was probably to me, like the one time that, that I was in the type of danger that I couldn't solve on my own. Like, I feel like when it came to horses and dogs, like I know enough about animals and, and the, you know, the natural world that, that I have a good chance of doing okay. But when it comes to, you know, people being the thing that is your enemy, um, yeah, it's, it's a whole different thing. And, and, you know, you feel incredibly vulnerable because suddenly you are weaker than the people attacking you. So, um, yeah, I was really, really lucky. I've really, really lucky that I got out of that pretty unharmed, but I think also just being exhausted and really off about the whole situation probably helped me. Cause I just yelled right back at them.

Warwick Schiller ([00:33:38](#)):

That's a scary situation. Like horrific really? Yeah. Yeah.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:33:46](#)):

It was, it was, it was really horrible. And especially because I've had so many amazing experiences with so many amazing people before and since then, um, and it, it's yeah. It just, yeah, it was, it was really horrific. And I remember just riding off the next morning, not kind of knowing how to deal with it. Um, and luckily, probably the race on. And so I could just kind of focus on, on, um, riding and racing, but it definitely, you know, I kept away from tracks, um, or any, any area where there was like a lot of vehicle traffic from then on, um, and stay to much more kind of remote areas if I was going to stay with people.

Warwick Schiller ([00:34:26](#)):

Wow. And that's where we keep getting to it. That's still not the Tommy. You almost died.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:34:33](#)):

Oh gosh. Now you're now you're testing mate. What flour, what part of, I forgot. I got chased by wild dogs. Um, guys,

Warwick Schiller ([00:34:42](#)):

You know, in, in the book you have this, this, or maybe we've already passed it, but in the book you have this whole thing about, about, uh, it must've been when you'd had the IV in the middle of the night, but you know, when everybody's leaving in the morning and you you're like, you know, I, I can't even get out of bed, but I have, you know?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:35:01](#)):

Yeah. So yeah, this was actually earlier, this was before the wild dogs and before the unpleasant experience with the drunk guys, um, that, that I just woke up, I was just, yeah, we'd been pushing the limits. Like, you know, I'd gone there to push myself and, and I definitely had been pushing, I think it was day three or, yeah, it must've been the morning of day three or four. Um, and I just remember waking up and, you know, like I do a lot of writing in my everyday life. Like I've done a lot of competition of vintage, like I know about rider fitness and I just mean that getting up and like any movement hurt. It just felt like glass was going through your knees. I just, it was a pain that I can't even describe. And I've never felt it before or since just where your joints feel like they're being torn apart with every little movement.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:35:50](#)):

I remember like even trying to sleep, you know, the littlest movement would wake you up. Um, and yeah, just, just kind of waking up pre-dawn and thinking like I've got to get back on a horse and, and just, you know, I think at that point you're like lying in bed being like, I would really like to give up right now. I would, you know, it would be just easy to break an arm and my habit call it quits that way then, you know, to try and get yourself out of bed and back on a horse. Um, but did get back on a horse that day. But yeah, probably the most excruciating pain I've either been in my entire life. Um, and yeah, I think, I think just from being run down, it was probably the onset of getting sick, you know, like in hindsight it was probably, I was feeling so bad probably cause I did have a fever and everything starting.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:36:41](#)):

It was just, it was painful. And I think, yeah, when you read stories about people who are on the verge of giving up, you're like, Oh, well, you know, you just don't give up. Um, but then when you're in that

situation yourself, where you're that tired and in that much pain, you know, giving up or quitting sounds so sweet and it really, really is difficult to keep going. But I think for me, um, it kind of kept me going at a, it was my entire life savings. Like I was never gonna be able to come back and do this race again. And I think also knowing that people at home were following, I just couldn't bring myself to quit. Um, yeah, like, like I think I had attitude that I have to be physically removed from the race from injury rather than giving out. Like I just couldn't face the thought of just giving up on myself, um, and not finishing. So yeah, that was actually the, probably the most painful, painful experience. Um, not everything else that came after it, but yeah, that one particular morning was just awful. Awful. I can't, I can't even think of a better way to describe it than it was just painfully awful. And then I got gastro.

Warwick Schiller ([00:37:51](#)):

Yeah, that was before the, before the stomach bug there was that then the wild dogs then the drunk guys. Did it get better after that?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:38:01](#)):

Yeah. Yeah, definitely. So I think after the, yeah, like when I could start kind of like keeping a bit tiny bit of food down and stuff, I remember like the last two days I could have written a thousand kilometers again, like, and by the time the very last day I felt Stan tester. Like I just felt like I could keep going at this, this routine, this pace, like, this is what I love doing. Like, this is my happy place, galloping across wide open country on horses. And I remember, you know, that last morning getting on a horse and galloping out of the air and you're galloping through this Valley had these kind of granite mountains that were reflecting this pink sunrise. It was just so beautiful. And then I come around this corner and there's all these camels grazing and I'm like galloping my horse through these camels, through this tall grass.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:38:46](#)):

It's over my horses here. Then there's like this pink sunrise and beautiful mountains. And, and to me like that kind of stuff, you know, it raises the bad parts in your mind. And, and I think when I think of the Mongo Dhabi, I think of galloping on the wide open spaces on amazing horses, um, just incredible horses and yeah, it just, you know, despite everything bad that happened, it just had me hooked. I just loved it. Um, yeah, I just couldn't get enough really put heavily. I was really disappointed, but it finished actually. I, I was like, Oh no, I was just getting into the groove of this. I've just finally feeling like I'm fit thinking to this justice and then it was over.

Warwick Schiller ([00:39:26](#)):

And so that's your first introduction to Mongolia, but you've had, uh, a lot of time in Mongolia since then. Did you, did you stay around after that or did you go back after that?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:39:40](#)):

I went back after that. So, um, after the race, I think I was there maybe another few days recovering in the city and then went back and just, I remember walking down, um, the airport terminal and, you know, you can see out it's all glass and you know, there's the airport and new Bay and you could see horses off on the Hills in the distance and feeling like, man, I, I need to get back here. Like I'm not done. I'm not finished with this place. Like it's, it's, it's got its claws into me, I'm hooked. Um, so I remember yeah. Leaving for the first time and just feeling like in my core, in my bones, but I needed to come back and, um, there'd been other things I'd wanted to do in Mongolia, but I'd known about before, but I couldn't do on this trip.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:40:22](#)):

Like I'd, I'd read about the reindeer and the Eagle hunters and all that kind of stuff. And so I spent kind of the next couple months researching other things I could come back to Mongolia for. And then the opportunity came up to come. And then in 2014 to work on the Mongo Dhabi and you didn't need to ask me twice, I jumped to that. So I went back and worked on the Dabi, um, watched from the other side of the, the fence, you know, being part of the crew and watching riders and then went up to Duke. Um, I was running the blood wagons. So we were like, not, not the medics, but we were like the rescue team, um,

Warwick Schiller ([00:41:01](#)):

The blood wagon, ominous sounding,

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:41:05](#)):

Very honest sounding good description for it. Um, so yeah, like if there was writers that have fallen off that it wasn't a massive emergency, it wasn't a medical emergency. We try and go and find them. Um, we're trying to track down horses that had parted ways with their riders. Um, and generally just, yeah, we're part of the, the team that kept them on Derby going. Um, yeah, so we ended up with a lot of the writers that didn't make it, um, and tried to keep them entertained and get them to the finish line so they could watch people cross the finish line. Um, yeah. Yeah. And just loved, it loved being part of the D the Darby and, uh, various roles. Like it was, it was great. Cause you still get the excitement. Like I remember one particular day, you know, we're like sitting on the step, we know kind of where the races are.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:41:50](#)):

We know where the riders are and, um, I've got my driver and my translator and we're kind of sitting there making soup actually. And then this would have like 150 horses just comes like galloping over the horizon and you know, that thundering pose. And then, you know, horses go either side of us and, and my translate is still making soap and my drivers off in the bushes doing his business. And then one of the horses has one of the Mongo to Abby settled on it. I like, Hmm. That's not a good sign, has 150 horses and one row, one horse with a right of settle on it. So we're like trying to like hustle and like get the, get us all back in the abandoned, the soup, making for lunch and get it back in the van and try and track this horse down and like, kinda like wait to hear from HQ if we know the ride is okay, like, do we need to get the horse back to the rider? Do we need to find where the rider is and get it to the horse? Um, yeah, that's one of the standout memories of growing Korea. I loved it. I thought it was just great because, you know, I wasn't on a, there was no suffering for me at this time. I just got to enjoy everything that was great about the race from the comfort of a vehicle.

