

Pegasus Reviews

Reviewed by Michelle Mills of San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group

Fiction mixes with reality in "Pegasus" (AuthorHouse, \$15) by Marilyn Holdsworth. When journalist Hannah Bradley and lawyer Winston Caughfield III rescue an injured horse, they discover a web of black-marketeering and international intrigue. The book offers mystery, adventure and romance blended with the real-life issues of animal abuse and exploitation. Holdsworth is a supporter of Horse Rescue and a contributor to Wild Horse Preservation. She lives with her husband in the Greater Los Angeles area.

Reviewed by Leigh Ballard of Mid-South Horse Review

Combine steamy romance and money with a social conscience and horses, and what do you have? You have Marilyn Holdsworth's book "Pegasus," about a ranch and a horse of the same name. When I first started reading "Pegasus," I thought it was going to be like those Harlequin bodice-ripper tales. But the story did settle down and became an interesting read.

It's the story of Hannah, a young widowed journalist with a focus on animal abuse issues, and a handsome attorney, Winston, who comes from a long line of horse people. Together they become involved with a rescued "Mustang" who turns out not to be a mustang at all.

The horse Pegasus leads them into the world of racing and unethical trainers. Eventually, the true identity of the horse is revealed, but not without danger and intrigue. Through Winston's dealings with a client, Hannah and Win are inadvertently drawn into a tangled connection with the exploitative black market of illegal horse slaughter. International travel and adventure spice up the couple's efforts to set things right and bring some unsavory characters to justice.

For a good escapist read full of romance, mystery and adventure, "Pegasus" can keep you propped up in front of the fireplace on a cold winter day. Or on a cozy porch on warm fall days

Reviewed by Dale Ann Leatherman of Discoverhorses.com

If you're a fan of romance novels as well as horse stories, you may find Marilyn Holdsworth's *Pegasus* to your liking.

Hannah, a young, attractive widow, is a journalist whose forte is exposing animal abuse. When she meets widowed attorney Winston Caulfield III, she discovers that they share much more in common than the loss of their spouses.

Win decides to help Hannah in her efforts to save wild horses from slaughter. This results in a visit to a BLM wild horse adoption center where the actions of the workers rouse the couple's suspicions. Told to return the next day to adopt several horses, they do so, only to find the office locked and the wranglers hostile and abusive to the horses they're driving off the range into pens.

Win and Hannah manage to stop the killing of one badly injured horse, load it into their trailer and haul it back to Win's ranch. This is *Pegasus*, who becomes the focus of the story.

Hannah balances her writing about puppy mills with nursing the injured horse back to health, unraveling the mystery of his identity, and finding out what's really going on at the wild horse adoption center. In the process, the relationship between her and Win deepens.

The bad guy of the tale, Vince Rossi, is predictably despicable-and the people who work for him are sniveling creatures who fear the boss's violent temper and see horses as nothing more than a way to turn a quick, illegal profit.

"I wrote the book because I am deeply concerned about the exploitation and abuse of horses," says Holdsworth, who lives with her husband in Southern California. "I wanted to make people aware and gain their support in the fight against this maltreatment."

Pegasus, paperback self-published through AuthorHouse, is available online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble for \$14.95. Also available as hardback or e-book.