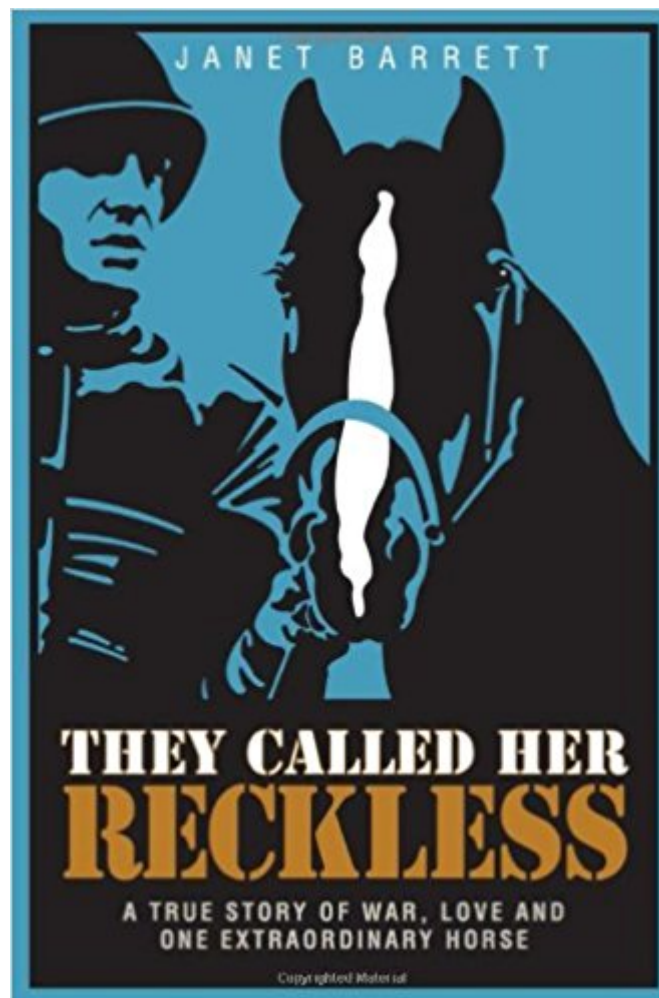




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# They Called Her Reckless -- A True Story Of War, Love And One Extraordinary Horse



## Synopsis

When the Marines of the Fifth Regiment's Recoilless Rifle Platoon acquired a small Korean pony to haul ammunition up the steep hills to the front lines, what they got was a real-life hero, Reckless, the courageous and indomitable warhorse who stood with her buddies for two years during the Korean War, saving many lives, raising spirits, and winning the love and respect of all who knew her. She came on base in October, 1952, disrupting a softball game and capturing the attention of everyone around. Immediately named for the reckless rifles she would supply, she began life with the Marines as private first class Reckless. In short order, she was an integral member of the platoon, learning quickly to run into her bunker when incoming fire hit the camp, navigate the trails and hills on her own, and calmly accept the roar of the recoilless rifles at close range. In skirmishes and firefights, and ultimately in the savage Battle for Outpost Vegas, Reckless showed her bravery and resilience. In that last bloody fight, surpassing all expectations, she hauled ammunition for three days and nights wherever it was needed. For wounds sustained, she was awarded two Purple Hearts. Ever the character, she also shared her buddies' C-rations and mess hall chow, beers and an occasional whiskey, and on cold nights, their warm tents. She was promoted to sergeant by the commander of the First Marine Division. Then, in late 1954, the men got their wish, and Sergeant Reckless sailed for San Francisco, a hero's welcome, and another new life. Enhancing Reckless' story is an extensive selection of photographs of her time in Korea and, later, during her years at Camp Pendleton in California. Many of them come from the private collections of the Marines who knew her, and have never before been published. The contributions of some 60 Marines in all, who came forward to share their memories of Reckless, made it possible to tell her story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Janet Barrett has written a book about the relationships forged between Reckless and the men she claimed as her own. Reckless bonded with the Marines and helped them survive physical danger and the psychological damage of fear and isolation. The story of Reckless comes alive from the numerous interviews collected by Barrett over 20 years and expertly crafted in descriptions of how Reckless was found, purchased, her exploits in battle, and her retirement. The chapter on Reckless' most significant battle, for Outpost Vegas, is riveting and the reader wonders whether or not physical prowess was Reckless' major contribution to the Korean War and to her men. It is true that her achievements in battle earned her a promotion and medals. But Barrett expertly weaves the real story throughout the chapters. This amazing horse gave her men stability, friendship, and solace. These were her greatest gifts and those parts of the story, retold by Barrett from the interviews of the men who knew her make the book come alive and impossible to forget. --Angele McGrady, Ph.D., university faculty and mental health counselor

