



The Gift

By *Rebecca Hubbard*

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All eleven-year old Pip wanted was a best friend. When Pip gets a horse for her birthday she is delighted. She thinks that the horse she names Buck will be her best friend from the moment that they meet. But she finds out that friendship does not come that easily. Her father gently guides her so that Pip can discover for herself how to make Buck a true friend. Pip's new friend, Buck, has a story of his own. After leaving his own herd, to move to Pip's house, he is looking for a relationship that will help him feel safe. He, too, learns that making a friend takes patience and understanding.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Charming" 5 stars Reviewed By Maria Beltran for Readers' Favorite

The Gift by Rebecca Hubbard is a charming children's book in which eleven-year-old Pip yearns for a horse. She was extremely delighted when her father presented her with one on her birthday. Things are not going the way she likes though, because her horse moves away whenever she approaches. The first few days are very frustrating for Pip because she thinks that Buck, the name she gives her horse, seems uninterested in being friends with her. Guided by her father, she sets out to gain Buck's friendship, day by day. Young Buck, on the other hand, is separated for the first time from the other horses and it feels different to be in another environment. Lonely and scared, he also longs for a friend, but finds Pip to be a strange creature. Will the two eventually become friends?

Rebecca Hubbard's The Gift is a children's book that educates and entertains. It also teaches its readers a thing or two about making friends. Little girl Pip dreams of having a horse as a best friend and is elated when she gets Buck. Thinking that they will become the best of friends immediately, she finds out that she has to gain Buck's trust before anything else, and this takes time and determination. Beautifully illustrated by Krickett King, the story is first told from Pip's point of view and then switching to Buck's, giving readers a glimpse of what is going on in both their minds as they interact. Perfectly written for 4th to 6th graders, The Gift also shows that friendship entails sensitivity and patience, and these are precious lessons that many adults can also learn from.

"lovely" and "delightful" 5 stars Reviewed By Jane Finch for Readers' Favorite

The Gift, written by Rebecca J. Hubbard and illustrated by Krickett King, is the story of a young girl named Pip and a colt named Buck. The young horse goes to live with Pip, but is very frightened of his new surroundings and being taken away from the herd. Pip doesn't understand this at first and thinks the colt doesn't like her. Gradually both the horse and girl start to understand each other. Pip learns how to gain the colt's trust, and Buck realizes that the girl does not plan to hurt him. Although he is missing his horse friends, Buck finally understands that Pip can also be a friend.

This is a lovely story for young readers, and delightful in its simplicity. Rebecca J. Hubbard has done a very good job of explaining about friendship, and how one has to work at it and not expect it to happen without a bit of effort on both parts. But this is also a story about loneliness. Starting with Pip's version, the story then examines the events from the horse's perspective. This story is about understanding, companionship, patience, and love. Although the story can be likened to human relationships, it's also about understanding animals and how to gain their trust and love. It's a good life lesson that friendship and trust have to be earned. Giving the story from both the human aspect and the animal aspect is especially endearing. Apart from the life lessons to be learned, young horse lovers will empathize with this tale. Very nicely done.

"Highly recommend" 5 stars Reviewed By Anne-Marie Reynolds for Readers' Favorite

The Gift by Rebecca J. Hubbard is a story of the trials of friendship. Eleven-year-old Pip just wants a friend. For her birthday, her dad buys her a colt and Pip thinks that they will be friends straightaway. She is angry and disappointed that Buck doesn't seem to want to be her friend. In fact, he keeps running away from her. Her dad helps her understand that friendship doesn't come that easily and helps her understand how to

make Buck her friend. Buck has his own story to tell. He spent the first three years of his life with a large herd, but finds himself lonely and friendless when he moves to Pip's house. He wants to feel safe but doesn't understand how a human can help him. Together Buck and Pip must learn the true meaning of friendship.

The Gift by Rebecca J Hubbard was a nice story. It was unique, being told in two halves, first from Pip's point of view and then from Buck's. The way the story is written will appeal to children of all ages and some will even find the second half funny, with some of the descriptions that Buck uses to describe Pip! I liked the addition of the illustrations as they help to bring it to life. There are also a few lessons in life for children to learn here, about how to make true friendships. It was a good move on the author's part to write the story in two parts, from two points of view, as it shows children that there are always two sides to everything, two viewpoints from which to see a situation. Nice book, well written, and I highly recommend it.

"Warm and Touching" 5 stars Reviewed by Julia Hopkinson for Reader's Favorite

The Gift is a warm, touching, and edifying book for children written by Rebecca J. Hubbard and illustrated by Krickett King. The story centres on Pip, a young farm girl, whose dad buys her a dream eleventh birthday present-a horse- and her efforts to coax and befriend the horse that she names Buck. The book is split into two parallel parts: the first told from Pip's point of view- a tale of hope then frustration as her earnest attempts to bond with the horse are not met with immediate success; and the second from Buck's point of view- his tale of arriving in a new place and initially missing her old friends and being frightened by Pip's advances, before they manage to find a common ground of friendship. The book is complemented by lovely black and white illustrations every few pages.

