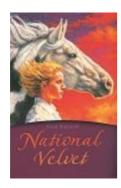
NATIONAL VELVET

A butcher's daughter in a small Sussex town ends her nightly prayers with "Oh, God, give me horses, give me horses! Let me be the best rider in England!" The answer to 14-year-old Velvet Brown's plea materializes in the form of an unwanted piebald, raffled off in a village lottery, who turns out to be adept at jumping fences--exactly the sort of horse that could win the world's most famous steeplechase, the Grand National.Richly atmospheric of rural life in England between the World Wars, National Velvet has...



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Enid Bagnold
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Peek Inside the Book

And now, finished with that puzzling mixture of insane intimacy and isolation which is notoriety, Velvet was able to get on quietly to her next adventures. Enid Bagnold, National Velvet

Reader's Opinions

Not long ago, I read Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons -- written in the 1930s and set in rural England, just like this novel. There was an illuminating introduction to that book, in which the editor explained how Gibbons was parodying a writing style and subject matter popular in that era. (If you've read any D.H. Lawrence you will...

I remember, as a kid, trying and trying to read this book. It was tough to get into. That wall of British culture that my American sensibilities could only barely breach. I desperately wanted to spend time with fictional horses. Can't recall if I finished National Velvet, or if I liked it, but I'll always enjoy way the title feels in...