Warwick Schiller ([00:42:53](#)):

You know, what's funny about this podcast is almost everybody I've had on the podcast. Uh, I know, and I've spent time with, and when you know people and you spend time with them, you, you swap stories. And so all the times I get people on the podcast because you've got this great story, but you told me some really cool stories about your time crewing on the, on the, on the Mongol Downey, but I'm not exactly sure how many of them you can actually tell me on.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:43:20](#)):

Yeah, I think, um, yeah, if you, there might be a little bit too sensitive for the podcast, but in general, like I just loved it. I just thought it was amazing. And I think, you know, like I know what I went through and how grueling it was. And it was really, I think one thing that surprised me was how humbling it was to be around people who were at that point as well. And, and watching people overcome adversity. I think that's, you know, on a serious note, that's something I really got out of crowing Dabi is, is, you know, it's, it's a real privilege to be there. And I think people should take it that way to see people at their lowest and, and watch people overcome adversity. Like I've seen at the start camp, you know, you kind of look at all the riders and you kind of have your ideas about who might finish and who might not.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:44:05](#)):

And yeah, there's a few that are really obvious and you know, probably don't make it, but then there's a few people that you probably write off at stat camp that just overcome every single obstacle and they are so inspiring to watch. And it, I think it just, yeah, it's a really amazing experience to watch these people go and do this race, having, knowing how hard it was when I did it. And, you know, watch people go through really dark moments, come out the other side really glowing. And you think them as just amazing, amazing people. I mean, some it's a bit like the hunger games. Maybe they don't come off quite as glowing, but yeah, I really, really appreciated watching people go, go through it and come out. The other side is better people.

Warwick Schiller ([00:44:43](#)):

What's the attrition rate? Like how many people complete that? Uh, how many people give up

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:44:50](#)):

About 50% finish? Maybe I think a little bit less than 50% finish my year. Sometimes a bit more, but around 50 50. Yeah. Usually about 40%. Don't make it.

Warwick Schiller ([00:44:58](#)):

And it's not all like medical, you know, it's not old break arms. Like some people just go, I can't do this.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:45:05](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Absolutely. Like, um, sorry, I've, I've written it a couple more times and being the on horse camera woman. And so I've gotten to ride, you know, bits of the Dobie with various people. And I remember, um, riding, um, one, the first league, I think, um, and someone just being like, you know what, this isn't for me, like they got to the first bit station and were like, nah, nah, I don't like the open spaces. I don't like this. This is not, it's not for me. I'm out. And that was it. They were, they were out by the first, first 40 kilometers. Um, and so yeah, some people just get out there and you know what, it's just not for them and yeah. Or various medical things, but yeah, there's this, I mean, vehicle to them that they recognize it's not, not what they feel that they can achieve and, and they just turn around and pick up. Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([00:45:58](#)):

And I think we, things like that. It's not necessarily, you know, it's nothing to judge them on because I probably do stuff other pots that we couldn't do. Yeah. It's just not for them. Yeah. I know people, I know people who, uh, you know, like have been around the horses and they there's, some of the things

we do with horses. Like, there's just no way I could do that, but in their, in their life, I'm like, Oh, there's no way I could do that. You know?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:46:26](#)):

Yeah, absolutely. And it's really interesting to say, sorry, that's my gigantic dog in the background. That's protecting me.

Warwick Schiller ([00:46:33](#)):

That's not my dog.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:46:36](#)):

That's definitely mine. But yeah. I think, you know, for credit to those people who say it's completely out of their skill set and don't, don't do it because yeah. It's not for everyone. Um, just the local bunny rabbit population invading or something,

Warwick Schiller ([00:46:56](#)):

You know, it's funny when we went on the, um, we did the one when we went on the Gobi camel, you've done it three times, but the one that I went on, you know, there was a lady from Canada there who's never written any animal, a stride yeah. And rode every step of the way,

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:47:17](#)):

Just nailed it. And I think that's, that's, I think I got that from Chrome Dabi and I, and I, what I loved and what I've tried to carry on, like into my own expeditions now is you just can't write people off on, on appearances, like, or what the history is. You just don't know who's going to end up really shining and being really tough and having some incredible mental fortitude and others that won't. And I think that's a really fast, like, to me, that's just a really fascinating thing to watch, I guess. And human nature's seeing the ones that yeah. Cause you're you're right. You know, that lady hadn't had any experience, horse riding or, or camel riding. I think like when she applied, you know, like she'd sit there, like I've done some like post drinking or something maybe. Cause I usually, I try to take only experienced host people and she got there and was like, Oh no, I've never really done anything like this. I'm like, hang on half, wait, how did you slip through the cracks? Like how have you, have you gotten yourself yet? And actually she was absolutely fine. Um, and she, she was a really stand out. She just kept on going. And I've seen that with so many other things, um, you know, on other, uh, exhibition, tog style events. Yeah. It just amazes me, people amaze me. Um, that the ones that just turned out to be so tough and always the ones you think.

Warwick Schiller ([00:48:29](#)):

Yeah. Like I was, I was, I was amazed with her. Like, you know, I've not really done any endurance horse stuff. Like, you know, so I mean, I, you know, I trained horses for 20 years for a living. So I was on horses all day long, but you you're on and then you're off and then you're on another one and you're off and whatever, but just, just the, the constant go, go, go like insurance sort of thing. And, and, uh, there were times they were like, I was struggling a bit and this lady's name was Bonnie and Bonnie just kept on keeping on like, she was a monster

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:49:02](#)):

Critical. She was just absolutely amazing. I've had a couple of other people like that. Like, um, I had a good friend now trained too, who came on the first expedition and he hadn't written either. I think maybe he'd done some, you know, like beach, horse tricks or something like that. And I actually met him in Fiji cause he was doing, um, aid work and Fiji and I was doing animal welfare work and Fiji and you know, I'd seen that he was okay in remote environments. I was like, Oh yeah. Why don't you come on this camera trick? And um, he was another one that just kept on going like, yeah, no, no real experience. And just had, um, such a strong determination that he would make it every single day. And did you know, by the end could really ride same as Melanie, you know, um, by the end of it that spent so many hours in the Seto that they'd put some much more experienced Kemo riders, um, to shame probably or horse riders to shame.

Warwick Schiller ([00:49:52](#)):

Yeah. She was, she was pretty amazing. So you were just talking about, you had been to the, the back to the Mongol debate to, um, to be on the crew, but after your first one, you said you then went, Oh, you went back and then you crude, but then you went to the Duke people let's talk about them.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:50:09](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. So, so the Duke of people in Northern Mongolia and a really small group of people who still ride reindeer, like right, not one, one leaf on each side of the reindeer and not be pulled by a sleet or anything like that. And they live with not Santa Claus and they live in mountains. Um, and they live quite high up in the mountains and there's about 200 people, you know, maybe 40 families that are living this lifestyle where they still kind of completely rely on the reindeer for everything. And um, like animal behaviors where it's fascinated me, it's kind of what leads me to the Bango dab in the first place. Um, and I was like, well, I really want to know how you train. Right. And you're like, you know, maybe there's something to learn for horse, horse behavior here. You know, maybe there's some tips and tricks I could pick up from these, these reindeer trainers.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:50:57](#)):

Um, and plus it just sounded magical. Um, so sorry. In 2014, um, I had a couple of friends, two friends with me and we're like, well, let's just go and see if we can find our way there. And so we basically flew, um, North thought, uh, uh, a driver in this old, um, uh, Russian style, your van and then hit it out, um, to basically as far as you can drive about another entire days off-road driving. And, and luckily on the way, um, randomly it's someone who's like, Oh yeah, my, you know, I like, I think, um, one of his family members had married into these Duke people. And so he hooked us up with horses and, and off we went into the mountains and I just,

Warwick Schiller ([00:51:49](#)):

By the way, you guys listening, this is what adventure is do. There's some people really in Northern Mongolia that ride Randy, and we want to go see them. So what we're going to do this weekend, I'm not going to plan anything. We're going to get a plan. You're going to fly that. And I'm going to get into some cab with some random Russian dude and drive for a day. And then we're going to re meet some other random dude who happens to know one of them. He's going to get us some horses and then we're going to get made him. That's how you do

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:52:12](#)):

It. Pretty much. This is like



Warwick Schiller ([00:52:15](#)):

