



Paint the Wind

Pam Muñoz Ryan

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This epic horse story, in the tradition of **BLACK STALLION**, marks exciting new territory for one of our most treasured and celebrated novelists.

A puzzling photograph, a box filled with faded toy horses, and a single fractured memory are all that Maya has left of her mother. In Grandmother house, she lives like a captive, tethered by rules... until a shocking event changes everything. A world away, in the rugged Wyoming wilderness, a wild mustang called Artemisia runs free, belonging only to the stars. In a land where mountain lions pose an ever-present threat, she must vigilantly defend her foal... until a devastating act separates them from their band. Like a braided rein, Maya's and Artemisia's lives will ultimately intertwine.

Paint the Wind Details

Date : Published September 1st 2007 by Scholastic Press (first published 2007)

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Author : Pam Muñoz Ryan

Format : Hardcover 327 pages

Genre : Animals, Horses, Realistic Fiction, Fiction, Adventure, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Paint the Wind for online ebook

Lars Guthrie says

Now I've read and own the complete Munoz Ryan chapter-book collection. While 'Paint the Wind' ranks slightly below the stellar 'Esperanza Rising,' it's right up there with the others: the recent 'The Dreamer,' 'Becoming Naomi Leon,' and 'Riding Freedom.'

'Paint' is ostensibly a horse story, about an isolated and lonely orphaned girl who opens up to the world after riding the same wild mustang her mother loved. However, Maya's prim and repressed personality is formed during a cloistered upbringing with her stodgy and domineering grandmother, and it is this part of the book that was most evocative.

Darker in tone than any of Munoz Ryan's other works except 'The Dreamer,' the first fifth or so of 'Paint' is also concretely redolent of a unique Southern California darkness--the darkness inside shaded, sepulchral houses hidden from the glaring sunshine. Maya's interior life and her instinctive manipulation of a predictable grandmother and cowering servants were touching and true.

That's not to indicate that the more hopeful and upbeat remainder of the book, when Maya moves from the shadows of Pasadena to the wide-open spaces of Wyoming, is devoid of emotional power. Far from it, especially for kids who love horses.

Barbara says

I am a retired elementary teacher but still substitute teach. Apparently 40 years wasn't enough teaching time for me. On one of my substitute days the teacher had this book in her plans for the read aloud time, and I read chapter 9 to the students. That chapter enticed me to want to read the whole book. I know it is a children's book and I am quite far into adulthood, but I thoroughly enjoyed the characters, the writing, and the two story lines of the plot. Granted, it doesn't quite have the depth of books that I give five stars, but I recommend it for children as well as adults. I valued every minute that I was immersed in this book!

Katherine says

Book: Paint the Wind
Author: Pam Munoz Ryan
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Length: 325 pages
Date Finished: 1/26/13

Paint the Wind tells two stories at once, which link together at the end. One is about a horse named Artemesia. At the beginning of the story, she gives birth to a foal, Klee. Sometime later, she senses danger and returns to her family. One day, Artemesia hears a helicopter. She knew that there would be a gather so she and Klee left from the area. But the rest of the family was still in the area and Artemesia loses them from the gather. Alone, Artemesia tried to protect Klee, but it was very hard without a family. The other story

is about Maya. Paint the Wind focuses more on this story than the oth one. Maya's parents died when she was very young, so she lived with her grandmother. One day, Maya's grandmother died from a stroke. So Maya went to live with the relatives on the other side of her family, Moose, Fig, Aunt Vi, and Peyton. There, Aunt Vi taught Maya how to ride horses. They did many different activities, all relating to horses. At first Maya and Peyton couldn't get along. But as time went by, they learned how to get along with each other. One day, Aunt Vi, Maya, and Peyton saw Armesia's group of horses in a gather. But they didn't see Artemisia nor Klee. Aunt Vi had always kept an eye out for Artemisia because she used to be Maya's mother's favorite horse who'd later on got released into the wild. Afterwards, the three of them tried to find Artemesia and Klee. After several weeks of searching, they were still unsuccessful. One day, Moose, Fig, Aunt Vi, and Peyton are all out. Maya spotted Artemesia while she was alone on the ranch and went out Artemesia. Maya found Artemesia, but Klee was already dead. Right when she does, there was an earthquake. Maya got hurt and was stranded in the area. During that time, Maya developed a close relationship with Artemnesia. One day, Maya decided that Artemesia trusted her enough and rides Artemesia back to the ranch. Once there, Maya was taken to the hospital to get her wounds treated. At the end, Maya released Artemesia back into the wild because she thought that Artemesia would be more happy there.

