



## Interview with Believing In Horses Author, Valerie Ormond

Maryland author Valerie Ormond responds to questions regarding her debut novel, *Believing In Horses*, a novel about a young girl committed to saving unwanted horses.

*What inspired you to write your first book?*

The challenge was my inspiration. I've always had in the back of my mind the idea of writing a book, but I never even considered a middle grade/young adult book. When someone suggested writing a children's book, it gave me a whole new outlook, and an experience I've thoroughly enjoyed. Now looking back, I realize that that level of book was among my favorite.

*Is there a message in your novel that you want readers to grasp?*

Yes – when people believe in themselves and their causes, anything is possible.

*How much of the book is realistic?*

Much of the book is realistic, unfortunately, regarding the plight of unwanted horses. I was fortunate to have the support of two Maryland horse rescue operations, Freedom Hill Horse Rescue in Calvert County, Md., and Thoroughbred Placement and Rescue, Incorporated in Prince George's County, Md., who allowed me to conduct on-site research for the book to help the realism.

*Are experiences based on someone you know, or events in your own life?*

*Believing In Horses* includes experiences from my life, and the lives of those around me. However, the book also includes pure fiction. Writing from both perspectives is fun.

*What are your current projects?*

I've begun work on a sequel, *Believing In Horses, Too*. I had an opportunity in the first book to portray issues such as unwanted horses and military families. In my second book I hope to highlight equine therapy and develop some more aspects of the military family life.

*Name one entity that you feel supported you outside of family members.*

My publisher, who took a chance on an unknown author and worked very hard to make the book the best it could be.

*Is there anything you find particularly challenging in your writing?*

I love thinking through the intricacies of a plot – trying to figure out, “If I want my character to be here at this point, what has to happen to get him/her there?” I don't find that as the hard part, but the challenge that I enjoy the most.

*Do you have any advice for other writers?*

Just write! I've been surprised how many people I've met who've said, “I've always wanted to write.” Nothing should stop them. The other advice would be to check into web sites such as [Write4Kids.com](http://Write4Kids.com), [Writing.com](http://Writing.com), and others. There are tremendous resources out there, and I've found the writing community to be extremely helpful, supportive, and friendly.