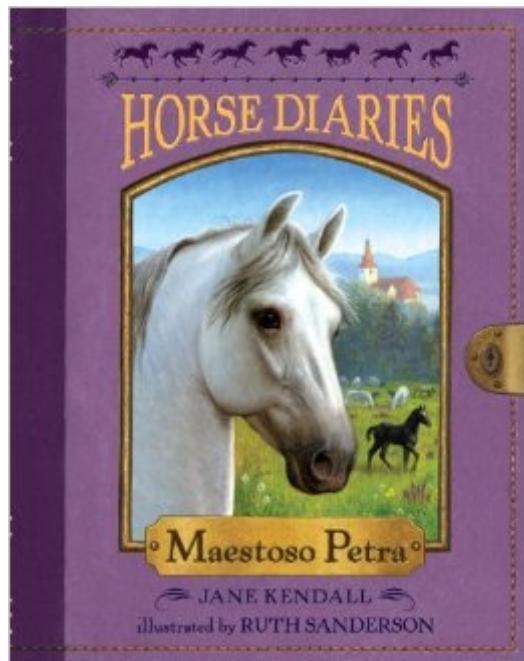


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# Horse Diaries #4: Maestoso Petra



## **Synopsis**

Vienna, Austria, 1938 Maestoso Petra is a world-famous Lipizzaner stallion. He has spent years in the Spanish Riding School, training to perform the complex airs above the ground that only Lipizzaner can accomplish. But when World War II breaks out in Europe, he learns to think less about performing and more about survival. Here is Maestoso Petra's story . . . in his own words.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 980L (What's this?)

Series: Horse Diaries (Book 4)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (March 9, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375858423

ISBN-13: 978-0375858420

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (52 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #64,962 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #65 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #149 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

This is an excellent series for young horse lovers. This story of the Lipizzaner Maestoso Petra does not break any new ground - the storyline is basically a combination of Marguerite Henry's White Stallion of Lipizza and of the movie *Miracle of the White Stallions*. It is told from Petra's point of view, and covers not only his life as one of the famous white stallions, but also, inescapably, some of the historical events that forced the stallions to flee Vienna during World War II. Adult readers will probably find the other works more satisfying; anyone who loves this book should seek out the other two. It is a special time in history, and perhaps my only quibble about the story is that the reader will not realize from it how amazing it was that the breed was rescued from its precarious existence between two armies. The facts are accurate, though, and it is an excellent introduction to the

Lipizzan breed and history. My biggest complaint is with the interior illustrations - which are plentiful and lovely pictures of horses, but do not do justice to the unmistakable visage of a Lipizzan stallion, who will have a significant Roman-type nose and Spanish head. I felt the illustrator was trying to make them 'more beautiful' by giving them more Arabian-like heads, instead of portraying them with the amazing noble heads emblematic of the breed. This is a small point, and I enjoyed this book as much as others in the series.

This is a nice book about a beautiful horse from when it was born until it was an adult, safe from war and the Nazi Germans.

My 9 year old daughter loved this book, just as she loves the others in this series! We have several of them, but she asks for the rest of the books when she sees that I'm on. One thing she particularly likes about them is that the stories are told from the horses perspective; she has told me that several times.

In my community, us parents have a book club for the kiddos and each girl gets to pick a book when it's their turn to host the meeting. This was the book that was picked and it went over very well with my daughter.

My daughter loves this series of books! She is crazy about horses and particularly likes the fact that these books are told from the horse's perspective! It is sometimes very difficult getting kids to read - I have found books that utilize animals as characters are very engaging for young readers. My daughter also loves that each book has a different author because she feels it gives the reader more variety with the characters especially since each story is told by a horse. Happy reading!

I have read all the books in the "Horse Diary series" and I still think Maenstoso Petra is my personal favorite! It is a well written book, and a beautiful story! BONUS: all of the books in the series are in the horses own words!!!!

This book will tell you a horse story straight from a horse's mouth! Petra has learned to be a true Lipizzaner, but when war starts and all seems lost will be go back to be the true Lipizzaner as he once was?

I love your books they are awesome and written so good that I think these books are great to get a good idea that I think the horse diaries books are such a awesome idea how did you guys come up with these books that are fantastic and I want to know how did you come up with a good book like this one!

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