I rated this book as five stars because it was touching. It really stirred my emotions. I was sad when Klee died, and happy when Maya and Armesia returned to the ranch. When Maya let Artemesia into the wild I was sad and happy at the same time. Sad that Maya couldn't be with Artemesia anymore, but happy that Aremesia could be free. Paint the Wind really gave me the satisfaction of a good book.

Ashley says

I may be a fanatic but i have read this book about eight times. I read it whenever i have nothing else to read and i enjoy it every time!

It starts with Maya, living under her grandmother's controlling care, and always dreaming about seeing the horses her parents loved so much. To her they were all a mystery. One day though her grandmother has a random stroke and dies, leaving Maya with no where to go but her mother's family, who she was supposed to visit every summer. She has a hard time adapting at first, but quickly enough she is happy at the camp her mother and father spent so much time at before. Then when she is alone for a while she spots Artemesia, the horse her mother once rode. She decides to go and get her, thinking it would be quick, but just as she reaches Artemesia a horrible earthquake happens. Maya is injured and overtime gains Artemesia's trust enough so that together they make it safely back to camp.

It is a very great story about leaving what you know for something completely different, and maybe even better. By sitting and waiting at her controlling grandmothers house for too long, she is finally Maya: A journey about to begin!

Kathleen Guinnane says

I must say that I really hated the grandma in this story. The way this story is written you truly feel for the characters, both horses and human. It's a story of discovery, discovery of self and of family. Maya has lived with her strict grandmother since her parents died and when grandmother dies she is reunited with her mother's side of her family. She only has vague memories of these relatives and has never been on a horse before, but here she is at the ranch and horse camp in Wyoming. Learning to ride and learning her new role in the family takes a lot out of her. She also has to deal with her obnoxious cousin who is not happy to have

her at the camp.

Beth A. says

My son is reading this as part of "Battle of the Books." I wanted to screen it because of the "being held captive by her grandmother" bit mentioned in the book description. So I found an audiobook version on Library2go, and listened. It was fine. Grandmother was pathologically restrictive, but it wasn't gruesome in any way, or critical of authority figures.

I actually loved how her grandfather and his family were portrayed. And her response to changes in her life. It showed the effects of how she was raised, and she was able to grow within her new situation.

It's about overcoming your fears, being strong when you have to, and building relationships. I liked how Artemisia helped her, and at the end, even though it was a difficult decision, she helped Artemisia.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable story.

Charlotte says

This is definitely in my top 10 books. I wasn't sure about reading this because it had to do with fantasy and horses and I just wasn't up to trying to believe in Pegasus horses that live by a magical lake. Then I started to get into it and I really liked it. The beginning is pretty good, and I like the way her grandmother makes her dress and talk and eat. I think that it would be kind of cool to see what that type of life is like. When Payton loses her favorite horse Paint {I think that's it's n

Oh my GAWD this book was bad. Where to even start? Nothing for it but to make a list of why **Paint the Wind** sucks:

* WHAT THE HELL DOES "PAINT THE WIND" MEAN???

* Does the author know anything about horses? The main horse is given a name more than three syllables long. Horses (and dogs) tend to ignore names more than two syllables long.

* One horse's body color is described as "flaxen." What the hell? I've never heard of a horse's body color described that way (although I've seen mane and tail colors described that way) and have never read about a flaxen horse or pony in the hundreds of horse books I've read. I need to read more horse books, I guess. I'm guessing the author really meant this:

* Is this the longest summer in the history of summers? At one point, a search is on for "several weeks" which would make it about October when the story picks up again. But no, actually, we're in July. Or are

we? Do the characters have some sort of time machine they're not talking about?

* How in the hell does anyone make money in this book? Grandmother is just filthy rich but how about the other adults? Aunt Vi is a teacher but what the heck is she doing during the summer to make enough money to study mustangs AND own a corral full of horses.

* If you live in a canvass tent, the LAST thing you want to do is pin photos to the walls. Pins make holes. Holes let in rain. It rains on our characters in their tents -- which should be all washed away because of the HOLES IN IT. All of the photos should have been destroyed from contact with wet canvass. Even in the desert, there's going to be condensation on the inside of a tent.

* There's something called a Cherokee coil that becomes a major plot point. It's not described well so I couldn't picture it in my head. Even if I could, I highly doubt actually Cherokees rode that way.

* There's an incredibly fawning interview with the author after the story and an excerpt from the author's journal. She really has no problem with low self-esteem. In a selection of the author's favorite quotes, SHE LISTS ONE OF HER OWN QUOTES. It just makes you want to punch her in the face. Hard.

Kavya says

REEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEALLY GUD BOOK KIND OF DIGUSTING AT FIRST but then u get so in to it its not even funny

Megan Lane says

Honestly, I loved this book. It wasn't perfect, and it didn't have clear, strong story goals. But it was sweet and lovely and honest. Maya learns a lot. Payton learns a lot. Everyone loves and lives a lot. My favorite line: "Maya smiled and wept at the same time. For the leaving. And the leaving behind." Almost rated this three stars, but for what it is (kidfic) it is really strong. Would be a wonderful story to read aloud.

