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BOOK REVIEW: "HORSES ADORED AND MEN ENDURED" BY SUSAN FRIEDLAND

February 3, 2021 | Janet de Acevedo Macdonald

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Book Review: Horses Adored and Men Endured – A memoir of falling and getting back up by Susan Friedland

Reviewed by Lisa Graham-Peterson

If you were at all wondering what you'd find between the covers of this book, look no further than the title. There are no secret themes, but there are plenty of characters – human and equine – expertly chronicled in this life

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journey by Susan Friedland. Taking 10 years (and troughs of tears) to write, *Horses Adored and Men Endured* is the “horse lover’s dating memoir” according to the author.

And what a memoir.

Before you think this is some fairy tale of tails and top hats, it’s not. Friedland’s experience is everyone’s. You may not have exactly the same line-up of disappointing dates, but the personalities are all relatable. Kevin and his orange leather jacket. Steve and prom night down the toilet (literally, food poisoning). Geoff and his crazed ex-girlfriend. Or romantic but elusive, Kolton; they’ll always have Paris. All are men best remembered once they are decidedly in the rearview mirror, or laughter at their memory would be as elusive as Kolton.

If you pick up this book wanting more of horses adored, you’ll get that. Honestly, I felt myself impatient with the chapters that weren’t all about a horse. Not because the book isn’t an engaging read throughout, but because, well, I’m a horse nut. Friedland gets me with the opening sentence: “... if only I could marry a horse.” Tell me your 10-year-old self didn’t also have that thought, however fleeting. Of course, I did not take it as far as the author did and fill a horse “hope chest” but that’s a splendid idea.

As someone who did better at finding friends with horses versus owning one myself, I relished reading through her history of horses. Friedland starts with Penny, the palomino (“... Mr. Ed’s sister.”) and takes us through buying her first horse (Daytona, \$1,100!) to losing a lifelong soulmate (DC) and to her current Knight (no shining armor). The equine personalities in between are the “every horse” we can all relate to, as well as our personal evolution from that first ride to wherever we are now.

Take a hint from her title and you’ll get a peek at Friedland’s writing style: straightforward storytelling, a bit cheeky, always honest. *Horses Adored and Men Endured* also includes Book Club Questions at the end, making it the perfect text to gather around as a group – Zoom or socially distanced – and share this poignant book.

**Horses Adored and Men Endured – A memoir of falling and getting back up
by Susan Friedland**

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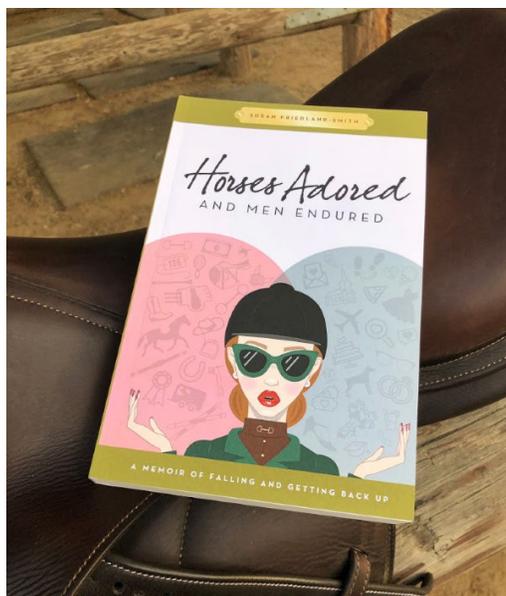
ISBN: 9781732710511

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LOVING HORSES CAME EASY

She was smitten from her first boost into the saddle of her sister's friend's pinto mare.

DATING AND FINDING SOMEONE TO LOVE WAS HARD

From getting food poisoning at prom to pie thrown in her face on a group date, horses provided solace from the emotional rollercoaster of failed attempts at meeting Mr. Right.

Susan Friedland writes with a level of sophistication that brings form to the confounding realm of dating. Just like the unsuccessful ride that ends in falling off, the unsuccessful date is often not funny until it drifts into the past... Susan's stories will have you smiling, as they collectively establish one unique complication for horsewomen searching out a life partner: the Horse might be more attractive than the Knight.

Jean Abernethy CREATOR OF FERGUS THE HORSE

Trot off with Susan in *Horses Adored and Men Endured* and you'll sneak a neighbor's Palomino to a horse show, buy a green Quarter Horse gelding as a first horse against all conventional advice, and trek across the Irish countryside with a fellow horse-loving gal pal. You'll also tag along on several cringe-worthy dates. Celebrate when Susan finally falls head over heels with someone tall, dark and handsome! (It's a bay Thoroughbred gelding.)

Explore the Question: ARE HORSES REALLY GOD'S WAY OF APOLOGIZING FOR MEN?

