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Loxwood: (Loxwood #1)



Synopsis

There are three thousand horses in Newmarket, but only one is on Georgia's mind. Counting down the days until she can leave school and work towards making her dream of riding round Badminton a reality, Georgia James spends her mornings exercising Thoroughbreds at the track. The rest of her time is spent at event rider Rose Holloway's yard, and thinking about Loxwood, whose future as a racehorse is uncertain. Always on the sidelines, is Georgia's hard work and patience about to pay off?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Loxwood is fundamentally a romance – a love story between a girl and her horse. The narrator Georgina lives for the few hours every day she can spend exercising the racehorse Loxwood in the wee hours of the morning before she has to return to the mundane world of school and home. She fantasizes about becoming a professional eventer and owning and riding Loxwood (who isn't much of a racehorse) to glory. It's so wonderful to read a YA novel with a heroine who is passionate and opinionated about something rather than simply drifting in a sea of self-doubt. I loved this book because of the ways it brings to life a world very

unfamiliar to me. Yet because of the vivid descriptions, I could picture in my mind the town of Newmarket, where the sight of racehorses on their way to be exercised is an everyday occurrence to drivers; I could feel the bitter cold the exercise riders must endure as well as the hunger prospective jockeys put up with to make weight; and also sense the palpable ache Georgina feels as an aspiring professional eventer without a horse to compete on. The story ends on a happy note and leads to the next book in the series but doesn't promise the narrator a rose garden; there are clearly many obstacles to come along the way before she can realize her dreams.

With beautiful descriptions of Newmarket and its equestrian scene, Wilkinson sets the stage for a series I can't get enough of. I was hooked from the opening paragraph, and I wasn't let down as the story continued through the English countryside, from racing stables to boarding barns. The characters are lively and real, and anyone who has ever fallen in love with a horse - or the dream of a horse - will appreciate Loxwood.

Grace Wilkinson's Georgia is focused and determined and a good model of perseverance for adolescent girls. LOXWOOD is a nice addition to my burgeoning British equestrian novels. The plot is plausible, yet with enough engaging ideas to keep one's attention. It develops believable characters without sleaze or sensationalism. I look forward to the rest of the series.

How much I identify with the good rider who has to work hard to ride well and whose parents cannot afford to keep a horse for her. But she is so stubborn about abandoning her schoolwork because she considers it irrelevant. I want to tell her she can't play with horses until the homework is done. As exercise rider for race horses she has the job I dreamed of. And too easily she has the horse of her dreams given to her. She still doesn't realize she needs balance in her life. Maybe in the series the new friend who is riding and studying for A levels will influence her to grow up.

Good story. Quick read. Downside is poor proofreading and editing. One example is here instead of hear. This seems to be a common problem in books these days.

Recommended by Hazel Beecroft, whose books I just zoomed through. Off to buy the next! Wish they allowed 1/2 stars - I liked it better than 3 but not a 4.

Great horse book, realistic story and characters. Recommended for fans of Claire Svendsen and Kate Lattey. A hardworking girl, with no backing from her immature parents, dreams of owning one of the racehorses she rides every morning.

Enjoyed it.

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