Kloe! Miller says

Plot: Maya is an 11 year old girl who lives secluded from the outside world. Shielded by her grandmother who keeps getting new housemaids. When her grandmother suddenly dies, Maya goes to stay with her only known relatives. Moose, Uncle Fig, Aunt Vi, and Payton are waiting all the way in Wyoming for her. Sweetwater camp is run by Vi. There's horses and a lovely river that flows near the camp. In her first days at camp, Maya learns to tack and ride a horse properly. Things change for the worst when there's a roundup for the wild horses, and an earthquake.

Personal Response: I've read this book twice before, each time I get a little more detail on certain things. The characters are very well developed and the horses point of view is perfectly choreographed.

Recommendation: I recommend this for all ages. All readers will be glad to have read this, and it is fairly short.

Noa Leibson says

The best book iv ever read. Yes, I read it an unmistakable 11 times!

Hannah says

This book.....oh my..... lets do some comparison.

Pros:

Only horse-based novel that doesn't follow suit with saddle club
Good plot and story line
Realistic story-line and characters and facts
The focus of the novel stayed the same the entire book
There were relatable characters

Cons:

I hated the main character
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And heres why: she was a snobby, obnoxious, ungrateful, disrespectful, careless, lackluster, dishonest little

brat. and every time she appeared(which was a lot -__-) in the novel was one time to many, so therefore she caused the book to loose 2 stars. If you think you have the patients for her, knock yourself out.

No-Name says

Little known fact:

My mother was visiting with her father for a week-long horse-back riding trip somewhere out in Nevada once upon a time. Coincidentally, Pam (the author of this book) was there at the same time as my mother. She was on a research trip for this very book. The two chatted, exchanged emails, and I suppose it was over there.

Cool as that was, and as much as I fan-girled at the the prospect that my mother had met such a wonderful author, it saddens me to say something. The publicity of this book is not what it should be. I would not have found this book had my mother not had that experience and brought home a signed copy of the finished book one day.

Don't get me wrong, I am glad that I did! Every day I get to thinking "I should really re-read that book" and then that other voice, the one with little horns and a red cape shows up and is all like "You have 20 other books that you 'should really re-read again' don't even start adding to that already extensive list!" Then the one with the tiny white wings sighs and doesn't mention it again for...like...8 hours.

Needless to say this is a unique and really fun book to read. It is very immersing and you have to read it to find out the rest! Congrats to Pam, and I hope to see this book skyrocket a little more in popularity!

Sarah says

The book Paint the Wind by Pam Muñoz Ryan was published in September of 2007. It is a fiction book that was inspired by the author's sister and experiences her sister had that relate to the book. In this book the categories are split between a story about an orphan and a horse and how their story comes together as one. Ryan's inspiration in writing this story and other stories comes from person experiences, experiences she has observed and multiple ideas that she has thought of and brought together to make one great story. Paint the Wind is not the first book Ryan wrote, and she has other books that have some of the same ideas in it but none the same as this particular book. In Paint the Wind Maya is an eleven year old girl who became an orphan at age five when her parents died in a car accident. Maya lives with her grandmother who has very high expectations and her own way of living. When something unexpected happens Maya finds herself in a new place with new people and a completely different lifestyle. Maya slowly loosens up and finds a side of her that she never knew she had. The author also switches off between the story of Maya and the story in the view of a horse named Artemisia, where later in the book their separate stories connect and combine into one. The way the author switches between stories reminds me of a book I previously read called Dream of Night by Heather Henson, who switches stories between a foster child and a horse. I also liked that the author of Paint the Wind separated the book into sections that related to the book in a way that showed the progress of the characters. Throughout the book the reader is able to know Maya better and watch her grow and change into a new person. This book didn't have a huge affect on me; it more gave me an opportunity to see a how a character changes over time through a great story, as well as show me that taking little steps at a time to get where you want to be can be very successful. I was never bored while reading this book; I thought it was very well written and good at keeping my attention. A lot of the action was in the second half of the book, which is when it was most suspenseful from a series of events that took place. I really liked the character Maya because she has a good heart and good personality, is strong willed, has good dedication and

I got to know her most throughout the book. She is a unique character and was very interesting to see how she changed from the beginning to the ending of the book. Overall I really enjoyed reading this book. The point the author wanted to get across was just showing how someone changes over time, but in a realistic way taking one step at a time until you get to where you want to be. The author was successful in showing this through the character Maya by going through her story and her steps to her new life. I would recommend this story to animal lovers, or to anyone who enjoys a good story, with a good, realistic lesson.
