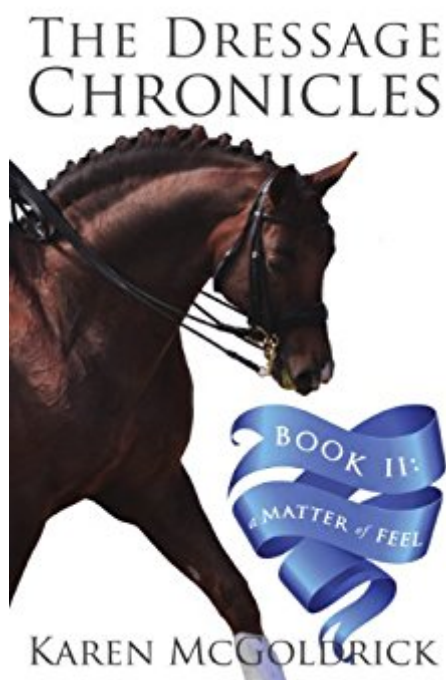


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A Matter Of Feel: Book II Of The Dressage Chronicles



Synopsis

As it is with people, so it is with horses. There is what you see on the surface, and then there is what is churning below. Lizzy's good work ethic, and a desire to learn, will take her only so far. To go beyond the books, beyond the riding lessons, she will need courage. Why? Wild Child. He is beauty coupled with power, but mean as a rattlesnake. He triggers reactions in everyone who sees him; envy; ambition; and fear. And he is her responsibility. But not her only challenge. Some rattlesnakes are two-legged. She will find some of her teachers in unlikely places she could never have imagined. She will develop that special quality known among horsemen as "feel." So the journey of The Dressage Chronicles continues. Put on your helmet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read the first book and enjoyed it a great deal. Although it wasn't the best written book I have ever read, it was so correct in the horse details that it was easy to overlook the occasionally clunky writing. Finally! A horse book for grown-ups! I purchased Book II for my Kindle. I actually had started another book before the purchase, but couldn't wait to dive in. So I put the other book aside and

started reading TDCII right away. I very much enjoyed the character of Deb, and I liked how Margot became a little more human. I think I ended up enjoying Francesca the most, though. The horse details gets five big stars. You just can't go wrong when the author is as steeped in dressage as this one is. The "realness" just shines through. And I think the writing was a little better, too. I took extreme exception to Lizzy deciding that having men around was a relief because they were so good at taking over the emotional burdens the barn full of woman had been dealing with all on their little lonesome own. Deb being acknowledging and supporting Lizzy in her grief wasn't good enough? Only Marco could make Lizzy feel less burdened? WTH? But Lizzy is young, so maybe she'll work through that. However, the book ended in such a confusing way that I just can't give it five stars. The ending made no sense at all. An incident as serious as that is swept under the rug and never becomes a criminal matter? The police never become involved? For a book to be so enjoyable because of it's authenticity to take such a turn into the implausible was a disappointment. I hope there is more to tell about these folks. I would love to hear how Ryder matures. And I want to see how Lizzy grows as a rider and competitor. Not to mention that I HAVE to know how Wild Child develops! And Fiddle.

We all waited so long for this book and Karen did not let us down. It was worth the wait and more. I loved the development of the current characters. We got to know them better, and saw sides of them that all witness as we get to know our own friends better. The new characters are wonderful and on such a different plane than the others, it gives great depth to the overall dynamic. As the horses progress their personalities and stories change too, and it's wonderful to watch the development, like you're following them in your own barn every day. The story line was perfect, it kept you going because you always were wondering what would happen next. Karen described perfectly the overall feel and culture of showing dressage at that level. It is hard, and you need to be tough to get through it. Karen is a talented rider, and those of us who follow her on facebook know that she well knows of what she writes. This is a really good book and I, for one, hope that the story does not end here. Bravo Karen!

I really enjoyed this book for all of the commentary on riding and learning about "feel" -- for me, these books really are self help wrapped in entertaining fiction. I did think the story line for this book wound up going over the top and was a bit disappointed with the ending, I actually found myself thinking about it as I was driving my car to the barn the next day.....one could argue when you keep thinking about a book it's a good one!! The writing in this book improved from book one...you can tell

as a writer that the author is finding her stride (pun intended!)

Karen McGoldrick's second book in THE DRESSAGE CHRONICLES is better than the first, but keeps the momentum going. Her characters show more depth and growth and previously one-dimensional characters develop depth. The author's understanding and empathy toward horses is evident, as is her knowledge of their emotions and body language. I look forward to more from her.

I just finished The Dressage Chronicles 11 and I truly hated to close the book and set it down. The second is better than the first. You leave behind the boyfriend that didn't work out, you lose Emma who had worked with Margot for 8 years. Sometimes one needs to let go and involve themselves fully in their own life and Margot (our hero!) saw this clearly for Emma but we readers kind of miss her I think. Instead we get Ryder, the new working student that you really want to fail. It takes almost the whole book before you see Ryder start to understand she is good, but not perfect. You meet Deb, a great new friend for Lizzy and an incredible horsewoman in her own right. Friend to Margot and once Francesca. There is a big back story here how there was a huge falling out between Deb and Francesca which will also bring in a new male interest to Lizzy. A beautiful young man named Marco who is a real horseman and helps Lizzy learn how to handle the huge new glorious stallion that Frank and Francesco buy for Margot to ride. This story, just like the first has wonderful advice streaming through the pages about how you need to "handle" horses so that you are their "safe" spot and that you are partners. Along with the work, there needs to be fun. Humans need it and horses also. One of the things I love is how Karen leads us slowly into the challenges or conflicts that you KNOW are coming. She can really build the suspense. Lizzy can be a bit irritating in her childishness.. such a worry wart but she finds ways to learn to be stronger and easier on herself. It's a slow process but seems to be getting there! :) I also noted in one of the reviews that they didn't like the way it ended. There is crime committed but no criminal investigation.. well welcome to the horse world. The man involved truly gets his comeuppance but not through the criminal justice system but I think the "punishment" was suitable. Oftentimes in the horse world, these things go unpunished. There was a huge scandal many years ago (for all I know it is still happening.. yes I would bet it is) about the killing of valuable horses for insurance money. It was huge on the East Coast but I think it got in the news because of the insurance companies. Those people ended up in the "system" but some only ended up with the proverbial "slap on the wrist" so I think how Karen handled it was a bit of a joke on the two "bad" guys, and in this case, no horses died. Now I have to

"leave" that incredible world that our lovely author created for us. I am sorry to go. What with all the real work at her Dressage Farm, I fear it will be a long while before we get to see our friends once again. I too , want to know how Wild Child fulfills the promise we have seen the start of, plus Glimmer and Regina's baby girls. How will they turn out? Will Deb and Pali ever get to be together? Can Lizzy fit Marco into her life? I sure hope Madam Mcgoldrick can find time to answer these questions!!

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