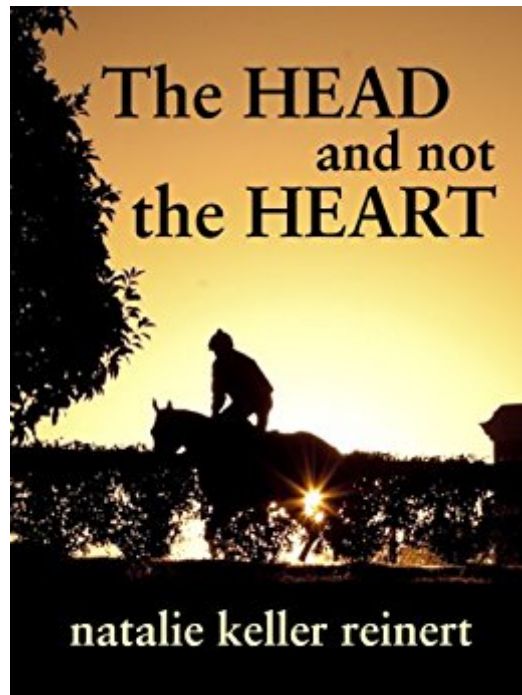




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# **The Head And Not The Heart (Alex And Alexander Book 1)**



## Synopsis

"This is one of those books that stays with you, long after youâ™ve turned the last page." "This book is great fun, a solid story, and something you could, maybe, use to explain an obsession of your own." "This book really is one that speaks directly to the heart and soul of someone who feels so passionate about the thoroughbred horse." "She knows these settings and she doesnâ™t miss a detail. You can almost taste the grime of a side street in Brooklyn, and you can exactly picture what the old Claremont Riding Academy looked like." - Andrea Galbraith, Eventing-a-Go-Go

For anyone who ever doubted their life's work... for anyone who ever looked up and suddenly wondered if they were doing the right thing... *The Head and Not The Heart* explores just what makes passionate people tick. Horses have always been Alex's obsession. Their presence has defined her life: all her choices, from her love-life to her career, have been made with horses as her priority. But the horse business isn't for the sentimental, and it's growing harder for her to tamp down her emotions and think about the horses with her head and not her heart. Alex's life looks pretty wonderful to the casual observer. She's in a committed relationship with a master racehorse trainer. Surrounded by hundreds of horses in the green hills of Ocala, Florida, it's a dream life for any equestrian. But suddenly she's tired of hitting the ground when a flighty racehorse decides to spook, tired of fending off biting and kicking foals, tired of 2 AM calls for veterinary emergencies. And Alex is starting to wonder if she's made the right choices in life. When their racing stable suffers a loss, she and Alexander slowly begin to fall apart. A chance find of a long-lost horse sends Alex alone to New York City, and she wonders if this is the sign she's been waiting for. Is it time to leave it all behind and start fresh? Running from the lush pastures of Florida horse country to the icy streets of Brooklyn, Alex experiments with being a different sort of person, as if horses had never mattered to her, and finds herself lost in the company of strangers. Dealing with love, loss, and obsession -- all the components of a life with horses -- "*The Head and Not The Heart*" brings the world of racehorses and the people who love them to life.\*In keeping with its racetrack theme, this book contains strong language.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Being a fan of thoroughbred racing since childhood and also a Florida resident I could relate to much about the storyline. What added to a great story was the main character's "life choices" decisions most of us have to make at some time in our life. I loved the characters, the storyline and recommend this book to all horse fans and animal lovers and look forward to more books from Natalie.

It was a pleasant surprise to finally read a novel about horse racing written by someone who knew what she was talking about. There were so many things I could relate to it's hard to know where to begin. As another reviewer mentioned, the main character does indulge in a lot of self pity, but I could relate to even that. Not only that, but everyone on the backside of the racetrack seems to think that they have the hardest lives of anyone, even though few would trade it for full time office jobs combined with carpooling, etc. In addition to being spot on about the race track, the novel was also extremely well-written with excellent prose and believable characters. Right now this is a four book series, but I'm hoping the author will come back with a prequel describing how Alex and Alexander meet.

This is a book for horse lovers and those who make a living raising and selling horses. I have done both in my life and wouldn't take anything for the memories of my mares stirring up the West Texas red dust as they headed, hell-bent, for the barn at feeding time. I would like to forget, however, the

sorrow when my best mare caught her foot in a wire fence and almost amputated it. I got the call while at work far away from home she'd had to be put down. This book brought back those old memories with a passion. If you love horses, and all that goes with that love, read this book.

It's so awesome to read horse books written from such a knowledgeable author. A great story, well written. You blow me away with your talent Natalie!

I do enjoy this writer's work. She keeps the story rolling . I recommend all her books. I've not read them all as yet, but I know I will enjoy them.

I was SOOO impressed by this book! I'll read ANY horse book anywhere anytime because that's who I am, and some are certainly better than others. THIS book was one of those that are better than others! Well researched, cleverly written and edited, full of descriptive detail and interesting, believable characters both human and equine. I'm not a fan of the horse racing industry because they do all seem to operate with the head and not with the heart-- I had an off the track Thoroughbred rescue horse who was 4 years old with injuries that made him forever unridable as one of zillions of examples of how the racing industry thinks with the head and not with the heart-- But even though I'm not a Thoroughbred racing fan, this book is a winner-

Reinert writes well, and the settings and horses and scenes of Ocala were right on. For me this is critical since I know horses and if a book hits a note wrong concerning horses I may just chuck it across the room. But my one complaint is that she gave up on the story way too soon. The premise was good. Any one of us who has worked in any section of the hands-on portion of the horse industry has experienced the mind-numbing and body and soul fatiguing burn-out from the relentless work. Not to mention the inevitable heartache when you lose one. It is not the world for the faint of heart. She could have explored this much much deeper. I got the feeling she got fatigued from the story and copped out from putting her character through a deeper crisis and conflict and further pain. My advice is you gotta' take her closer to the edge before you pull her back. Keep writing.

I am a horse person and love reading about them or watching movies about them. The first and last chapter of Head and not the Heart focused on the racing business and how everything equates to the bottom line...money. But, there are those horses that have a way of by-passing the bottom line and makes for a wonderful story. The rest of the chapters dealt way too much with the insecurities of

the main female character to the point that I wanted to smack her. Even though She annoyed me, I would liked to have had more to story. More on those special horses.

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