



## The Auditions

*Stacy Gregg*

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Competition is fierce at the All-Stars Academy – can the new girl outshine her rivals?

The Blainford ‘All-Stars’ Academy is the most elite horse riding school ever and it’s auditions time for next year’s new students!

The hopefuls must battle for a place against the most talented riders from around the world. Friendships are quickly made, but with rivalries hotting up inside AND outside the arena, who will stay focused and outshine the competition?

With all the glitz and glamour of international eventing and the daily dramas of high school life, ‘Pony Club Rivals’ is a sure-fire hit!

## **The Auditions Details**

Date : Published July 8th 2010 by HarperCollins (first published April 1st 2010)

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Author : Stacy Gregg

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## From Reader Review The Auditions for online ebook

### **Kerith says**

Got a good giggle out of reading this. I'd have loved it back when I was 12 or so. You've got eighth graders who ride at Olympic levels, which is a little out there, never mind the fact that there is no mention of the actual Pony Club. Still, the thought of a boarding school at which all kinds of riders converge is pretty cool. Too bad there always has to be the "mean girl" theme going on.

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### **Abbey Vincent says**

I enjoyed this book because of the content about horses and the way that the author, Stacy Gregg made me want to keep reading. The main character, Georgie wants to get into "The Blainford 'All-Stars' Academy" which is the most protege horseback-riding school. The Auditions included different styles of riding and it had a unique perspective. Stacy Gregg made it easy to connect to the main character, if you have ever ridden horses or have been around them. Personally, I would recommend this book if you like horses and you enjoy reading from different perspectives. If you liked the Saddle Club series by Bonnie Bryant or The Eighty-Dollar Champion by Elizabeth Letts I thin that you would like this book.

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### **Kiwises says**

It was a great book! When Georgie is at the auditions it is so nerve racking even though you are just reading the book, especially at the cross-country because she has a perfect time at the start but when Tyro takes the water jump at the wrong stride Georgie knows she is in trouble! At the showjumping she has huge competition as Daisy King is in too and when Tara gives everyone else a 4 or a 5, Daisy King got an 8 so Georgie has to beat her but after Tara gives Georgie a 9 Georgie she know she has good luck. Though at home she doesn't have as much luck, if Georgie wants to go to her dream, Blanfoird Academy she has to sell Tyro! What will she do? Read more to find out. I would recommend this book to any girls/boys who are horse crazy between the ages of 8-13!

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### **Mehsi says**

Yep, another series about horses. :) Ever since I found out Canterwood Crest I have been looking around for similar series.

The first part of the book is about the auditions, about our MC fighting for a place in the famous Blainford academy. There are various rounds, and various things that happen. I did love the auditions, but I felt the way time passed was a bit jarring. The auditions take place over several weeks/months, however it all feels like it is just a week of auditions. The school part (which takes place after the auditions) felt better paced, but even there I have to say that there were enough parts that felt hurried, rushed. One moment it is one week, then it is suddenly the next. While there is a mention of time passing, it still felt jarring. It also makes me worried about the other books, will these also run through time at times? Or will it just take it easier?

The auditions were really fun, and I also loved the character we met there. I do hope we will see more of her soon. The auditions were also really exciting, with several harrowing things happening. Walls that need to be jumped over fall over, parents being way to overprotective (really, that woman was just so annoying, finding faults in everything but herself or her daughter). Even though one knows that our MC is going through/will win (because there are 3 other books about her) it was still really exciting and I was rooting for her.

I was also sad for her for what happened after the auditions, but I think she handled it really maturely, I am sure her friend will take care of that, and I am sure she will also send enough photographs and updates. :)

There was something that happened around the audition time that I found odd. Georgie's mom did put money aside for the school, however she didn't do that for something else that was really important? Did she do it on purpose (to teach her daughter a wise lesson), or did what happen to her cause her to not be able to fund everything in time? It is something we probably will never find out, though I would love to know.

The Blainford school was a fun one, though I found it a bit weird that they would teach both German and French. Don't get me wrong, it is normal to do that in my country (with the addition of English and of course Dutch), but it seems odd that they do that in a US school. I know that there are a lot of international people there, but it is the first time that I read about a boarding school in the US also teaching German. Normally it is just French.

