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Bio:

Terri Farley is a cowgirl at heart and the author of best-selling books that delight readers in 28 countries.

Growing up in Los Angeles, California didn't keep Farley from saving her allowance for rides at urban stables where she fell further in love with horses she'd only admired in books.

After college, Farley taught remedial reading in an inner-city high school where she learned animal stories could touch even the most shielded hearts. This discovery made her determined to create such works, herself.

Farley's PHANTOM STALLION series is set in today's Nevada. WILD HORSE ISLAND takes place on a fictional Hawaiian Island and tells tales of modern-day paniolos. SEVEN TEARS INTO THE SEA weaves the north coast of contemporary California with ancient Celtic legends of the selkie.

It was nominated as an American Library Association best book for young readers.

Farley was recently honored by the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame for fact-based fiction that is equal parts investigation and imagination.

Farley doesn't mind getting her hands dirty. She has ridden across the Nevada desert in a Pony Express reenactment, spent ten days in the saddle for a Nevada-California cattle drive, and job-shadowed Hawaiian paniolos. As an Earthwatch volunteer, she hiked the sand dunes and swales of an uninhabited island off the North Carolina coast, studying wild horse herd behavior. As a Marine Mammal Institute volunteer, she coaxed an orphaned sea lion to take her first bottle.

Farley has studied wild horses on the Nevada range and acted as a humane observer during Federal helicopter round-ups. She makes frequent visits to determine the condition of corralled wild horses. In March 2010 she broke the

story that captive mustang foals' births and deaths were routinely undocumented by the Bureau of Land Management.

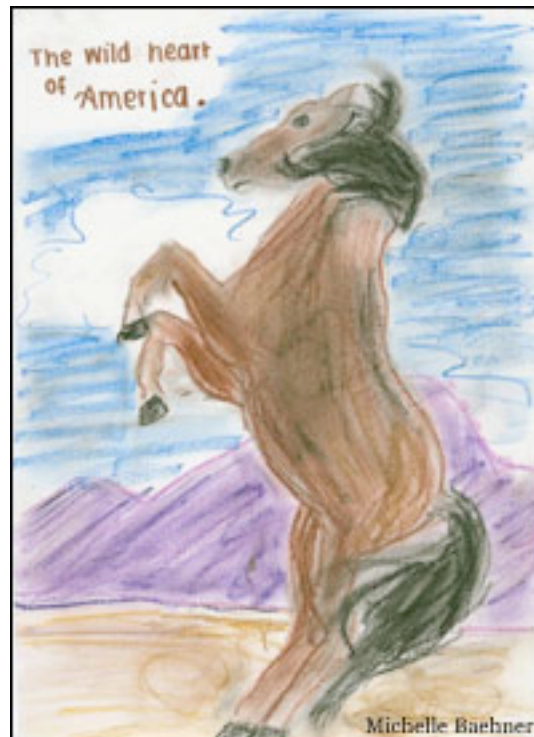
As a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Department of the Interior, Farley asked for a court order to halt the BLM's round-up of 1,800 legendary Calico Mountain mustangs, the models for her PHANTOM STALLION herds. Because the Federal court did not hear the case until after the round-up was completed, the case was declared moot, but Farley rescued two Calico Mountain mares, Ghost Dancer and Sage who now roam 5,000 fenced acres.

A graduate of San Jose State University, Farley earned a B.A. and Secondary teaching credential in English, and a Master's degree in Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. "Cry Havoc!" explores press freedom inside Japanese-American internment camps. Farley holds memberships in the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association. She is a mentor for the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators. She loves making author visits K-12, and presenting workshops for teachers, writers and librarians.

Farley's "Authoring Change" campaign focuses on literacy, equine-assisted therapy, humane and humanitarian organizations. Her efforts have benefited the KIPP Academy of New Orleans West to replace books lost to Hurricane Katrina, Committee to Aid Abused Women (her books stock "go bags" for children), 826 Valencia: The Writing Center, San Francisco, Horses for the Spirit, serving at risk teenagers, Hearts & Horses, equine-assisted physical therapy, the Humane Society of the United States (D.C. lobbying, presentations, etc.), Nevada Humane Society, Wild Horse Sanctuary of California, Let 'em Run, Return to Freedom and many more. All Farley's library presentations are done free of charge or as fund-raisers to thank a system which led her to work she loves. #

CLIPS

International 'Hearts for Horses' Campaign



Authoring Change for Wild Horses and the Readers Who Love Them, author Terri Farley partners up with The Cloud Foundation to launch the International 'Hearts for Horses' campaign!

When government helicopters stampeded the last wild horses out of the snowy Calico Mountains into traps outside of the public's view, Terri Farley, author of HarperCollins' best-selling PHANTOM STALLION series based on the Calico mustangs, decided to take action.

Read more:

<http://www.blendradioandtv.com/Wildhorses/Hearts-for-Horses.htm>

Wild horses: management or stampede to extinction?

By Frank X. Mullen Jr. fmullen@rgj.com March 23, 2010

I've been to other roundups, but (the Calico area roundup) was the most like an assembly line I've seen," said Terri Farley, a Reno author who is a plaintiff in a suit to stop the roundups that will be heard in federal court April 30. "Herd after herd was driven in ... it was stampede to extinction."

