



Scattered Links

By Michelle Weidenbenner

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FIRST-PLACE WINNER in the KINDLE BOOK PROMOS

GOLD Medal WINNER in the 2014 READERS' FAVORITE

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

BRONZE Medal winner in Dan Poynter's Global eBook Awards

CAPTIVATING!

SCATTERED LINKS takes you down the street of nearly any Eastern European town, arm-in-arm with the orphaned. Michelle has captured the beauty and horror millions of children live everyday. The attention to detail is impressive. Having lived in a post-Soviet country for a time, visiting orphaned children, this fictional account rings with truth, from the heart-wrenching pain of abandonment to the realization of self-worth, and the love family and faith brings. Thank you for such an uplifting book, appropriate for the young reader, as well as adult. May your heart be encouraged, as mine was.

Kim de Blecourt, speaker and award-winning author of "Until We All Come Home: A Harrowing Journey, a Mother's Courage, a Race to Freedom"

"Scattered Links is a novel that pulls its characters from the gutters and, in the end, celebrates the tenacity of the human spirit." A reviewer comment.

Thirteen-year-old Oksana lives on the streets of Russia with her pregnant mama and abusive aunt—both prostitutes. When Mama swells into labor, Oksana makes a decision to save herself from abandonment, a decision that torments her forever. But her plan fails when her aunt dumps her in an orphanage before she has the chance to say goodbye to her mama or tell her the secret that haunts her.

Scattered Links is a story of family and the consequences that come from never learning how to love. It's a story of a girl's inability to bond with her adopted family and the frustrations that follow.

How can a child understand the mechanics of forming a healthy relationship when she never had a mother who answered her cries, held her when she was frightened, fed her when she was hungry, or loved her unconditionally?

Only when the child meets a rescued abused horse, and recognizes the pain in his

eyes, does she begin to trust again.

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Scattered Links By Michelle Weidenbenner Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

READERS' FAVORITE *****Five-Stars

"This story rings so true and close that it is sometimes hard to remember that it is fiction. This book is good for all ages and opens your eyes as you follow the journey of the main character, a Russian orphan. The story is written very well, researched and edited with added attention to details. **The entire story is constructed to make it an experience for the reader and it is one I enjoyed. From the very first page until the last, I was riveted. This is a read-again story and even with the emotional charge in it, I recommend it.**"

-Kathryn Bennett

From the Author

Readers who have a heart for orphans and horses will enjoy this novel.

About the Author

Scattered Links, (initially titled *Love is Just a Word*), was the winner of the 2013 Aspiring Writers Competition, sponsored by Write on Con and The Reading Room. This novel was intended to show readers a glimpse into the life of a child with RAD, reactive attachment disorder, prevalent in children who never experienced bonding in infancy.

The story was inspired by Michelle's journey to Russia to adopt her orphan daughter and seeing the neglect of orphanage children, many of whom suffer from attachment disorders.

Michelle grew up in the burbs of Detroit with five brothers. No sisters. Each time her mom brought the boy bundle home from the hospital Michelle cried, certain her mom liked boys better than girls. But when her brothers pitched in with the cooking, cleaning, and babysitting--without drama, Michelle discovered having brothers wasn't so bad. They even taught her how to take direct criticism without flinching, which comes in handy with book reviews.

Michelle blogs at Random Writing Rants where she teaches and encourages writers how to get published.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Atwood:

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Bertha Davis:

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