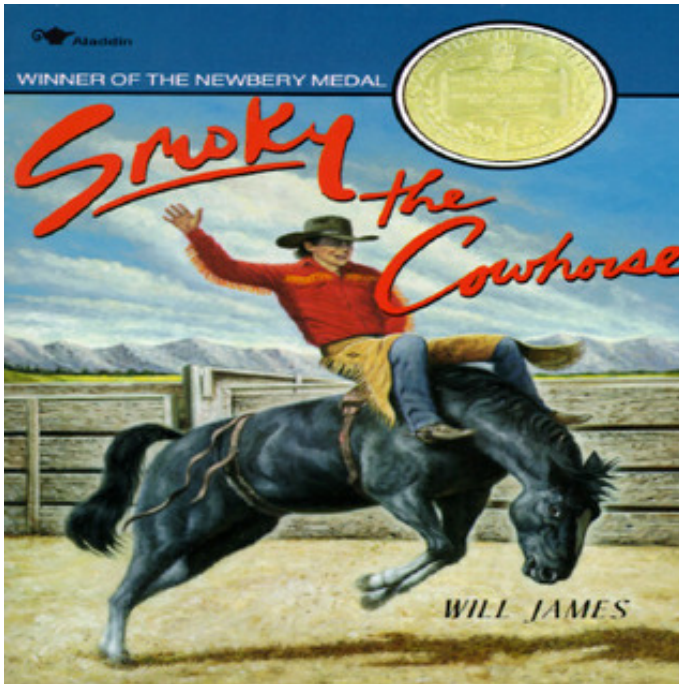

Will James

Smoky the Cow Horse



Title: Smoky the Cow Horse

Author: Will James

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Description

Smoky knows only one way of life: freedom. Living on the open range, he is free to go where he wants and do what he wants. And being a smart colt, he learns what he must in order to survive. He can beat any enemy whether it be a rattlesnake or a hungry wolf. He is as much a part of the Wild West as it is of him, and Smokey can't imagine anything else.

But then he comes across a new enemy, one that walks on two legs and makes funny sounds. Smoky can't beat this enemy like he has all the others. But does he really want to beat it? Or could giving up some of his freedom mean getting something else in return that's even more valuable?

Insightful reviews

D.C.: Believe it or not, I'm almost tempted to give this one three stars. It uses a rather clever mechanism to symbolize coming-of-age, hardening of the heart, and true love. It's like *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* with a horse. And I think it would have gotten three if there weren't far too many tediously snoozeworthy sections of equine descriptions (mostly about fights) that had me flipping the pages without reading much of what was on them. And yes, there are a couple bad racial caricatures, but this was the 1920's, and back then you were able to actually write (and read) about what you wanted without being censored according to our modern politically correct troopers. I'm certainly not defending James for his prejudice, because it's inexcusable. But I am defending the right that I believe we should still have to not censor books simply because of some incorrect depictions. But yes, towards the end this was an enjoyable read, and James' love and knowledge of horses is obviously special. Make this a top Newbery priority if equestrian interests are one of your main pursuits.

Susannah: I read this book when I was 12 and it left a very lasting impression on me. At one point in my life about 15 years ago I was in a book group and I said this book was one of my favorites. My friends, under the influence of wine, laughed. I was mortified. Later, one of them who is a really GREAT friend bought me an original copy from an antique store - which I treasure. There is actually a Will James Society in Montana, so I think I am not crazy when I say that this book contributed greatly to my childhood development of EMPATHY. Only Glenn Beck thinks empathy is a bad word. If you haven't read this book, I recommend reading it to your children, ages 10 and above because it is sad. But, like *The Yearling*, it is a classic. I re-read it to my own children in 1995 when I was going through emotional upheaval related to thyroid issues and because of that and I would end up crying while I read. Don't do this.

Lisa: I just finished this book because I'm reading all of the Newberry Honor Books thanks to Tammy's great list of them. I loved this book. It is heart-warming and exciting and funny and sweet. It's got some great life lessons in it from the perspective of a good little pony named Smoky.

Kathy: I by no means observed a mouse that was once the wealthy black colour proven at the conceal of this ebook and within the line drawings in the book. So i didn't like that Smoky used to be regularly referred to as a mouse coloured horse. I additionally didn't just like the previous cowboy grammer. i will not think any smooth baby i do know having the ability to get via this book. close to the end, while Smoky acknowledged precisely what i believe my horse on few and much among path rides is announcing approximately me, I needed to giggle and imagine that Clint, Smoky, and may James particularly did recognize what one another was once thinking.

Charles: within the motion picture Tex the trainer tells Tex, "You cannot do publication studies on Smokey The Cow Horse." He says, "But I learn it twice." I grew up in principal California. within the 3rd grade (I think) the trainer learn a couple of pages an afternoon from the book. interpreting all of it those years later was once an emotional journey Dow reminiscence lane. Farming, ranching, oil and the army have been the industrial foundation of lifestyles in my domestic town. possibly part the youngsters in my common college lived out within the state and rode the bus day-by-day to school. i am yes quite a lot of folks enjoyed the pony education elements and cried over the pony abuse. i am not convinced the trainer learn each word. the cruel stuff took up the final third. Even now 100 years later I nonetheless was once silently urging the cowboy Clint to rescue Smokey ahead of he did. i could not stand the suspense eventually and grew to become forward to determine if there has been a cheerful ending. This publication holds up amazingly good for having been first released in 1926.

Dixie Diamond: Black good looks for the cowgirl. I comprehend readers' issues re: racism and sexism. evidently i do not condone it, yet we do understand, do not we, that these attitudes are par for the direction in literature that age? Even Louisa could Alcott wrote really disparagingly of the Irish in Little Women. rather than being arrogant and judgmental in regards to the grammar (which used to be intentional, anyway) and attitudes, how approximately utilizing it as a dialogue starter approximately (well, loads of things): Racial attitudes, remedy of animals, renowned myths concerning the west . . . On its own, i have continuously suggestion this was once an attractive publication in that it matches into the slender house among the heavily-romanticized, horse-based "Old West" and the modern, mechanized "New West".

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