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## When Sophie Met Darcy Day

*Helen Yeadon*

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**Helen Yeadon : When Sophie Met Darcy Day** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Sophie Met Darcy Day:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy blueI chose a five star rating because the author explains her amazing cause with humor and amazing stories that will draw you in wanting more. There was nothing I disliked about the book and I would recommend it to all horse lovers and anyone who believes in animals helping children0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A 'nice' story about the real bonds that have been formed between horses and special need kidsBy Maryann Wasmund-FordThis is a book for the horse lovers out there. It is

about a special race horse retirement establishment that expanded its care to include children with special needs. There are special stories of the connections that are made between the horses and the children. A lovely heart warming book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Marion Sacks great book especially as I am a teacher and there were valuable points to learn from

A heartwarming collection of stories from a woman who brings together disadvantaged children and abandoned racehorses, with remarkable results. Thirteen-year-old Sophie hadn't uttered a word to anyone for over two years when she got out of her parents' car at a remote farm in Devon. Her parents were beside themselves with worry, and at the end of their tether, but try as they might, nothing seemed to make a difference. They'd heard about a place called Greatwood through friends - where owners Helen and Michael Yeadon looked after retired racehorses - and decided to take Sophie along for a visit. Helen asked Sophie to help her change the dressings on the infected cuts on the legs of Darcy Day, one of their more troubled horses, and it was instantly clear that these two had some kind of special connection. Darcy Day would normally back away from people, but this time she lowered her head and stepped forward, to let Sophie stroke her nose. It was the start of an incredible relationship that would transform both horse and child, and it gave Michael and Helen an idea. They registered as a charity, moved to bigger premises, and began inviting children with a wide range of learning disabilities to volunteer to help with the animals. The results were amazing - traumatised horses and anxious or disturbed children bonded with each other, and every week little miracles were happening before their eyes. Boys with diagnoses such as Asperger's Syndrome or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or those who'd been excluded from school for unruly behaviour, flourished through the discipline of working on the farm. Girls made timid and anxious by abusive backgrounds or school bullies came out of the shells. In this book are twenty of the most incredible tales of children who were given back their futures by the unique and extraordinary institution of Greatwood.

About the Author Helen Yeadon and her husband Michael are the founders of Greatwood, a charity they set up in 1990 to care for retired racehorses and children with special needs. Helen has always been an animal lover. She grew up on a farm in Wiltshire and was riding horses from the age of seven. She and Michael used to run a small hotel in the Cotswolds, before they moved to Devon and started collecting retired racehorses, dogs, goats, chickens, geese and sheep. It was there that the idea for Greatwood was born.