



## Love Is a Gift

*Lauren Brooke*

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When Amy receives a ticket to visit her father in Australia, Ty encourages her to go and enjoy a restful holiday. Instead, she finds herself grappling with new roles in her extended family.

When Amy journeys to Australia with her sister Lou to visit their father on his horse ranch, she has difficulty feeling a part of his new family. Lou gets along easily with his wife and three-year-old daughter, Lily, but Amy can't look past the fact that she was just three when her father left. So Amy delves into the stablework. But when she reaches a breakthrough with one of the jumpers, the other trainers resent her success. Amy laments that she can't do anything right away from Heartland. It takes a family crisis for Amy to discover she can claim new roles - and make new friends.

## Love Is a Gift Details

Date : Published March 1st 2004 by Scholastic Paperbacks (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780439425100

Author : Lauren Brooke

Format : Paperback 176 pages

Genre : Animals, Horses, Young Adult, Childrens

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## From Reader Review Love Is a Gift for online ebook

### Emi says

This is definitely a novel for the animal lovers! The book shows bonding between people and animals and the meaning of teamwork. I felt this book was an interesting way to learn how teamwork can really effect the way you preform. From this book I also learned that if you work to fix something that hurt you it will eventually be successful. The quote in the book that taught me this is, "Heartland is a horse farm nestled in the hills of Virginia, but it's much more than that. Heartland is a place like no other---a place where the scars of the past can be healed, a place where frightened and abused horses can learn to trust again." This book is great if you love animals and if you want to learn about the importance of trust and teamwork. This book delivered a meaningful and positive message and was overall a great book.

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### Kara says

Amy and Lou go to Australia. Amy gets to work with some different horse and learns that you can't just have relationships with just horses. But you need to build relationships with people more.

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### LB says

Well, this was definitely not my favorite in the series. With Amy and Lou going to Australia to visit their father, I figured this book would be more focused on the personal story lines and not on horses. Yet, the horses take center stage once again with the family issues as just a subplot, almost like an obstacle Amy struggles with on the trip. Granted, it plays more of a role towards the end of the book and her issue of bonding with her family is a key plot point, but I would have preferred it if Amy had gotten off well with the family from the start. With her loving and caring personality, the whole plot seemed a little out of character for her. This book also focuses more on Lou than most of the others, so that was nice for a change!

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### Dark-Draco says

Hummm, not sure what to make of this. Ok, I'm a bit older than the target audience (ok - a lot), so I found it a bit naive and sappy. But I liked the way the family difficulties were tackled, even if I think the main character was a bit dim not to realise that she was the problem. My only concern was with how quickly the horses' problems were turned round - in real life nothing would be that cut and dried. But overall, it kept me entertained for a couple of days.

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### AmbWitch says

It has only been about a month since I finished this book and to be honest, I can't really remember much about it. I admit that a lot has happened this month, but I seem to remember that the first time I read the

series; this book didn't stand out all that much to me. I expected something more from it however, as she was meeting her dad's 'new family' but there didn't seem to be any impact from the book at all and that's all I have to say.

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### **Teresa says**

I've finally finished this book.

It is awesome! I love it.

I really liked how there were many problems in the story and how Amy ended up solving all of them and even better than that she got to know her new family.

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### **Emma says**

I probably would have been a little hesitant too, Amy.

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### **Reagan says**

Amy went to Australia with her sister Lou to visit her dad. There, she meets his new wife and daughter. The daughter's name is Lily, and his wife's name is Helena. Amy doesn't feel that comfortable around Lily and Helena. Lily seems to like Lou better. Amy tries hard to train Spirit and Mistral, but the horses don't seem to let her come near. She just doesn't believe that she belongs in her father's new family.

The end of the book is really nice. You should read this book because it is so awesome! It is all about making friends and how to deal with problems.

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### **Clemence D says**

Dans ce nouveau tome on retrouve Laura et sa soeur Lou qui s'envolent vers l'Australie et plus précisément vers le ranch de leur père !

Laura va devoir trouver sa place dans la nouvelle famille de son Père et ce n'est pas gagné d'avance ! Entre la nouvelle femme de son père et sa demi soeur, Lily, Laura a encore des problèmes pour se sentir à l'aise avec cette nouvelle famille... Heureusement, il y a les chevaux et avec eux, Laura est en terrain connu.

Il ne s'agit pas de mon tome préféré de Heartland mais ça ne m'empêche pas de vous conseiller cette série à 200% !

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### **Marie says**

The Heartland books are a fun read, and they're pretty quick to get through for me. You get your horses and

your heartache from Heartland. These books are pretty steady, all continuing the story of Amy, Lou, Ty, Jack and the assorted horses.

The writing and subject matter are obviously intended for children, and can be a bit clunky at times for individuals with a higher reading level.

Since there isn't a lot to say, this review is similar to past reviews of this series. I recommend this series to kids who love horses, or parents who want their children to read something that's about hard work and some of life's tough lessons

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### **Kate says**

Amy, Lou, and Scott are off to Australia to visit their father's farm. Unlike when their father came to Heartland, Amy is having difficulty connecting to her new stepmother and half-sister, while Lou seems right at home. Amy turns to the horses to give herself the sense of usefulness she is used to feeling at Heartland, but the horses don't seem to respond to her, and some of the stablehands are not welcoming either. Eventually Amy learns that she needs to offer herself too.

Amy seems to take a long time coming to this realization. She persists when one of the stablehands is aloof about learning new remedies, mostly because of Amy's attitude, not because she doesn't want to learn about the remedies.

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### **Twyla says**

My favorite part was when Emma and Amy started to get along better. My least favorite part was when Emma was mad at Amy, even though she was just trying to help.

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### **Amanda says**

For some reason, this book just didn't do it for me like the others in this series. While still a great book with plenty of horse action, the family drama that was apparent in this book was a bit much for me, someone who was just looking for an easy, quiet read. I would give this book 3 1/2 stars if I could.

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### **Jessica says**

See the first book in the series for a full review.

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### **Iralynn says**

Heartland, The long Winter is a fictional book. It was meant for entertainment. The author (Lauren

Brooke) did an okay job of achieving her purpose. Since I have watched the series, I usually know what the stories are at Heartland. But in this story of Heartland, the book had way more details than the episode. Also the story had changed. In the episode Amy and Lou's dad lived just down the road. In the book his ranch was in Australia. This book had a lot of weaknesses. One was that it wasn't as interesting as the show at all. It was way more boring than the show. It had some strengths, but not many. The best strength that it had was all of the details that were put into it. My favorite quote was on page 143. "It's so different from being at home she went on. There's always something that needs to be done at Heartland. But here, there's nothing for me to do besides working with Mistral and Spirit." This shows the difference between the book and the show. I would recommend this book to people who like the show. If they didn't like the show, they wouldn't like the book. I would also recommend this book to people who like horses. Amy deals with horses almost all of the time during the book.

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