



A Pony for Christmas: A Montana Holiday Novella

Bev Pettersen

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Winner, LYRA Award, Best Novella, Bookstores Without Borders

Winner, Reader Views Award

Winner, Best Novella, Hearts Through History RWA

Finalist, National Excellence in Romance Fiction Novella

Six-year-old Suzy Jenkins desperately wants a pony for Christmas. And she's certain Santa will deliver. After all, she's been on her best behavior for months—not tattling on the bullies and even sharing her only candy cane. Besides, this year she has everything ready, including a cracked water bucket and several wizened carrots.

Suzy's mother struggles just to put food on the table. Life has been difficult since her husband died, and any pet—especially a pony—is impossible. However Suzy's unflagging belief in the importance of being kind serves as a catalyst, sending ripples throughout her snowy Montana town and bringing love and happiness to more than just a big-hearted little girl.

A Pony for Christmas: A Montana Holiday Novella Details

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Author : Bev Pettersen

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Theresa says

oh my goodness! When I first started it I just wasn't sure. Bullies, a homeless guy, no tattletelling, an extremely poor mom and daughter. This seemed like a very sad Christmas story. And since I had just finished one of those I almost didn't read this. So glad I did.

All of those things combined to a heart warming, tear jerking crescendo. So adorable and so filled with Christmas love and miracles!

Janet McMillan says

Perfect read for Christmas

Despite crying through most of the book; it was wonderful. Immediately I felt a kinship with the characters. Great read!

Laura Reading says

A cute winter tale told from the point of view of a six year old child who has dreamt of her own pony for a very long time. She figures out that she must be responsible and prepared for taking care of a pony. She also tries to do what her mother tells her, such as sharing and being polite.

This sweet, short book tackles some tough topics and has a heartwarming effect.

Chris says

This is actually sweet, but not too sweet. Despite what seems to be a QH on the cover, it concerns standardbreds and thoroughbreds more than anything. Set in the 1960s, it shows the determination of Suzy to get a pony for Christmas. She digs up grass, for instance, to make sure she has something to feed it. It's cute and sweet, and a nice short read.

Anna says

This is a fun little story. Not five stars in comparison to Pettersen's novels, but probably as good as non-Pettersen books I give five stars to.

Charles C. Sellers says

Perfect Book to Make a Christmas Tradition!

What a treasure, the perfect book to add to your family or your personal Christmas Tradition and remind us how our hearts should focus not on ourselves but on others, and most especially at this time of year. Since it's bendable, I plan to lend it to my niece this Christmas in hopes she'll get her own next year. But Don't bypass it any other season because it is a sweatshirt story with a great moral for anytime of year.

Agnieszka says

This was such an enjoyable sweet Christmas novell I'm not sure I'll ever be able to express my feelings nearly well enough - just wonderfull and beautifully written.

Usually I'm not a fan of such sweet stories but this one shows what's meant when Jesus tells us we have to became like the little children - so this story is according to the main character's personality: sweet, naive, innocent, showing big faith, huge heart and care for others, and overall cute.

It's told from the point of view of a six year old girl wishing, believing and doing everything in her power to get a pony for Christmas and still having an eye for the needs of the people around her and making their lives better.

It's so great I expect to re-read it as often as I can in the following years to grab a little more of this warm & fuzzy feeling for my life.

In my opinion it can be read to any (but especially horse-loving) child though enjoyed by adults as well and helps to find a slow and meaningfull break in our hectic pre-Christmas times.

Marlene Moore says

A Pony For Christmas

It's a sweet story that reminds everyone that giving to others and caring for those who have less the we do. Well written and an easy read.

Deanne Patterson says

superb so heartwarming!

Christine Meunier says

This delightful novella focuses on six year old Suzy Jenkins who is desperate to secure her first pony. She is convinced Santa will bring her a pony for Christmas and already has a yard and shed ready for it.

Suzy doesn't mind what colour her pony will be, she just desires to have one to love. Living in poor surroundings, she is excited to read that ponies can live on water and grass alone. Her eagerness to collect as much grass as possible in the winter months leading up to Christmas catches the attention of a local homeless man, Carl.

Suzy confides in him that she is getting a pony for Christmas and she is preparing. Carl is surprised by her certainty at receiving such a gift, especially when ponies are expensive to keep. Suzy admits that she has written to Santa and has been extra good this year so that she will get her wish.

As the six year old works hard to be nice to others, her kindness touches others in an unexpected way. Could it be that Santa will indeed bring her a pony for Christmas? A delightful tale for young readers with a theme of kindness throughout.

Enid L. Lapham says

Every little horse lover's dream

I am a little girl still, and love horses, at least at heart. I was this age back in the early 60's and dreamed of a pony. A truly double happy ending with a pony and family healed makes a great Christmas read.

Nicole Laverdure says

A PONY FOR CHRISTMAS is the perfect story to read on Christmas Eve! Bev Pettersen wrote a heartwarming story that will surely please any readers from 6 and older if you are young at heart. It's a beautiful short novella, that tells the story of Suzy, who wished a pony for Christmas! Even, if, we know what will happen next, it's so sweet and charming, you'll love to read it out loud during the festive season. Touching story of Suzy and Carl. Recommended for all ages!

Joanne Reinhart says

Delightful

I chose this book because I love horses and wanted a quick read. I believe this would be a wonderful story for children and will recommend it to my daughters for their girls. Again, delightful!

MoHurley says

A Pony for Christmas is a delightful quick read as told from a six-year-old's perspective. Wonderful story, and characters. Because it's a short story, or novella, there's an economy of language, and characters aren't as fleshed out, but the story holds. Suzy believes that if she is very good, Santa will bring her a pony, despite all

odds to the contrary. Sort of a "build it and they will come" theme, to steal a metaphor from Field of Dreams. Sometimes magic happens. I didn't realize that that the novella was written by Bev Petersen, an author I admire. Bev rode the racetrack circuit in Alberta, she knows her horses, and has a keen eye for detail. But in this story, she's outdone herself, and the tale will linger, long after you've put the book down. Kudus. It will tug at your heartstrings. A hard copy to any horse crazy little girl would make a fine Christmas or birthday gift.

A version of this review also appears on Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-re...>

Rebekah Morris says

This is such a sweet story! Even though the little girl is trying to "be good" because of Santa Clause, there is no Santa, no magic, and no mysterious things.

Suzy is just such a sweet little girl. She wants a pony for Christmas even though her daddy died, and they are quite poor. She isn't selfish, and works hard to be ready for the pony she is sure Santa is going to bring her. The other characters are just as likable (except the two bullies) and the ending was perfect!

This is a secular story with no mention of the real meaning of Christmas, but there was nothing objectionable about it (except the child's belief in Santa), and I'm sure I'll read it again.
