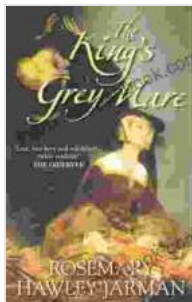


Rosemary Hawley Jarman: The Legendary 'King Grey Mare' of Show Jumping



In the annals of equestrian history, few names shine brighter than that of Rosemary Hawley Jarman. As a pioneering show jumping rider, she forged an unbreakable bond with her legendary mount, Mr. Softee, endearing

herself forever to the hearts of horse lovers worldwide. Together, they conquered some of the most formidable courses in equestrian sport, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire generations.



The King's Grey Mare by Rosemary Hawley Jarman

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1231 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 352 pages



Early Life and Career

Rosemary Hawley was born in 1935 into a family with a deep passion for horses. She spent her formative years in the rolling hills of California, where she developed a natural affinity for equestrian pursuits. At the age of 16, she won her first major jumping competition, heralding the beginning of an illustrious career.

In the early days, Hawley faced the challenges typical of any young rider. She had limited resources and relied heavily on borrowed mounts. However, her determination and unwavering belief in her abilities propelled her to success. By the early 1960s, she had established herself as one of the top show jumpers in the United States.

Meeting Mr. Softee

In 1961, Hawley's life took an extraordinary turn when she met Mr. Softee, a plain-looking grey mare with an unassuming demeanor. Despite her humble appearance, Softee possessed an exceptional talent for jumping. Hawley saw something special in her and recognized the potential for greatness.

Together, Hawley and Softee embarked on a journey that would forever alter the landscape of show jumping. Softee's innate athleticism, combined with Hawley's impeccable horsemanship, proved to be an unstoppable combination. They soared over fences with remarkable ease, their partnership becoming a spectacle to behold.

Dominating the Show Jumping Circuits

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Hawley and Softee dominated the show jumping circuits in the United States and abroad. They won countless competitions, including the prestigious American Grandprix Association (AGA) Championship seven times. Hawley's signature style, characterized by her unwavering determination and fearless riding, earned her the moniker "The King Grey Mare."

International Triumphs

Hawley's success extended beyond North America. In 1968, she became the first American woman to win the individual gold medal at the Pan American Games. She also represented the United States at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany.

The Bond Between Rider and Horse

The relationship zwischen Hawley and Softee was one of mutual respect and affection. Hawley treated Softee with the utmost care and compassion,

understanding that their bond was the foundation of their success. Softee, in turn, responded with unwavering loyalty and trust, performing with unwavering determination on the showjumping course.

The Legacy of Rosemary Hawley Jarman

Rosemary Hawley Jarman's legacy extends far beyond her competitive achievements. She became a role model for aspiring show jumpers, inspiring countless generations with her grit, determination, and love for horses. Her partnership with Mr. Softee remains an enduring reminder of the unbreakable bond that can exist between a rider and their mount.

Retirement and Hall of Fame

After retiring from competitive riding in 1976, Hawley remained active in the equestrian world. She served as a trainer and mentor, passing on her knowledge and passion to future generations of show jumpers. In 1981, she was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to her unparalleled achievements in the sport.

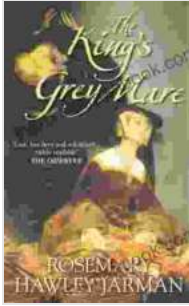
Rosemary Hawley Jarman, known affectionately as "The King Grey Mare," was a trailblazing figure in the equestrian world. Her exceptional horsemanship, unwavering determination, and profound bond with Mr. Softee left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire and motivate horse lovers to this day. Her story is a testament to the transformative power of partnership, passion, and the indomitable spirit that resides within both humans and animals.

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