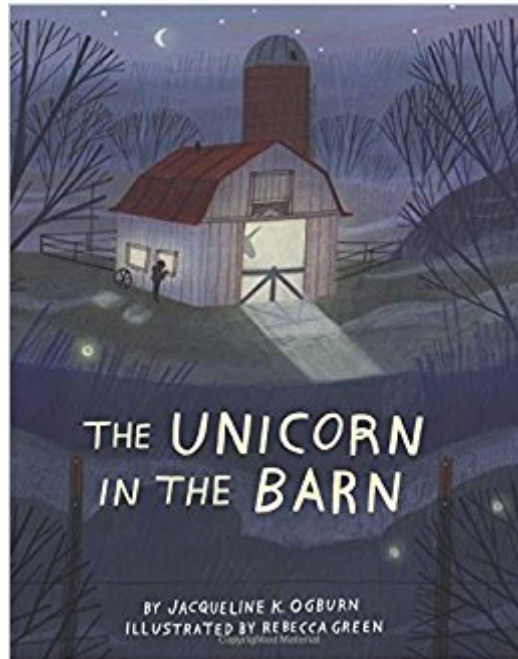




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# The Unicorn In The Barn



## Synopsis

For years people have claimed to see a mysterious white deer in the woods around Chinaberry Creek. It always gets away.   One evening, Eric Harper thinks he spots it. But a deer doesn't have a coat that shimmers like a pearl. And a deer certainly isn't born with an ivory horn curling from its forehead.   When Eric discovers the unicorn is hurt and being taken care of by the vet next door and her daughter, Allegra, his life is transformed.   A tender tale of love, loss, and the connections we make, *The Unicorn in the Barn* shows us that sometimes ordinary life takes extraordinary turns.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (July 4, 2017)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #75,852 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #211 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Dragons #226 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Animal-lovers will adore this enchanting, compassionate tale."   "Booklist "Eric's quiet, genuine, first-person voice tells a realistic story of family love and discovering one's true self, the presence of the unicorn and other magical creatures adding just a touch of whimsy to a story about very real emotions... A sensitive, moving debut."   "Kirkus

Author Jacqueline K. Ogburn has published ten picture books, including *The Bake Shop Ghost*. This story is her first novel.   The resident of a suddenly hip neighborhood in Durham, N.C., she

works for a local major university. She and her husband, Ben Deahl, have two daughters and a cat who sometimes disappears, but has yet to speak English. Rebecca Green is an illustrator, painter, and make believe maker whose work has a home in young adult and children's books, galleries, magazines, and more. When she is not making things, she can be found cooking, traveling, and starting too many books to finish. She currently lives in Nashville, TN with her husband, their dog, Mori, and their cat, Junie B. Visit her at [myblankpaper.com](http://myblankpaper.com) and on Instagram at [@rebeccagreenillustration](https://www.instagram.com/rebeccagreenillustration).

The Unicorn in the Barn is exactly the type of book I love to read. Magic, friendship, sassiness, and an exploration of what it means to lose the ones we love. Eric struggles with the sale of his grandmother's home and her placement in a nursing home. This is exacerbated by the discovery of his new neighbor--the sassy (but lovable) Allegra. Eric soon finds out the secrets that Allegra's family has been keeping about their veterinarian's office and is excited to help take care of their more unique patients. The Unicorn in the Barn is full of love and magic, and will be a great addition to my classroom library! \*Review written after reading an ARC of The Unicorn in the Barn.\*

A wonderful story beautifully illustrated. I bought it for my niece who loves horses but I read it first. It's just lovely.

