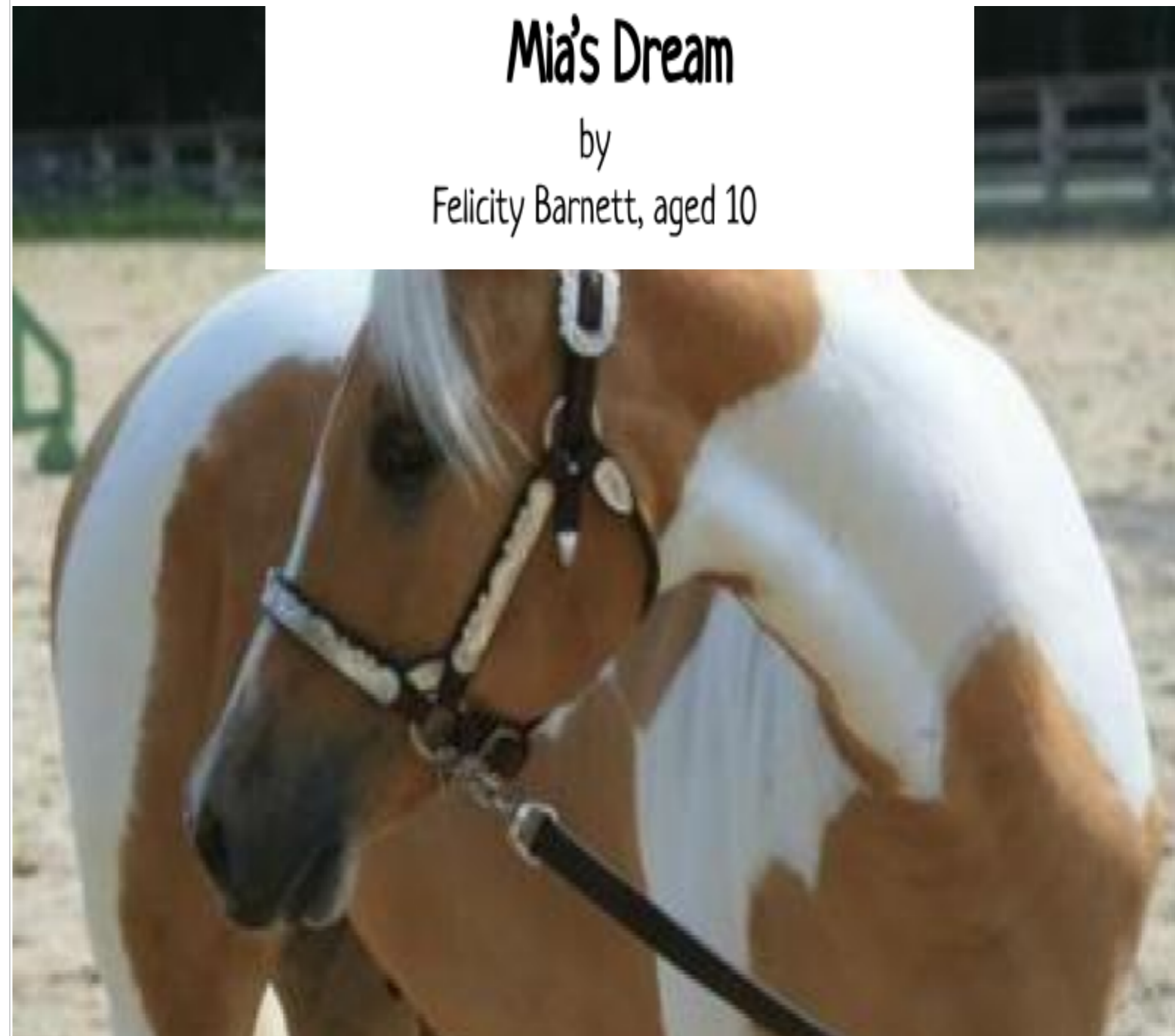


Mia's Dream

by
Felicity Barnett, aged 10



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Written & illustrated by

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Aged 10

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Chapter One

“I so wish I had my own horse.” sighed Mia.
“Honey, you still need to learn the basics,”
replied her mum. “You only turned 11 four
months ago, you only had your first lesson
on your birthday and you need a bit more
practice on horses.”

“But mum, I really love horses and my instructor said I’m really good with them. Please mum?” begged Mia, swishing her long brown hair behind her shoulder.

Mia was standing in an enormous field filled with horses, gazing at one beautiful horse in particular.

Dream was a 4 year old palomino crossed with an Arab. She was very talkative and dramatic. Dream was very playful and Mia loved giving her treats. Dream didn’t really like very many people, but Mia had formed a special bond with her.

Mia loved the stables because they made sure every horse was well looked after and the horses were very happy.

Walking back into the stable yard, Mia begged, “Mum! I think Dream is the one, she’s the perfect horse for me.”

“Sweetie, you can’t get one yet. You need a lot more experience in being with horses and you also need to know how to actually ride,” her mother replied.

Mia looked at her mum sadly and thought to herself, “I know I can do this, I know I’m ready.”



Chapter Two

The next morning, Mia went to school and told all her friends about her horse riding lesson. Her friends already knew how much Mia loved horses as since her birthday she hadn't talked about anything else!

"Guys I'm going to be getting a horse very soon!" squealed Mia.

She told all her friends her cunning plan to show her mum that she was good enough at riding to have her own horse. Her friends didn't think her plan was very good and tried to make her change her mind, but Mia had already decided what she was going to do.