The guide book on how to be an adventurer.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:52:19](#)):

How, how most good adventure start? I think, um, yeah, it's, it's not really an adventure. If there's too much planning involved, you're missing all the good stuff. Um, yeah. And it took us a couple of days, um, riding, and I just remember coming over this incredible mountain task and it was like glacier and ice on one side and really steep. And then you come on to these high mountain kind of almost plateau like valleys. And, um, I say like these little TPS is like tiny specks in the distance that we're trying to find our way to. And, um, it was just incredible. Like one of those things where I'm like, Oh my God, this is amazing. This is beyond my wildest dreams. And so we found our way to this family. Um, and we, we, I'm just going to wait for him to stop barking again. It's another bunny attack. Apparently

Warwick Schiller ([00:53:13](#)):

Apparently said this New Zealand buddies are pretty bad. I can actually see Chloe. And she was, I can see her head and the shoulders. And before behind her, her dogs got these tail that stick straight up in the air. And it looked like this big feather just going backwards and forwards behind you. Kind of like a sharks theme sticking out of the ocean, like dun dun, dun, dun, dun, dun, going back and forth behind it. That is a big dog.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:53:42](#)):

Uh, he's a central Asian shippers. So despite being chased by the Mongolian dogs, I do have a really soft spot for them and learn to love them over subsequent years. And then I spent a bit of time in Kazakhstan and they have a similar type of dog and I just fell in love with the Kazakh dog and, um, found some, I met some Kazakh friends who actually had taken some dogs to Australia. And so a couple of years ago, I got myself a big Kazakh dog from Australia. And this is Khan. Who's interrupting the podcast with his bunny protection scheme and barking meant to be fighting wolves and Kazakhstan, but he's here protecting me from bunnies and New Zealand.

Warwick Schiller ([00:54:18](#)):

You got watch out for those bunnies. Yeah. So you've met you're at the, at the rind date people then what happens?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:54:25](#)):

Yeah. So I mean just, and again, it's just this amazing environment, this kind of high Alpine swampy, a windy, icy place. I'm not making it sound beautiful, but it is really beautiful and a kind of, um, really raw way. And there's these kids here and like, there's like these two kids that could probably come up to my shoulders and they're wielding this big chainsaw, cutting up firewood for the fires and the TP, which was an amazing sight in itself. And then there's this girl and she's cooking tea and we've been there like, you know, 45 minutes. And then, you know, we go outside and this woman just comes riding over the other side of the mountain on her ranger and she's wearing this amazing purple Dell and she's got she's on this reindeer with a full hit of antlers. And it was like a pinch yourself moment.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:55:11](#)):

It was just so surreal, so amazing. And it was like the tiniest bit of snow in the air. And it just, it felt like I was in a theory town. Like, it just felt like I was living a fairy tale. Um, you know, beyond what I ever, ever could have hoped that I was going to say, um, just one of those once in a lifetime moment. Um, so yeah, we spent a bit of time up there with this family and really loved it, got to ride reindeer and, and have been going back and visiting that same family now since 2014. So this time, last year, as, as COVID was all kind of, um, exploding all over the world, um, in, in February, right after we did the camel trip, or I went up North and visited this family again, this time in winter. And you know, I've been there so many times in the summer and spring and autumn, and I'd never been in winter.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:55:59](#)):

And again, one of those things that, you know, at this, at this point, like I've done all these Gobi crossings where it gets to like negative 45. I think I know what called is. I've been to this reindeer country before. I think I know what the reindeer at. And then we get up there and winter, and I'd always said, you know, no one comes in winter, no one comes in winter. It's impossible, it's impossible, impossible. And I'm finally about three kids go. They said, why don't you come in winter? You know, we know you're going to see this winter we'll make happen. Um, you get as close as you can and we'll come with the reindeer and get you. And so we went with, um, a Belgium film maker and, um, uh, tests and big men helped me run the Kemo expeditions. And we went up in winter and it was just unbelievably different to summer to when I first went in 2014, first of all, the snow is so deep, it's over your head in most places.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:56:50](#)):

Uh, and so, you know, these guys, they navigate because they know the land so well, there's no discernible tracks. And, and it's just so, so remote and there's so much further into the mountains and, and it's just a completely different lifestyle when summer, you know, it can get to negative 15 and go 55 up there. And they're in these canvas TPS and the out riding Wolf patrol every night, and then moving with your reindeer constantly. Like they have a philosophy of just following the idea. Um, it's much more, you know, the reindeer dictate their lifestyle, not them dictating the Rangers lifestyle has amazing symbiosis, um, kind of, kind of life that I haven't even seen anywhere else. Um, and yeah, spent spent 10 days up there in winter and, and just, it was that or inspiring unworldly feeling all over again, you know, to see, to see mixer who I'd seen on the very first trip, the husband and the father on the very first trip, and then seeing him this winter and just watching the rain during these deep snows and, and Pascoe and Nexa was he, he had a camp close, um, so that we could get to him that close camp was like three days.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:58:02](#)):

Uh, sorry. It would have been almost five days of traveling from newbie, but three days of kind of traveling from the nearest proper town. And the next family was three days further into the wilderness and him. So they are, they're just so unimaginably remote out there. And we actually saw some of the guys as we were going in, some guys were coming out and they'd been in there for three months and they were traveling out and, and they had these old rifles on the ranger and they had the reindeer skins that they sleep in. And, you know, they were trying to get that, to see their families for the, for the Mongolian new year. Um, and you know, they'd just been journeying in the snow for three days with, you know, a handful of rations, reindeer skins, and that was just their life and just, it's a different world. And I didn't know how to do it justice, but yeah, you're up in these high mountains with a lot of snow

and a lot of reindeer and it just is incredible what everyday normal life is for them is, is like a unbelievably amazing experience to us.

Warwick Schiller ([00:59:04](#)):

Didn't you? I know you spent some time with them, so I imagine you in girls, but I remember seeing some pictures you put on Facebook, you guys were sleeping outside in the snow, in sleeping bags and it was minus whatever the hell it was.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([00:59:17](#)):

Yeah. Something like minus barely. I think it was so like the Duke people live in TPS and like, uh, where we were with the camels where they live in the NGOs, which are much more intubated anyway. So, so I see these like hunters I can have heard about this. Max's told us, you know, like when we travel, we don't sleep in tents, you know, coming and going from our winter camps, we just sleep in the snow. So in my mind, I'm like, well, we've got it. Like, like if we're going to do this, like, let's do this, right. Like, like pimps tints are cheating. Like if they're sleeping outside, we're sleeping outside. And so, yeah, we, and plus it was like on the side of a mountain, it's not the easiest place to pitch tents and deep snow anyway. So yeah, on a, on our travels and we just slept under the stars, um, you know, with a fire I'm about 20 meters away.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:00:11](#)):

Um, and these ice cold conditions, like my saddle was completely frozen, solid the next morning when I went to get all my rain gear, um, and my sleeping bag, you know, it's pretty insulated, but on top of it is like ice and you have to sleep in like full Bella Clavers. Um, and yeah, just pretty amazing. It's pretty amazing what you can do though. I think, you know, like, yeah, it's really, really cold and you're up in the mountains and there's wolves and stuff around, but the wolves aren't going to come into camp and it is just amazing what humans candor. I think what sounds impossible from a cushy Western lifestyle is it's just very possible when you're used to doing it. I will say it's probably one of the hardest things I've ever done. Like I was genuinely cold all day, everywhere day and in the camel trips, in the Gobi, I'm near the cold and you know, it's being near to 45 there and I haven't been cold, whereas Anthony's mountains, I was cold for a good part of it.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:01:02](#)):

And it was just exhausting. Like when you got off the reindeer and you're trying to go through deep snow, just every footstep you're climbing up Hill, and then it would be like whiteout conditions. So you can't see the person in front of you. Um, it was, it was, I think probably one of the most challenging expeditions I've ever done the one last winter. Um, and then when we did get to camp, they had one teepee and it was pretty crowded. And so I was like, Oh, it's fine. I'll just camp boot, camp Hunter, a tree. So we just got an old, but a canvas and camped outside under a tree for the whole time we were there. It was fine. It was fine. It was good to get it from Fios. You woke up like starry skies in the night. It just was very, very challenging trying to get in and out of your sleeping bag, everything, you know, like all your clothes freezing solid on you. But other than that, it was, was amazing. I probably would take a tent next time though. I don't know if it repeated twice,

Warwick Schiller ([01:01:52](#)):

You've done it. You don't need to do it again.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:01:56](#)):

The pivot working indicative 30, it's been ticked off the list.

