



Adrian Simcox Does Not Have a Horse

Marcy Campbell , Corinna Luyken (Illustrator)

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Adrian Simcox tells anyone who will listen that he has a horse--the best and most beautiful horse anywhere.

But Chloe does NOT believe him. Adrian Simcox lives in a tiny house. Where would he keep a horse? He has holes in his shoes. How would he pay for a horse?

The more Adrian talks about his horse, the angrier Chloe gets. But when she calls him out at school and even complains about him to her mom, Chloe doesn't get the vindication she craves. She gets something far more important.

Adrian Simcox Does Not Have a Horse Details

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From Reader Review Adrian Simcox Does Not Have a Horse for online ebook

Kelli Gleiner says

A sweet book, 3.5 stars. Beautiful artwork.

I like that the girl was able to recognize that her words were hurtful, and that she didn't want to continue to hurt Adrian. Not 100% in love with the book, but can't put my finger on any major flaws.

Jenna (Bookiemoji) says

Excellent character driven story that puts us in the mind of a young girl who instantly judges one of her classmates. Through her, we see how one who is not innately empathetic to others learns empathy. It is a beautiful, thought provoking read and gave me chills by the end. Highly recommended!

Barbara says

It's clear to anyone who is observant that Adrian Simcox could not possibly have a horse. Chloe is infuriated that he keeps talking about the horse, describing it in vivid detail, and one day, she's simply had enough and calls him out as a liar in front of their classmates. After Chloe tells her mother what happened, her mother--wise woman, she!--takes Chloe and their dog on a walk to Adrian's place. At first, Chloe feels vindicated because the house and yard are small and in no way is it possible that a horse is living there. Although she wants to seize this moment of triumph, something stops her. Instead of hurting his feelings, she asks about the horse. This book packs a powerful punch at the end as readers see that Chloe has changed and realizes that there is more than one way to "have" a horse. As the story concludes, "And then I thought Adrian Simcox had just about the best imagination of any kid in our whole school. I also thought, he had the most beautiful horse of anyone, anywhere" (unpaged). This one is a sure bet for developing empathy in students and for discussing differences in class, family compositions, and how someone views the world. How very differently the story would have turned out had Chloe stuck to her insistence that Adrian did not have a horse. What does it harm anyone to allow him to save face and to dream of the horse he would have, the most beautiful one in the world? And who's to say but that all his daydreaming about that horse isn't what keeps him going? The black ink, colored pencils, and watercolor illustrations contain plentiful white space and several images show just how lonely and isolated he is as the other youngsters group together and chat at the lunch table and he sits all along. Even his body language and facial expressions when Chloe accosts him speak volumes. I might suggest pairing this with Jacqueline Woodson's *Each Kindness* and having students consider the very different ways the two Chloes in the two books treat an outsider.

Demitra says

Beautiful illustrations, beautiful story, just beautiful.

Anthony says

Adrain Simcox tells anyone who will listen about his horse, and everyone believes him except Chloe. She challenges Adrian about his horse, because they both live in the city, and Adrain's house is even smaller than the one Chloe lives in. During a walk with her mother they visit Adrain and his grandfather, and Chloe discovers something very special about Adrian Simcox and his horse.

Rebecca says

As the description says, "Adrian Simcox tells anyone who will listen that he has a horse--the best and most beautiful horse anywhere. But Chloe does NOT believe him. Adrian Simcox lives in a tiny house. Where would he keep a horse? He has holes in his shoes. How would he pay for a horse?"

This simple story about kindness, friendship, and seeing the world in a different way reminded me a lot of one of my all-time favorites, *The Hundred Dresses*. ("A hundred dresses...all lined up in my closet.") This one has a happier ending.

Illustrations by Corinna Luyken (*The Book of Mistakes*) are created using black ink, colored pencils, and watercolor. Look carefully for the horse.

Julie says

A beautiful book about looking beyond ourselves and recognizing that while we are different, we are also alike. I appreciated the way the teacher and Chloe's mother encouraged her come to an understanding and appreciation of Adrian's perspective.

Allison says

Mixed feelings. Critical girl learns empathy, decides to be kind. Also, the illustrations are so nice. That last spread where the horse becomes visible in the bushes is beautiful.

But here's the thing. This happened to me when I was in elementary school. I had a friend who lied about her family's wealth and status. She would say anything that she thought would make other people like her more. I was friends with her before she started lying. Sure it was fun to imagine the cool things we could do. But when I would ask, "can you take us all to Disneyland?" and she said yes, I believed her. Eventually the things she lied about became so outlandish that gullible me became suspicious. I investigated, and I found that she had lied about everything. What she didn't understand was that I didn't like her because of the cool stuff I thought she could do. I liked her as a person, I liked her because she was my friend. But that dishonesty did damage to both me and her.

So the author portrays Adrian Simcox as a boy with a great imagination. But through the lens of my own experience, I also see a boy who lied to Chloe and his classmates. So while I think the moment where Chloe decides not to say, "I told you so" is a poignant moment, there is the unaddressed lying which mars the story for me.

Jillian Heise says

This is beautiful and stunning and can start an important conversation about assumptions and kindness and empathy.

Julie Kirchner says

Lots to think about and discuss with this one! I could see it being paired with Each Kindness and used with upper elementary to have some good conversation around empathy.

Mrs. Krajewski says

We were big fans of Adrian Simcox. ♥??

Danielle says

This story carries you along as Chloe tells it. She doesn't believe Adrian Simcox has a horse, the one he's always talking about. He couldn't have a horse. He lives in their no-horses town and he doesn't have the money and it irks Chloe to no end to hear him telling stories about a horse that doesn't exist.

Until...she goes on a walk with her dog one evening and ends up at Adrian Simcox's house. Does she find a horse there? Sort of.

And that last line and illustration are so beautiful and all about Chloe seeing Adrian's perspective and her own mind opening about what's real and not real and what matters. Plus, Corinna Luyken does it again with gorgeous illustrations and a wonderful take on using color to distinguish and then blend the worlds of the two main characters.

Melinda Beatty says

A sweet and thoughtful children's book that gently hammers home the point that sometimes it is better to be kind than right.

Ricki says

Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse by Marcy Campbell is an absolutely stunning story that allows young people to consider ideas like class, poverty, and imagination. This one is due out in August, and I suspect it will be well-loved by readers.

Vikki VanSickle says

A very spare and effective story about acceptance and understanding the root of people's behaviour. The narrator is deeply frustrated by her classmate, Adrian- he's messy, he's irritating, and he lies- specifically about having a horse. There is a subtle message here about poverty and class, but it in no way feels didactic. The illustrations are earthy and gorgeously rendered, particularly the doublespread in which the narrator can "see" Adrian's horse, built from shadow, space, and plants.
