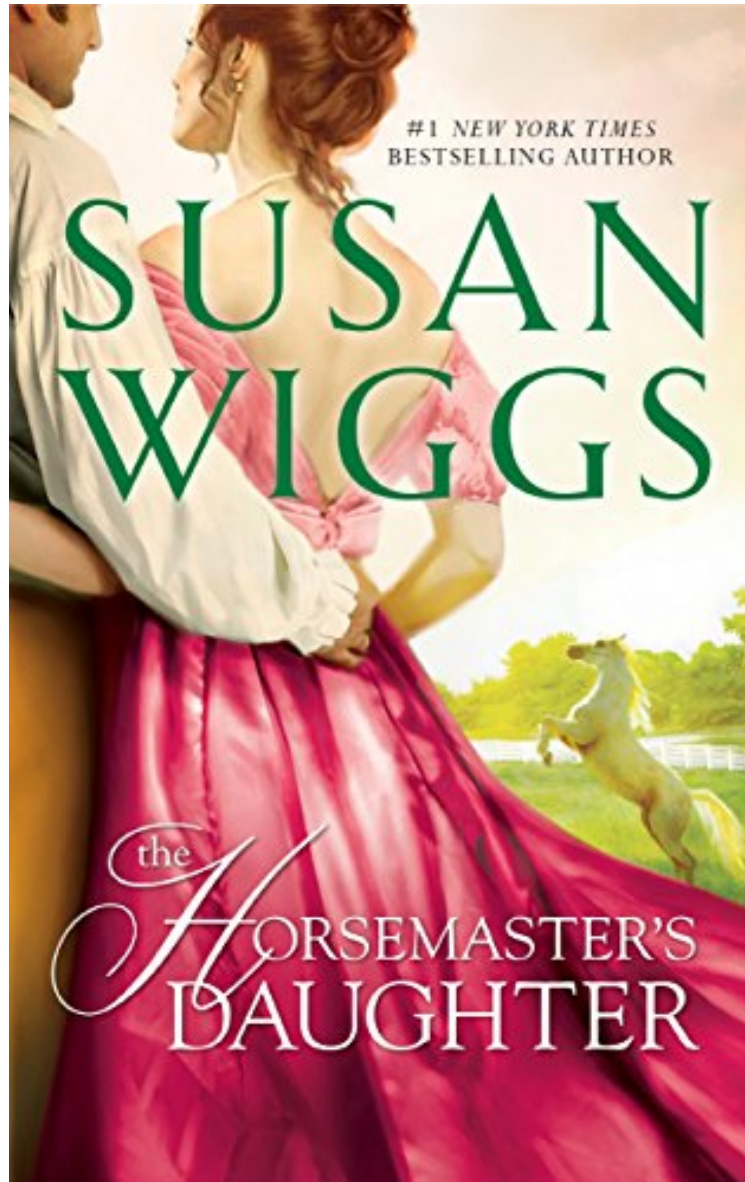


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## The Horsemaster's Daughter (Calhoun Chronicles)

Von Susan Wiggs

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**Von Susan Wiggs : The Horsemaster's Daughter (Calhoun Chronicles)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Horsemaster's Daughter (Calhoun Chronicles):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A truly beautiful Americana romaneVon Ein KundeIn 1854 Virginia, Hunter Calhoun wonders why his dreams lay shattered. Only whiskey keeps him from remembering what a failure he is. The former planter turned horse trainer cannot stop

his business from sliding towards bankruptcy. When he switched businesses, his wife failed to adjust to a new role and ultimately died. He raises two young children, but his son Blue still suffers from traumas that keep him from speaking. In a last ditch effort to save Albion Plantation, he imported an Irish thoroughbred, Sir Finnegan. However, Hunter believes Finn is evil as he crippled a worker and killed a mare. Ready to kill the steed, a relative talks him into taking the horse to Flyte Island, home of renowned horsemaster Henry Flyte. When he arrives he learns the famous Flyte, former trainer to Lord Derby, was murdered about a year ago. His daughter Eliza lives by herself on the remote island. A distraught Henry wants to kill Finn, but Eliza persuades him into giving her a chance to tame the stallion. As she works with Finn, she finds herself falling in love with his owner. When they are forced to flee the island, she quickly falls in love with his two children. Even if Hunter loves her, she realizes they can never be a permanent pair.

