



## False Gods

*L.R. Trovillion*

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They say there's no harm in trying. Or is there? Cory Iverson has her sights set on riding in the prestigious Washington International Horse Show—a tall order for even the most experienced competitors. Problem is, she doesn't even own a horse. But there's an even bigger problem: she's a quitter. Not a casual quitter, but a hard-core, serial, when-the-going-gets-tough quitter. This all starts to change, however, when the opportunity arises to rescue the perfect horse from slaughter and work with an experienced trainer who has the means to get her there. If she stays the course. But Cory discovers the road to qualifying for Washington is littered with roadblocks when she finds herself surrounded by problems outside her control: prescription painkillers appear in her mother's purse; her ballerina sister wastes away before her eyes; her boyfriend is keeping secrets from her; and her normally opinionated trainer becomes strangely evasive. Worst of all, the horse show world proves to be full of dangers, including an unscrupulous trainer headed for the same show who will stop at nothing to win, including killing. Unless Cory quits.

## False Gods Details

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Author : L.R. Trovillion

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## From Reader Review False Gods for online ebook

### Nancy Silk says

#### "Learning To Never Give Up"

This is a wonderful story about Cory Iverson. She's a junior in high school and has experienced being shunned and bullied. She feels unworthy and a loser. That is until she follows her dog to the barn of a former Grand Prix rider. Taking a part time job at the stable, her enthusiasm rekindles and she becomes more self confident, especially when she helps to save a horse from an auction, and learning the horse has unbelievable talents. There's lots of suspense here and I loved the well written story which brought back memories of my past horse riding experiences. Highly recommend.

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### Belinda-Jane Thurman says

#### False start

I chose four stars because I was a bit frustrated with the storyline.

The characters, were not really believable, none of them jumped off the page and grabbed me. Maybe I can get more from the next book.

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### Carmel Ann Sperti says

#### Who is the god you worship?

This is a superbly thought-out and well-crafted novel. While there are many good, literate equestrian novelists around, Trovillion is head and shoulders above them. Her mature and healthy philosophy, wrapped in a strong plot with well-developed characters is a great read, and not just for adolescents. The real-life questions are pertinent to anyone who listens to discern his or her true calling and sift through the deep and petty desires of life. I look forward to the next book!

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### Indiebrag says

We are proud to announce that FALSE GODS by L.R. Trovillion is a B.R.A.G. Medallion Honoree. This tells a reader that this book is well worth their time and money!

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### Malvika says

I received the book through the Goodreads Giveaway.

I loved the book from the very first page, and found that I could associate with not only the protagonist, Cory, but with other characters in the story as well. *False Gods* follows the story of 16 year old Cory who has to move from Massachusetts with her mother Roni and sister Jessica when her parents split up. She finds it hard to adjust, encountering bullies, mean teachers, a pill-popping mother (and her pedophile boyfriend), a father who is more interested in his new family and a talented but bulimic sister. Her problem, as she admits to herself a number of times, is that she tends to quit whenever the going gets tough.

When her dog Hershey runs off to a horse farm, she meets Jack and the owner Vee and rediscovers her love for Horse-showing and decides to work at the farm. What started off as a way to pay for her Clarinet lessons, became her escape from all the family drama. Things appear to be moving smoothly when someone from Vee's past shows up at the farm and as the story unravels, we realise that there is more to Vee than what is let on.

As the story progresses, Cory is faced with a number of tough decisions and feels the urge to quit-more than once. But with the support she gets from Vee, Jack, her boyfriend Kevyn (Kevyn with a y who doesn't want to leave his mother who is battling MS to go to Harvard) and Ms.J the guidance counselor, she finds herself gaining confidence and the will to fight.

The story pulls you in from the very beginning and keeps you engrossed until the very end. A number of quotes in the book inspired me, my most favorite being- 'Doing nothing is the same as quitting' and 'I quit confidently, without regrets, without second thoughts and without shame. You quit when it's a choice, not when you're afraid'.

