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# A Girl And Five Brave Horses



## a **GIRL** and **FIVE** **BRAVE HORSES**

by **SONORA CARVER** who rode the  
diving horses and continued to ride them long  
after she was totally blind  
as told to **ELIZABETH LAND**



## Synopsis

2011 Reprint edition of 1961. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. Sonora Carver was an American entertainer, most notable as one of the first female horse divers. Carver answered an ad placed by "Doc" William Frank Carver in 1923 for a diving girl and soon earned a place in circus history. Her job was to mount a running horse as it reached the top of a forty-foot (sometimes sixty-foot) tower and sail down along the animal's back as it plunged into a deep pool of water directly below. Sonora was a sensation and soon became the lead diving girl for Doc Carver's act as they traveled the country. In 1931, Sonora was blinded, a retinal detachment, due to hitting the water off-balance with her eyes open while diving her horse, Red Lips, on New Jersey's Steel Pier, the act's permanent home since 1929. After her accident Sonora continued to dive horses until 1942.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I found this book after a bit of research on the story, itself, and the movie that my children and I had so loved. Sonora Carver tells her own story with a great deal of charm and intelligence, and with the flair for showmanship that her beloved mentor also possessed. Her style is conversational, and I found myself devouring the pages in eager anticipation. I knew the basics of the tale, as I said, because of the film "Wild Hearts Can't be Broken," and knew the diving horse show had been a regular feature at Steel Pier for many years. I knew Sonora had sustained an injury that left her blind, and knew she continued to dive for some time after attempts to restore her vision failed. While there are a few editing errors and typos in the kindle version, they are minor, and do not detract

from the story. I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys biography, history, animals (especially horses), and who enjoys being inspired and educated. Her own account of her life in showbiz and the obstacles she overcame is so much more than an autobiography, it is a celebration of life and of the miracles all around us daily.

This first person story of a girl and her love of horses and performing was wonderful to read. I had seen the movie "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken" which is loosely based on Sonora, and have the DVD. I remember seeing the diving horses on the Steel Pier in Atlantic City, NJ. But, according to the book she retired as WW-2 started. So, I was there after she'd retired. For anyone who fears the horses were in any way mistreated, this book should be a pleasant surprise. And, how Sonora deals with a life changing situation is nothing short of inspiring. Great story. Great gift!

I had seen, and really enjoyed the movie, "Wild Hearts Can't be Broken". I never realized it was based on a true story, and that there was a book about Sonora Carver's life, until recently. It was a great read, even my husband enjoyed it!

An excellent book that the movie Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken was based on. I loved actually reading the story written by Sonora. I was not aware how loosely based on the book the movie was and was very inspired by her independent spirit and desire to overcome her handicap. What an amazing uplifting story. A must read for young girls everywhere.

I liked get the real story of Sonora Webster Carver. I only wish there had been a little more to the story after Sonora and Al stopped doing the act. Hats off to Sonora!

Enjoyed this reprint book immensely, though the Kindle edition did not have the photographs the print edition had. Based on the true story of the origins of the Atlantic City, New Jersey "Steel Pier" diving horse act, I am glad to have finally read the more complete story I learned a bit of from Ms. Carver when I met her in the 1980s, when I lived in the Atlantic City area.

Watched Wild Hearts Can't be Broken but this book is much better than the movie. A great story if you love horses.

I loved the film "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken" as a child. I never knew it was based on a true story

until recently. As I was reading about Sonora Webster and the diving horses, and then discovering she wrote an autobiography, I knew I had to read it. A fascinating and inspiring true story about a remarkable woman's extraordinary performing career with diving horses, who then continues to dive with them after going blind.

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