



A Horse of Her Own

By Annie Wedekind

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A girl who longs for her own horse is given the chance to care for a troubled, damaged horse, who needs her as much as she needs him.

Fourteen-year-old Jane Ryan has always dreamed of having a horse of her own?but so long as she gets to ride her favorite school horse, Beau, at Sunny Acres farm, she's content. And this is the summer she means to try out for the advanced riding class.

But just as camp begins, Jane receives heartbreaking news about Beau. She loses, not just her favorite horse, but also her chance to ride in the end-of-summer competition. When her trainer asks for her help with an out-of-control chestnut warmblood, Lancelot, a newcomer to the barn, she has no choice but to say yes.

There's another new addition to the farm: Ben Reyes, the grandson of the barn's manager. As Jane struggles to go on without Beau, and to make Lancelot the great horse she believes him to be, her feelings for Ben, her relationships with the privileged group of girls she rides with, and her painful, joyous road to self-discovery all lead to a heart-pounding conclusion that is truly a new beginning. Only Jane's faith in Lancelot, and her own rediscovered skill and strength, can see her through the hard journey toward a horse of her own.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5–8—Jane Ryan, 14, is a capable rider whose family is not affluent enough for her to have her own horse. She rides a school horse for years, but then he is sold. Jane also tries to deal with the fact that the wealthy girls with whom she rides have never completely accepted her, except for Robin. When she gets the opportunity to ride Lancelot, a talented but difficult animal, she gains his trust and eventually wins the first Sunny Acres event. Tenacious and thoughtful, Jane is an appealing protagonist who gradually recognizes that being accepted no longer matters to her. The plot, though unremarkable, has enough twists, including a hint of romance, to sustain readers' interest. The descriptions of the challenges involved in preparing for competing are believable, although the time needed to achieve success seems a bit short. This novel merits consideration where horse stories are popular.—*Carol Schene, formerly at Taunton Public Schools, MA*
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From [Booklist](#)

With a title that telegraphs the denouement, this first novel is long on credible emotions but pulls up short on scenery and secondary characters. Jane spends the summer before ninth grade at the horse camp she has attended for years. Her fellow campers, rich and often snobby, stable their horses at the farm, while Jane, less monied and more earnest, doesn't own a horse. After her usual mount is sold, she's given charge of an unruly, new horse. Although class differences and the teens' emerging personal values are well depicted, not everything here rings as true. Jane's father is a professor, and her mother also teaches, so their characterization as impoverished isn't very credible and Jane also has spots waiting for her at three different high schools right up through August, which seems unlikely. Although lots of horse-related vocabulary goes unexplained, readers who love anything equine will be well pleased, and Wedekind's recognition of the fondness girls sometimes develop for horses is right on target. Grades 5-7. --Francisca Goldsmith

Review

"Sensitive, sophisticated and lyrically written, Wedekind's debut portrays the typical teen struggle for self-awareness in an anything-but-typical fashion. Possibly the most honest horse book since *National Velvet*, from an equestrian point-of-view, this offering's riding scenes combine accuracy with seat-of-the-pants excitement. A champion." ?Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

"There aren't a lot of books around for horse-mad girls these days . . . Where oh where are the horsey novels? Thank goodness for Annie Wedekind. She has written an utterly charming novel that should be placed into the hands of horse-loving girls immediately upon publication." ?Kidliterate.com

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Whitaker:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information currently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you obtain

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