



## Sparkling Jewel (Silver Pony Ranch #1)

*D.L. Green , Emily Wallis (Illustrator)*

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This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line called Branches, which is aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina. Branches books help readers grow!

Tori is super-excited to spend the summer at Gran's ranch--where there are lots of beautiful ponies! But she is NOT excited to share a room with her younger sister, Miranda. Miranda likes everything pink, and she loves puppies. Tori does not like pink, and she loves ponies. Tori soon falls in love with a rowdy pony named Jewel and she wants to ride her. But Gran says that Jewel is TOO rowdy. Will Tori and Jewel ever get to ride together? And when one of the ranch's puppies goes missing, can Miranda and Tori find the puppy and bring him back home?

## Sparkling Jewel (Silver Pony Ranch #1) Details

Date : Published August 25th 2015 by Scholastic Inc.

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Author : D.L. Green , Emily Wallis (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review Sparkling Jewel (Silver Pony Ranch #1) for online ebook**

## **Katie Fitzgerald says**

Nine-year-old Tori is thrilled to be spending the whole summer with her grandmother at Silver Pony Ranch. She is most excited about the new pony, Jewel, whom she is desperate to be allowed to ride. Gran assures Tori that she'll be able to ride Jewel eventually, after the pony has warmed up to her, but Tori's impatience gets her into a few sticky situations first.

Sparkling Jewel is a story that will fulfill the wishes of many young girls who love horses. For those who dream of a pony of their own, the opportunity to live vicariously through Tori and her sister, Miranda, will be reason enough to read this book. Unfortunately, aside from the high-interest content, this book is not especially memorable. The writing is flat and predictable, and the illustrations, like those in the Amazing Stardust Friends books, look like they came straight out of the 1980s. When so many of the other Branches books are so attractive, it is puzzling that odd-looking books like this one make it to the publication stage. Also completely surprising is the striking difference between this book and the author's Zeke Meeks series. The Zeke books are clever, timely, and unique. This book does not at all live up to that standard.

Branches continually does a great job of offering many different types of books for many different types of readers. This book, despite its weaknesses, will attract readers, especially reluctant ones. That said, there are plenty of other books which address the same subject matter with better writing and in a more attractive-looking package. Suggested alternatives include Saige by Jessie Haas, Libby of High Hopes by Elise Primavera, and Amber Brown Horses Around by Elizabeth Levy and Bruce Coville.

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## **Steph says**

I'm pretty crazy about the Branches books from Scholastic, and this was another cute story. The big difference I see here from the other Branches books is that these illustrations are more like black-and-white sketches. In the other books the colorful and bold illustrations really seem to draw in the reader and I think this book will lose kids because of that missing piece.

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## **Kate says**

Not nearly as great as all of the other Branches books I've seen. The illustrations reminded me of books from my childhood, and not in a good way, but in a 'these illustrations are kind of old-fashioned and strange' way. The story was really repetitive. Girl wants to ride crazy pony. Girls accidentally lets an animal get loose. Girl forgets to latch the gate/stall door and an animal gets loose. Girl wants to ride crazy pony. I'm sure young friends who are super into ponies and horses will like this series, but other than that it won't be part of my regular recommendations.

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### **Jill says**

A great early reader book and series. Sure to be popular in my classroom.

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### **Michelle Kelley says**

Overall, I've been very happy with the Scholastic Branches line of books. There are many new series meant to appeal with a variety of young early-chapter-book readers. The Silver Pony Ranch series is all for the horse and lovers. In Sparkling Jewel, sisters Tori and Miranda are off to spend the summer with their Grandma on her ranch. Amidst sibling squabbles the girls each find their favorite place on the ranch - Tori amongst the horses and Miranda with the new puppies. Tori is especially enamored with the new horse Jewel who is too spirited to ride. An enjoyable little story.

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### **Quintina says**

Nice story for young horse lovers.

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### **Jasmyn says**

This was a cute story, but I had some problems with it being inconsistent with the illustrations. The dog is referred to as a collie, but looks nothing like one. It looks more like Benji in my opinion. Every time the dog is mentioned, which was fairly often, this bothered me more and more.

I did enjoy the story about Tori and Jewel though. Tori is in love with the pony, but has to earn the privilege of riding the feisty pony. Tori and her sister have a few incidents while at Gran's ranch, but they do their best to pitch in and help out. A cute story, but it needed just a little more work.

\*This book was received in exchange for an honest review\*

- See more at: <http://hotofftheshelves.blogspot.com/...>

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### **Lauryn Lever says**

it was a really good book

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### **Sharie says**

Seems a little dense for a branches series.

