



## Swan's Chance

*Celeste De Blasis*

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Sweeping through history-from the lush Maryland horse country to the thunder of Gettysburg-the epic saga of *Wild Swan* continues. The unforgettable story of a family whose lives mirror their country's turbulent growth...a vibrant authentic panorama of its times.

## Swan's Chance Details

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Author : Celeste De Blasis

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## **From Reader Review Swan's Chance for online ebook**

### **Allie says**

Our beloved Carringtons and Falconers meet the Civil War. Lots of love, lots of tears.

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### **LemonLinda says**

A Civil War book is always dramatic and a Civil War romance generally has an element of death and destruction and this is no exception, however, it is seen through the eyes of a Maryland horse racing/shipbuilding family with soldiers on both sides of the conflict and romance crossing boundaries and borders.

DeBlassis is a great story teller and a great character builder. She does include steamy hot sex scenes but balances that with real historical research of the time and place. Truly she is a master at HF.

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### **Linda says**

Celeste De Blasis was ahead of her time in her portrayal of strong romantic heroines who took control of their own lives and demanded equal footing with their men. Give Heather from (Kathleen Woodiwiss') The Flame & the Flower her due, but she would have been knocked on her butt by any of De Blasis' formidable women. De Blasis' greatest accomplishment was the Wild Swan trilogy. The novels span the lives of Alexandria Carrington Falconer and her descendants from 1813 to 1894 in both England and America.

This is an excellent trilogy....I have read it twice...once in the early 80's and again in 2010....all of De Blasis books are very good.

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### **Pam says**

I enjoyed the first book in this series because I like how it was a nice, light story where everything basically worked out. I was hoping this would be the same case for the second, but I found this not to be the case. What really bothered me about this book was how emotionally detached I felt from everything that was happening. There were some real tragedies and deaths of characters we had previously grown close too, but I found the emotional reactions of the characters to be so wooden that it was hard to conjure any reaction. I also didn't like how many years of Alex's life this book spanned. We are taken through the marriage of her children, the birth of many grandchildren, the marriage of these grandchildren and the birth of her great-grandchildren all in one book and it was very overwhelming. Because De Blasis was trying to tell the stories of some many different characters, all of the stories seemed rushed and formulaic and, as a result, very little connection was built with the characters. I also found I began to tire of how perfect Alex seems to always be and how quickly the characters seem to resolve relationship challenges. This book was a bit of a chore to get through and I know I will not read it again.

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## **Jeanette says**

This second tome of the trilogy primarily details Alex's children's choices in occupation and family for the 30 years prior to the Civil War and throughout its completion and for 30 years afterwards. Her horse farm, Wild Swan, her marriage to Rane and its outcomes of business and connection being a continuance of the epic family and thoroughbred race horse farm saga. Lots more characters than the first book, and I believe that was a problem for me in attachment. You find out much more about the implications and complications of and for her workers, who are not slaves. Many of the characters, even a few from the long past youth in England appear at intervals of visit. Samson's story was included. Her granddaughter becomes a focal point in these connections with the Underground Railroad and more. You do "get it" that she is the new focus for eventual running of the horse farm. No one else seems to fit in the way that De Blasis deems a fit. You never get as much about the shipping businesses as you do the horse farm focus.

This was good in spots and highly redundant of the first tale's episodes of youth. Either in further explanation or in more secrets discovered of alliances. But I never, ever got the kind of spark connection I got with the first volume. Her kids are, every one, all individual stereotypes, IMHO. And Alex, of course, still beautiful and perfection in both looks and judgment. Grandkids too, relationships also- they are solved quickly and instinctively. Having a large family, I don't see that kind of simplicity in real life at all with numerous offspring in 3 generations or more depth.

It's long. Too long. If there had been a much better edit and not so much teaching of the race horse minutia, it would have held my interest far more. I had to force myself to get the closures that I wanted, because of how many travels or obstacles became "the usual" in Alex's way or in her granddaughter's.