A lot of us heard about Reckless when we were in Korea. That little mare was something--a real warhorse. I wish she had been with our regiment! How she and those guys were able to function together was incredible. Janet Barrett has done a terrific job of bringing together her whole story. It's a riveting book--you will laugh, you will get a lump in your throat. Mostly you will understand why the Marines love her still. --Jerry Vilbig, Weapons Company, First Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Korea, 1952-53.

You, dear reader, will finish this book with a smile and being in awe of how a horse always remains fully present in whatever moment at hand. Take a lesson from Reckless and her Marines: Always make an effort to live in the present and affirm the enjoyment of being together. The wonderful biography of Reckless is a gift to us all. You will find yourself protecting this little book. --Jess Maghan, Ph.D., author and professor.

From the moment she heard about Reckless, Janet Barrett knew she would write this book. Her experiences as a horsewoman gave her a particular appreciation of the tight bond that developed between Reckless and her fellow Marines, from which the story springs. She has loved and been fascinated by horses all her life, and for 25 years almost obsessively rode, owned, and cared for them. For a time, her company, Horses for Courses, booked horses for print and TV ads. Barrett is the author of *On The Fence: A Parent's Handbook of Horseback Riding*. She has written about health, sports, and education, and the people therein for a host of specialty publications, first as a

staff writer and later through her own company. As well, she has written for TV, radio, and the public relations field. Barrett also operates Designed 4 Paws, creating clothes and accessories for dogs, and items for the folks who love them. She was raised in New York, graduated from Indiana University with a B.S. in Communications, and now lives with her husband in Connecticut.

This is a great down to earth story about a bunch of Marines in Korea and their becoming attached to a little horse who made their lives simpler in the performance of their duties and also gave them the opportunity to bond with an animal that became a personal part of their lives. Always, a story of man and animal provides a human interest angle, but in this case, the personality of the animal created an extremely strong bond with her humans.

I happen to love a True Story, so when I saw this book, I thought I'll give it a shot. I thoroughly enjoyed it! I learned facts about the Korean war that I wasn't even aware of, but mostly fell in love with this little horse the way the marines had. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves animals. Even if you are not fond of war stories, this was written in a way that keeps your interest all the way through. I look forward to another book from this author.

I purchased this book for my father who served in the Korean War and who had heard of the horse that was there. But he knew very little about this tremendous mare with the big heart. At my father's age, it's difficult to find the perfect gift, but this one was. I didn't get the chance to read this book myself except for skimming through some of the wonderful photos--even those brought tears to my eyes. As a writer, animal lover and horse owner, I appreciate the work that went into compiling this unique perspective on a little-known fact--how a horse named Reckless, who Janet Barrett memorializes in her novel, helped save the lives of men like my father.

Wonderful, wonderful story and history. Not only did I learn a lot about a horse I didn't know existed, i learned a lot about the Korean conflict. An amazing and quick read. I also appreciated the notes and sources. I've kept this book for my library.

This is the story of a horse who sustained the morale of a Marine unit during the Korean War. The Marines' job was to carry heavy ammo for recoilless rifles up hills. Reckless could carry 10 of these to the Marines' two. She was not skittish and she bonded with the Marines and they bonded with her. This is a remarkable story told with sensitivity and awareness of both horses and Marines. Buy

it.

I like that the author didn't apply human emotions to Reckless the horse. She presented what made Reckless special using horse psychology i.e. her attachment to her Marines as a substitute for her herd. I knew part of the story before I read this book but I didn't realize Reckless delivered ammunition up and down the mountains by herself with no human lead. That truly was amazing. The author did a splendid job weaving in the history of the Marines and the Korean War with the main story of Reckless' military career. Ms. Barrett filled a lot of gaps I had in my knowledge of Korean War history.

I got this book for my Marine husband and keeper of our horses. When asked what he thought of the book he said pretty close to perfect.... that is why I gave it 5 stars as you don't have 1/2 stars... I don't think he expected the book to be as far reaching as it is, and it has re-kindled his love of books

This one tells a little more of her story.....love it

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