



## Color My Horse

*Bev Pettersen*

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Jessica barely knows one end of a horse from the other but shoveling manure is preferable to letting her rich grandfather yank her strings. The only problem is that her new boss is a little too fussy... and way too sexy.

She can handle sleeping in a mice-infested stall as well as the occasional encounter with a mysterious, knife-wielding trespasser, but a lovable old gelding and his uncompromising trainer threaten to break her heart.

## Color My Horse Details

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Author : Bev Pettersen

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## **From Reader Review Color My Horse for online ebook**

### **Carol Dudley says**

I like Bev Pettersen horse stories. I've read 5 so far. Different series. Enjoyed them all. Will purchase others as I need a good horse drama/ romance it's not slutty or cheap Just good story

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### **Lady Raven RAVE! says**

<http://www.romancenoveljunkies.com> for readers

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

Jessica is a retired injured skier and is forced to go home to live with her rich grandfather. Jessica lost her career and her boyfriend, if that's not bad enough, her grandfather wants her to work for him. Jessica wants to open a dog grooming business and her grandfather challenges her to work for 6 weeks at the racetrack horse stables and then he will fund her business. Mark is a trainer at the stables and is not happy when he gets a call from one of his most important horse owners to baby sit his granddaughter who knows nothing about horses. Mark doesn't think she will last and that's just as well because he doesn't need a sexy woman distracting him like his father did. Mark soon becomes pleasantly surprised at how quick Jessica learns the ropes and soon enough Jessica is bringing some color to the stables and love to his heart.

#### **THOUGHTS**

I loved this book! Mark was such a sexy strong character and Jessica is adorable and determined to prove to everyone that she can do this! I loved the chemistry and the underlying sexual tension between these two characters. This book also takes on some suspenseful twists and turns into the world of horse racing. The secondary characters are well developed and add to the overall story. I look forward to reading more books from this author. Thank you for a well written and enjoyable book.

Length: 5500

Storyline: GREAT

Enjoyment: GREAT

Intimacy Level: SPICY

Romance Novel Junkies

\*Reviewed by Davia

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### **Avry15 says**

originally appeared on: Bookshelf Confessions

\*I won a free copy of this e-book in a LibraryThing Member Giveaway\*

this is a cute country book with a mix of romance and thriller..

The story is set as a heiress attempts to escape her grandfather's iron-fisted control, but later encountered an uncompromising horse trainer who has little tolerance for greenhorns, especially one he's been forced to hire.

The trainer Mark Russell never expected his rookie groom to have the spunk or savvy to last at his demanding race barn. Or that his reluctant respect would turn to desire. But as the forbidden attraction between them sizzles, manipulation and murder threaten not only his horses but also their lives. And suddenly a Breeders' Cup win is the very least of his worries.

This book is a real fast-read and would leave you wondering at the end if you had really just finish reading it. the story is well-written, the plot is remarkable and full of warmth which invites the readers to read more. THe characters, especially the horses, are real and well-developed that tends to lure readers into their situations and emotions.

at first though, I'm not at all sure if horse story would affect me, but then it did. for me, actually it is more of a romance with its basis on a horse tale, mixed with murder, and country life.. all in all.,,the author wonderfully weaves a thorough story which would captivate everyone's heart. simply written but well-written.

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### **Michelle says**

#### **Good book**

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so. Shelley MA

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### **Janet says**

This was a very good read. I just love the way this author puts things together. One can learn more about the horse training and all the things that go into the racing of a horse. It is unreal the amount of work it takes. The story is a good one and I like the characters in the book as well. One can really see the personality and the compassion of each person or the lack of. I can't wait for the next book by this author.

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### **Emily says**

#### First Reads

The author graciously provided me a PDF version to review

This is the 2nd Pettersen novel that I have read, and I absolutely loved it. I'm a horse enthusiast and a romantic junky, so this book was absolutely perfect for me.

Pettersen certainly has a talent for writing, and because of her history with horses, her Racetrack Romance series is incredible.

