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# Wild Thing (Winnie The Horse Gentler Book 1)



## Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Winnie Willis has a way with horses. She can gentle the wildest mare, but other parts of her life don't always come as easily. Along with her dad and sister, Lizzy, Winnie is learning how to live without her mom, who was also a natural horse gentler. As Winnie teaches her horses about unconditional love and blind trust, God shows Winnie that he can be trusted too. Readers will be hooked on the series' vivid characters, whose quirky personalities fill Winnie's life with friendship and adventure. In #1 Wild Thing, Winnie's fearful heart finally begins to trust God again as she tries to gentle the horse of her dreams, Wild Thing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Granddaughter loves Horse Books! Bought this series for the positiveness of learning to work for what you want! While working to aquire a goal that seem almost impossible to get, she will see that trying different ways can used to be to achieve this goal if her first try doesn't work. Love the fact that "belief, postiveness and "following through" shines through in story! Great for the age group of

this Book with very clean reading!

A great series for pre-teens and up to read. Uplifting and refreshing- my daughter (13...12 when she first read them) is an avid reader and horse enthusiast and this is her favorite series by far. Thank you Dandi, for writing books I don't have to "worry" about- so common in this age of dark mysticism that is pushed on this generation. Through talented writing, these are fun-loving characters (with the beauty of horses mixed in!) that easily draws in young readers. Grateful and blessed you share your talents with the world. My daughter recommends these to her friends, and has given them as gifts. She also suggested the series to our library, and they bought them! Made her so happy.

Winnie the Horse Gentler is the first book of the series by Dandi Daley Mackall and features a grey Arabian mare named Wild Thing, due to her wild behavior. Winnie, a young horse lover, and her sister, Lizzy, meet the horse one foggy day and to Winnie, the wild creature is the horse of her dreams. After her mother's death, Winnie and her family move about often, so she doesn't make many friends at each new location. But she does search out the area for horses and offers to work at stables. This Ohio home appeals to both Winnie and Lizzy but they'll need a plan to be able to stay. Wild Thing, and the helpful new friends the girls make, come to their aid in achieving their goal, but not without many obstacles. And Winnie discovers she has inherited her mother's gift with horses. This is a delightful story and includes a very educational resource list at the end with equine terms for young horse enthusiasts. For more info, visit <http://www.winniethorsegentler.com> and the author's site at <http://www.dandibooks.com>

Wild Thing is the first book in the Winnie the Horse Gentler series. It appears to be aimed towards a tween audience but I think even adults would enjoy this book. I was surprised at the depth of emotions and spiritual lessons in this book. Winnie, her younger sister Lizzy, and their father are living in Ohio, having moved numerous times in 2 years after the accidental death of their mother. Winnie loves horses and can "tame" them, like her mother did. She sees a wild Arabian at a local stable and tries to figure out how she can buy her. There were some really funny moments and characters in the book. I especially enjoyed Lizzy, her lizard-loving sister, and Pat, the pet store owner, who would spout some animal expression and then promptly apologize to the animal. You have to read it to understand but I thought it was so funny. Everyone in Winnie's family is still grieving over the loss of Winnie's mom but Winnie feels personally guilty and responsible for her mother's death. She also believes her father blames her, too, and that is why he is so distant and

emotionally cold towards her. Winnie was really struggling spiritually and emotionally...could God still love her? can He forgive her for her mother's death? Those are weighty issues for anyone at any age but especially for this 12-year old who feels alone and guilty. I liked how the the author includes spiritual nuggets in the story and appreciated that she uses Scripture to speak to Winnie. The only character I wasn't crazy about was Winnie's dad. His behavior towards Winnie seemed cold and his turnaround at the end was not quite believable. On a side note, the book contains a diagram of the parts of a horse, a dictionary of horse body/sound language, and a dictionary of the types of horses and other equine-related terms. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and would recommend it for any tween and older.

Winnie Willis loves horses. Some might even say she has a gift. When she comes across an Arabian that is obviously being mistreated, Winnie befriends the horse. With all they have in savings, Winnie and her sister convince their father to purchase the horse at auction and allow Winnie to prepare her for sale. The only drawback, Winnie would love to keep the Arabian for her own. Will she get her wish?It has been a very long time since I read a book about horses. I remember loving the horse books by Marguerite Henry growing up.This was a pretty quick read. I spent most of Sunday afternoon reading it. I loved the characters of Lizzy, Catman, and Barker. I loved too how each of those characters used their unique gifts to relate to various animals.I loved how Winnie went through times of not sure if the work she was doing with the horse would be successful or if her father would even notice her. She also struggled with forgiving herself for her mother's death. And being under the impression that her father blamed her. That discovery was, for me, one of the most poignant pieces of the book.I read this book as part of the Tyndale Summer Reading program. My thoughts and opinions are my own.Recommended to fans of horses, the Babysitter Club, Sandra ByrdRating - 4 stars

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