**THE HORSEMASTER'S DAUGHTER** is an interesting antebellum romance that will provide much pleasure to sub-genre readers. Though the story line contains one unnecessary subplot, the novel smoothly flows into a cohesive tale as expected from Susan Wiggs. The characters are an intriguing cast who makes the decade before the Civil War feel genuine. Ms. Wiggs has written another winning Americana romance that will leave fans clamoring for Blue's tale next.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What a touching story  
Von Sarah  
A bruised and battered male heart and an incomplete and innocent female heart. These two lovers have many issues to overcome, and they do so admirably. Hunter is a great character, with both faults and heart melting tenderness. He knows what is "right" and what is "wrong", but his struggle with the debts his father left him, a vain and self absorbed wife, owning and then freeing slaves and trying to make a go of a horse farm that everyone looks down upon, leads him into a downward spiral of loneliness and alcohol abuse. Ms. Wiggs gives the reader a fairly good insight into Hunter's character and makes him very human. I enjoyed reading about that, as opposed to the clichéd perfect hero or reformed rake. Eliza is also an interesting character, though to me a little less believable. The literary allusions and outright comparisons to Shakespeare's *Tempest* were well done and integral to the plot. I do not know if anyone could truly be as isolated as Eliza and then have such keen insight to Hunter and his children's problems. Her father raised her to be perceptive, learning how to read a horse (which she uses to read humans as well), yet was able to hide so much from her. This dichotomy was a little much for me. All and all though, I loved this book. It was different and refreshing, unlike so many of the other hackneyed stories out there. The plot moves along and the secondary characters add much to the story. Ms. Wiggs, please keep up the great writing!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One star for the horse, Not Susan Wiggs' Best  
Von Melinda Cannady  
The horse deserved a star. He had more charm than Hunter did. I did find it hard to relate to an alcoholic. To me, his children should have been important enough to for him to give up the bottle. Eliza was spirited and charming. Honest and without pretension, she faced her problems, and her grief, head-on. As for Hunter, I'm not really sure he was grieving for his wife. At one point he doesn't know if he ever loved her and she is portrayed as a society-conscious, self-absorbed woman who did not understand his ambitions. Later, it was she who was mis-understood and abandoned. He also later mentions the possibility of losing two women he loved. Did he or didn't he. I also thought that the dilemma of Eliza's parentage and the parentage of Hunter's nephew were solved unrealistically easily. Slavery was an issue our country spent four long hard years battling over. It is likely that Eliza, Hunter, and his nephew would have spent their entire lives dealing with the injustice of a race-conscious society. Reading this book was like trying to connect the dots without having all of the dots, using your fingernail as a pen. For a great Susan Wiggs book, try "Charm School"

**Kurzbeschreibung**  
An unbroken horse, a broken man, an estate that needed her  
Once a privileged son of the South, Hunter Calhoun now stands a widower shadowed by the scandal of his wife's death. Burying himself in his success with breeding Thoroughbred racehorses, he's left his family to crumble and forgotten how to comfort his grieving children. When a prized stallion arrives from Ireland crazed and unridable, Hunter is forced to seek help for the beast. Removed from the world of wealth and social privilege, Eliza Flyte has inherited her father's famed gift for gentling horses. And when Hunter arrives with his wild steed, her healing spirit reaches further yet, drawing her to his shattered family and to the intense, bitter man who needs her, just as she needs him. Eliza understands what Hunter refuses to see that love is the greatest healer of all. But can her kind, humble being manage to teach such an untethered man what truly matters in life?

deSetting: 1854 Virginia  
Sensuality: 7  
Southern plantation owner Hunter Calhoun gambles the success of his Virginia horse farm on an Irish stallion; unfortunately, the animal arrives crazed and unridable after the stormy sea crossing. Desperate, Hunter turns to Eliza Flyte, the horsemaster's daughter, who has inherited her father's gift for gentling horses. Her ability to heal wounded spirits with her compassion and wisdom is amazing, and when Hunter convinces her to leave her isolated island and return home with him, she soon applies that gift to the bitter man and his grieving, motherless children. But what future can a woman raised alone by her father with only the sea, animals, and a few books for companions have with a man who grew up as a rich, upper-class son of the South? It seems unlikely that Eliza could ever fit into Hunter's world and just as unlikely that he would give up his privileged life for her world. It just may take a miracle for these two mismatched lovers to find a way to live happily ever after. In

this novel, centered on the brother of the hero from the bestseller *The Charm School*, the cynical hero who has nearly given up on life is balanced by a heroine who has enough faith and wisdom for them both. The plot, blessedly free of clichés, is unusual; just when the conclusion seems obvious, Wiggs tosses the reader a curve and with a few deft twists and turns, pulls off a terrific surprise ending. If you're only going to read one historical romance this week, make it this one. You'll be so glad you did. --Lois Faye Dyer.com

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