Warwick Schiller ([01:02:00](#)):

Yeah, that's, that's my, so when you, so, you know, I took some, we took some good sleeping bags when we went to, to, uh, Mongolia on the trip because, you know, you gave us a really good list of stuff we needed and we had to do all this good gear and we're in the girls at nighttime. And, you know, it was mostly to hot more than too cold. How cold is it? If you can exp you know, even explain it in words, sleeping outside in a sleeping bag at like negative 30, whatever at night time. Like, is it, are you just unbelievably frozen and you go to sleep anyway? Or is it keep you awake?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:02:41](#)):

Once you're in the sleeping bag? Like I've got pretty good gear. Um, I've been really lucky to have brilliant sleeping bags and stuff like that. Um, so once in the sleeping bags cozy is anything absolutely fine. And you know, like I'm, I'm really disciplined. I think, um, about being like, right, these are the conditions, this is how you have to use your gear, you know, and being like, right, you get in and you can't move about hates. You've got to have good layering and you have to be, you can't, you have to have good liar and you can't wear, you know, teen layers. You have to give each, you know, Marina layer, we'll lay that you're wearing enough time to work as installation staff. So, um, and just never, you can't, you just can't be lazy in those kinds of extremes. So like there's systems.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:03:24](#)):

So, you know, if you take your boots off your boot lines and everything go down to the bottom of your sleeping bag so that they're not frozen solid, and you don't put your foot into a ice block tomorrow and you just have to be very disciplined that you can't lose a single piece of your, your kit either. So you have to know what your, your gloves are at every single moments, your gloves are tucked down the side of your sleeping bag. So I think that's the one thing, you know, with that extreme cold, you stick a hand out, you know, maybe grab something in the night and it just your fingers get, they just ice. They just, you lose all sensation so, so quickly, and it hurts. Warming them back up is so incredibly painful. You just want to avoid that at all costs. And I know like, uh, having been the go it be when it's been really cold, the one thing you notice is you can almost feel your teeth cracking, you know?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:04:09](#)):

So when it gets something to defied, you shouldn't expose your mouth and teeth, you know, cause hairline fractures and your teeth from the change of temperature. Um, and if you do take a big mouthful with negative 45 year, you just feel like just burns your lungs, like nothing else. And you can feel like a teeth almost cracking. And, um, I think that that extreme cold is just, um, if you don't manage it right, it's just painful. And the pain of trying to warm up makes you really disciplined that, um, being, being really proactive, but in general, like, um, as far as on the camel trips, like on my camels, I've never, ever been cold cause I've just stuck to the Mongolian gear. Um, and I think when I went up to the reindeer, I just didn't have quite the right gear for during the day.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:04:52](#)):

And like for when I was riding, I didn't have the right gear. Um, and that was just better. Um, didn't have the right boots. I couldn't take my, my normal boots that I take on the camels because they're just too

big to walk. And so I had these like stupid plastic Western style boots that just froze my feet. They were awful. And so I was like 10 days, my feet were just icicles. The only time they were was in my sleeping bag. Um, yeah. So, so being on the reindeer was, was not a pleasurable experience. And I think even in the teepees, they don't hold the warmth. So you can be warm if you've got your back to the fire, but otherwise you're call. They just, they don't have the warmth that the NGOs do. So yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([01:05:37](#)):

Yeah. This is as good as it can get kind of warm when they start.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:05:39](#)):

There's like soreness. Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([01:05:42](#)):

We, um, we took, um, you know, the foot warmer things. You can stick in the bottom of things. And I think the first day on the camels, Tyler actually put them in his feet and that now he's like, I'm not putting them in here again, my feet were too hot because those boots you guys got us with. So warm.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:05:59](#)):

Yeah. They're amazing. They're amazing. They're just so well, insulated, not grateful walking up mountains in, but great for riding a Campbell and keeping your legs warm. Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([01:06:07](#)):

I imagine they're not good for walking out, walking up mountains. I remember talking to you at one point in time, a few years ago, and I think you're talking about your first, some of your first encounters with the Duke of people. And you told me a story at the time. You said it was the most surreal thing you'd ever seen before. Do you remember, do you remember telling me this story?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:06:28](#)):

Uh, I think everything about it was surreal. I don't know which particular story cause I found the whole thing.

Warwick Schiller ([01:06:33](#)):

It was something like you get up early one morning and you walk outside the tent, the tent teepee, whatever you're in. Good and out out of the next tent comes this little 10 year old boy. And the sun's about to come over the Hill and he kind of yawns has a big old stretch runs over jumps on the back of the nearest reindeer and rides over the Hill into the rising sun.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:06:53](#)):

Yeah, I think it just, it's just always filled with moments like that. Like just some kids like, Oh, I've got to go like hurt at the reindeer. So it just jumps on his reindeer and off, he goes to like bring in 200 reindeer by himself. Yeah. It just, all those moments are just incredible. I think it never gets old. Um, I seen it so many times now and it's still just, yeah, I think it all just feels like a big fairytale that you're living in. Sometimes when you say stuff like that,

Warwick Schiller ([01:07:19](#)):

You know, there is a meme that goes around Facebook every once in a while. And it's this picture of this Mongolian warrior sitting on his Mongolian, Tony wearing a Wolf skin and cloak with a Mongolian hunting Eagle on his arm. And the meme says you might be cool, but you are not Mongolia warrior wearing a Wolf skin and cloak while riding his Mongolian pony with a wrong, with a Mongolian hunting Eagle on his arm. Cool. You're not that cool. You might be cool. You're not that cool. Your profile picture on Facebook is of Chloe Phillips Harris, horsewoman adventure, a journalist sitting upon a Mongolian pony while wearing a Wolf skin cloak and having a hunting Eagle on her arm. Tell us all about that.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:08:06](#)):

Um, yeah, so, I mean, again, like I'm just always fascinated. Like I think, I think I'm the one thing that always drives me is against animal behavior. So I was like, well, you know, this is ranger. And then there's these people that hunt with Eagles, like how do you train to Eagle? Like I need to know this angle, same principles or these days, you know, I've been in Mongolia a lot. I've got a great network, you know, I know how to find what I'm looking for, or it will know someone who will know how to find it for me. But back then in 2014, I didn't really know anyone. And so similar approach that I was like, well, I know the Eagles are out West, so we'll just catch a flight out with. And so we did.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:08:50](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. And so we got to the airport and we kind of like loosely organized, maybe a drive that took us up, but he never showed up. And so like everyone's Lyft and this airport is like in the middle of a desert, you know, there's just like Brown mountains, all around you, Brown sand, like nothing that looks, uh, conducive to life, kind of around this airport. And everyone's like disappeared. We're the last ones at this airport. We're just sitting on this bit and like, wow, there's not even any cars coming down the road. Like, um, and then finally, finally the airport control guy comes out and he's kind of the last car. And he's like, do you guys want a ride to town? Like, can I help you? He's like, yeah, we would love or write down like, yeah, at least from town, we might get to make a bit of plan.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:09:35](#)):

And um, anyway, his name was wing and he gave us a ride to town and gave us a tour of this little, this little town. And um, yeah, but having that many connections later, um, we find someone who knows some EU hunters and um, it's like, yeah, well of course, like I can't say, but I can get you to one of these Eagle hunters. Um, and you can stay there and I'll just come back in a few days and get you. And I was like, yes, like, fine, this is fine with me. I'm going to see Eagle hunters. I'm going to see how they hunt with egos. This is all good. I think my, my companion wasn't, it was a pretty genius about the plan, the stage I was all in. And so off we went and to my good fortune, the Eagle Hunter, but the sky dropped us off with was the Eagle hunting champion of Mongolia.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:10:27](#)):

Of course. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So I think he's been on some net geo documentaries and things like that. And it just so happened that we got dropped off with this amazing Eagle Hunter and spent some time with them. And at first, you know, like being a woman, they were like, Oh, do you want to just sit inside? We'll just look after you. Like, you know, like have some tea, not in a like strongly sexist way, but just in like, they felt very responsible that nothing bad happened to me. Um, and I think this is where I've always been lucky that my ability to ride a horse has opened a lot of doors for me and a lot of places and sure enough, I eventually went horse riding. Now I can always, she can, she can ride a horse pretty well. So, okay. And so from there, they kind of let us go out.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:11:06](#)):

