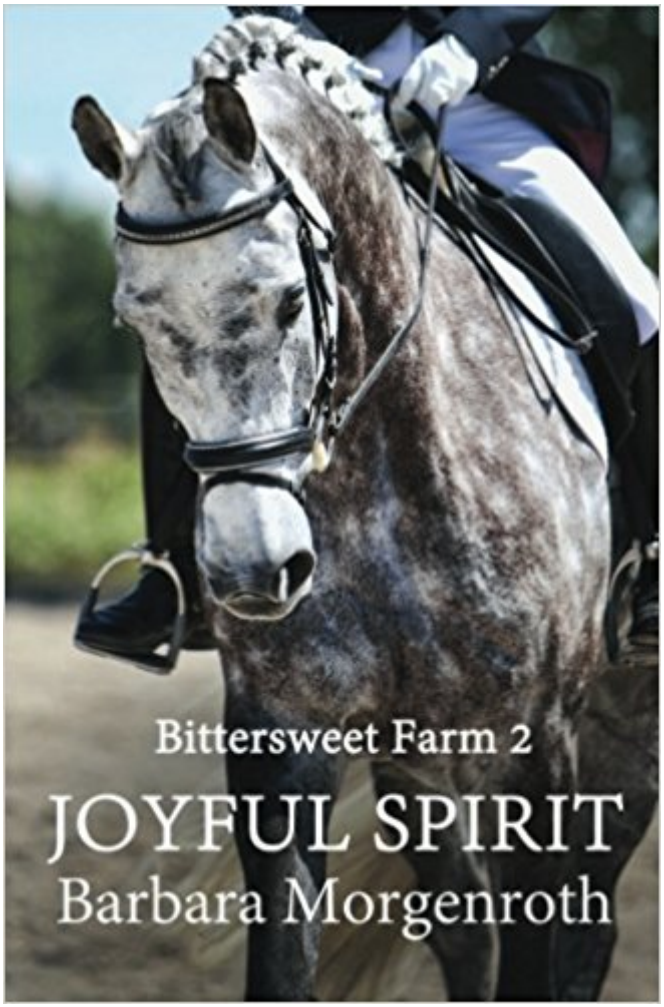
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Bittersweet Farm 2: Joyful Spirit (Volume 2)



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Synopsis

Life at Bittersweet Farm is one long challenge for Talia Margolin. Their trainer, Lockie Malone, believes she can become a dressage rider. But Talia is unconvinced, even with her talented new horse, Joyful Spirit. Her half-sister is easily switching to jumpers, her friends have unshared secrets and thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a hunter pace looming in the near future. Can life get more complicated? Yes, it can.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bittersweet Farm 6: Kyff available March 5, 2014

Barbara got her first horse, Country Squire, when she was eleven years old and considers herself lucky to have spent at least as much time on him as she did in the dirt.Ã Â Next came Yankee Doodle who was far more cooperative and patient with her.Ã Â Over the years, she showed in equitation classes, hunter classes, went on hunter paces, taught horseback riding at her stable called Sunshine Farm, and went fox hunting on an Appaloosa who would jump anything.Ã Â With her Dutch Warmblood, Barbara began eventing and again found herself on a horse with great patience and who definitely taught her everything important she knows about horses.

I've read Barbara Morgenroth's books for many years, and have loved every single one I've picked up. I love her sharp, snappy dialog and her real characters and her realistic plots - less of the "against all odds Suzie wins olympic gold at her first competition" and more about the journey, and

to some extent becoming comfortable with an unexpected path.Talia and Greer have a father with infinite money, but that doesn't make them happy nor immune to luck or fear or disappointment. In the first book, they started out as fairly common archetypes, but now they're getting some dimension and backstory that really is growing them as people. Their resident trainer Lockie is perhaps my favorite character, with his strong, perceptive character combined with a rapier wit - yet still with his own vulnerability and disappointment. He gets the best dialog, no question, with the in-house chef Jules a strong support as well.The horses have character, too.Morgenroth's horse details are always excellent and meticulous, without being tedious to the non-horse among us. Teens or adults would enjoy this novel (and the series), horse-lovers or not. The "Bittersweet Farm" label made me think it was going to be formulaic and insipid, but it's excellent. I'm sorry I stayed away from this series so long.

"Joyful Spirit" is the sequel to "Mounted" in the "Bittersweet Farm" series. We get to pick up from a rather torturous cliffhanger from the first installment and move into the next phase of the story.When I read "Mounted", I really liked Talia. She was a great character. In "Joyful Spirit", you get to see her more annoying qualities. I found myself wanting to slap her most of the time and tell her to stop nagging already. On the opposite side of the coin, you start to see that Greer has a human side after all and she really has some issues going on that are making her act the way she does. I began to feel empathy for her - a little bit. Lockie is still around and at times, it almost seems like he is a father rather than a love interest, which takes some of the enjoyment out of the story for me.A subplot of the story centers on Josh, Talia's "ex-boyfriend" who is actually gay. We are left with quite the mystery as to what is going on with Josh and I find myself growing more interested in this character.There is definitely a lot of character development in the 2nd installment of this series. Some good, some bad. There are also some fairly significant editing issues with book 2 - book 1 had the same issues, including omitted, extra, and out of order words. There was also a point where the word Chapter appeared in-between two paragraphs but there was no number to go with it. It can also be a little confusing figuring out who is saying what. I've read several books by this author and it seems to be part of the writing style.That being said, I am still enjoying the series. The plot of the story is very entertaining and the author has a talent for stopping at the moments that will force us to come back for the next book because we have to know what happens. Once again, I find myself looking forward to the next installment of the "Bittersweet Farm" series.

I am not going to reveal any of the storyline. There are plenty of reviews to cover that. I will just say

that I would have loved to be a part of Bittersweet Farm. It would be bliss to be included in a world revolving around horses, where they are treated with the love and respect that they deserve. Sport horses are not treated like an SUV and abuse is not tolerated. A place where broken families can come together for support. Barbara Morgenroth brings each character to life, including all of the horses, ponies and dogs. This series has enough thrills and spills without the gore that would cause me to cringe and skip over the all too real occurrences that are a part of today's newscasts. Tune in to your local station if you want to, I am happy to curl up with a good book by an author who knows how to bring warmth into a sometimes icy world.

A good story that shows horses have feelings.

This is an excellently written book. The author tells a story that tells about the love of horses, love of people, how education is important in one's life, family is a necessity. This is a page turner, and keeps you reading the authors' books. I recommend it for horse lovers and good family reading.

I'm sorry but this series is not making it for me. It really has very little to do with the horse named in the title. The characters are either foolish, headstrong, or just plain stupid. I'll read a few more and see if the author gets better but I don't have high hopes. I've read some really good books that actually are about the horse where the people are important but secondary. Unfortunately those books are few and far between.

The story was good and getting the horse info correct made it even better. But an editor is sorely needed.

I really enjoyed this book. The second in a series, it picks up right where the first novel ends. The characters are well done, and the different relationships with horses are well thought out.I am on book 7 now, and still enjoying.Great horse fiction for adults. Perhaps more for English than Western riders, altho there is some Western riding in a later book.

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