This particular story revolves around Jessica and Mark, and provides a gratifying sexual tension that captivates and holds the reader's attention. This book is deliciously sensual, and is sure to get the reader's pulse racing...no pun intended.

I also find it chock full of horse jargon and this just lights me up. The lingo is so flawless and reads so well. You can definitely tell that Pettersen is a horse lover. I've actually learned a few things that I didn't know, so this book was educational as well as brilliant. It certainly was a win-win for me.

I'll be reading more of Pettersen's work.

Great Series!!!

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### **Renata says**

One of the worst books I've read recently. Both Jessica and Mark were totally annoying, the writing was poor and the only interesting part was the horse racing business.

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### **Ian says**

Desperate to escape from her super-rich and manipulative grandfather, Jessica takes a job working in the stables of the trainer who is looking after his star race horse.

Mark doesn't need the hassle but her grandfather's horse is his big chance at a Breeder's Cup so he takes her on and puts her in charge of Buddy, an old horse that has long since past his glory days.

Jessica forms a bond with Buddy and with the attention she lavishes on him he starts to race like the champion he once was. But there is trouble afoot. With the Breeder's Cup fast approaching someone is targeting Mark's star horse and Jessica. With the police not acting Jessica and Mark find themselves investigating the increasingly violent crimes being committed at the track.

*Color my Horse* is very good romantic suspense, though I have one criticism. The "romance" in the romantic suspense didn't quite gel with the story. It was almost like I was leaving the story for those sections and then after they had their nooky time, we'd get back to the story.

It's a small thing and the books is still pretty good.

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### **Katie says**

Conflicted on how to rate this book. It was an easy fast read, that I did all in one day up till 85%. Then the

author choose to write a cruel heartbreaking event that completely shattered me. To the point I was swearing off reading other novels by this author for the next 11% of the book. It all tied neatly in the end but seemed like an unnecessary plot device to creat tension. Second, the murder mystery was a very vague back story that was barely mentioned. Needed to be more present to keep this from being a Harlequin Romance.

Still really pissed this book made me bawl by being misleading about an issue that you don't joke about. 3.5 / 5 stars.

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## MBR says

I was a bit apprehensive diving into my second book by Bev Pettersen, not because she tells a bad story, hardly that. Jockeys and Jewels which was my first Bev Pettersen turned out to be a good read for me because there was a lot of horse jargon involved that detracted me a bit from enjoying the story that unfolded. But I was absolutely delighted to discover that true to Bev's word, Color My Horse turned out to be one of those stories that was hard to put down because of the sheer number of emotions that coursed through me while I was reading the story.

Jessica Boone is the heiress to the Boone fortune. With a controlling grandfather who wants to map out her life the way he wants it, Jessica is a woman who is stuck in a hard place with no way out. With her skiing career a choice no longer available with a severe knee injury, Jessica grabs at the last straws to assert her independence. She bargains with her grandfather to allow her to give her the cash she needs to start her own dog kennel. But it does come with a price. Jessica has to work at the Belmont racetrack for a set period of time, living entirely on what she earns from her job, failing to do which she has to come work for her grandfather.

Enter 31 year old Mark Russel, who is a horse trainer, who runs a tight ship with his workers with his no nonsense attitude towards horse training as well as life in general. Mark has the fear that he might turn out to be just like his father; a man who thought with the wrong body part when it came to alluring females. And when Jessica's grandfather coerces him into accepting Jessica on board, Mark doesn't expect the rich heiress to last much longer than a day mucking stalls and scrubbing down horses which is a far removed life from that of a woman of the elite society.

However, Jessica surprises Mark and herself as well when her resolve to regain her independence gives her the strength to persevere in spite of all odds being stacked against her. Jessica is a character who is so very full of life. She tends to spread vivid color everywhere she goes, spreads a kind of joy that intrudes and cracks the reserves around Mark's emotions before he is even aware of it happening. Though Mark tells himself that it is only a heady sexual attraction and desire that he has towards his newest employee, feelings of the much deeper kind continues to develop as both of them indulge in an affair that leaves them both wanting more.