They showed us how they hunted with the Hawks and then got to go out with them and see how they hunted with egos and, and got to ride with the Eagle on my arm. Those are really headed birds. So I couldn't ride very far, I have to say. Um, yeah. And, and, and just an amazing, and again, someone who was an amazing Stockman, as well as Eagle Hunter, you know, like this is a pretty arid environment and he was an amazing horseman, maybe not in the horsemanship that mean you were familiar with, but an amazing horsemanship and how to manage and train horses in that environment. And he had camels and sheep and goats and Eagles and Hawks and Falcons, and clearly someone that just knew animals live with animals day in, day out, relied on animals for their life and had a huge amount of state for the animals as they were.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:11:53](#)):

And, you know, he uses hunting Eagles, but still really respected them as, as egos. Um, and as individuals, they weren't, didn't try to make them into, you know, tame talking parents or anything like that. And he was very much like, well, when that hunted for me for awhile, I, I try to release them and kind of wean them back into the wild so they can go and breed and, and just a phenomenal person to spend time with. And I feel really, really lucky that I got to spend time with them and picked up a lot of things. And it just was incredible experience. I'm I'm I think the, the great, you know, the Facebook photo was, you know, a great photo, but I think more, what I gathered was just this amazing. Um, I want to call it stock since for, for lack of a better word, but connection to the animals that he lived with was really incredible.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:12:38](#)):

Um, and I think people who are a good horseman, a good horseman anywhere in the world, or, you know, good camel trainers or good equal trainers or whatever. And it's, it's always amazing to me to be around those people. You always pick up new answers and it makes you rethink how you work with your own animals. And yeah, it just was such a amazingly privileged experience to have had. Um, and I think I was probably quite lucky. And then I got in the kind of before the whole Eagle tourism thing took off, because I know that that's, that's really like probably before COVID, that was really kind of booming and maybe had kind of altered the scene over there a little bit. And I probably kind of just got in there that, that last wave, um, before tourists were really going over there and yeah, it was just, it was incredible. It was incredible. I'm hoping I can go back out West and maybe for future exhibitions, we're looking at doing another camel tree out there and kind of staying with a few Eagle hunters along the way. Um, if, if the world, yeah. If the world opens up again, I'm going to hopefully do some more work out that way. Cause yeah, I think it's, uh, it's an amazing environment out there and then something I would still love to do more with

Warwick Schiller ([01:13:43](#)):

Wow. Um, after our camel trip, which was the third one you'd done, you had another triple organized, uh, that was just a camel trip was 300 kilometers. You had another trip organized that, uh, some, actually someone I know was going to go on that thing and it was 1200 kilometers, wasn't it?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:14:04](#)):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, so I, I mean, I, I love these parts in the world and, and, you know, we're, we're nature is still the ruler, you know, everyone bins around nature, not the other way around. And, and I, I love the connection with animals and I'm really lucky to have two partners and Mongolia that I work

with. And we're all pretty on the same page with things. And in our fault for camel expedition, we have tried to do it on the coldest 10 days of winter every year, because you're going to do it on a camel expedition. Why not do it on the coldest 10 days of winter? You know, like it's gotta be a real adventure. Um, and we had been thinking and thinking for years, and we wanted to do something kind of next level that can really celebrate Mongolia's really diverse nomadic culture and heritage.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:14:53](#)):

And so we came up with the idea of the great nomad expedition. We started kind of on the Southern border with Mongolia and went straight North, starting on camels, doing a little bit on horses, going over some mountains on some, you expect some horses and then finishing up, um, with the reindeer. So kind of going, um, I think it's 27 days, um, basically South to North. And so that people again, so, you know, it's a challenge, it's a physical challenge to do something like that, but it's also an amazing chance to see this, like this incredible diversity and these animals and these people who live with the animals in a really unique way, because it's nothing like crossing an environment with an animal, it just changes your whole perspective, you know, driving across the country just does not give you the same fuel for the land that, you know, being out there, crossing it day in day out does.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:15:45](#)):

Um, and so, yeah, that's what we are still hoping to do with kind of postponing. We haven't called it off, but yeah, so that was the next challenge was the great nomad expedition, um, using camels horses, yaks, and reindeer, and kind of celebrating and mixing and mingling and, and, um, hanging out with, and crossing the land with these amazing animals and staying with these amazing herders. Um, so I can't wait to do it. I'm still really amped. I was gutted that we had to call it off and postpone it last year, but I'm hoping that maybe not this year, that next year we can make it all happen.

Warwick Schiller ([01:16:21](#)):

So it was the first 250 kilometers I think was supposed to be camel's my thing. And then you went to when you went to horses for awhile, is that right?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:16:29](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. And so for our winter expeditions, we do about 30 ish Ks on a camel every day. And then for this one, we'll be doing 60 kilometers on a camel every day and in swapping camels each day. And then yet you scope some horses, um, and then using some yaks to get through the mountains. And then,

Warwick Schiller ([01:16:49](#)):

So let's just let you keep glossing over that, but I think that's the most fascinating part. You can't ride anything else through the mountain, so you got to ride yaks. Yeah. Yep, yep.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:17:00](#)):

I just think JAKKS look awesome. And I think opportunity to hang out with them and learn some command ship or, you know, yet wrestling or however it turns out you have to do day, get your moving sounds like a great opportunity. And it's going through some really scenic areas. That's probably not great forces, but to state, but a great chance to kind of go through these beautiful mountains. And, you know, after some quite fast paced, camel riding and horse riding a chance to kind of eat off the pace a



little while ago, but slowly people recover for a few days on yet back and then back to some fast paced horse riding,

Warwick Schiller ([01:17:34](#)):

Um, yeah. Back, um, yeah, the, the, you know, we need about 30 kilometers a day on, on the camels. And when you told me, Oh, in, uh, in the, on the, you know, the great nomad expedition, we do 60 kilometers a day on camels. I'm thinking, I don't know if I can do that.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:17:52](#)):

I reckon I already bought it on you. I think people you'd be surprised at once you get into the rhythm, you can just keep going. So I think even the, the Kemo expedition, you know, the first day is pretty hard, but then once you get into the rhythm, it's just, it's pretty easy.

Warwick Schiller ([01:18:05](#)):

The second day, the second day was pretty awful. The long guy was great.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:18:09](#)):

It gets easier towards the second half anyway, like,

Warwick Schiller ([01:18:12](#)):

Oh, the camels, the camels more forward in the summertime.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:18:17](#)):

Yeah. And I think you've got longer writing hours as well. Um, and you know, we're pretty, we're pretty conservative on the chemicals in winter because we're very conscious that we don't want them losing weight in one tub. Cause it's, you know, it's a long, cold winter over there. So we try to be really conservative on how we use the camels in winter. Whereas, you know, doing it in summer, they, you can go a bit faster, go longer distances. Um, cause that'll be fitter, you know, in winter they're not running around the Gobi quite as much, but um, in summer, you know, the train is, they aren't as can put a bit of time and to actually doing the shutter and yeah, so we can cover a bit more speed. Do we want more speed and cover, but more ground,

Warwick Schiller ([01:18:55](#)):

You know, when we told her and I did the podcast about the trip, I think I mentioned there that the camels, I found the head like three speeds at the trust or they place, but there's this really slow speed that you can sit two all day long. And then when you really get them, go on, this is fast speed. And they make you go up and down. You don't have to do any work, but most of the time is spent at somewhere in between them, where in order to sit to it, you really have to engage your core to sit to it or, or you rise up and down, but you don't get thrown up and down. You actually have to, it's like doing squats all day long, you know? Um, and so if they're in that, the slow pace or the fast pace, it's kind of easy and that other pace has been most of the time at you're doing some sort of work, you're either doing the squats or you're just, or you're holding a plank, you know, like you're holding your core. And, uh, like it was so fun when those cameras like that. It's the second day, that longest day when we were coming into, we got lost and we're coming into camp often after the sun went down and those camels, must've

got a sniff of the camp or figured out, but they got up and now we'll go. And it's like, now that was fun. Just trotting along with me and miles down those cameras. That's cool.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:20:09](#)):

Yeah. That feeling of crossing country on like an animal that's wanting to cross country is just amazing. But yeah, I think, um, also there's like camels and then there's comfortable camels and then there's like camels that are just not comfortable. And it has, I don't know what the secret is, but it has something to do with like the hump confirmation or cause you know, you can go the same speed on two different camels. And one is so jarring. It's like sitting on a sewing machine and one, you can sit there all day and go on. Um, so there's definitely a bit of luck in the drawer of whether you get a camel with comfortable paces, or if you get one that's a little bit less comfortable or, you know, if some of them have like there, because the Mongolian Campbell's had two homes, so some of them, you know, their hump confirmations really cozy. You just sit in there and you're really comfortable. And then others it's like really like, like I dunno, or like having a plank of wood on your back, that just is just not that comfortable at all. So I, I always say I love riding camels and I absolutely do like my happy place is just, you know, trotting across the Gobi desert on my camel. Um, and just watching the horizon. But I do admit that this some chemos and I'm pretty happy to say goodbye and get onto the next one.

