



# Some Kind of Courage

*Dan Gemeinhart*

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## **Some Kind of Courage** Dan Gemeinhart

Saddle up for a life-defining, death-defying adventure.

Joseph Johnson has lost just about everyone he's ever loved. He lost his pa in an accident. He lost his ma and his little sister to sickness. And now, he's lost his pony--fast, fierce, beautiful Sarah, taken away by a man who had no right to take her.

Joseph can sure enough get her back, though. The odds are stacked against him, but he isn't about to give up. He will face down deadly animals, dangerous men, and the fury of nature itself on his quest to be reunited with the only family he has left.

Because Joseph Johnson may have lost just about everything; but he hasn't lost hope. And he hasn't lost the fire in his belly that says he's getting his Sarah back--no matter what.

The critically acclaimed author of *The Honest Truth* returns with a poignant, hopeful, and action-packed story about hearts that won't be tamed...and spirits that refuse to be broken.

## **Some Kind of Courage Details**

Date : Published January 26th 2016 by Scholastic Press

ISBN :

Author : Dan Gemeinhart

Format : Kindle Edition 240 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Adventure, Young Adult, Fiction, Animals

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# **From Reader Review Some Kind of Courage for online ebook**

## **Mary says**

This is a fast paced action adventure set in the American West. Joseph has lost much in the past year, but when he also loses his horse, he is determined to get his beloved Sarah back. Gemeinhart's new middle grade novel is a hero quest and along the way Joseph must use every life lesson his parents have taught him to cope with the obstacles on his journey. He has to make some hard choices, and meets some incredible people, but with each encounter he shows strength, determination and courage. An inspiring story that will keep readers on the edge of their seat. Give this to Gary Paulsen fans looking for the next adventure.

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## **Patrick says**

Excellent, powerful, heart/warming! This story has it all. So so good. Read it!!!

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## **Colby Sharp says**

2016 is going to be a very good year for books.

I loved The Honest Truth, so I was a little worried to see what Mr. Gemeinhart had for us with book 2. He didn't disappoint. I'm beginning to think that kids today will look at Dan's work like my generation looks at Gary Paulsen's.

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## **Kelsi says**

God, this book. \*Wipes tear\*

This is the story of a boy named Joseph, a boy who's lost everything. His mother, his sister, his father, and now his beloved horse, who's all he has left. But, unlike his family, he can get her back.

With surprising grit and determination, Joseph sets out after her, along with a Chinese boy with his own mission, these two trek countless miles through the wilderness, facing bears, Indians, and dangerous men, all trying to find the only thing that will complete their hearts: family.

Told in Joseph's voice that's real to the time, these is an adventure of epic proportions that will have readers turning the pages until the end.

I really enjoyed this story. Joseph's grief felt real to me, and I can definitely understand how much his horse means to him. I own horses myself, and I'd do the very same thing if someone took my girl away.

This author has talent. Not only is he able to describe the location brilliantly, he also knows how to make the

reader feel exactly what the characters were feeling. I could feel Joseph's desperation to get his horse back, his anger at the men who took her, his angst at another disappointment, it was all very real. Not only could I feel what Joseph was feeling, but also Ah-Kee.

This story will keep you guessing. With twists and turns that you didn't see coming, you won't be able to turn the pages fast enough.

Above all that I find great about this story, is it's memorable. If you follow my reviews, you'll notice me mentioning about this. For me, the biggest thing for me about a book is it being memorable. That I will remember the characters long after I've read the book, and it'll make me want to come back to it.

You will never forget this story and its characters, I can guarantee that.

All in all, amazing book that will definitely be reread for the years to come!

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### **Samantha says**

The plot of the book is fine. I can see a lot of kids relating to the adventure, of a boy who has lost everything going after the one thing he has left.

I am left uncomfortable by the multicultural aspects of this book. I think that, at this point in time, if you are in children's literature and just going to use the term "Indian" without naming a tribe, then you're not doing enough. There is enough backlash and blogs to let you know that's not cool. If it had just been the pony, I think I would have been fine. However, I am skeptical that he wouldn't know a tribal name. Ah-Kee also left me uneasy, but I would be willing to concede that point if someone familiar with Chinese-Americans said it was fine.

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### **Mary Lee says**

Don't tell my students that I finished this book ahead of our read aloud schedule. But it's a good thing I did. If you needed tissues for *The Honest Truth*, get two packs for this one. I'm sure I'll still cry reading aloud the last few chapters, but at least I might be able to do it without sobbing now.

Reading this book aloud right after finishing *The Honest Truth* has been magical. My students have made so many comparisons between the two books, and you should have heard the collective gasp when we came across the title of the book in the story.

Dan Gemeinhart is a master of suspense woven with Truth woven with humor. I'm hoping he has lots more books waiting in his heart and mind.

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### **Leni says**

6/5 \*

I just loved it! Even more than "*The Honest Truth*".

Had to go cuddle my horse after finishing <3

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### **Kim says**

4 stars from my 9 year old son and myself. We completely enjoyed reading this adventure filled book together. The main character, Joseph, is a determined boy with excellent values. The best part for me was how my son fully recognized Joseph's admirable qualities and we had a great post-read conversation together.

