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Winter-Broken

Smith

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Arcade

Marya Smith

Dawn purposely averted her gaze from the house. If she looked, she might see the rusted bumper of his car. If she didn't look, there was still a hope that he wasn't there. Even if he *was* home, maybe he was asleep. Then all she and her sisters had to do was stay very quiet until their mother got home.

Dawn has learned that silence is the best way to deal with her father's abuse—silence when he is at home, silence to outsiders about her family, and a silent refusal to cry no matter what. So Dawn is silent—silent and cautious and withdrawn, with a tight rein on her emotions.

Then she meets Eleroy Everley, the nicest grown-up she has ever known, and the beautiful horse, Wildfire. Eleroy teaches her to take care of Wildfire, to ride him, to love him. Slowly, the icy wall Dawn has built around herself begins to melt. She is happier than she ever imagined she could be, ever allowed herself *to* be. But all along, Dawn is convinced that this happiness cannot last. She is right. Her unrestrained joy brings her unimaginable sorrow, inconsolable loss. But it also brings her unexpected hope.

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MARYA SMITH grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. She graduated from Cornell University and worked for a time at *Seventeen Magazine* in New York City. She now lives in Oak Park, Illinois, with her husband and two children, and spends weekends restoring an 1870's farmhouse, hiking, and riding her horse through the cornfields. She has published poetry, three one-act comedies, numerous magazine articles, and one other novel, *Across the Creek*.

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Across the Creek

by Marya Smith

"Sent to his grandmother's after his mother's death, . . . Rye discovers a creek and an odd younger girl playing there. . . . It is this novel's signal success that we are convinced of Rye's belief that this girl is his mother as a child, transported across time. This is a quiet story, credibly characterized and written with low-key assurance."

—*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"In tender, spare prose, this first novel movingly conveys the grief and longing that give rise to the protagonist's romantic fantasy. Kudos to Smith for realistically resolving what could have become just another sentimental fairy tale."

—*Publishers Weekly*

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