Warwick Schiller ([01:21:20](#)):

So you've got give good. Uh, so those are two humped camels, but you've got quite a bit of experience or had some experience with, uh, the single humped camels as well. Haven't you?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:21:30](#)):

Yeah, the dromedaries so, so I have done, um, work in Australia with, uh, Australian does expeditions, um, or the Outback camel company. And they run these amazing programs where they go out into some of the most remote areas in Australia with chemicals and they fill up the camel teams with all your water, your food, everything you're going to need. And I do do dessert surveys every winter. So they're out there, I'm surveying these desert environments. I'm looking at the plants, the wildlife, um, invasive species artifacts, um, looking at archeology in, cause I mean, there's so many huge parts of Australia that it's still really never been explored. And so they do this on camels because camels are not going to destroy the land that they're crossing. And, and so you basically, um, load up your camel teams and this time you're on foot and you just walk and you just walk beside these huge, huge camels all day kind of surveying.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:22:26](#)):

If you get to an interesting site where there might be, um, you know, some archeological stuff to find, then you, you might camp down for a couple of days and really survey the site or otherwise you keep walking. And so I was really lucky to join the team there as a Camelina and in work with the, the one humped camels. And I love them. I think they just have such a bad reputation and everyone makes jokes about camels, but they asked so incredibly intelligent and they are so willing to work and they do things that no other animal could do. I mean, they carry insane loads and they cross these amazing deserts without a drink of water. They just keep on tracking. Um, and the massive, like, I just, it's impossible to explain how humongous camels, especially the one camp camp camels until you're right up next to them or leading a string of like six or seven tied together.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:23:16](#)):

And then, yeah, I mean, it's like a freight train behind you. Um, yeah, just incredible animals and an incredible project or incredible, um, work that they're doing in Australia with via desert surveys and scientific research that they do out there. It's I just love being part of it. I absolutely love it. Um, when, you know, you get to work with scientists and environmentalists and archeologists and just an inspiring group of people to be around. And, you know, my passion is definitely the camels and the animal side of it, but it's, it's just, uh, amazing to sit around a campfire at night and listen to other people who are, you know, looking at ancient remains and can tell you about the area looking at stone tools or things to being found out there, or, you know, looking at the environment or, yeah, it's just incredible. And I'm just seeing camels do amazing things and, and so different from horses. So, so different from horses and how they think and operate it's, um, really humbling to be kind of the first time being kind of back at the beginning of what you know about a species when it come from, you know, knowing quite a bit about horses, you're back to the beginner camel level.

Warwick Schiller ([01:24:22](#)):

Yeah. I imagine you're probably back to the beginning of maybe having your knowledge of that particular species. But if you think about all the lessons you learned from horses, a lot of that's gotta carry over. You know, you know, it's not like you've never been around an animal before. It's just, you've just, you know, you bring a lot of life skills and patience and understanding and empathy and compassion and probably a, um, you know, a sense of awareness, how big they are and how little we are and how to just stay out of the wrong spot, you know?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:25:02](#)):

Yeah, yeah, absolutely. And I think the thing that always kind of humbles me with camels is that they can bite in 180 degrees and pretty much kick in every single direction with one leg or another. So they're, they're a loaded gun at all times, you know, the make courses seem pretty safe really when you're on the ground handling them. Um, but yeah, I mean, there's so much crossover and I think the empathy and, and, you know, realizing you're dealing with an animal, that's got its own behavior. That's not exactly like ours is, is. Yeah. And it's great to be able to stand back and cross over some of those skills. And yeah, I think it's just, um, it took, you know, it takes you a bit wild, get your eye in on, on what camel behavior is compared to a horse behavior because you know, the horses are to me really, really easy to read.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:25:47](#)):

And definitely the first time I went out to the Australian desert and I was like, Oh, I'm not. I mean, I get animal behavior, I get a prey animal behavior. I get, you know, this large, horrible behavior, but it just did take me. And again, I think being very conscious as damaged horses can do to, and realizing that these guys are twice as big and have a different kind of brain that can kind of think and plan ahead a bit more than a horse, you know, it does, it did make me pretty cautious the first couple of days around them. And then you get your eye and then you start to read their behavior. And you're like, these animals are really, really

Warwick Schiller ([01:26:21](#)):

Awesome. You know, the thing I felt about the camels in the Gobi was how I don't anthropomorphize too much, but how human, like they were. Yeah, yeah, definitely. You know, especially not being sorry to interrupt, but uh, you know, horses, like if a horse is in, I think it's because they're a prey animal, but if a horse is in pain, they go quiet. Whereas like, like I heard camels sound like a baby, like a baby

human, like expressing their disgust at something or, or, or if they're in pain for some reason and yeah, it's surprisingly humanlike. Yeah. It is surprising.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:27:07](#)):

And I think like they do have a very different type of intelligence to a horse as well. Like I'm not saying one's more intelligent the other, but it's just two different types of minds to work with. And yeah, they, they're just amazingly intelligent and vocal and unfortunately their noises are not always the most attractive. So I think that gives them a bad name as well, but that they are intelligent. Once you get to know them, they're really sweet. And if you get ones that like a scratch and you can give them a good scratch on the neck, they make these beautiful little sounds and kind of nuzzle into you. And, um, I had a beautiful camel and we did that, the Kamal expression called tiny term. And he was just like a snugly as little cute little camel that just loved, like, and he came from this family that all their camels loved cuddles and he loved cuddles and he loved like a big hug around the neck. And he kind of linked into you and barriers hidden your chest. And he was just like a little like a, you know, a lap dog, but times

Warwick Schiller ([01:28:01](#)):

Yeah. Tiny Tim, he was killed when he was a little, he was a little camel for those cables.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:28:07](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Real little Kemo. Yeah, definitely got the, didn't get the size. He was almost, yeah, it'd be bad. Horse size almost.

Warwick Schiller ([01:28:15](#)):

Yeah. Like regular horse size a second ago. We mentioned the word empathy. And when I first met you, was it a horse expo in New Zealand? And the booth you were in was just to cut the boots down from hours and you came over and said, get a, and you were, um, doing some work for who was that

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:28:38](#)):

K we care team. And so, yeah, so we went over to Egypt and India and uh, like animal welfare, like veterinary age trips. And I loved it because you're on the streets of Tyro and there's the Spanx and the permits right behind you. And, you know, there's chemicals, mills and donkeys coming in and you're trying to treat all these animals, um, you know, and obviously horrible conditions, but loved being able to do something positive about it. Um, and probably the first got introduced to camels there and was just amazed at how durable and tough and how well they healed and obviously how smart they were. And still part of that organization. We, we rebranded where, um, now we work in the South Pacific, um, and, um, we focus much I guess, because we thought the South Pacific, we could have a longterm impact and really improve animals lives for the beta more permanently than we could in Egypt and India.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:29:38](#)):

And we're a KP based organization. So it makes sense to work in our own backyard. So now we do equine veterinary trips, um, and the, into Fiji. And, and we've been working with some villages for quite a few years now. And we used to go in and see, you know, horrific back wounds. So to the point where they just raw meat and then, you know, putrid and as, as bad as you can imagine, and probably worse than you can ever imagine. And we've been working with these villages now, now we go into those

same villages. It's not a single horse with a backbone, and now the horses aren't getting broken until they're three or four, as opposed to being written as yearlings and two-year-olds cause no one, no, that's just what you did. He brought was doing it. There's no other way. There's no, you know, it's not America, Australia, New Zealand.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:30:18](#)):