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### **Joyce Yattoni says**

Okay, I know I should have been grading, but when you begin a Dan Gemeinhart book, it is really difficult to put down. This book is for anyone who has a closeness to an animal/pet that can't be explained, but especially for kids who have grown up with horses. This book is also for the Hatchet fans and Alabama Moon readers. I also see my dormant readers enjoying this story. What's not to like? Set in 1890 at the end of the Westward Expansion Joseph has lost everything. His Dad from a wagon accident and his Mom and sister die from Typhoid. His horse is unexpectedly sold. As a result he sets out to find her. This is a story of family bonds, empathy, knowing right from wrong and being a positive influence in a society that is just learning how to be civil with one another. Along the way the reader will be astounded by the maturity Joseph shows in getting out of some pretty scary predicaments as he trails his horse through the Cascade Mountains. Through this story the reader will learn what it means to respect and honor people of all walks of life. Especially important today when society is quick to condemn people who are different. Highly, highly recommend.

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### **Kendall 2/3 says**

I did not like this because it dragged on for such a long time that I had no interest. I did not care what happened to the characters at all, I thought there was something unlikable about pretty much all of them. Some of the plot literally had no point and it just made me frustrated that the book was STILL going on. The main character, Joseph, was trying to get his horse Sarah back after it was sold but it kept just getting passed from person to person and he kept chasing it for SO LONG. I'm pretty sure that they could have cut out a hundred pages and it would still be boring. The ending was TOO perfect. It was not realistic, because after what happened I think it should not have turned out that way.

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### **Kristen says**

I loved The Honest Truth, but I wasn't super excited for this one because the two genres it falls under (historical and adventure) are not usually ones that I gravitate to. I thought I would try the audio version and am glad I did--it was great.

The story is full of non-stop action and lots of emotion. Even if I wasn't 7 months pregnant I would have been reaching for the tissues (I recommend you keep some nearby). Joseph meets so many interesting

characters on his journey to find his only remaining family member--his horse, Sarah--and there's a theme of what exactly things like "home" and "family" mean. It reads a little outlandish at times, and can also get a bit cheesy, but for me the strengths definitely outweighed any shortcomings.

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### **Jesse (JesseTheReader) says**

**full video review/discussion:** <https://youtu.be/qNcFqwlxp1A>

This was great! I do think that I liked Dan's first book a bit more, but I still really enjoyed this book. The one negative thing that I can pin point is that this book seems to follow a similar story structure to his first book, *The Honest Truth*. Both stories are about boys who go on a journey facing big obstacles along the way. I didn't really mind that though, because while they follow similar story structures, this one had nice twists and turns along the way. This book goes into some really dark and violent places and that was completely unexpected, but I'm glad it went in the direction that it did. Overall I really enjoyed this and can't wait to see what's next for Dan Gemeinhart!

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### **KC says**

Set in 1890 Washington, 12 year old Joseph Johnson has nearly lost everything. His mother and sister to typhoid and his pa to an unexpected wagon accident. He still has his horse, Sarah, until one day he returns to his caregivers home only to find that his pony was sold. This is the epic tale of Joseph's pursuit in finding and getting Sarah back. Having to forge his way through the rough terrain of the Cascade Mountains, facing harsh weather and the dangers of others, the kindness of a Chinese boy Ah-kee, and the unstoppable love he has for his horse. For those who are fond of Gary Paulson, you will certainly enjoy this saga. This is one not to be missed.

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### **Vicki says**

Wow! I can't believe I loved this middle school book designed for 8-12 year old children so much! I chose this book because I love the cover and I needed a book with a title that didn't go horizontal for a challenge. As soon as I finished it I purchased it for my two granddaughters, ages 9 and 14...siblings. The 14 year old takes horseback riding lessons and works for her lessons every Saturday. I know they will both connect, even though the book is designed more for my 9 year old.

The story follows an orphan named Joseph whose horse was sold by the man who is now supposed to be taking care of him, and Joseph sets out on a journey to find "[his] Sarah," no matter what it takes. He would/and did go to the ends of the earth to try finding her. I am an emotional basket-case right now because this story completely tore at my heart over and over and over again.

This is in *True Grit* style, I guess you could say. It's during the day of cowboy and Indians. And Joseph took off on his own with nothing but a gun really, not even a horse. He didn't care because he was after the ONE thing he had: his Sarah. Along the way he found an unlikely friend, encountered a Grizzly (and what an exciting scene), horse race competitions, white waters, killing, and just a book that will tug at your heartstrings. I don't care that it is easy to read, uncomplicated, geared toward a younger audience, it is an

amazing book with a story that will stay with you a very, very long time, if not forever (as I believe it will with me)!

Mr. Gemeinhart, if you ever read this review I just want to say THANK YOU for a book/story that has real meaning to it. It's truly quality throughout! Wow! I just followed you on Amazon. LOL Thank you so much for writing this. I can't wait for my granddaughters to read it.

**Recommendation:** PLEASE! Read this book and share it!!! I'm a grandmother and recently retired school teacher, and I am going to make sure my ex-colleagues know about this book, even though I taught high school. This would be a good book for reluctant readers of ANY age. Young and old(er)!

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### **Michelle Glatt says**

Things I am not a huge fan of:

Horse books

Historical fiction

Thing I am a huge fan of: this beautiful heartprint book that is, as the author says, mostly about family but is certainly a historical fiction book and a horse book.

I cheered Joseph on through his journey, gasped when he was in peril, and smiled when he was helped by or gave help to someone else.

Excellent middle grade literature.

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