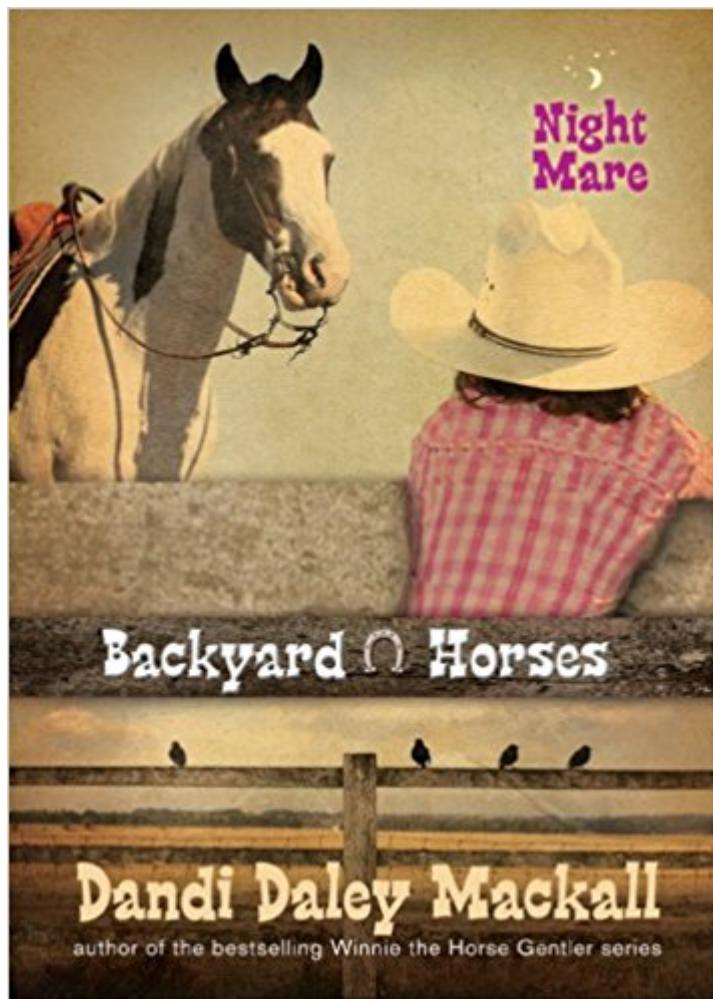


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# Night Mare (Backyard Horses)



## Synopsis

A class assignment to blog gets Ellie's horse Dream noticed. Ellie and her family believed that the Pinto was a "runaway" horse without a home. But now the owners want him back. How will Ellie deal with losing her beloved backyard horse?

## Book Information

Series: Backyard Horses (Book 4)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (March 1, 2012)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 0.4 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #269,629 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Animals #80 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Values & Virtues #504 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Ellie James's nightmare is about to become a reality. Just when the feisty fourth grader has settled in to enjoying her backyard horse, Dream, someone claiming to be the horse's original owner shows up. And he wants Dream back. How will Ellie handle losing the very thing she's dreamed of and prayed for all her life? Join Ellie on an adventure that will lead her to a deeper understanding of loss, love, and honest-to-goodness joy.

Of the 4 books in the series, I enjoyed this the most because Ellie learns and grows so much. Ellie is a cute character, and she acts in the best way she knows, when she listens to God in her heart. Lessons seem to sink in, and things work out in surprising ways. Other characters learn, too, and we see more into their feelings. The story was sad in some ways, but we all need to rely on God in bad times as well as good. These stories are well written and gently faith affirming.

Again - a gift for my granddaughter who used to take weekly riding lessons!

A young girl that likes horses would love this book.

gift

What a great ending to a fun series! Ellie's dream of having her own horse has become a nightmare. Someone comes to claim her horse, Dream, and her world is shattered. You don't have to read the entire series but I think reading at least the first book, "A Horse Dreams" (Backyard Horses Book 1), will give you a better understanding of why Ellie is so devastated when she loses her horse. The familiar cast of characters are back including Ellie's family and her friends (and frenemy!). I love how the author used the Bible story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to remind Ellie that even in the midst of trouble, God is still there. I recommend this entire series to elementary aged kids (and their parents)!

In "Nightmare", Ellie learns an important lesson in trusting God despite hardship and understanding that she is never alone even in the midst of loss. Ellie and her classmates have been assigned to pair up with another student and complete a blog. When Larissa, who is not the nicest person, tells the story of how Ellie got Dream along with pictures of the horse, something unthinkable happens. A selfish young boy sees the pictures and reads the story about Ellie's horse Dream and makes a comment that the horse was his and that Ellie stole her. Despite Ellie's prayers to God to allow her to keep Dream, the boy and his father take Dream away leaving Ellie feeling lost and alone in her grief. Meanwhile, Ellie's friends reach out to her and slowly Ellie realizes that though she has lost Dream, God is still good. Even better, Larissa also reaches out to Ellie in kindness and does something that no one would have guessed: she apologizes and gives Ellie a ride home on her horse. When Ellie arrives home with Larissa, another miracle occurs: Dream has returned after running away. As Ellie comes face to face with Dream, she is also met with the boy, his aunt, and his cousin. The boy is frustrated at how things have gone with Dream and gives her to his cousin, who in turns does the right thing. But, to find out what that is, you will have to read the book. Though this book is geared to teen readers and horse lovers, as an adult, I found it to be an enjoyable read. I especially appreciate reading a book that teaches its readers important truths about God. This is the type of book that I feel parents could give to their children to read and not have to worry about

them being exposed to things that are negative or wrong from a Christian perspective.

"Whatever happens, we'll be okay because God will be there. No matter what goes away, God won't. ... God will be there with me - if I'm in my bed, in a fiery furnace, or in an empty backyard." "Night Mare" opens with Ellie winding down her fourth-grade year with a blog project. She and her friend Cassie create a blog on horse recipes. Fans of this author will enjoy some cross-referencing with her other character, Winnie the Horse Gentler, who offers Ellie and Cassie some horse-friendly recipes to add to their blog. Just to get a laugh, resident mean girl Larissa, who is partnering with Ellie's best friend Colt, posts a photo of Ellie's horse, Dream, when she was just a scrawny, lost Pinto. Unfortunately, someone sees that photo and claims Dream is their horse, which is Ellie's worst nightmare! Ellie is forced to give up her horse to Grayson, who claims Dream ... or Jinx as he calls her ... escaped from their farm. Throughout the book, Ellie must learn to turn to God, and to remember He is with her in all situations. There is even an interesting tie in to the Old Testament story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego ... and three polluted fish! Once again, another great read for "kids" of all ages! Five stars out of five.

In "Night Mare," Ellie is a young girl who is assigned a class assignment to blog. This is the final novel in a series about Ellie. She adores her beloved horse, Dream, and decides to write about him. Only she discovers that the Pinto has owners, and isn't a runaway like she and her family believed before. The novel shines with plots twists and the true and affectionate love between a girl and her horse. After all, who wouldn't say that Ellie loved her horse? I myself love horses and I love to ride them. They are exciting creatures and loveable as well. The novel's plot seemed a little far-fetched as Dream's owners just happened to read the same blog Ellie was writing and could figure out he was their horse? But the emotions, the loss, and Ellie and the horse were definitely well-developed and extremely poignant. Some events are beyond our control, and God definitely is still in control, even when we don't see him.

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