

Catalog/Blurb/Ad copy

Hummer by Linda Gruenberg

[Long version]

30th Anniversary Re-Launch for *Hummer*, Past Nominee for the Mark Twain Award and Golden Sowers Award!

An uplifting coming-of-age story of grit, perseverance, and self-discovery for a young girl whose difficult home life is changed forever by a horse.

Twelve-year-old Hummer is a pigpen and her mother is crazy—at least that’s what the troubled girl’s classmates tell her. With her mother’s mental health declining, their house filled with garbage, and her father living in their barn, the young girl’s discovery of an escaped Arabian horse makes her believe the mare will take all of her troubles away. In this thirtieth anniversary second edition of *Hummer*, complete with a new cover and brand-new pencil illustrations, author Linda Gruenberg brings the inspiring story of personal triumph and self-discovery to a new audience of middle-grade readers.

Hummer is quiet, shy, and thin, but put her on a horse and she’s amazing. The young girl finds solace caring for their farm’s animals, and she dreams of a time when her mentally ill mother will do the things she used to do like bathe, leave her rocking chair and the house, or watch Hummer ride her old horse, Mike.

At school, Hummer feels ashamed and defensive about her mother’s unusual behavior and the conditions in their home. Mocked by her classmates, she makes up lies to assuage her confused emotions, telling them that her mother takes her shopping every day for new things and that her family is moving to France. Things change for Hummer one stormy night when, laying in bed, the girl hears a far away neighing. As she goes out in the dark night to investigate, Hummer comes across the most beautiful dark Arabian horse she’s ever seen.

She learns from her father that Fox, as she calls the horse, is owned by a cross and ill-natured neighbor, old man Riley. But Riley is smart enough to see the girl’s special kinship with Fox and her incredible ability to ride and master the large horse. An agreement is made and Hummer is permitted to ride Fox for Riley, who is unable to any longer, and the old man finds contentment in helping the girl train his horse.

“‘There she is now,’ Riley said. ‘Little scrawny runt of a thing, but by golly, she rides my horse like she was born to it.’ He winked at Hummer. ‘She don’t seem so small when she gets on that horse. She ain’t no ordinary kid.’”

As the unlikely friends work together to prepare for a trail ride competition, Hummer navigates her mother’s illness and her father’s absence from their house, while fearing that she will be removed from her home by protective services. As Riley increasingly becomes a gruff but kind advocate for the girl, and the two work

diligently with Fox the entire summer, Hummer learns much from the man about riding a horse, but in the process learns even more about herself.

[Medium version]

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[Short version/tagline]

The thirtieth anniversary edition! An uplifting coming-of-age story of grit, perseverance, and self-discovery for a young girl whose difficult home life is changed forever by a horse.