



There Must Be Horses

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Sasha's love of horses has been the only constant during her turbulent life in care. When a failed adoption placement results in yet another move, she ends up at Kingfishers - a farm where Joe and Beth train troubled horses. To Sasha, this seems like the perfect place to live. But she can't stay. Joe and Beth are adamant about that. They have only agreed to take her for a little while, and they only agreed to do that reluctantly.

Can Sasha persuade them to change their minds and let her stay forever? And can she do it before her social worker finds her another home - one without horses?

Awards

Shortlisted for the Rubery Book Award and a semi-finalist in The Kindle Book Review's 2013 Best Indie Book Awards.

There Must Be Horses Details

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From Reader Review There Must Be Horses for online ebook

Laura says

Even if you didn't grow up riding horses -or were particularly interested in them- you can really enjoy this book. Being a city girl, I see them occasionally -and always stop to admire them- but I never really had the chance, nor the will, to ride one. But there is something majestic and special about horses and that is definitely captured in this book.

Twelve-year-old Sasha has been moved around in foster care for a very long time. Being taken from family to family, and having very little good experiences with it, has made it hard for her to trust people. However, she does find comfort in horses. So one day she is taken to these really friendly people that have agreed to take her in temporarily. They even have a horse that is a lot like Sasha! Of course Sasha wants to stay, but her social worker already has a new family picked out...

The story and setting were very clear from the beginning, but it took a bit of time to warm up to the characters. The more you read and the more lovely characters -the horses, Beth, Joe and eventually Dawn- were introduced, the warmer it all felt. Kingfishers seems to be a wonderful, and somehow very real place. Also, I feel that Sasha's hardship was portrayed in a very realistic manner.

When I got closer to the end I couldn't stop myself from continuing and ended up finishing this book in the middle of the night with a tear running down my cheek. I absolutely loved the ending!

Anyway, if I had to name one thing that bugged me it would be the repetitive thoughts and actions of Sasha. It makes sense in the story, but as an adult reader it can be a little annoying. Other than that, this is a great book that you can read in very little time and I don't think anyone would regret reading it.

Rubery Book Award says

Shortlisted for the Rubery Book Award

This is a thoughtful examination of the difficulties faced by Sasha, a girl in care, who has been moved around by the system between foster parents, children's homes and a failed adoption, until she arrives at a farm with reasonable, caring owners. The overlying structure draws a convincing parallel between her situation and that of Meteor, a nervous horse who has come to the farm to be trained. He is over-sensitive and easily panicked, and it takes considerable effort from Sasha to gain his confidence. Sasha has been told she cannot stay on the farm, even though the foster parents are understanding, recognise her dyslexia and help with her schoolwork, and most importantly, teach her to ride. The story is skilfully told, with much empathy and compassion, and ends with a powerful emotional punch.

Crystal says

This book was a cozy read as a girl find her emotional equal with a horse. Circumstances brought them to save each other. I felt the emotions of the characters in the details. Diana Kimpton knows how to craft a story and bring us into the world around horses.

Kim says

My heart is still humming after reading this book. The author takes you into the heart of the issues facing a child and a family in the foster to adopt situation. I truly felt for the girl who had been moved around and lost her trust and love in humans. I am fascinated with the connection she has with the horse, I agree with the portrayal of the social worker and I don't envy the thought process of the foster parents. If you're looking for a great emotional read this is a great one about the human condition and a horse!

Nancy says

Sure kept me turning pages! Good for the younger crowd of horse lovers. I liked the detail it went into about working with horses. I really related to wanting time alone with your horse buddy. I'm glad things turned out well. Though I stayed up too late to find out.

Piers says

The title is the main character's only stipulation about her next foster home. Sasha has been rejected and abused. She is seen as difficult and even violent: she throws things; she is not a cuddly child. Previous placements have broken down and Sasha has been warned that the next foster parents are her last chance. As a temporary measure, she is sent to a farm where a couple re-train horses that have been neglected and abused. They show the empathy that has been missing and realise that Sasha is not bad but has been damaged by experiences that have taught her to keep her thoughts and feelings to herself, hence her explosions. They instinctively realise that Sasha must work things out for herself. She and Meteor, a similarly damaged horse that arrives at the farm at the same time as Sasha, eventually come to trust each other, and the healing process begins. The story is told entirely from Sasha's viewpoint, and her difficulty in trusting people and the resulting anxiety are palpable. The characters feel as if drawn from life and the pace is intense. The social worker, the couple who run the farm and their daughter and even the prospective (suburban) foster parents are drawn with expert clarity and understanding. The urgency that drives Sasha to find a way to stay with Meteor is so clearly communicated that it is hard to put the book down and the plight of the two friends is so immediate that it is difficult to imagine that any reader will be able to hold back a tear. This is a book that will become a firm favourite with both adults and children.

Denise says

a nice story about a girl and a horse brought together through difficult circumstances, helping them both heal.

Chrissi says

Happy happy

I loved the emotions and the characters! What a lovely lesson in compassion and hope! Horses do heal us. I was so pleased while I finished the story smiling and crying! Enjoy a well written tale of a family growing together !

Jessica says

A heart-warming story about a special relationship between girl and horse, both of whom have been moved about too much in their lives. Great for animal lovers and YA-fiction readers alike. It was well-written and I warmed to both Sasha and Meteor.

** I received this book through Goodread's First Reads Giveaway*

Vanessa Wester says

What a wonderful story! Suitable for older readers and adults alike, this is the story of Sasha, a 12 year old girl who has been traumatised by constant moves and an unsettled upbringing. However, when she goes to live in a temporary home in the countryside she finds herself surrounded by the one thing she loves - horses!

When she meets Meteor, a horse troubled by his own mixed past, she must overcome her own fears and learn to trust again.

I loved it and had a tear in my eye at the end...

It did help that my daughter rides so I have picked up a few things watching, but I think this story is suitable for anyone who doesn't know anything about horses too.

Highly recommended for both the storyline and beautiful writing.

Natalie says

won through a Goodreads giveaway, an enjoyable horse novel.

Juanita says

Enjoyed this more than I'd like to admit. Young adult novel about an emotionally damaged girl who finds herself fostered on a farm with an emotionally damaged horse. Good for younger readers but not to saccharine for adults. A bit of a tearjerker.

Caroline Cattell says

A short but sweet YA read. It's about a troubled foster girl and an equally troubled and distrustful horse. You will probably find this book enjoyable if you have an interest in horses and want something short and simple to read.

Hannah says

A beautifully written pony book. Throughout reading this I have been frequently reminded of the style of KM Peyton's popular 'Blind Beauty'. Both books take a beautiful sadness from the isolation of a tragic heroine who learns emotions through the love of a poor horse.

Although they share similarities I must place emphasis on the fact this is not a Blind Beauty rip off, it is an elegant piece in its own right, with its own small plot twists and revelations that keeps the reader hooked throughout.

The book can stand proudly ranked among many equine books but I think even a non-equine fanatic could enjoy the story of a young girl unfreezing due to a family love everyone craves.

My one major complaint is that it was too short! I must also say but for the next few days this book is a steal at 79p on the Kindle store!

Lucinda Blanchard says

What a brilliant book! It even made me cry at the end! Beautifully written story about how a damaged horse and a damaged girl heal each other. I couldn't put the book down and would recommend it to anyone who loves horses, any age.
