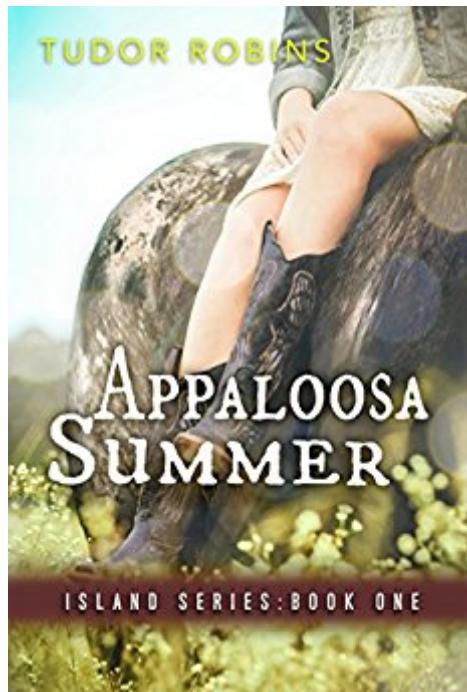


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Appaloosa Summer (Island Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Meg Traherne has never known loss. Until the beautiful, talented horse she trained herself, drops dead underneath her in the show ring. Jared Strickland has been living with loss ever since his father died in a tragic farming accident. Meg escapes from her grief by changing everything about her life; moving away from home to spend her summer living on an island in the St. Lawrence River, scrubbing toilets and waiting on guests at a B&B. Once there, she meets Jared; doing his best to keep anything else in his life from changing. When Jared offers Meg a scruffy appaloosa mare out of a friend's back field, it's the beginning of a journey that will change both of them by summer's end.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Adorable. A great read about horses, with a human romance thrown in. The tempo is easy to follow but not boring. I was horse crazy in second and third grades and this was the type of book that I inhaled as fast as I could lay my hands on them. The romance is "G" rated so it is not a book that I would hesitate to offer to young family members to read and I am still horsey enough to enjoy the story at 65 plus.

This review was first published on my blog Courtney's Reads. The title of this novel caught my attention almost right away. My mind was flooded with memories from all those summers (and every other season of the year, too) that I spent with my beautiful Appaloosa Smokin' Joe. Still, I was hesitant. Picking up horse books can be hard for me (but I'm getting better!), because it's so easy to get wrong. I'm happy to say that this book did a very nice job with the equestrian side of things. Meg, our main character, is devastated when her horse Major dies in the middle of a competition. After recovering from her own injuries, Meg ventures to her parent's island cottage for a summer job, not yet ready to let another horse take Major's place. This book was filled with likable, easy to relate with characters. They aren't always as believable as I would like, as there were not many flaws shown by the characters. Aside from that, they were nicely done. There isn't too much drama, which was a nice break from a lot of the YA I've read recently. The drama that was there stayed mostly in the periphery of the story and was handled gently, never thrown at you. In some respects this was almost more middle grade than YA, in terms of how situations were handled and characters portrayed. The horse side of the novel was cute and showed some of the emotional baggage that goes with loving horses. I could feel Meg's pain over her loss, though I think it would take me much longer to emotionally recover from something like that. It was nice to see her growing bond with Salem, the Appaloosa she acquires during her stay in the cottage. My only complaints with the horsey side of things is that there could have been more. Salem was already well trained and Meg didn't seem to have to work enough to get her where she wanted her to be. Their relationship as horse and rider could have been explored more. Aside from that, the horse stuff was well done. The explanations and terms were used very nicely and explained well enough that a non equestrian reader can appreciate the art and story. Meg and Jared's romance was cute and innocent. Just the kind of first love story that makes you happy. There was not a lot of drama surrounding their interactions and they helped each other grow, rather than holding each other back. Very cute. This was overall a very enjoyable and quick read. A little more depth to the characters and situations, a little more bonding time between people and horses, would have improved it, but as is it's a really good read. Highly recommended for those who like horses and innocent first love. I am definitely looking forward to continuing the series.

I'm glad I "discovered" Tudor Robins, and I look forward to reading more of her books. She's done a great job of creating characters with depth. Meg, Jared and all the others are very "human," with flaws and fears readers can identify with. The budding romance between those two is sweet and

funny and realistic. It complements (and does not overshadow) the horse story that has drawn readers to the book. Robins knows horses, which is crucial with today's savvy young readers. And she creates a believable setting and storyline for her characters. It's an interesting tale that pulls us along and has us "chomping at the bit" for the next book in the trilogy. Fortunately, Wednesday Riders is here! I ordered it as soon as I finished Appaloosa Summer.

FULL REVIEW HERE: [...]Thanks to NetGalley for a free copy, in exchange for an honest review! This was an amazing book. I wholeheartedly enjoyed it. Ms. Robins knows her horses, creates fantastic characters, a unique and enthralling plot that made it nearly impossible to put down, a sweet romance, and a happy ending. This book was engaging. I would just sit down and read page after page after page, and it would take all my willpower to close the book and be productive. Definitely not your typical horse book, either. Growing up as a horse-crazy girl who was determined to read every book her local library had to offer, a girl who also frequented Half-Price Books... I ended up reading (and owning) a LOT horse books. My reaction to horse literature by now? YAWN. It's always the exact same plot, same shallow not-well-developed characters, same never-ending series, same Suspense and Mystery (SARCASM). Don't get me wrong, I loved those books! But after a while, they all bled together...So, when I saw this book on NetGalley... Well, first off, the cover was gorgeous. Seriously, I would buy this book JUST for the cover. But I had low expectations. Very low. This book blew them away! I LOVED it! I've been a bit (okay, a lot) down lately, and this book was perfect. It was a wonderful world and story to escape into for brief snatches of time, and it leaves you feeling satisfied. This may well be my new Happy Book. The only real complaint I have about this book is that it wasn't longer. Every once in a while, I would just get lost for a few sentences. Unsure about what day it is, how much time has elapsed, who's talking to whom, etc. It didn't happen often, but when it did, it was disconcerting. A brief trip back to the real world as I tried to discover what had just happened. I wish that the book could've been longer, that we could've spent more time following Meg around at her job, and just... being in her head during the slow, boring, moments of her life. Long story short, though? I LOVED this book! Do you love horses? YA? Sweet Romance? Horse shows? Do you just want a short Escape from Reality? This is the book for you! Plus, she's an Indie Author! Can't get much better than that!

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