There's not access to outside knowledge. There's not anyone else doing it better. There's just only this one way that people do it in the villages. So, you know, you get these bad things happening and we've been able to change, change things in some of those villages and even castrating horses, so that there's not a massive breeding problem. And, and just seeing such positive, positive change, um, in Fiji just love, it, love being part of it. And I I've always felt that, you know, horses have given me so much, you know, if it wasn't for horses, I wouldn't have gone to Mongolia and I've, I've gotten to compete at the top level because I have had amazing horses. Um, so I've always felt that it is my duty to horse Klein to give back in a way that I, that I can, you know, and help them as much as, you know, they've made my life amazing.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:31:07](#)):

I owe it to them to try and help. I can't. So that's kind of how I got involved in that. And I've just loved it, you know, seeing, seeing horrific things, especially in Egypt and India, I think it's, it's beyond imagining, um, how bad the situation would be, but I have always loved being able to get in and get stuff done. And yeah, it was, it was awesome to be able to be here. Can't you just wouldn't see it in, in a world where you're like in a street clinic and you're just these camels on every side, this horse standing beside these donkeys on every side, you're like trying to like wrestle donkeys that, you know, you think a half day do they come up with summit strength and suddenly walk, strengthened walking on their back legs, you know, off towards the permits as you're trying to give them antibiotics or some such thing. Um, yeah. Yeah, still, still very passionate about that kind of work and gain. Um, it's really hard with COVID that we can't go to Fiji at the moment. Um, but hopefully later this year, potentially next year, we'll be back on the ground there doing that.

Warwick Schiller ([01:32:07](#)):

You know, it must be a good feeling to get to the point, like saying New Zealand where you, where you see that you're making a difference, you know, like in, in Cairo, you, uh, basically a triaged sort of thing. You just, you know, whatever it comes in, you deal with it, but it's going to come back in again later, you know, the same problem is going to happen because of the same animal, husbandry is going to be happening. But if you, if you seeing, uh, like a change in how people handle the animals and deal with their animals and look after their animals, that's, that's got to feel, you know, that's, that's kind of rewarding. Whereas the other stuff's almost soul sucking.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:32:47](#)):

Yeah. It is. It is. It's absolutely soul destroying when, you know, your you're only helping there on the day, you know, long-term hope for their animals. Not great, whereas yeah, Fiji, you just say it making a difference year by year, you see things improving. And I think the big thing was Fiji is, is it was definitely, you know, it was ignorance and, and there was no vets, there was no large animal vets and Fiji. Um, and we've worked with, um, their livestock officers and, you know, provide them with training to keep them safe on the job, because that was another thing, you know, that they don't have the ability to upskill

that while over there. And, and yeah, it's, it's incredible. Um, I think Fiji, uh, sorry, India and Egypt. Yeah. You just a drop in the bucket and you're, you're not gonna have a big effect.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:33:31](#)):

And then for many reasons, and also that the people, you know, human life is hard. It's it's yeah. Hand to mouth daily, struggle to survive, let alone kind of then have to try and improve your animal's life as well. In saying that I've seen amazing animal welfare in those countries too, from the least likely sources, you know, people living in the big factories, making bricks, and then yours were in beautiful condition and they'd be living in a shack, made a brick seconds with a piece of corrugated tin on the roof. And the mule would be living in exactly the same size, stable and being cared for to the best of their ability, even though they had little to nothing. Um, but yeah, Fiji, I love, it's just ongoing, positive, um, improvements there. And, and you see the horses and you kind of recognize the horses.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:34:18](#)):

And, and I think, um, for the people, you know, and especially what might surprise people at Fiji is there's people in the interior, Fiji that rely on horses, you know, the midwife rides in, on horseback, the nurse rides and on horse back to these remote villages. Um, and the only way they get their goods to market is on horses. And yet some of these interior places and Fiji, they've never even seen the ocean, you know, that's how remote they are. And so I think if you can improve the horses life in, you're kind of by default, you know, making it easier for the people too. Cause if their horse last 10 years, instead of 10 months in it's, it's less that they have to fork out to try and find a new horse. You know? So I think I really like that side of animal welfare as well.

Warwick Schiller ([01:35:01](#)):

Well, how is this, what a, what an amazing life you've lived. Um, so, you know, you've slowed down a bit because of the whole COVID thing, but when, when things back open back up, what's, what's the adventure, his next adventure,

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:35:17](#)):

Um, well, how I can do the great nomadics tradition with all the four different animals in Mongolia, um, and carry on with some of that adventurous there, um, definitely back to Australia with the dromedary camels. And then I think, yeah, I think it's kind of getting to that time where I'd love to look for something new, something more. I'm not, I'm not sure what that'll be. I, I think people always assume that I'm I'm really restless or, you know, like constantly have foam or something, but actually I only ever do things that, you know, I, I believe, uh, um, I, that I feel really strongly about, you know, like Mongolia I've always felt really strongly about and the welfare staff and yeah, I'd love to find something new to do that might test my skills and maybe give me some new skills. I'm not sure exactly what that is, but for now, for now, we'll do some back riding and camel riding and reindeer riding in Mongolia

Warwick Schiller ([01:36:15](#)):

Yet back riding. Okay. So we've got to the question portion of our conversation here. I, yeah, the time has got away from me. Normally I can whip these in the middle of the conversation, but we'll get just going to do it like one after another here. So as everybody knows, I give my guests 20 questions and they get to choose a few of them that they want to talk a little bit about. And Chloe's first one is what book do you recommend the most? Not necessarily your favorite book to read, but one, you feel everyone needs to read,

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:36:45](#)):

Uh, endurance about the Shackleton expedition to the South pole. Just, I think a great story of what humans are capable of when things go completely wrong. Why am I not surprised?

Warwick Schiller ([01:37:00](#)):

Okay. What's the most worthwhile thing that you've ever put your time into something that has changed the course of your life?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:37:09](#)):

Um, I think working with the wild horses, I think wild horses led to so many other expeditions or so many other avenues. And I think, you know, in all the years that I've been working with them, I think me and a few other people who've really raised their profile here in here in New Zealand. And, and, you know, we're seeing many more people take them on save them and new competitions arrive and arise from it. Um, so yeah, I think working with wild horses has been something that I have loved and changed the course of my life and something I'm really proud to have done

Warwick Schiller ([01:37:43](#)):

This next question may be on the same lines. What becomes many most proud of?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:37:50](#)):

Um, I think the Dobie is something that no one can take away from me. I, you know, like it was just something by the time I'd done it, I was really proud of what I'd done in myself. And I think, you know, I've done a lot of competitive horse riding, but it, that's also results based. Like you're not happy unless you've won. Um, and you're always striving for the next big one. Whereas the Mongo, daddy, I gave it, absolutely everything. I don't think I could have given it any more. I was, I got out of it, what I wanted. So I think the Mongo Darby, and probably during the first winter camel expedition, because everyone thought it was a crazy idea and I was kind of secretly backing it, that it was a good idea. And just having pulled that off was a really good feeling.

Warwick Schiller ([01:38:36](#)):

Yeah. That must've been amazing. Like, you know, by the time I went, you guys knew what you were doing. You'd done it before three times or twice before. And that first one was the coldest one too, wasn't it?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:38:46](#)):

Yeah, it was, yeah. That one got to negative 45 and then, um, some cows and goats froze to death outside. I go that we of sleeping.

Warwick Schiller ([01:38:53](#)):

That's pretty cold. So this is an interesting question because yeah, the next question in the last five years, what have you become better at saying no to

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:39:04](#)):

Free horses?

Warwick Schiller ([01:39:07](#)):

It's pretty quick.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:39:11](#)):

I think, um, you know, I used to like, cause I, I guess I started off like working with problem horses and used to feel like I should, like people offered me a horse. Like I should just be grateful for the work and say yes to every single horse. And then, you know, people have always gifted me horses and, um, I'm pretty good at, well, not always, but I'm pretty good at saying no to being given free problem horses these days. So yeah, I've got other things to do. So I've gotten better. I've gotten better, not a hundred percent, but I'm pretty good at saying no to free courses or people wanting to free load.