Rebecca J. Hubbard's The Gift is a great way to teach children not just about the complexities and subtleties of building friendships, but also the importance of carefully building friendships with pets and/or animals. I felt quite sorry for both Pip (when she is thwarted in her initial struggles to play with the horse) and Buck (when he is taken from his friends and family and is lonely in his new home, despite being very much wanted) at various points in the story, but cheered and heartened by hopefulness of the twin endings. Krickett King's illustrations are both charming and appropriate, and greatly enhance the book. Recommended.

From the Author

My friend and business partner, Alicia, asked me to write a book about a horse and a kid. At first I was noncommittal about it because I generally write therapeutic stories. But she persisted. Every once in awhile she'd ask me when I was going to write the book. Frankly, I wasn't sure I could write the type of story she was asking for because I thought that fun fiction was out of my reach. Her persistence planted the seed for a horse and kid story. For six months the seed did nothing. It did not produce one idea or character. It was dormant. When I thought about the idea I felt sort of sick inside. It was something that I felt I really couldn't do and I didn't have any ideas to even begin to try. Every once in a while Alicia would offer a suggestion for the story but nothing inspired me. The words just wouldn't come.

Then, Alicia and I went to a training called Advanced Training for NaturalLifemanship®, a trauma-focused equine assisted psychotherapy™ model, and I had an experience with a horse that touched me very deeply. During that weekend the seed began to germinate. The phrase, "What is this relationship worth to you?" played over and over in my mind. I knew I wanted to tell a story about a relationship between a kid and a horse that was told from the kid's point of view and from the horse's point of view. The idea of sharing the story from two points of view excited me.

Despite having a few roots I did not have a story. I had no ideas about the plot or characters. I didn't even have the idea of whether the child character would be a boy or a girl or even the idea that there would be a

parent involved in the story. Nothing was growing.

A few days after the seed began to germinate. I woke up in the middle of the night with a sentence about the story. The next morning I typed that sentence and the story began to flow out of me. I did not intentionally create the characters. For me it was like they created themselves and used me to venture into the world. I don't recall deciding that Pip would be a girl, she just presented as a girl or that Pip's parent would be a father. As the story unfolded the parent presented as a dad and the words he spoke came from him and not some idea of him. I am often asked if the dad in the story is Tim Jobe, one of the developers of NaturalLifemanship.© Although I adore Tim, the father in the story is not Tim and it is not modeled after Tim. The hardest character for me to write was Buck. He did not present himself initially and I had to work very hard to find his voice. I wasn't sure how to give voice to a horse. When I tried to create Buck's voice it seemed that everything I did was wrong. His voice sounded insincere and saccharine. Once I stopped trying to create Buck and focused on what his experience was his voice flowed through me like the voices of the other characters.

It seems silly to say that it feels like characters venture out into the world and are not created by me but for me that is what the initial process feels like. I feel honored to hear the story and put it to paper. After the initial telling of the story I am able to add elements or eliminate elements to the story. The real work for me is in the process of fine tuning the story. During this phase I read the story aloud many different times and I change the wording depending on what it sounds like when being read aloud. It was during this phase that I felt that Pip's initial voice sounded whiny and she was not very likable. An experience with a young friend helped me understand Pip's hurt and disappointment. My young friend fell in love with a huge bay horse and she tried desperately to gain his trust and earn his friendship but he ignored her. Every time she saw him she called to him and he ignored her or walked away from her. Eventually she stopped trying. A year went by with no change. My young friend was visiting one day and saw the horse she so loved. He was standing in the pasture about thirty feet from her. She called to him. He raised his head and looked at her then he walked over and allowed her to pet him. My young friend was grinning from ear to ear. Remembering the way her face beamed helped me to understand how hurt Pip was when Buck rejected her and how delighted she was when he finally wanted to spend time with her. After thinking about his I was able to adjust the dialogue and Pip's thinking to make her a more likable character.

The last phase but a long phase was sending the story to my trusted friends. They read the story and provided feedback. After many revisions the story was finally sent to my editor, Laine Cunningham, where it went through the final phase of editing.

I am very proud of this little book. As it turns out "The Gift" is not only fun fiction, it is also a therapeutic story. Although, I did not initially intend for this book to be used in therapy, it can be a very useful therapeutic tool. It can be used to explore relationships, and to discuss what it takes to make, and be a friend. It can be used to help foster parents understand the longing and loneliness foster children feel. It can be used to teach children about cognitive distortions and unhelpful thinking patterns, and how those negative thoughts impact the way they see the world and their lives. And it can be used to teach the relationship principles of Natural Lifemanship.© In the end my brain did what it knows how to do, it created a story to help others.

When I started on this journey I thought this would be only one story. I never thought of it as a series. But I can feel Pip and Buck starting new journeys in my mind. I am so excited to see what happens next!

About the Author

Rebecca J. Hubbard grew up with horses and is blessed by the magic of their friendship. She is a licensed

marriage and family therapist who provides treatment to traumatized children. She lives in North Carolina with her two dogs, cat and horse.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kermit Moors:

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they're still students or that for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that question above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great as well as important the book The Gift. All type of book would you see on many resources. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

Edward Donnelly:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not only a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is usually The Gift.

Danielle Rucks:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to your account is The Gift this reserve consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Here is why this book appropriate all of you.

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