I predict that every kid who reads this charming book will want to be a veterinarian when they grow up. This is a character driven tale of both the human and mythical beast variety. Young Eric Harper lives in a rural setting with his Dad and brother. His grandmother has been moved from the property next door and taken to a nursing home. Eric soon meets truculent Allegra and her mother, the kindly Dr. B, who is a vet that moved into his grandmother's home and has turned it into an animal clinic. The animals that Dr. B cares for are of the normal variety like dogs, goats and ferrets. Eric soon finds out that there is also a whole new and unconventional variety of critters that are among the clientele of his new neighbor. There is a contrary goose named Prissy who lays golden eggs, a Cheshire cat named Timothy with an invisibility problem, a Squonk that lives in a jar of water but is incurably shy and the most magical of all is a unicorn. Her name is Moonpearl and has been injured. She's staying in the barn until she has her twins. Eric gets a part time job after school and is hired to help muck the stalls and clean the overnight animal's cages. The characters are all very likeable and help weave the story of triumph and loss as Eric learns the history of his family and the surrounding Harper's Woods. This is a multi-generational tale that will be loved by

the children reading this story and possibly the parents peeking over their shoulders as the pages turn.

A third of the way in, I was ready for the hard conversations about this book. A kid's neighbor is a Vet for magical animals, and he joins the secret world of magical critters. The titular unicorn has healing powers. His beloved grandmother is dying and we see evidence very early that the unicorn's powers can save her. What a setup, right? This is going to be an amazing moral crisis when the main character pauses in magical creature and vet tech education and catches on to the morally sketchy option. Or ya know, we could alude to it and devote some time to (very accurate) Vet Tech work and how beautiful the unicorn is. (Spoiler Alert: Moonpearl is SO BEAUTIFUL.) Ironically, the harsh reality of veterinary medicine isn't shied away from when animals die or have to be euthanized, but the ultimate magical/moral conflict just.... doesn't happen. The ultimate choice and moment of conflict never really emerges, which weakens the big reveal slash sequel hooks, but doesn't precisely feel unnatural. If your kid(s) are into Unicorns (which are a thing now) and possibly want to be vets this book is a slam dunk.

This is a review from my son who is in second grade: I did not think this book is as good as Harry Potter or Captain Underpants but my mom wanted me to read it. I liked the unicorn. I would tell other kids my age that this book is okay to read but it probably will not be your favorite book ever. My sister is six and she liked it more than I did. I wished I did not have to read it all to her but she liked it when I did. It was too hard for her to read by herself. I say this book is four stars because it is not the best book ever but I thought it was okay and my sister liked it. It would be cool if a unicorn really visited our house. But it was still okay to read about that going on with someone else. Thank you.

I took this book on a whim and it was an unexpected pleasure. The magic is just a small part of this warm, lovely story of a boy, his family and his neighbors. This is a super fast read; just a few hours for me. I found myself completely hooked into the Eric's world and his friendship with a very special animal. The book also does not hesitate to deal with darker topics (death, loss of a parent, birth) but does so in a way appropriate for just about any age. This book caught me by surprise with how much I loved it. Ogburn writes dialogue and character in a wonderful way, filled with wit and humor. She's one to watch. I highly recommend this charming book.

This is a very sweet story. There are changes in the relationships. The unicorn and the talking cat are great. Something that is really cool and also not is that the author is able to make the magical creatures so part of the normal life that they aren't that big of a deal. This is good but then this also is not so good because the story really isn't that exciting. But it is sweet and probably has enough excitement for the children who read this. I really like the grandma and Dr. B. Eric is a sweet kid. The story has good values and some secrets that are revealed at the very end to Eric which is a nice touch. I can see maybe a third or fourth grade student would really like this. It is more a girl book but the main character is a boy so some boys will like this. Eric even gets shot accidentally which turns out to be a good thing. The girl Allegra isn't real likeable but she and Eric come to an understanding and so it is good. Georgie is a great character too.

Is it a deer in the woods? No, it's a unicorn, its coat shimmering in the twilight. Just as Eric's home-life shatters, he falls under the spell of this magical creature, the veterinarian next door caring for the beast and his darling daughter Allegra. This is a middle-grade book that a younger child would enjoy having read to him or her, especially if the reader is a grandparent, since a grandmother figures in this charming, life-affirming story. Sweet illustrations.

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