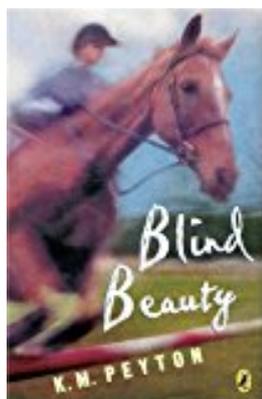


[PDF] Blind Beauty

K. M. Peyton - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Blind Beauty
Author: K. M. Peyton
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly When Tessa's parents split up and she is torn from the side of Shiner, the eyeless mare she has doted on since early childhood, Tessa grows into an angry and rebellious spitfire. Kicked out of every school that tries to tame her, the 12-year-old is at last sent as an unwilling worker to the small farm run by tenants of her nasty stepfather (a man whose vices include cruelty, the glaring ostentation of the nouveau riche and--perhaps worst of all, by this book's standards--no true feeling for racing and horses). On the farm, Tessa sulks and scowls until she discovers that Buffoon, the awkward, gangling new horse she's been assigned to care for, is--in a bit of forgivable novelistic coincidence--the offspring of her long-lost Shiner. With Buffoon as the new focus of her prodigious energies, the headstrong girl struggles against numerous obstacles in order

to eventually achieve the goal of riding her charge in the Grand National. British author Peyton's (Snowfall) knowledge of the racing world is thorough enough that readers will likely overlook a few halting shifts in point of view and some sloppy writing (e.g., "As well as running the home, she did the paperwork for both the farm and the racing department and ran a poultry business as well," Tessa observes of the woman who runs the tenant farm). Her distinctively cadenced prose ("And an idiotic smile lit up her face, Tom could almost feel it, like an electric fire. What a girl!") keeps the narrative galloping at a cracking pace. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Gr 6-10-The adults in Tessa's life have always let her down-her alcoholic father; her cold, unsympathetic stepfather; and her insecure mother. She acts out her resentment to these betrayals by getting thrown out of every school that she is sent to and eventually landing in jail after stabbing her stepfather. The only time she lets go of her anger is when she works at Sparrows Wyck, a farm that trains racehorses. One day, a lanky, singularly unattractive horse appropriately named Buffoon arrives for training. At first, the 12-year-old resents being responsible for an animal that is the barn joke but when she discovers his lineage, she realizes that his mother was a mare that her father had owned when she was a young child. Tessa had passionately loved the mare, Shiner, but when her parents divorced, she had never seen her again. Determined to hang on to Buffoon, she throws all of her energy into turning this "ugly duckling" horse around and manages to dramatically change her own life as well. Ultimately, together they win the Grand National in spite of Buffoon's failing eyesight. This modern day National Velvet is a hard-edged story with a heroine whose sullen and abrasive personality is somewhat wearing at the beginning of the story, but whose gritty determination to salvage what appears to be an equine disaster will rally readers to her side.-Carol Schene, Taunton Public Schools, MA

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