Chapter Three

After school, Mia begged her mum to go back to the stables so she could groom Dream.

While her mum was completely distracted talking about arranging riding lessons with the stable manager, Mia snuck off into the field to see Dream.

To Mia's surprise, Dream was still tacked up. "This is my only opportunity to show my mum I can do this." Mia decided. Mia looked at Dream and went to get on. She realised that she didn't know the best way as she always had an instructor beside her.

For one second Mia considered if this was a good idea after all. Just in that moment, Dream nuzzled her head into Mia's chest and she was determined that she would learn fast.

After a shaky start, in a few minutes, Mia was walking confidently. It was so sunny the path started lighting up.

She could feel the summer breeze on her arms and she could smell the beautiful

flowers. Mia was getting into her flow and started to trot.

She knew she could do this. In fact, she thought she should've done this weeks ago! Her mum was so wrong, she was definitely ready.

Mia pictured herself arriving back at the stables having proved everyone wrong. They would be cheering and clapping and apologising to her.

In the middle of her wonderful day dream, she realised Dream had been going faster and faster. She was a bit scared but reassured herself that everything would be alright because after all she knew exactly what she was doing.



Chapter Four

Dream broke into a gallop and Mia no longer knew where she was going. Mia tried to slow Dream down but she didn't know how to.

The sky, that had once been so light, had now darkened. Grey clouds started to cover the sky.

The wind started howling.

Mia was terrified and tears started streaming down her face. Mia's stomach started to knot as she was getting more and more petrified.

Dream was galloping towards a road.

Suddenly, a car beeped, Dream bucked and Mia was thrown to the ground.

Everything went black.



Chapter Five

Meanwhile, Mia's mum realised she was missing. She called to Mia but there was no reply.

She started feeling anxious. Mia's mum and the stable manager ran to the field they had been in the day before because that's where

they thought that Dream, and therefore Mia would be.

Mia nor Dream were anywhere to be seen. Mia's mum was now incredibly worried. In the distance, they could see a horse galloping recklessly. The stable manager recognised the horse was Dream and they both ran towards her.

As they got closer they could see a woman just by Dream. They ran towards the woman and asked if the woman had seen Mia. Breathing heavily, she told them that there was a young girl lying in the middle of the road.

Her husband had already called the ambulance. The woman showed them where Mia was lying.

They rushed over to her, Mia was whimpering and in a lot of pain. The man said that the ambulance was on its way.

Mia was rushed to the hospital where the x-ray showed her leg was broken in two places.

"Am I going to be able to ride again?" questioned Mia.

"Just one step at a time, Mia." replied her mum.



Chapter Six

Eventually, Mia was discharged from the hospital and returned to school.

Everyone was asking how she had broken her leg. Mia was very tearful and said that she had gone ahead with her plan. She had disobeyed her mum and ridden a horse when she wasn't ready and now she couldn't ride for at least six months.

The stable manager was really cross that she had ridden Dream unsupervised, and was debating whether or not she'd be allowed back.

Mia was inconsolable because she knew she had done the wrong thing and put herself and Dream in a lot of danger. Her friends tried to cheer her up the best they could.

After a few weeks, she was missing Dream so much she begged her mum to let her go back to the stables and visit Dream.

Mia wrote an apology letter to ask if she could come back and help out with Dream. The stable manager wrote back and said that she could but she would have to be supervised at all times.

The next day after school, she went up to the stables and groomed Dream. Mia felt overjoyed again to see Dream again.



Chapter Seven

Six months passed and during this time, Mia had been at the stables three times a week helping with Dream. The stable manager was very happy with her. She had offered to let Mia lead a horse in a supervised lead-rein lesson for the younger children.

She had gained the stable manager's trust. Her leg had fully healed and she was finally allowed to ride.

Mia's first time was on the sedate school horse. All her family turned up to watch and the girls who worked at the stables cheered. Mia cried with happiness. She was thrilled to be riding again but she secretly wanted to be on Dream.

Over the next few weeks, Mia practised her riding and continued to help mucking out stables.



Chapter Eight

On the morning of Mia's 12th birthday, it was very sunny and she couldn't wait to get to the stables and see Dream.

Her mum was waiting downstairs for her.

They drove to the stables chatting happily. To Mia's delight, when she arrived she saw a big banner saying, "Happy Birthday Mia!!".

She looked around and there were the girls from the stables, the children she had helped with the lead rein lessons and her best friends from school. After hugging everyone with joy, her mum said, "Mia, close your eyes!". When she opened her eyes, there was Dream with a big pink bow in her mane.

"Happy birthday sweetie." said her mum, giving her a big hug.

"Thank you mum! I love you so much! This is the best present I could ever have wished for," squealed Mia with excitement.

Mia was overjoyed, she looked around her and saw all the people she loved the most and she just couldn't believe Dream was hers.

She was so grateful that the stables had forgiven her for thinking that she knew best.

She had regained her mum's trust and was looking forward to many amazing years with Dream.

She couldn't be happier.



We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education.

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SWITCHED ON!

Mia has loved horses for as long as she can remember. For her 11th birthday she finally gets horse riding lessons and immediately falls in love with one of the horses there called Dream.

Despite being told she's not ready to ride a horse alone she decides to sneakily prove everyone wrong by taking Dream out by herself.

Will Mia and Dream be safe? Will she be able to ride again? Is Mia ever going to get her own horse?