A beautifully written novel, the story has inspired me to not give up and believe in myself.

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### **Ellen Broadhurst says**

Basically a solid premise for a novel, fell short on the editing. The general notion of a teen overcoming a propensity to "quit" is a great idea. The characters in the story were in generally believable, if a touch formulaic, but the major plot turning points were too unrealistic to hold my attention as an adult reader.

Finding a super bred horse at auction? It happens, but turning said horse into what was variously described as an Open Jumper, a Children's Jumper or Grand Prix horse (three distinctly different things) in a matter of months? Not reasonable. Turning a kid who rode hunters in lessons into someone who qualified at Indoors in some jumper format? Not at all realistic.

The villainy of Angela also fell flat for me; bad guys don't have to be so one dimensional any more. Young adults are discerning enough to understand that "bad" and "good" aren't discrete, but are on a spectrum. Writing a character who has no redeeming characteristics results in a cardboard caricature.

So, not terrible, but, I have a hard time imaging what audience I would recommend this to.

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### **Lesley says**

I received False Gods through Good Reads First read Giveaway and found it an easy read and inspiring book. I am from a rural back ground and the story line appealed so was delighted to be a chosen winner of this book. It has good themes throughout the novel portraying hardship, loss ,illness ,friendship, desire and forgiveness. The inclusion of Cory's diary entries written in italics was a nice touch. I love cover design and the print in the book was of good size which made it an easy read. The book will appeal to all ages from young adult and I will look for other titles by the author L R Trovillion.

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### **Y.I. Lee says**

This was very good. Apart from a few editing issues it is well written, with good believable characters. The sequences in the show ring were so descriptive I felt as though I was riding over jumps again; excellent. A great story and one I can wholeheartedly recommend.

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### **Valerie Ormond says**

The action never stops in L.R. Trovillion's "False Gods." Just when a reader thinks teenage Cory overcomes a significant obstacle, another stands in her way. Dad left Mom; Mom moves to a new place; Cory must adjust; and nothing makes it easy. "False Gods" is the story of a self-admitted quitter who grows with each new challenge. Cory suffers setbacks, but readers can enjoy watching her strengthen from each mistake. Trovillion creates memorable and believable characters and leaves enough to the reader's imagination about each of them to keep it interesting. The description of the horse auction provides a realistic setting most people would not like to experience in person, but can through this book. "False Gods" is an outstanding book with many twists and turns, and I highly recommend it for not only horse lovers, but anyone looking for a good read.

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### **Melanie Dickerson says**

#### **Knowledgeable about horses**

The book was geared to teenagers at first but became enjoyable for adults. Riding sequences were realistic. I could tell it's been many a year since I attended high school, a lot was different, but a lot was the same too. All in all an enjoyable read

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### **Lauren says**

This was a fantastic book and I highly recommend it. I'll admit that I wasn't sure I'd like it before I started

reading it because I'm not that big of a fan of horses. However, I was invested in the main character, Cory's, story from the first page and couldn't put it down. The author introduced me to a world I'm not familiar with and I found myself totally entranced by the world of horse showing! There was so much more to the story than horses though. Because of Cory's low self confidence and heartbreaking situation, she continually quits everything she begins, which is a theme that everyone can relate to in some way. I was so impressed by this book, its underlying themes, and the uplifting story. I can't wait to read it again!

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### **Zoe Ann says**

Masterfully written coming-of-age mystery who's main character, Cory, finds herself & her confidence (which is sorely lacking) through solving a mystery while working with horses. This book is also part social commentary that addressing some of the issues that teens face today. Trovillion weaves these in beautifully, without distracting from the central plot. The title "False Gods" alludes to the people that \*seem\* to have life figured out and are successful; but as Cory learns, this is often a facade. She comes to the realization she must determine her own values, what's important in life, and right vs wrong for herself. Through this process she gains wisdom, self-esteem, and confidence. It is an excellently written book that draws you in where you don't want to put it down, and when you reach the end wish there was more. "False Gods" appeal crosses age boundaries from 13-adults, which in my book is quite a feat!

