



Ashleigh's Christmas Miracle

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Ashleigh Griffen and Mike Reese are expecting their first child right after the New Year. But on Christmas Eve, as Ashleigh makes the rounds of the stables at Whitebrook Farm, handing out Christmas treats to all her favorite horses, a stallion's kick puts both her life and the life of her baby in jeopardy.

Ashleigh's Christmas Miracle Details

Date : Published November 17th 1994 by HarperEntertainment

ISBN : 9780061062490

Author : Joanna Campbell

Format : Unknown Binding 250 pages

Genre : Animals, Horses, Childrens

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Jo Carter says

My main disappointment with this volume lays with the title. I picked this up hoping for a Christmas themed book but there is NO CHRISTMAS stuff. It starts out on Christmas Eve and Ashleigh wakes at the end on Christmas morning, but Christina never has a Christmas despite her birthday BEING ON THE SAME DAY. Perfect, easy set up. But NO apparently NOT! (I wonder if they named her Christina because she's born on Christmas Day)

I believe this novel is the right size for the story, but I think they lengthened some parts and shortened some parts. The stuff with ten year old Christina could have been cut down severely and we still would have gotten her bond with Jazz, and then there would have been more time to explain some things at length that needed it.

I don't think Christina's main issue towards the end of the book (which was the proper plot line they just took forever to get to it) was actually resolved. (view spoiler)

I also didn't think they explained the Folly situation properly. They should have said Christina needed a horse whilst she trained Jazz but it just fell to "there's no horse better than Jazz."

Overall, it was mediocre because it took way too long to get into the story. And I'm majorly disappointed because I wanted a Christmas story and did not get one.

Stefanie says

I loved this book! It's completely different from the other Thoroughbred books, because it starts out like the others but after a frightened horse kicks a very pregnant Ashleigh she's rushed to the hospital where she goes into premature labor then suffers a broken blood vessel in her brain that sends her into a coma. We're unsure whether she makes it or not until the end, but in between the prologue and the epilogue is a three part story about her daughter Christina and life as though Ashleigh had died in childbirth. The story follows Christina from ages ten, thirteen and sixteen and her quest to become an Olympic 3-Day Eventing champion, and her struggle to make the mother she never knew, proud of her. I loved the whole book and the twist it had!

Kate says

Despite the fact that this book foreshadowed the demise of this series, I liked it. Maybe because it was still mostly about Ashleigh, even as she's grown up and about to have a baby. Maybe also because the life she dreams for her unborn daughter as she is unconscious is just a possibility, and that this life is glimpsed in fragments, a memory at age 10, another in her teens, later as she competes at the National Horse Show. I wish that the series could have continued in a way that allowed for the passage of time. Instead, we get Christina stuck at age 12. Boring!

Rena Sherwood says

This was just the same old, same old -- only with a higher price tag. This was when I gave up on the series (the first time around. At least I stopped buying them full price from bookstores. Remember bookstores?) Ashleigh supposedly dreams of the future when she has a daughter. A future which happens to be exactly like the present. What the hell?

I've read a lot of science fiction so when someone dreams of the future, dammit, they should dream of futuristic stuff. Or even jokes about who is thought to be President. We get none of that here.

But the most disappointing thing was how the horses are presented here -- or not, as the case may be. The horses are just background fixtures to mall shopping and high school angst and seem very remote.

Katharina says

Very good...i love how she dreams of her daughter growing up and then wakes up and it's Christmas Day!!