If you love heartwarming animal stories and laugh-out-loud tales of bad dates, pick up *Horses Adored and Men Endured* right now and gallop away on a horse-loving, Mr. Right-hunting adventure!



Susan Friedland, the writer behind the award-winning equestrian blog *Saddle Seeks Horse*, is a middle school teacher by day and horse girl 24/7. Susan, a Midwestern transplant who now rides and resides in Southern California, charms blog readers with stories of life with an off-track Thoroughbred, equestrian interviews, horse care tips and product reviews for horse and rider.

Meet Susan
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About the Author



Susan Friedland, a full-time middle school teacher, is also an equestrian blogger at [Saddle Seeks Horse](#) where she uses her educator's eye to help the horsey among us learn the latest about our four-legged loves. Her writing has also appeared in *Horse Illustrated* and *Sidelines*, to name a few, and she regularly reviews riding-related products on her blog and on her

Amazon influencer page. Start with [her blog](#) and you'll be connected to your social media platform of choice to follow her on.

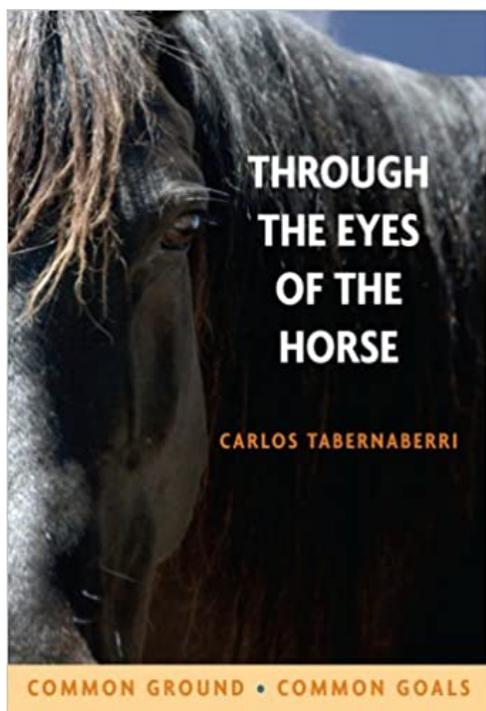
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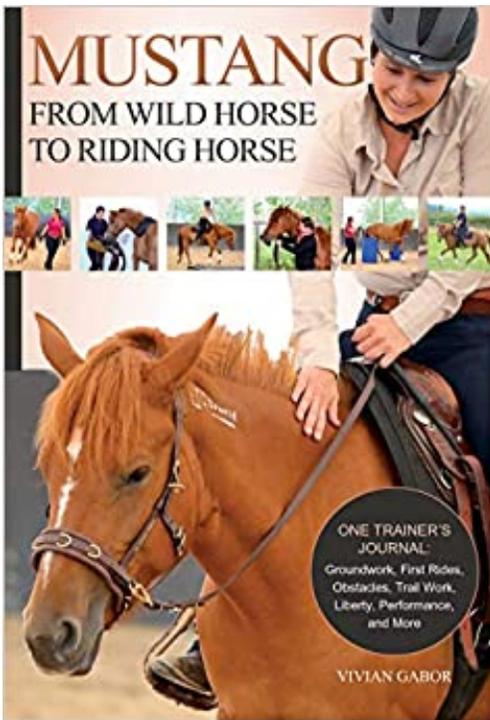
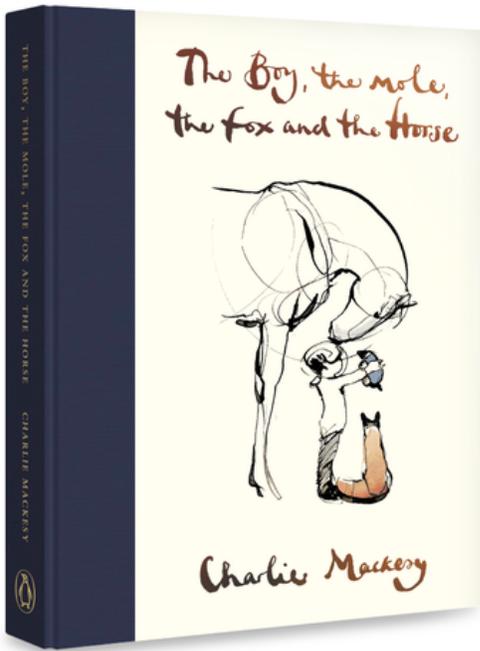


Lisa Graham-Peterson (lisagrahampeterson.com) is a Minnesota-based writer, editor and university professor. She was grateful to put the dating game behind her even before reading this book, but she is, however, still looking for her four-legged Prince Charming (or Princess). Serious

inquiries only.

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