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Of interest to editors and journalists covering: new books, middle grade and young adult fiction, book reviews, horses, horse rescues, animals, volunteerism, military families, and adventure

A FRESH LOOK AT SAVING HORSES

Bowie, Md. – August 2012-- A new book for the young and young at heart. With a modern slant including technology such as the internet, cell phones, and photographs, [Believing In Horses](#) delivers a powerful message in terms that appeal to today's youth.

[Believing In Horses](#) (J.B. Max Publishing, 2012) is not just another horse book. Valerie Ormond's debut novel details the very real issue of the current unwanted horse problem, and one strong-willed girl's commitment to save a group of horses. Although a work of fiction, many of the issues exist in real life. According to the 2010 and 2012 American Horse Publications surveys, the unwanted horse issue ranked highest in concerns among horse people.

The book features horse rescue organizations, and Ormond donates a portion of the book proceeds to those non-profits. [Freedom Hill Horse Rescue](#), and [Thoroughbred Placement Resources, Inc.](#), both in Maryland, supported the author's research and actively save horses today.

The book's main character is a smart, caring, and non-self absorbed pre-teen who is the daughter of a Naval officer deployed to Afghanistan. The story highlights volunteerism, teamwork, and issues military families face regarding moves, separations, and fear.

[Believing In Horses](#) has already received several prestigious awards, recognition, and accolades.

The [Military Writers Society of America \(MWSA\)](#) nominated [Believing In Horses](#) for awards in the categories of Young Adult and the Founder's Award on July 28, 2012. Per the MWSA: "The Founder's Award selects the book that most represents the values of the MWSA organization—it must be well-written, inspiring, and end on a hopeful note." Only three books of the 80 nominees for 2012 are in consideration for this award. [Believing In Horses](#) is the only fiction book in the Founder's category. The final winners will be announced at the MWSA annual conference in Dayton, OK, Sep. 29, 2012.

The 2011 Stars and Flags Book Awards program awarded [Believing In Horses](#) the Gold Medal in Children's Literature. A national contest, the Stars and Flags Book Awards program was established with the purpose of promoting books having a connection to the military.

Believing In Horses also earned the coveted Parent Tested Parent Approved (PTPA) Seal of Approval, competing with entries from across North America. Independent parent volunteers evaluated the book, and chose it based on merit and consumer experience as a “Best Product.”

Additionally, Maryland State Senator Edward R. Reilly selected Believing In Horses, as his book donation to all schools in his district for the National Education Association's Read Across America Day, the nation's largest reading event. Ormond has since visited many of those schools and participated in one of the schools' book clubs which chose her novel as their first book club selection.

Ormond has received only positive reviews from the media, book reviewers, and authors.

Nick Brandi, *Coastal Style Magazine* had the following to say: “The best gifts are those whose value far exceeds their actual cost. A prime example of this is the gift of literature, which, when done properly, not only can stay with someone throughout their life but also help mold the person they ultimately become. So, the next time you're considering such a gift for, say, your adolescent daughter, consider Valerie Ormond's Believing in Horses.”

Jim Greenwald, Lead Reviewer, Military Writers Society of America, said, "Ormond has spun a story that inspires.”

According to Jennifer Cheatham, Book Reviewer for *One Day at A Time*, *Mad Moose Mama*, and others, “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 to which I wish many more of our young people would adhere.”

And author Lois Symanski commented, “Wow! If you're looking for a book you can't put down, this is your book. You don't have to be a horse lover to be sucked into the emotional rollercoaster that Sadie's life has become. If you are a horse lover, you won't be disappointed, for we horse lovers know a good horse can help you overcome anything life dishes out.” Symanski is the author of 18 children's books and the co-regional advisor for the Maryland-Delaware-West Virginia Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Ormond also teamed with her brother, a former teacher and current Educational Consultant, to develop Discussion Guides and Activities, available free of charge online at the Believing In Horses web site. A print version, Teacher's Tack for Believing In Horses (Veda Readers, March 2012) is also available for \$11.95 via the web site.

“These comprehensive discussion and activity guides will be welcomed by teachers, parents, and other educators to engage students in discovering the multiple levels of meaning in Believing in Horses,” according to career school librarian Carol Thornton.

Valerie Ormond retired as a U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer and began her second career as a freelance writer. Believing In Horses is her first novel. She recently contributed to 5 Must Know Secrets for Today's College Girl (Frederick Fell Publishers, Inc., 2011) and Chique Travel Adventures 2012: Finding Beauty and Inspiration on Your Travels, scheduled for Fall 2012 publication by Flagrans Press. She is working on a sequel to Believing In Horses focusing on equine therapy.

Believing In Horses is available now at Amazon.com, via the book and author's web site, and is being distributed by [Independent Publishers Group](#) at a retail cost of \$11.95. For more information, or to order the book, please visit www.BelievingInHorses.com. A book trailer is available at the web site and at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvA-HcQz7ak>. J.B. Max Publishing can be reached at www.JBMaxPublishing.com.

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