

Unicorn Races

Stephen J. Brooks

Linda Crockett, Illustrator

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"Abigail took a deep breath and then shouted as loud as she could: On your mark, get ready, get set and go!" the author writes. After being magically transported in the night to a clearing in the deep woods, Abigail, clad as a princess complete with crown and wand, joined the fairies and elves to preside over the royal unicorn race. A glorious feast of cookies, cakes, and sundaes would follow Abigail's declaration of the winner. After the festivities, Lord William, Abigail's personal and noble unicorn, flew her safely out of the forest into the familiar comfort of her very own bedroom: "Still wearing her crown and with a smile on her face, Abigail dreamt of the next great unicorn race."

Unicorn Races portrays a magical journey of enchantment and make-believe, filled with princesses, unicorns, fairies, and elves.

Brooks, who was a federal agent for more than ten years, uses his talent to reassure and protect children by transporting them to an imaginary world, allowing them to escape the troubles they face in their daily lives. The author's four previous books include *Creatures of the Night*, which was included on the PBS Teacher Recommended List.

National and internationally acclaimed Crockett has illustrated many children's books, greeting cards, and magazines. Her accolades include a Distinguished Achievement Hall of Fame Award, honoree at the Bologna Children's Bookfair, and inclusion in the Society of Illustrators Permanent Collection. Her colorful, soft brush strokes on the star-lit pages are whimsical, enchanting, and dream-like.

Unicorn Races will appeal to children ages four to seven. They will delight in the excitement surrounding the race, which is almost too close to call.

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