What makes Color My Horse such a fabulous book to read is the way Bev Pettersen brings the story to life. Her love for horses shines through marvelously and I couldn't help but pout just a little bit because I live in a country where running into a horse is an impossibility. I loved how Bev paired off someone whose bright outlook on life lights up the life of a man for whom looking after the horses that he loves means everything. The thread of suspense that is woven throughout the story just served to be the icing on the cake and I loved every single minute of Jessica's journey towards discovering all that she is capable of and in the process finding the love of her life.

With all the things that I loved about the story, there was just one teeny tiny thing that irked me for a bit. I couldn't get over just how little Mark seemed to be affected by Jessica's return towards the end of the book. I know that Mark is a man who is reserved in his display of emotions and the fact that he continues to carry on Jessica's "traditions" when it comes to looking after horses does tell a lot about how he feels towards Jessica. But I would have loved the ending a bit more if Mark had been a bit more forthcoming about his feelings towards Jessica, and maybe while he was at it, if he had tried to reach out to Jessica a bit sooner. But in the end, I guess it all comes down to Mark's character and the fact that he doesn't stray far from how his character is portrayed throughout the story.

Recommended for those who love character driven romances, those who love stories where heroines who are full-of-life meets up with the reserved type of hero. And of course, for those who loves horses. You cannot find an author who practically grabs you with the way Bev brings the culture and life of horse training and racing to life like she does.

**Rating=4.5/5**

Original review posted on MBR's Realm of Romance

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### **A Voracious Reader (a.k.a. Carol) says**

My rating is actually 3.5 stars.

Jessica Boone is the rich granddaughter of a tyrant in charge of a large corporation. Her competitive skiing career goes down the drain when she has an accident that wrecks her knee. Now, her grandfather is pressuring her to join the family business, but Jessica just wants out from under his thumb. A deal is struck. If Jessica can last 8 weeks at Belmont where he has two race horses without quitting or being fired then he will finance her dog daycare business. If she quits or is fired before the 8 weeks is up she has to work at Boone.

Mark Russell is a horse trainer with a good reputation for wins. With Boone's two horses looking good enough to win in 8 weeks he's left no option but to hire Jessica at her grandfather's demand. Boone tells Mark she won't last a week, but Jessica surprises them all.

This is a great story. The plot was decent, the writing good, the characters believable. My only problem was that Jessica and Mark were occasionally childish in their actions. There were times they acted as hormonal and moody as teenagers even though Mark was 31 and Jessica in her 20s. I was especially irritated with Mark since he was supposed to be a mature adult and an excellent horse trainer and businessman. I understand they both had emotional baggage they were carrying around, but it still irritated me.

I loved learning more about horse racing. I grew up on a farm and when my parents stopped raising beef cattle and started renting the farmland out they raised a few race horses. By that time I had grown and moved out, so I never really paid attention to the details of the horses and where they raced. Learning about what goes into racing a horse was very interesting to me even after all these years.

I am definitely going to read more of Bev Pettersen's books and I can't wait to pick up the next one.

\*The author provided a copy of this book to me for review. Please see disclaimer page on my blog.

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**Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says**

Free on Amazon (9/10/13)

Buddy Read with Ian and Michelle - Sept. 20

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**Terry Gibson says**

I loved this book; I love horse racing and horse racing stories. One of my favourite authors was Dick Francis and Bev Pettersen is going to be another, based on this book. It was pure entertainment; I couldn't put it down, much to my neglected wife's annoyance! The story was absorbing, the villainy was quite believable, the characters sympathetic and it was romantic. It was a light, easy and thoroughly enjoyable read. I give the book four stars; it would have been five stars if there had been less explicit sex. I'm an adult and can use my imagination, thank you!

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**Denise Kearney says**

Kindle -Free

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**Sara Gerhold says**

Finding Bev Pettersen was one of the best days I've had Lately. Color My Horse has twists and turns that will keep you turning page after page. There are convoluted human relationships, and added to that a look at the back side of horse racing. This is a gem, that I recommend, especially to those who love horses.

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