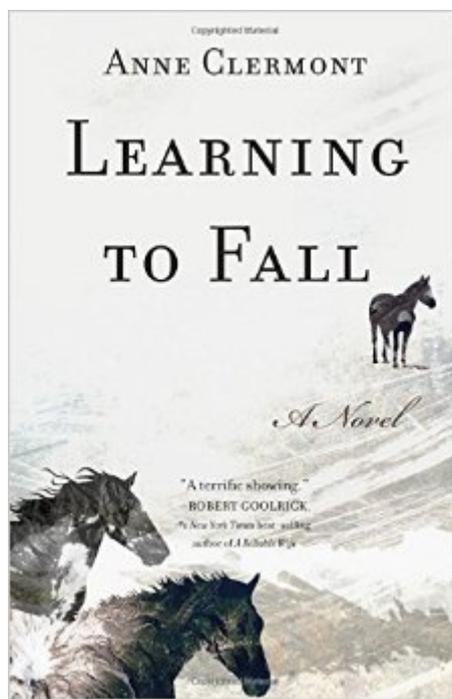


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# Learning To Fall: A Novel



## Synopsis

Brynn honors her passion for horses by studying at the toughest veterinary program in the country. Months from graduating, tragedy strikes—a tragedy for which she can't help but feel responsible. Brynn feels suffocated by the weight of her father's legacy and his dusty hopes for horse show jumping success. When Brynn's frenetic efforts to dig the family business out of debt fail, she's down to one desperate hope. Enter Jason Lander, who understands what it's like to walk away from the ring. The onetime champion agrees to train Brynn, and her horse Jett, for an all-or-nothing run at the prestigious Million Dollar Gold Cup. But going all the way means doing it his way, which has Brynn questioning her decisions, her loyalties, and her growing feelings for Jason—complicating her relationship with her lover. Set in Northern California against a stunning backdrop of coastal hills and valleys, *Learning to Fall* is about discovering how to let go—and how to hang on with your heart. Fans of *Seabiscuit* and *The Horse Whisperer* will love this beautifully written debut; one they're bound to add to their shelf of favorites.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What will be familiar in many ways to anyone with experience of the competitive world of horse showing, *Clermont* opens the doors and provides an honest (if not always pretty) window into the world: cutthroat and full of joys and struggles large and small. Wanting to live a more stable life, not depending on the vagaries of wins and losses, Brynn has dedicated her time to her studies in veterinary school. But, an accident and years of financial juggling left her family in deep debt, with few options for resolution, and Brynn is the key to the options. With a bit of help from another

successful horseman, Brynn has both the key and the opportunity to help with the family's troubles, but she has to make the choice. Years of the highs and lows of her father's career have her wondering if she is just the person to survive it all, especially with the added pressures and need to succeed. Clermont is obviously writing with full knowledge of the unique people that are in the show world: from the good to the not so. The simple displays of wealth and the focus on the presentation and performance, the single-minded focus needed to complete a course successfully, and the hours of behind the scenes time and work that makes the 90 seconds in the ring look effortless. When added to the inner struggles that Brynn experiences this story is gripping and compelling, with plenty of moments to enjoy. While this won't discourage or encourage anyone from setting their cap on the Grand Prix ring, it does present a sense of the struggles, expense and single-minded determination needed to start on the journey.

The relationship between a human being and a horse rarely just happens, it takes time. The owner needs to spend time feeding, grooming, talking and riding her horse. Equine research shows talking to your horse often in a conversational tone is most important. Studies have been done, showing horses have remained calm in traumatic situations because their owner remained calm and spoke in a peaceful voice. Anne Clermont introduces us to the very unique and beautiful world of horses in her debut novel, *LEARNING TO FALL* (SparkPress). She takes us into the highly specialized world of hunter-jumper horse training, a spectacular equestrian sport that relies on the strength and technique of the trainer and rider. Brynn Seymour has grown up on Redwood Grove Stables, thirty-acres of picturesque hills and valleys forty-five minutes north of San Francisco. She has completed nearly four years of veterinary school, and wants to become a doctor, but her father's dream is for her to take over the family business. She works at the barn and assists her father and his workers on the hunter-jumper circuit when not in school. With only months left to graduation, tragedy strikes on the way to a show leaving her father dead and Brynn feeling responsible. Brynn and her mother meet with the family accountant and learn they are broke, that her father has taken out multiple mortgages and they're close to losing Redwood Grove Stables. After the initial shock, Brynn picks herself up and designs a plan she thinks could save the family business, but she's going to have to let go of control and rely on others who know more than she does. Brynn's going to have to trust people who want to help her and she's going to have to completely change.

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