The other lessons were also fun, and I had a small laugh at the fact that our MC finds out the harsh way that such a school is not just fun and play, but also focusses a lot on academic. Which means she will have to work hard if she wants to succeed.

I am also delighted with the addition of boys, and also the romance was really fun and cute. I can't wait to see how that will continue in the next books.

Of course, as expected, we have the mean girl trope. This time we have 2 mean girls. Kennedy and Daisy. I am not entirely sure who I dislike more, for now it seems to be a tie. Kennedy is just a rich girl who thinks she is better, and Daisy... well is Daisy, she is super competitive and while that isn't that bad on itself, the way Daisy thinks she is so superior is just bleh.

But I am used to it by now, it seems horse books just need to have mean girls in them. I did hear from an author (of another horse book) that it seems this is also happening in real life in stables. So I can imagine why it is added. Still, it is a trope I would rather not see used that much.

Of course this being a horse book, there is a lot of horse stuff, and also various kinds. Unlike others this one shows us a lot of sides to horse riding. Not only riding, but also caring for your horse, western style riding, and many more. I loved that this was added, it really gave the book extra dimension, and I just can't wait until the next book and see what we will get then.

Tara was also a surprise. Sure, through her POV (yes, she also has some parts) you could see she is pretty nice, but the way she acts is quite the opposite. I can imagine why though, because as you read the book you can see why she acting like this. Still I wouldn't mind seeing more of Tara's kinder side.

All in all, this book was wonderful, and I also bought book 2, which I hope will be delivered soon. I would recommend this book to everyone looking for a fun horse book, or looking for a boarding school story (even if it doesn't start until quite a bit in the book).

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com>

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## **Joanna says**

A good read

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## **Emy says**

I found this book very cool! Georgie suffered lots of lows to get to Blainford, but she managed to get there after coming across a second chance in another audition, after failing her first one. I can't wait to read the other three books in the series and I would recommend this to girls that are 9+

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## **Samantha Martin says**

I have read all of Stacy Gregg's stories and they are SO good this has to be one of my favourites

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## **Theresa says**

This exists in many ways in the same space as the Canterwood Crest series, but is basically superior in every way. While all the old tropes are there, and some of the ones which have only cropped up relatively recently, it's all done with a touch more writing finesse and a lot more equestrian knowledge. Once you've accepted that, yes, you are reading a book about thirteen-year-olds who ride better than some competitors at the Olympics and who all attend an inexplicably amazing boarding school which caters to literally every discipline ever invented, it's all good. The characterisation goes a little (only a little) deeper than "loves lipgloss" vs "does not love lipgloss" and Georgie is a likeable protagonist. When she overreacts like crazy it seems believable for her age, background and present circumstance, not like a narrative convenience. The polo scenes were tiring but overall this is a good book for this genre and target audience.

I did find it amusing that the cover is a grey horse showjumping against a sparkly background. Georgie is an eventer on black or bay horses and there is a line where her father buys her books and she knows she won't like them just by looking at the sparkly covers.

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## **Molly says**

brilliant book, couldn't put it down

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## **Abby says**

This is my favorite out of the series!

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**Khadeejah says**

simply A.M.A.Z.I.N.G!!!

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**Victoria says**

Really good and recommend it to every child in the world who loves horses :D

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**Jenn says**

Cute :) Even though I'm 3x the target age, I love this series! The horsey stuff is well done.

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**Brittney says**

Seriously...I'm in love with The Pony Club Rivals Series!! The characters were funny and touching and dramatic. And, the constant action kept me wanting more! I couldn't stop reading as there was not one slow moment in this book!

The author captured each riding discipline's characters perfectly...the horsie- stereotypes cracked me up! I can't wait to see what happens in the rest of this series!

If you enjoy Equine-Fiction, check out my "Horse-Books" Review Blog at:  
<http://brittneyjoybooks.sqsp.com/jour...>

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**Tamar says**

A great read for all horse lovers. I read through it almost without stopping and I liked the fact that there was some real feeling in the book; many books are all action and no heart. I like most of the characters, but I don't like the way the characters are divided into groups, even though in many schools this really does happen.

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