I think I like my extreme detailed historical fiction not to have such a romantic nuance of this kind of "soul mate" persuasion centered here once again (in other descendants too). I find that unrealistic to the extreme. Others may not. But I do know that the war told in these "eyes" although a mighty attempt- it didn't parse as good history nor did it at times seem at all realistic for the Falconers' roles.

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## **Misfit says**

Swan's Chance begins in 1836 and takes up the story of the Alex and Rane Falconer where Wild Swan left off, as the Falconer family continues to expand their line of Thoroughbred Horses at their farm Wild Swan, along with Rane's ship building enterprise. Their children grow to adulthood, marry and have children of their own as the tensions between the North and South heat up over the issue of slavery. Alex's beloved granddaughter Gincey works with the Underground Railway and during a mission gone awry meets Virginian Travis Culhane (sparks fly of course). The remainder of the book details the lives of the Falconer family are entwined with the horrors of the Civil War and it's aftermath.

All in all a very entertaining read, although I did find some slow spots -especially when the author was recounting the historical events of the Civil War. It was more like being told than being shown, although I don't see how she could have done otherwise without making it into a book as cumbersome as House Divided, and that's the last thing I want to attempt again (only made it as far as 700 out of 1400 pages, should have been book divided).

If you're looking for an action packed, racy page turning read this probably isn't the book for you, but if you do enjoy a well told story spanning multiple generations in a solid historical setting this series is worth checking out. As in the first book, my only minor quibbles are that unless you are a "horsy" person (which I'm not) there are some spots that become a bit slow (but you can skip them) and some of the sex scenes, while not gratuitous, were a bit...well...ahem....just a tad too detailed for my tastes. If it had been a "true" bodice ripper than I wouldn't have minded, but eventually enough is enough and I would not recommend this series for younger readers because of that. Otherwise, I thoroughly enjoyed the book and am looking forward the completion of the trilogy as the Falconer family and the nation begins the healing process in A Season of Swans. Four stars.

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### **Rena Mcgrath says**

I loved this book just as much as I did the previous Wild Swan. Swan's Chance is the sequel and covers the lives of the Falconers. Rane and Alex are the main protagonists and in this second book there is more of a focus on the children and grandchildren and the intersecting of the history of 19th century Maryland's horse country with the huge growth of the U.S. in that century. Slavery, women's rights, the plight of immigrants and the Civil War are all included. I'm almost finished and will add on to my review when I'm done.

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### **Anne Marie says**

I enjoyed this second book of this series. This second book focused on what was happening during the Civil War. It really brought events to life and it was so interesting and heart breaking to read about and "experience" what it was like during that war. Before I read this book, battles and places were only names. Now I have a better understanding of this historical time.

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### **Sally Brandle says**

Another page turner.

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### **Teresa says**

This is my favorite book of all time. There should be a mini series from this book.

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### **Rachel Harper says**

The pacing isn't the best, but, all in all, this was a good read.

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## **Tracy Sandler says**

A wonderful read. I read the entire Swan series when it first came out in the 1980's and had to read it again this year. Unfortunately it is out of print but if you can find it online you must pick it up. Great saga spanning the civil War era. Truly enjoyable.

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## **Kayla says**

This book was good, but it wasn't a match for the first book. I loved reading more about the family, but I found the discussion of the horses and their lineage distracting and uninteresting.

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## **Darby says**

I had this series and read it OVER and OVER. I read it so much the pages were falling out. Then during one of my moves, I lost the books. I miss them as I would like to reread them right now. I just searched my library's online catalog and of course they have books 2 and 3 but not the first. I read this book the first time when I was in high school. My Mom had read the first book and gave it to me to read. I ended up buying the 2nd and 3rd books when they came out as I just enjoyed Wild Swan so much that I needed to read the next books. It was the first time I read historical-romance/fiction. And it became a favorite of mine.

I remember how it made me laugh, cry and feel all the range of emotions of Alexandria Thane. Also the author seems to have really done her research for the history, the ship building, horse breeding and everything the book uses in its story.

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## **Barbara says**

Great sequel with finally the right guy. Ok a lot of tragedy hits the family but also a lot of happiness. To bad we skip ahead in time and miss an event which I would have liked to read about, but which has obviously happened.

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