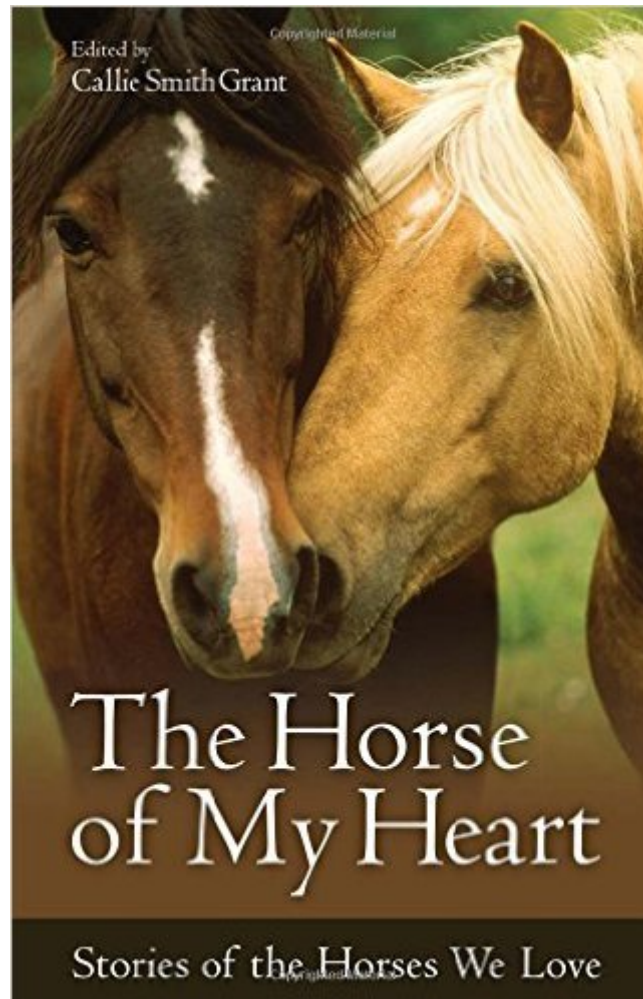


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# The Horse Of My Heart: Stories Of The Horses We Love



## Synopsis

Few of God's creatures are as noble and soul-stirring as the horse. Even those of us who don't have horses of our own love to read inspiring stories of these beautiful, regal beasts. With contributions from well-known authors such as Lauraine Snelling, Susy Flory, Rebecca E. Ondov, Wanda Dyson, and Sarah Parshall Perry, these true stories of horses and the people who love them are sometimes touching, sometimes humorous, and sometimes miraculous. As she did in her dog and cat story collections, Callie Grant Smith has compiled another perfect read for animal lovers--time with horses as the subject.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I will never forget my first trail ride in the hot, sandy hills in California. My Uncle Harry picked out an old, gentle mare for me, a pretty Appaloosa, white and spotted. She proved a dream horse for an inexperienced rider. I just had to hold the reigns, and she obediently stayed in line with the other horses and riders. My first trail ride turned eventful, however, when coming down a steep hill, I hit a snag of barbed wire that I did not see. The horse took off in a wild run causing me to drop the reigns. I grabbed the horn of the saddle and held on for dear life as the horse passed the other horses careening down the hill approaching a stream bed. My uncle yelled at me to cry, "Ho." I barely whispered the word and then managed to yell it. The mare came to a sudden stop. Somehow, I managed to stay in the saddle. Shaken, I grabbed the reigns and turned her back toward the other riders. Looking back, I saw another rider getting off the ground. She'd been thrown when her horse had reared up in fear. Despite, the few minutes of terror, I enjoyed the rest of the

ride. As we neared home, my little mare sped up in excitement. I gripped the reins as she galloped the last few yards. Then I groomed and fed her after taking her saddle off. Reading *The Horse of My Heart* brought that special day back to life for me. This beautiful book is excellent for the horse lover in your life. I especially believe tween and teen girls will love it. Callie Smith Grant compiles a series of true, inspiring stories about these beautiful creatures that will touch your heart. The stories illustrate that horses magical creatures full of wonder and love. We meet horses of all kinds: sweet, loving, funny, heroic, and brave.

My reason for wanting to read "The Horse of My Heart" by Callie Smith Grant was to learn why people loved horses as pets so passionately. It's never been my great dream or passion to own one. Perhaps, this is because I've only rode on two horses in my life and for thirty minutes or less each time. The stories collected by Callie Smith Grant really reached the heart of my questions. Can such large animals make good pets? Can they teach us lessons of life like cats or dogs? I didn't think about the shortcomings of horses either. Some of the authors of the stories talk about injuries, etc. The next time I see or pet a horse I think my feelings will have become deeper and healthier because of this book. I especially enjoyed the story about the old white mare. She is thirty years old. At the end of the story, the horse's age is not a thought. The lesson is that age doesn't matter whether it is a horse or a person. The love for Snowbird and appreciation of her took a while. It didn't happen overnight. First, the family saw all of Snowbird's faults. I could see the family's growth throughout the story. I never took in to account the fact that horses can run and can do it unexpectedly. One horse runs with its owner. She falls. She ends up with seventy-two stitches in her cheek! This changed her dream in to a nightmare. She became frightened of horses. In time, her love returned for horses. I suppose it is true that cold relationships can become warm ones again. Our pain can become less memorable. There are many other stories in *The Horses of My Heart* by Callie Smith Grant. There are breeds of horses I have never heard of or seen. I wanted to see the photographs of those horses. For example, there is an Arabian Quarter horse and Fresian Assante and a Shetland.

Open the cover of this book and enter the world of horses, and those who love them. This collection of over thirty true stories will touch your heart. These tales cover the gamut of children's horses, to horses that have played a major role in the life of adults. Wanda Dyson remembers the day a horse named Lady somehow opened her front door, and let herself into the house on a mission of mercy. Lady then led Wanda to a badly injured horse. Shirley Zeller recounts what it was like to grow up on

a remote horse ranch in North Dakota. Despite it taking place in the 20th century, her experiences could have been with the cowboys of the 1800's. Sherri Gallagher shares idyllic days she, and her friend spent on horseback. While munching peanut butter sandwiches and homemade cookies, they explored fields, forests and everything in between, all while atop their horses. Not all the horses were owned by the people who adored them. Claudia Wolfe St. Clair relates the love her mom had for the great racehorse, Secretariat. She was so enamored with him, that a surprise Christmas visit to see the famous racer filled her with joy. Not only did she see him, Secretariat came right up to her mom, and let her touch him. The thrill she got from that still resonates off the pages today. Hold your horses, is that right? Despite knowing very little about horses, these stories were a delight to read. Not only was I entertained, I learned some "horse facts." For instance, I was very surprised to find out the type of horse that lots of Amish people get to pull their buggies. I also smiled when I discovered why, Macaroni "The White House Pony," had to have chicken wire around him.

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