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# A Girl And Five Brave Horses



## a **GIRL** and **FIVE** **BRAVE HORSES**

by **SONORA CARVER** who rode the  
diving horses and continued to ride them long  
after she was totally blind  
as told to **ELIZABETH LAND**



## Synopsis

2011 Reprint edition of 1961. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. Sonora Carver was an American entertainer, most notable as one of the first female horse divers. Carver answered an ad placed by "Doc" William Frank Carver in 1923 for a diving girl and soon earned a place in circus history. Her job was to mount a running horse as it reached the top of a forty-foot (sometimes sixty-foot) tower and sail down along the animal's back as it plunged into a deep pool of water directly below. Sonora was a sensation and soon became the lead diving girl for Doc Carver's act as they traveled the country. In 1931, Sonora was blinded, a retinal detachment, due to hitting the water off-balance with her eyes open.while diving her horse, Red Lips, on New Jersey's Steel Pier, the act's permanent home since 1929. After her accident Sonora continued to dive horses until 1942.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like many little girls, I was absolutely obsessed with horses. To an extent, I guess I still am. But as a child my life basically revolved around anything related to horses. In this, Carver and I are much alike. If you're unfamiliar with the name, Carver was an entertainer who was made famous by being one of the first female horse divers. Moreover, she was blind for more than half of the two decades she performed. Her memoir inspired the Disney film "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken". I was quite enamored with the film when I saw it as a child, but now realize that it is sadly a huge departure from the real story to the point that it's nearly unrecognizable from the material from which it is based. I find this particularly disappointing because the true story is in fact a remarkable one that is

far more interesting, entertaining and inspiring than the film's product. Carver's memoir is peppered with anecdotes of her life, citing interesting tidbits about all of the horses in the show and the intricacies of the training and physicality involved in horse diving. In fact, the entire book is written more like a lengthy conversation being told, wavering from point to point and focusing on what is of most interest to the author at that particular moment. While a bit jarring in terms of narrative flow I still found the story is easy to follow and as a horse enthusiast I found it desperately interesting. She recounts the specifics of how the horses were cared for, their particular personalities and, possibly most interesting of all, their individual diving routines and preferences. The majority of the book focuses on the first eight years or so Carver spent diving before being blinded.

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