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### **Lori says**

Fans of realistic YA fiction will enjoy this book. Cory is a typical teen who is struggling to deal with her parents' divorce, being the new kid in school, and living in the shadow of her "perfect" older sister. While Cory gets off on the wrong foot with band, sports, and the hot guy at school, she does find a place she enjoys at the local barn, helping with horses. Soon she begins to dream of showing and competing in a prestigious horse show. But many difficulties will challenge Cory and make her question her commitment to her riding, her family, and her boyfriend.

I enjoyed how all the multiple threads weaved together skillfully. I also enjoyed the glimpses of Cory's journal writing. Teens will really relate to Cory's struggles - she copes honestly, making mistakes along the way, but ultimately discovering a quiet confidence that shines through.

Local Maryland area readers will enjoy the settings and horse lovers will find the depictions of riding, jumping, and showing thrilling.

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### **Lene Blackthorn says**

I must admit I am very glad I was given the copy of this book in exchange for my honest review, because I would very likely not choose the book to read by myself and I would regret it if I knew.

Story from a riding background pictures life of a teenager named Cory and her family and friends. Cory is just an ordinary girl that moved from Massachusetts into a new environment together with her mother and sister Jess. Dad left them and found a new spouse, not showing any interest in the former family anymore. Cory, sensing the tense around and observing unpleasant aspects of their situation, revives her former hobby and big love – she starts to ride horses again and eventually train for jumping competitions. Adjusting her dreams, we watch the endeavor to qualify for Washington show.

Little episodes in the plot describe various difficult moments in life, calling for a hard decision when no path

seems right and if so, the lack of courage to do it. Personal strengths and weaknesses of main characters are very well built, developed and worked with. Just a moment of thinking about the scenes gives the reader a lot, possibly a new point of view on the obstacles life is giving us to learn and defeat our own struggles. Maybe I was not excited enough to get addicted to the book, but the story attracted and kept my interest for the whole time. Several trains of thoughts went parallel with my own opinions about life situations Cory and her dearest had to face. I liked the detailed and precise characters and their change under external conditions, as well as the steady pace and subtle accent of the main theme – desire – in every page I've read. Thinking backwards, I can't remember any specific aspect of the book I did not like at all. Balanced work of the author is very promising in the future and using a combination of an interesting theme and plot with the background that author personally loves improves the final impression. Highly recommended for every YA reader. Horses don't have to be your passion for loving the book.

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### **Marlene Moss says**

False Gods by L.R. Trovillion tells the story of Cory Iverson, a teenage girl afraid to fail. Her solution to avoiding failure is to avoid trying, running away at the first sign things are going wrong. She doesn't have the most supportive home, her divorced mother sleeps with creeps and is addicted to prescription meds. Her sister is extremely focused on becoming a dancer, to the point of starving herself to have the right body.

In spite of Cory's fear, she does try things and even takes things into her own hands like her clarinet lessons. But the scary band instructor sends her running from the room. Luckily, Cory's dog leads her to the one thing with the ability to help her overcome her fears – a horse farm. At the barn she finds supportive people and, best of all, horses.

As I've found in my own life, horses are so forgiving and never have an ulterior motive or judge even when we make mistakes. Not only does Cory keep up with her job at the barn and riding lessons, she makes a goal of qualifying for a high-level jumping competition.

But her boss remains a mystery – someone who used to be at the top and now refuses to show. Did she lose her nerve and run away too?

Cory digs around her boss's past, opening painful wounds and nearly ending her chance at finally sticking with something.

I won't give an spoilers, but Cory's fight to come to terms with herself and her family feels real and raw. Ms. Trovillion makes the reader care about Cory and want to solve the mystery of her boss along with her. The book is well written and cleanly edited (for those of you that know my nitpickiness!) Definitely worth reading for people who love horses, music, or remember those teen years when life controlled us rather than the other way around. And if you purchase in January, all proceeds are going toward a good cause, a youth group.

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