



Reviewers' Comments for Believing In Horses (Valerie Ormond)

Twelve-year-old Sadie Navarro is used to moving. It comes with the territory of having a dad in the Navy. In preparation for his deployment to Afghanistan, the family relocates to Maryland, and the Navarros grant Sadie's biggest wish: with the help of her vibrant, California grandmother, they buy her Lucky. Horse and girl bond immediately at the stable near Sadie's home. Soon Sadie, a sweet, smart, mature tween who adores her older brother, Austin, becomes drawn to online video ads for horse auctions. One batch of a dozen horses particularly grabs her attention, and before she knows it, Sadie develops and implements a methodical, thorough plan to raise money to buy the horses and find them homes. Sadie's "posse" (her mother, brother, grandmother, riding instructor, stable owner, and teacher) joins the project, which soon gains media attention as this determined, young horse lover forges ahead, at some risk to her well-being. Ormond, a retired naval intelligence officer and lifelong horse lover and owner who matches horses to loving families, has written a charming, fast-paced, intriguing first novel that provides a blessed break from stories centered around grim problems of destructive behavior and dysfunctional families.

VOICE OF YOUTH ADVOCATES (VOYA) - Beth E. Andersen

The chance for something better out of our lives presents itself in many strange ways. "Believing in Horses" is a novel following preteen Sadie as she deals with her family's troubles and the recent move to Maryland. A horse in her life helps her keep her head straight, but her newest thing may bring her grief in those driven by greed. "Believing in Horses" is a strong addition to young adult fiction collections, not to be missed.

MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

Believing in Horses holds more than one lesson for readers. One held within the other... Ormond has spun a story that inspires....

MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Jim Greenwald
(Also 2012 Book Awards -Young Adult Gold Medal Winner and Founder's Award Finalist)

The story of *Believing in Horses* is one of a young girl finding her voice and the strength to fight for others while simultaneously finding those same things for herself....*Believing in Horses* is definitely worth believing in.

COASTAL STYLE MAGAZINE, Nick Brandi, Associate Editor

A girl's horse story set in our place and our times, *Believing in Horses* has all the traditional elements: troubled girl and redemptive horse together fighting, and righting, big trouble in the world....

THE BAY WEEKLY, Sandra Olivetti Martin, Editor

...Perhaps Sadie's inspiration to become involved with the rescuing of unwanted horses will encourage readers to become more aware and to also believe that they, too, can make a difference, just like Sadie.

THE EQUIERY, Emily Stangroom

...An emotional story, writer Valerie Ormond takes Sadie and her tri-colored Pinto horse, Lucky, through a tale of *heartbreak, suspense, determination, and love.*"

BLAZE Magazine for Horse Crazy Kids (Good Reads Selection)

Attention horse lovers! Local author Valerie Ormond spins a tale filled with horse thieves, Maryland storms, and unwanted horses in her first novel, "Believing In Horses."

CHESAPEAKE FAMILY MAGAZINE

I am 9 years old reading this book was amazing....I recommend this book to all girls my age and up. Also boys, too, because if you love animals you will love this book....

(Mom's review)... Valerie's writing took us away on a journey.... In this novel Believing in Horses, I found myself crying, laughing, and enjoying every page.

LOLLIPOPS AND BOOKS, Book reviewers Lolly and Krista (Mom)

...The story of Sadie not only finding the perfect horse for herself, but giving her heart and soul over to rescuing the unwanted horses being sold at auction is an endearing tale.

...**Believing in Horses** is an inspiring story that truly highlights how even a child can make a difference in the lives of others, equine or human....

THE EDIBLE BOOKSHELF, DelSheree Gladden

...The setting and characters are realistic, and the author has the reader spellbound with each scene, wondering what will happen next. I found myself saying to Sadie, "You go, girl!"

HORSE BOOK REVIEWS, Sharon Miner

...Believing in horses is an inspirational read, giving encouragement to young people to believe in themselves and that anything is possible if you want it bad enough....

LINDSAY AND JANE'S VIEWS AND REVIEWS (UNITED KINGDOM), Jane

Loved it! Amazing!...If you have a horse lover in the household, this is a definite recommend for them!...Absolute must-read for all horse fans!

RACHEL'S REVIEWS, Rachel

...I believe every young person should read this book, whether they like horses or not. It is a great introduction to the 101 grassroots advocacy that I wish many more of our young people would adhere....

CREATING CHILDHOOD MEMORIES ONE DAY AT A TIME, Jennifer Cheatham

Currently FIVE STAR overall ratings at Amazon, Goodreads, and Barnes and Noble.

Full reviews available at http://believinginhorses.com/book_reviews

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