Warwick Schiller ([01:39:44](#)):

That's uh, that's the first time I've got that answer to that question. That's not the first time I've asked that question on the podcast, but that's the first time free horses has been the answer. Uh, what, what qualities do you admire most in a person?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:39:59](#)):

I think honesty and integrity. And I think honesty in a way that, you know, um, people can say that they're struggling when they really are, or, or being honest about their experience. I think, um, having crossed paths with some pretty big egos, I, I really, really value, integrity and humility and I want to stay. And I think the three kind of all go hand in hand and, and yeah, I think I really appreciate it. And I appreciate in horse trainers, you know, like I really like it, you know, sitting down with a bunch of professionals and we can all be really honest and say, Hey, you know, like what's working for you. What's not rather than, yeah. I think maybe 10 years ago, you know, people being like, Oh no, I, you know, the best with every single horse I come across. Whereas now, like, you know, I really value trainers that will sit there and, you know, troubleshoot and I value expedition people and venture people who are really, really honest about, um, their successes, failures and honest about how they actually went about achieving it. I really, yeah. And humility being humble. I think of stuff that I really really value. And I don't mind hearing that people are struggling or that, you know, anything like that. Like I really admire the courage to come out and say that, you know, this is where I struggled. This is where I'm good. All that thing I think has really great skill and people.

Warwick Schiller ([01:41:16](#)):

Very good. And this, this next question, I have not had a podcast guest who has failed to choose these questions. Everybody's checking this question. And I think this is the perfect question for you seeing your book is called fearless. What is your relationship like with fear?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:41:37](#)):

Um, so I'm not fearless. Um, there's definitely things that scare me. I think I try to break it down into being, is that a logical fear? And what are the steps like? Is it, you know, like what can I do to, to prevent that fear? Like, you know, getting in the stat box at a big cross-country like, if you're not afraid you shouldn't be there because those jumps are massive, but I know that that fear is just an emotion. And then I put all the homework in, into my horse and I trust my horse and I'm not going in that stat box without knowing that my horse has every single skill and tool in the box to get me over those jumps.



And I think the same with, um, with expeditions, you know, like, yeah, like going out into negative 45 for the first time.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:42:21](#)):

Like there's no way you're not scared. Like again, if you're not scared, then you're probably full hearty and, you know, an excellence coming your way. So I try if I have fear to, to, you know, go through all the mental preparation and have, you know, problem solved in my mind what will happen in every situation. And I think that's my way of, of dealing with fear is trying to be very logical about it. I do. I think I do try to play things pretty close to my chest. Like I, I don't, um, openly show it. Um, but yeah, I just try to go about it in a logical way and not kind of buy too much into the emotion of it and read too much into it.

Warwick Schiller ([01:43:00](#)):

You know, one of my podcast guests said something really cool about this. She said, you know, well, there's two types of fear. There's the fear you should listen to. And the fear that you shouldn't listen to it.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:43:10](#)):

Yeah. I would agree with that.

Warwick Schiller ([01:43:12](#)):

And I thought it was a great way of putting it. Like some things you shouldn't be afraid of. Yeah. Some things that, some fears that come up, like they just be SVS, but there's some things you should be scared of and you shouldn't do that thing. And it's, I think it's, um, been able to differentiate between the two and, and a lot of people I see around horses get them totally backwards. They, they're not afraid of the things they should be afraid of. And then they were afraid of the, the things that they shouldn't be afraid of. You know? So

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:43:41](#)):

I agree with that too. Yep. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Warwick Schiller ([01:43:45](#)):

You see that quite a bit. So, so there's all your, there's all your questions for you. So Chloe, it has such a pleasure to have you on here and have a good chat again. You're, you're, you know, you're such an inspiration, I think too. I, I think, you know, you not just doing what you do, but being public about it and letting people know what you're doing, you know, you're such an inspiration for 53 year old people, men like me, but I'm, I'm, I'm really thinking it's such an inspiration for young girls. Like you, you like the walking example of you can, you can do anything you put your mind to. And I, I think that's such an amazing gift that you, um, just bring to the world and thank you for doing that.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:44:37](#)):

Aw, thank you. That's really, really nice to hear. And I think, yeah, if there's anything to take away from this, you know, like I've never been set up, it's always been hard to make these things happen, but they're totally achievable. And you know, to me, it just feels like every day life, these days, you know, like of course you go and do these exclusions, like why wouldn't you? Or, you know? Yeah. Yeah. So that's really nice. Again, I hope, I hope it does make it seem achievable for the next generation and

people coming after me. Like, I always tell the kids on horse camp that I hope that like, you know, when I'm no longer doing this, they're going out and doing cool stuff and they can come back and tell me, you can get my adventure fix that way.

Warwick Schiller ([01:45:10](#)):

You know, I think you guys, you, and like the Wilson sisters and stuff are just inspiring. I can't wait to see what the next generation of cause you know, you kinda, you guys just started doing this stuff on your own when you were young, but this you're inspiring. It's kind of like the internet, you know, when I was a kid, I didn't know, you could do two back flips on a motorbikes, no one ever thought of doing it, you know, but these days you can see everything's possible and then you can, you can go out and try it. And I just think it's, it's exciting to see, like I said, the girls that come to your camps, um, you know, kids just getting inspired. So early on, uh, speaking to the Wilson sisters, you, we get one more crazy story you need to tell before we finish up. So a couple of years ago, a few years ago now on new year's day, you guys decided, Hey, it's new year's day. Let's do something fun. What did you guys do?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:46:07](#)):

Uh, um, well, most recently we, we just have been galloping around chasing

Warwick Schiller ([01:46:12](#)):

It, had to do with it. I think that it was a yellow colored airplane.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:46:18](#)):

Uh, okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean, it wasn't on new year's day. Exactly. But it was around this time. Um, we, well, yeah, so we thought that wing walking on, you know, those old, what do they call it? Tie them off. No, I can't remember them, but you know, like the planes that have basically made a balsa word by flying, that's the one. So we, we found like the, kind of the last pilot in New Zealand that flies one of these planes and his wife used to be a wing Walker for like air shows and things. And so, um, handful of basketball, like this sounds like something cool to do. So, um, yeah, we, we rocked up to this air strip in the middle of some fam land and one by one got on the plane strapped to this like tiny little harness on top of the wings and the plane would take off and he'd start flying less than yet. You'd be standing up on top of the plane, um, arms out. Yeah. It was, it was amazing. It was absolutely incredible. Um, yeah, I wouldn't repeat the experience in inherit Harry, but it was really exhilarating. And I think the only really scary thing to me is

Warwick Schiller ([01:47:25](#)):

Like I was playing,

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:47:27](#)):

It was fast. Do you think, so it does have this like little bit of feeling like you may fall out of the sky at any moment, but um, yeah, still to be up there in the air, you know, very tentatively, tentatively attached to a plane was a pretty, pretty incredible experience. And um, yeah, we've had a few cool adventures like that together.

Warwick Schiller ([01:47:45](#)):

You know, that's a great, um, little snapshot of what Chloe's life is. Like I said, so you did something a little crazy few years ago, a new year's day, what was it? And she couldn't actually come up with the, she couldn't remember the fact that they strap themselves to a top of a bolt of wood plane while it took off and flew around the sky. I kind of had to prompt that out of it. So that, that gives you an idea of what the crazy life that Chloe Phillips Harris leads. So Chloe, if people want to know more about you or maybe about the, the, uh, cold camel expedition or the what's the other one that nomad nomad expedition expedition. Yeah. And, and, and the blue flower in general, how do they, how do people get ahold of him?

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:48:37](#)):

So the best way is, um, for the great nomad expedition, you can just Google it or, um, it up the great note exhibition, um, otherwise on Facebook for the great noted expedition, all of our other expeditions and adventures and things, you just look at Chloe Phillips Harris adventurer, and you can find me. And actually I've got one more, one more New Zealand based adventure coming up. And if people look at born to run adventure racing, we have a newest New Zealand based one feeding New Zealand snows out there that also involves animals. And some, some wild country

Warwick Schiller ([01:49:13](#)):

Sounds exciting so, well, we better wrap it up here, but Chloe, thank you so much for being on the podcast. Like I said, it's so good to talk to you a game, but it's so good to, to share your story with people because you're, you're quite an inspiration to everybody you've ever met and hopefully through the podcast, you might be a little bit of an inspiration to a few more people.

Chloe Phillips-Harris ([01:49:33](#)):

Aw, thanks so much. It's great talking to you again.

Warwick Schiller ([01:49:35](#)):

Yeah. Thank you. Uh, yeah, it's just been so much fun. So thank you, Chloe. And you guys all at home listening. Thanks for joining us on the journey on podcast and we will catch you on the next edition.

Speaker 1 ([01:49:48](#)):

Thanks for listening to the journey on podcast with work Schiller Warrick has over 650 full length training videos on his online video library@videos.work, schiller.com. Be sure to follow Warrick on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, to see his latest training advice and insight.