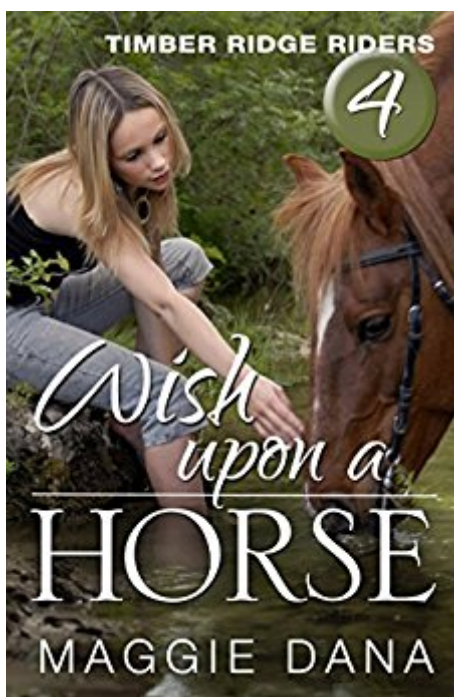


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Wish Upon A Horse (Timber Ridge Riders Book 4)



Synopsis

More than anything in the world, Kate McGregor wants a horse of her own, but the pitiful mare she rescues from the dog-food factory is hardly the horse of her dreams. Still, Kate's betting that one day her scruffy horse will be a champion. Together they'll win blue ribbons. They'll beat Angela Dean once and for all, despite the fact that Angela's now being coached a trainer who's as unscrupulous as she is. But can Kate do it? Even her best friend, Holly, is doubtful, especially when Angela spreads the rumor that Kate's horse might be stolen property.

Book Information

File Size: 933 KB

Print Length: 178 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Pageworks Press (February 14, 2014)

Publication Date: February 14, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00A5X2ROO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #157,250 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #99

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Animals > Horses #177 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Sports & Outdoors #400 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses

Customer Reviews

When I was a kid, I read all of Maggie Dana's stories about Timber Ridge over and over. But the one that I read the most was the original version of "Wish Upon a Horse." It was my personal Guide to Getting a Horse. You see, as fun as the other books were, none of them really offered a concrete way to get me off my bike and into a saddle. I checked the classifieds daily, but there were never any ads seeking young girls to move into a trainer's house to act as a companion for another girl. And I doubt my parents would have been impressed if I'd actually found one. My parents were most

definitely not in the absentee butterfly-scientist category. No sir, I was going to need good old-fashioned money to find a horse. And that seemed even more difficult to find than a nice convenient gig as a pre-teen companion. But an auction, now... an auction! Cheap horses, and even better SAD looking horses, because nothing was more apt to open a recalcitrant pocketbook than a pair of soulful brown eyes blinking out of a muddy, skinny, neglected body. "Wish Upon a Horse" gives us more adventures with Kate and Holly, who are more determinedly than ever best friends, despite their different personalities: Kate is still wary of Chapstick, and Holly still wants to give her a Glamour-Shots-style makeover. (Kate and Holly prove that horses can bring anyone together.) That's delightful enough. But as I could have told you when I was thirteen and the proud owner of a cheap, skinny, dirty, soulful-eyed Thoroughbred, "Wish Upon a Horse" is also a great Guide to Getting a Horse. Parents beware. Kids, take notes.

Horse-loving girls are a dime a dozen, but good fiction written for and about them? That's another story entirely. The hunt for a suitable gift for the girl next door, an 11-year-old newly addicted to all things equine, led me to a new book called *Wish Upon a Horse*. I was drawn to it by the author, Maggie Dana, whose delightful novel for grownups, *Painting Naked*, kept me entertained one weekend over the summer. *Wish Upon a Horse* is the fourth in a series by Dana about the Timber Ridge Riders, recurring characters at a riding stable in Vermont. Though I knew nothing about books 1 through 3, I picked up No. 4 and started reading. Before I knew it, I was halfway through the book, and I realized it didn't matter that I hadn't read the other books because this one stood on its own two feet. *Wish Upon A Horse* is fast-paced and authentic; the characters drawn with compassion and respect. I know these girls. I grew up with them, competed with them, laughed with them, and on occasion, cried with them. The one I clashed with is here, too. I still can't stand her. I look forward to introducing my young friend to the Timber Ridge gang, one book at a time. With any luck, she'll let me borrow them when she's done.

This is the fourth book in the Timber Ridge Riders series, and it's every bit as good as the first three. Better yet, you don't have to read these books in order, because every one of them works well as a stand-alone novel. *Wish Upon a Horse* details Kate's journey to finally have a horse of her own in the barn, instead of riding everyone else's. When she realizes that the kind of horse she dreams of is way beyond her means, her trainer recommends a consignment sale of horses at a local auction barn. The auction scene is very well done, but it's what Kate finds in the barn "out back" that leads to the horse she's been waiting for. But this is not just a find your dream horse story. There is plenty

of other non-stop action, involving an unscrupulous trainer using cruel and illegal methods, boyfriend drama, and of course Kate's rivalry with her nemesis, rich-girl Angela. Not only is Angela's horse, Skywalker, suddenly jumping higher than ever, but her Facebook posting might spoil everything for Kate, when the true identity of the rescue horse is revealed. Hold on to your horses for this one, because it moves at break-neck speed. Great for all horse lovers!

First off let me say I've been a fan of Maggie Dana's since the original release of this series when it was called "Best Friends." Even though they have been modernized a little to appeal to a new generation of readers this series has not lost that original charm. *Wish Upon a Horse* is no exception! This was my favorite book in the series as a child, and it still holds it's charm to me as a 30 something year old. Definitely will be sharing these wonderful books with my children when they get a little older.

This is the book that young girls' dreams are about. Maggie Dana's *Wish Upon a Horse* swept me back to a time when I, too, wanted desperately to have my own horse, have that mystical bond that defies explanation. I loved the friendship that has grown between Kate and Holly from the very first book in the Timber Ridge Riders series. Ms. Dana has expertly brought these two girls through a veritable maze of obstacles and life-changing events. Though I'm not crazy about the "mean girl" or "poor little rich kid" concept that seems to be a strong thread through young readers' fiction, it does serve a purpose in this series. Competition in the horse world, or any world, will always include those who would do anything to win. Kate and Holly's natural reactions to their nemesis, Angela Dean, provide a hilarious peek into the minds of young girls. No spoilers here, but the excitement and intrigue of Kate's dream-come-true make this a real page-turner. I heartily recommend *Wish Upon a Horse* to anyone who hasn't discovered Maggie Dana's books!

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