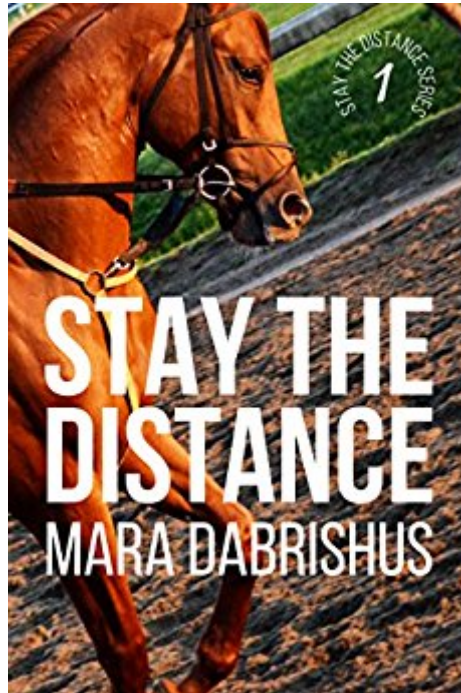




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# Stay The Distance



## Synopsis

July Carter's world is perfect from the back of a horse. From the ground, everything is a complete mess: her jockey mom ran off for California years ago, her dad always seems more interested in the horses than in her, and the horse July wants for herself will never be hers. Even though the New York racing circuit has taught her not to get attached, July can't help connecting with Kali, a hopeless filly that refuses to run when it counts. When bankruptcy rumors start swirling around the barn, the future is murkier than ever. July can't stand losing one more thing, and Beck, the barn owner's son, knows more about the rumors than anyone else. July will get the truth, even if she has to pry it out of him, for Kali's sake and her own.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ok, it's not like I'm ancient, but as someone solidly into my twenties, I have been out of the "young adult" target audience for more than a decade now. Nevertheless, I loved reading this novel even as an "old adult," and when I look back on the kinds of books I loved when I was a young adult, I know

this would have fit right in among my favorites. This book would have fallen easily into my constant rotation of horse books, surrogates for the horse I didn't have but also beloved for the characters, the drama, and the rush of the racing scenes. July Carter is a young woman just finishing high school with no major goals beyond riding the Thoroughbred horses she has come to love in the Blackbridge race barn and tracking down her mother, who abandoned her family in single-minded pursuit of success as a jockey. Told from July's first-person perspective, we get a well-rounded picture of July's life and cast of side characters, including the rest of her family and the frustratingly handsome barn owner's son. While July is mature and self-reflective in her narrative, she also is impulsive and prone to obsession just like her mother, a parallel I enjoyed following throughout the story. This is a character whose head I actually enjoyed being in, always intrigued to see how her path changes course during an eventful summer at Saratoga. That barn owner's son is a thoroughly-enjoyable romantic foil. In the grand tradition of witty banter, will-they-or-won't-they, Beck and July have tangible chemistry that encourages the reader to flip the pages faster to find out if a summer romance will figure in to their dramatic summer. Beck, like July, is also young and impulsive, making mistakes and trying to do the right thing, and definitely had me rooting for him not long after his introduction. And of course the horse and racing details and descriptions are spot-on. The author clearly knows about horses and works the details into the characters' storyline well so that they flesh out the story and the plot, never exhausting the reader in minutiae. Overall, this was a fun read that I know I will turn to again. I would highly recommend this novel for fans of horse books but also just as a very good and entertaining story about an independent young woman.

A sweet, delicate coming-of-age romance set in the world of horse racing. The heroine July loves the world of the track—it is her family's trade and she has never wanted to do anything other than to ride. However, she has mixed feelings about the fact that her mother, a professional jockey, has abandoned the family to pursue her career. July is still exploring what it means to be a woman in a very masculine world and also must survive the tension of growing up surrounded by people like her sister and best friend who don't understand why horses are so important to her. The scenes describing what it is like to gallop a racehorse and the extent to which so many hopes and dreams are pinned to these beautiful but ultimately very fragile creatures make *Staying the Distance* both poignant and very much NOT your typical YA fiction. A great read for someone looking for a YA novel that's not just about boys (although there is a boy in the book)!

A fun read for horse racing fans, who get few opportunities to read quality fiction that is entertaining while still authentic and accurate. The author knows racing and riding and her acumen shines through in this coming of age adventure that can hold the interest and be enjoyed by adults who are perhaps not so young. July Carter, a diligent, feisty and troubled exercise rider for her trainer father, is juggling the responsibility of preparing some top horses for major races, the void of her long absent mother and a really awkward budding romance with the son of her father's boss. Her relationships with the horses under her care are equally problematic and seem to propel her toward resolution of her issues with humans. The reader anticipates the likely ending by the middle of the book, but it is okay as the author does a good job of making it fun and interesting regardless. Overall, this is a fun read and I would definitely read a full length sequel.

I really liked the book, the horses and the story was a good and easy one to follow and it kept me reading and wanting more.....Thanks for the good read.....Martha Blake

From the first page, I felt a connection to the main character, July--the way she told her story, her love of the horses and the sport and the honest way she handled disappointing situations. I love horses and horse-themed books and though I generally stick to dressage and eventing, Dabrishus has written a compelling novel that kept me interested all the way through. I loved the characters, was heartbroken with them through their struggles and loved Dabrishus' descriptive use of language. Looking forward to more of July, Beck and the rest of the character's next adventures. Loved it!

I don't often give out 5 stars, but this book is definitely deserving. This book offered an accurate depiction of the horse world, the character's were strongly developed, and the author's voice was strong and developed. Clearly this is the work of someone who knows how to write, and write well. The only negative I could possibly see with this book is that someone who is not familiar with horses could become confused or lose interest. However, as a horse enthusiast, I found this book very enjoyable.

Great continuation of this YA story of July the Florida horse racing girl. Both exciting and poignant, this coming-of age in the racing world is well-written and of good literary quality. Great plot!

This is a really good story by an author who knows what she is talking about in the horseracing

world. I am always surprised when I find a story that hits all the right marks for accuracy with anything to do in the horse racing or showing world. If you love horse racing and are looking for a solid story this is the one! I will certainly be looking for more of Mara Dabrichus's books in the future.

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