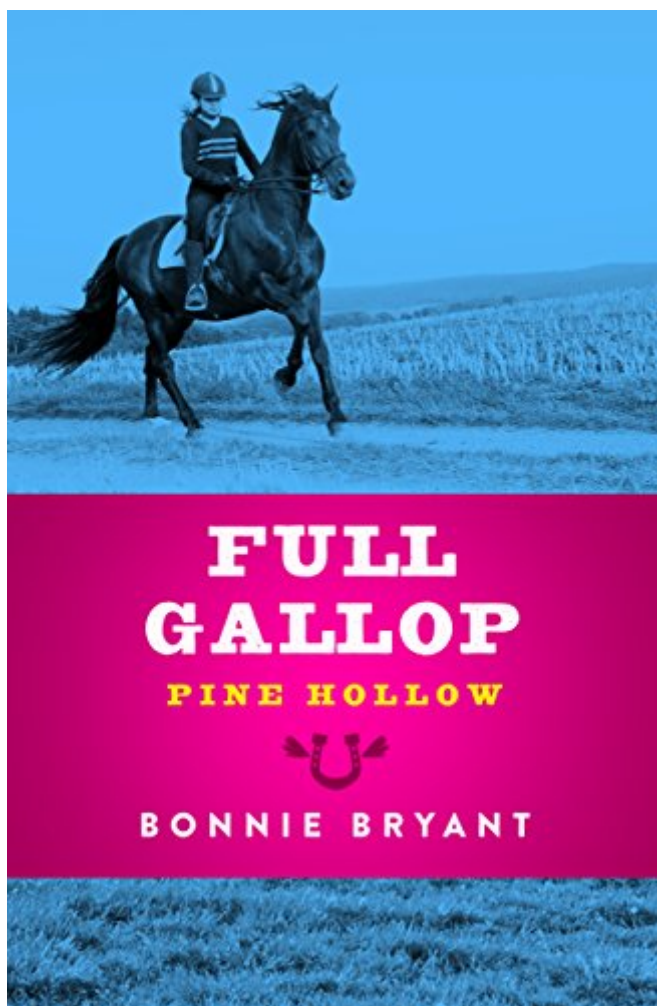


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Full Gallop (Pine Hollow Book 17)



Synopsis

Ready or not, it's time to forge ahead. Carole's making great headway with a green horse, Pine Hollow is growing, and her relationship with Ben is blooming. Everything's perfect, right? Stevie is stretching herself to the limit with her eventing, Callie doesn't have to be afraid of George anymore, and Lisa is crushing on a guy who feels the same way about her. Things finally seem to be falling into place for the Pine Hollow riders. But then, a tragic night brings a world of uncertainty. Are the girls ready to face real challenges? It's time to hit the trail at a full gallop.

Book Information

File Size: 1149 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media Teen & Tween (September 30, 2014)

Publication Date: September 30, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00NG5PIDK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #370,078 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #64

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Equestrian #242 in Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Sports #276 in Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Nature & the Natural World

Customer Reviews

Sucks Barn Burns to the ground No ending! No finding out Who Burned the barn down! At least give an ending!

This book marks the end of the Pine Hollow series. Stevie begins training for eventing. Carole and Ben make slightly more progress in the romance department, as do Lisa and Scott. Callie begins once again to enjoy Scooby after she gives George a restraining order. And there is a devastating

fire, but I won't give away the end. Some nitpicks about the horse aspect of the series. 1. With the breeds I'm familiar with, the horse receives its name at birth and it is registered under that name. That is also the show name. While the rider can nickname the horse anything he/she wants, there is no way for the rider to change the show name/registered name on the spur of the moment, as was portrayed here. 2. At most stables, different ages ride together. Age does not denote experience level. All beginners aren't in elementary school, all intermediate riders aren't in junior high, etc. In real life, people take riding lessons alongside people of different abilities (though similar). Time constraints demand this. Also all teenagers don't suddenly stop taking lessons and train their horses mostly themselves, though they may have permission to ride independently. 3. Callie is an endurance rider. Wouldn't she want a stable with a coach that specialized in the sport? In none of the books does she have a lesson with Max or anyone else, except for therapeutic riding. Is it realistic for someone at the top level of competition not to need a coach, regardless of experience? 4. People who can afford fancy gadgets and purebred horses aren't all rich snobs. Even the snobs that I've known aren't anywhere near the ones portrayed here. Nor are people who compete at the highest levels mostly rich snobs either. That's just an unfair stereotype. 5. Stevie, Lisa and Carole in a much earlier book experienced a terrifying barn fire firsthand. Stevie, especially, risked her life to save the horses. With that in mind, it makes no sense that fear of being a tattletale would keep them from alerting Max to a real problem in his barn. And if Max is around enough to give lessons and supervise the stable, wouldn't he eventually figure out that Maureen is smoking at the barn? He's not supposed to be that clueless.

Sorry peoples, but if you're looking for a nice all-ends-tied ending... this one lets you down. Things really are falling into place for the characters... Ben and Carole have, at last, admitted to their relationship and Ben is really making an effort for her. I would have liked to see a little more focus on them, but there are a few good moments. Lisa and Scott - a relationship I'm not so sure should be permanent, (Unlike Ben and Carole, they just don't seem to fit together too well) - sort things out, and if you're looking for a word on Stevie's relationship, yes, good old Phil features in this one too! Back to the important thing - horses - it's nice to see both new and old stables horses mentioned here, as well as seeing Carole's work with the new additions. I think to really enjoy the PH series, you have to accept that the old Saddle Club members just don't get to ride as much as they used to. Sad... but fitting. You do get far less free time as you 'grow up', and I think the PH portrayal of this is fairly accurate. But the ending certainly is disappointing and VERY out of character for Bonnie Bryant. I was shocked, although there were enough hints there in the book to realize what would

happen. But it truly isn't a happy ending... I would love to see these books continued. I was thrilled to find the Pine Hollow series out, being a Saddle Club fan in my younger years but now having outgrown them. Pine Hollow - while it might restrict the Saddle Club books time-line wise, is an excellent alternative for older readers and a nice change from the set pattern of children's series. I have read other's reviews saying that SC#100 might be the end to them, and to cut the Pine Hollow books off as well would be a mistake, I feel, even if only a few more - answering questions - were written. This said, fans of the series should most definitely read Full Gallop. Just don't expect it to be all flowers and lollipops, is all.

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