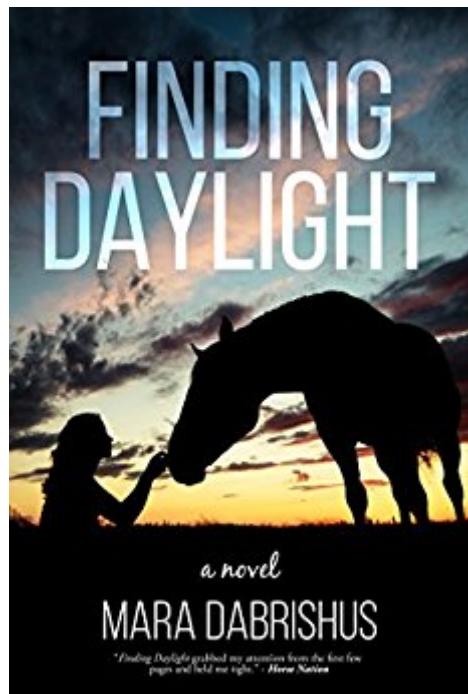


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Finding Daylight



Synopsis

Georgie Quinn and the filly Sweet Bells are an unbeatable team. When they win the Breeders™ Cup Classic against colts, the world can't seem to get enough. Overnight, Georgie becomes the face of horse racing, and Sweet Bells becomes its queen. Although they're the morning line favorites, Georgie feels like she's barely keeping her head above water. Her parents' farm is a crumbling has-been, her jockey career consumes her time, and Harris Armstrong, heir to Tupelo Stud and grandson of Sweet Bells' owner, won't forgive her for telling a lie that kept her family together as the truth ripped his apart. Georgie refuses to apologize, so she's stunned when Harris asks her to ride his new colt. The most tenuous partnership in racing has begun. One that threatens to swallow Georgie whole.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The story flowed. Mara displayed a knowledge of horse racing. Their was compassion for age appropriate relationships. I hope that Georgie graduates from high school.

Fantastic character development, story telling, and a well earned ending that make you want more. Hope to see more stories with these characters.

Beautifully written...lyrical and emotionally introspective. More from Mara Please!!!! She makes me want to live in her book! I couldn't put this one down !

Ok, but requires a bit of patience to get through it. Story is kind of disconnected and told in flashbacks and present. It was kind of a distracting plot device. Have enjoyed her writing in the past, but this is not her best work.

This review was first published on my blog Courtney's Reads! I was provided a free copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review. Mara does it again, delivering a powerful novel that's not only filled with spot on horse racing jargon, but is also full of real family drama. In this novel we follow a young jockey, Georgie Quinn, through a year of life dealing with racing setbacks, love, loss, and the pain that comes with life. Horse racing was an obsession of mine for a long time and I still have much of that knowledge stored in my head, waiting to be tested. Waiting to see if I can find flaws in what people are writing. It's not something I do on purpose, but it happens. But there was nothing to cringe at here. The aspects of racing that needed to be explained for the story were presented beautifully. During the racing scenes I was literally on the edge of my seat, waiting to see what would happen. I felt like I was there, in the saddle, or the stands, urging and cheering along with the characters. And it was amazing. The other aspect of the story that was done brilliantly was the drama. Georgie comes from a racing family, has racing family friends, and is a jockey. Her life is woven into the horse racing world, so tightly knit that you can't have one without the other. And while I've never been in her position, all of the rivalries, manipulations, and backstabbing made perfect sense. Everyone has experienced these same things, to a degree. But horse racing attracts an interesting crowd. And those who make it work are sometimes among the most fascinating, for a variety of reasons. The romance in this book lacked the near innocence of that from *Stay the Distance*, Mara's first book. Georgie and Harris were more intimately connected here, through their families, sometimes almost painfully so. Even with all of their obstacles they still managed to be a nice match and seeing their progression from beginning to end was beautiful. One thing that I loved about them was also their connection through horses. They actually genuinely care about the horses they own, race, train, and breed. And sometimes that's the only thing that holds them

together. Sweet Bells and Roman were wonderful horses that made me want to go ride my own Thoroughbred, though not at the same speed. The story is told from a third person perspective, following Georgie. Scenes from her past are woven in to the present, filling in holes from the very beginning. And it's just beautiful. So if you like horse, racing, and want to read about some crazy family drama with a nice love story thrown in the mix, definitely give this a try.

This new release by Mara Dabrichus is sure to be an adult horse story that is enjoyed by racing and horse fans alike. Georgiana Quinn (Georgie) is riding her way to the top as an apprentice jockey on Sweet Bells, the great thoroughbred mare that is half owned by her family, the other half belonging to the great Tupelo stud and racing farm. Georgie's history is intricately entwined with that of the farm across the road and their owners, the Armstrong family. As Georgie finds herself gaining fame as the jockey of Sweet Bells, she struggles to balance her last year in high school, the demands of riding other horses and developing a racing career, and helping her parents to run their thoroughbred operation. Add to this ubiquitous gossip about her family and the Armstrong family, a confusing love/hate relationship with Harris Armstrong and guilt over the death of his mother and you have a make for an entertaining read. Dabrichus develops her characters well, covers aptly the early racing hours, competition between jockeys and setting up horses for the big races in the United States. Finding Daylight is a well named, informative and delightful read for the horse fanatic. Not to be missed.

Take a ride with 'Finding Daylight' jockey Georgie Quinn in this engaging inside look into the world of horse racing. Author Dabrichus writes a fictional account of the world of racing; the horses, jockeys, trainers, and all the people who work behind the scenes to bring horse racing to the masses. Georgie is a thoughtful character. She is young, sometimes naive, sometimes wiser than her years, and always thinking of horses while sometimes dismissing her schooling. Relying on her agent, Angel, a former jockey, to pair her up with the right horse to get her into the winner's circle, Georgie runs into drama. "The walk to the track and the warm up to the gate was Georgie's quiet time. She liked to sink into the feel of the horse, listen to Little War's huffing breath and move with the slide of his muscles." An exciting story that everyone will enjoy. Recommend reading.

Well-written, literate story of a broken child finding her path in the world of horse racing. Great Young Adult read and enjoyable for adults who appreciate YA books. This book was well-edited and presents a clear writing style that young people might imitate. Good read!

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