Read more at this Gannett newspaper:

<http://www.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201003230600/NEWS/3210359>

“Dances with Wolves” and “Phantom Stallion” Authors Speak Out Against Wild Horse Roundups



Writers ask public to write Obama to request immediate moratorium

San Francisco, CA (December 30, 2009)—In a special press conference Michael Blake, Academy Award-winning author of *Dances with Wolves* and Terri Farley, author of the popular *Phantom Stallion* book series, join together at 5 P.M. in the Rex Roth Room at Hotel Rex, 562 Sutter Street in San Francisco to protest the dead-of-winter roundups of wild horses on Nevada’s Calico Range.

Read more:

<http://reachouttohorses.wordpress.com/2009/12/30/dances-with-wolves-and-phantom-stallion%E2%80%9D-authors-speak-out-against-wild-horse-roundups/>



REVIEWS

SEVEN TEARS INTO THE SEA

From School Library Journal

Gwen, 17, has returned to a small beach community seven years after the scandal that forced her family to flee. Now she's spending the summer working at her grandmother's inn and hoping to put the past behind her . . . but she meets Jesse, a boy who claims he already knows her, and knows what happened all those years ago . . . Gwen realizes that he has secrets he isn't telling her. Her grandmother's tales of selkies foreshadow what is to come, and readers will probably guess the outcome long before Gwen does. If they can get past the sentimental title that belies the real story, the romance and mystery will keep them reading until the very end. Expect this to be popular where retold myths and fairy tales are in demand. – *Ginny Collier*

From Booklist

American Library Association

Gr. 7-10. Unlike Farley's middle-grade Phantom Stallion series, her first YA novel is not equestrian in theme. Her focus, however, is still on a transcendent bond between a girl and an animal—in this case a sea lion selkie . . . Gwen, 17, finds herself immersed in a modern, California version of a Scottish selkie myth . . . she accepts his alien qualities along with the tragic knowledge that their time together is fleeting . . . Gwen's convincing, contemporary voice, by turns resolutely practical and head-over-heels for a guy who "kisses like an ocean god," will draw many teens into one of folklore's lesser-known beauty-and-the-beast romances. *Jennifer Mattson*

THE PHANTOM STALLION SERIES

From BookBarn

Prose as Pungent as the Sage

Phantom Stallion I: The Wild One and Wild Horse Island I: The Horse Charmer
By Terri Farley

Former journalist and "cowgirl at heart" Terri Farley is renowned for her vastly popular 24-volume series *The Phantom Stallion*, in which she lives the childhood she wishes she'd had through her heroine Samantha, a 13-year-old, horse crazy, high desert ranch rat. *Wild Horse Island*, a second series with its eighth and ninth volumes due out later this year, moves from northern Nevada to an invented Hawaiian locale. Here the protagonist is Darby, a transplanted city girl who has always dreamed of horses but never mounted one. Farley, recommends both series for nine- to 12-year-old readers. It's easy to understand the appeal of these books. Rich in sensory detail, Farley's pared-down prose is as pungent as the sage: "He walked with the stiff grace of a man who'd ridden all his life." "The horses

surrounded her...She breathed in the grass and leather sweetness of them.”

Adventure and suspense propel her classic plotting at a breakneck pace. Sam is returning to the family ranch in Nevada after two years recuperating from a serious riding accident, from which her mustang mount fled back to the desert hills. She’s repeatedly visited by a majestic, mysterious wild stallion who seems to share a bond with her. Precocious asthmatic city girl Darby is sent to her grandfather’s ranch in Hawaii, where all her horse dreams will come true if only she can find the courage. Complete with an old-fashioned cattle drive, the first *Phantom Stallion* book feels like a vintage western, except that the good guy is a girl and nobody’s wearing a sixgun. *Wild Horse Island* entices through exotic locations and cultural enlightenment: paniolo, the Hawaiian word for cowboy/cowgirl, derives from Hispaniola, whose vaqueros brought horsecraft to the islands. Both books explore the complex, deeply nuanced relationship between horse and rider.

Much is asked of Sam and Darby; they are never coddled but constantly challenged through the rigors of ranch life, and even more by the adult responsibility they’re expected to assume, especially responsibility for the consequences of their choices. The two girls share a sixth sense, a psychic bond with certain horses, a near-telepathic intuition that transcends species.

Farley simply becomes her characters. Any imaginative reader, regardless of age and gender, will be transported; haunted by a “silver dragon horse, spun of moonbeams and magic”; exhausted after nine hours in the saddle; heartsick at the plight of a favorite horse after a long sea journey: “Starvation and dirtiness could be cured, but those eyes shimmered with madness.”

One serious warning applies to giving these books to your daughter. Be sure to prepare in advance a response to the inevitable request: “Mom, can we get a mustang?”

Roving critic Gary Meyer is retired from an information technology career. Gary lives with his wife and three cats.

Visit my websites

[Terri Farley](#) -- read Terri's blog, watch the YouTube video of interview Terri and the real Phantom Stallion, and learn about SEVEN TEARS INTO THE SEA

[The Phantom Stallion](#) -- newsletter (2500 + readers) and more

Visit Terri on [Facebook](#) & [MySpace](#)