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Hunter Derby (Show Circuit Series -- Book 3)



Synopsis

Sometimes the only way out is through. After she aged out of the juniors at eighteen and turned professional, Zoe Trammel's life unraveled. Once one of the top junior riders in the country, now she has no horses to show, debts to pay off, and a court-ordered community service at a therapeutic riding center, Narrow Lane. Thank goodness, Hannah helped her get another job riding for Linda Maro or she wouldn't have any connection to the show circuit that has been her home since she showed ponies. When Zoe starts working at Narrow Lane, she's certain she will hate every minute of her time there. But she begins to see how horses can be important beyond the show ring. She also finds a derby horse in an unlikely place—the barn of a local trainer, John Bradstreet. Gidget has all the talent to win on the ATM Circuit and Zoe wants to take the mare all the way to Derby Finals. If she can put herself back in the winner's circle, she's sure top barns will be clamoring to hire her. But when she finds herself falling in love with John, she has to ask what's more important—reestablishing herself as a top rider, or finally being with a good man.

Book Information

File Size: 933 KB

Print Length: 235 pages

Publication Date: July 5, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0111RK1KM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #41,154 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Equestrian #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Horses > Equestrian #17 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Equestrian

Customer Reviews

It's so refreshing to read a horse book with a less-than-virtuous heroine! Even though the

character is only nineteen, Zoe's voice has a world-weary quality. She's grown up fast on the A-circuit, sleeping with many questionable men and even getting roped into a brief life of crime. Now that her junior career is over, Zoe feels like a has-been and her dreams of becoming a professional hunter rider seem far away. Zoe's life embodies many of the contradictions you see in the horse world "Zoe grew up poor but she's used to rubbing shoulders with (and bedding) the sons of billionaires. She lives in a crummy apartment and has a saddle that costs thousands of dollars. And perhaps above all else although her personal life is messy and undisciplined, she can ride like a dream. I found the central romantic relationship to be so compelling because Zoe is such a great horsewoman, for all of her faults. This isn't the typical romance where the heroine gets schooled by a wiser, more domineering man. The couple has so much to learn from one another (and Zoe is definitely the better rider of the pair). The ending is ambiguous so I look forward to reading more books in the series! I also have to say that Kim's ability to describe what is a good (and not-so-good) hunter ride is incredible "the book obviously revolves around what makes a great derby horse and the description of the rides, scoring, and the politics of the hunter world are all spot-on. During the climax I was actually squirming in my chair, wondering "will the trot jump work out" "will he get a true hand gallop? The book is a great love letter to the discipline of riding hunters, demonstrating it is every bit as exciting on its own terms as the jumpers, eventing, and racing

This book is great! Very accurate of what the horseshow world is really like. Love the ups and downs and fun romance. The connections and love for the horses is also wonderful and honestly why we do this crazy sport.

I loved this book from Kim Ablon Whitney - perhaps it's my favorite in this incredible series. The equestrian content is accurate and exciting and the book provides a glimpse into life in the tough, and often gritty world on the top show circuit in North America. The characters are real and wonderful and we quickly fall in love with hunky John. We admire Zoe as she struggles with the demons in her life and tries to navigate through the past and make the right choices for her future. This is not a shallow "girl-meets-boy-and-rides-happily-away" book. It's full of anguish and consequences and harsh reality of life on the show circuit. As with the other books in this series, there is no guarantee of a happily ever after. It's wonderful to visit with favorite characters from the earlier books and my only complaint is the book ended abruptly. I'm anxiously looking forward to many more in this inspiring series.

I have read most of this author's books and I like the way her dialogue, and her descriptions of the challenges young girls face in the horse show world, ring true. This latest series is a little more "grown up" in terms of the age of the protagonists and the sexual descriptions but the focus is on the challenges of growing up in an unique environment.

I love all of Kim's books and this was no exception. Quick and fun read. Satisfying for all horseback riding fans.

As soon as I read the teaser I knew this was going to be a fun book. Getting into Zoe's life was extremely interesting, so many things going on. It's a very redeeming book for the character. I loved the book!

This book was worth the wait! Except now I want more! I wish it didn't end so soon!! Can't wait for more books! Seriously left me hanging! The only bad part is now I have to wait for the next book!!

OBSESSED with all your books. I've read them cover to cover within the first day they come out. Please keep the series going. Can't say enough good things about the books and your writing!

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