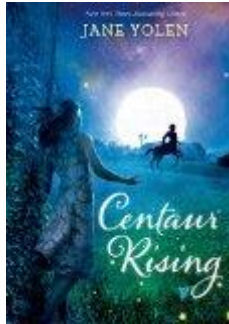


Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction – Fantasy



Centaur Rising.

Yolen, Jane (author).
Oct. 2014. 272p. Holt/Christy Ottaviano, hardcover, \$15.99 ([9780805096644](#)); Holt/Christy Ottaviano, e-book, \$15.99 ([9780805096651](#)). Grades 3-6. [REVIEW](#). First published July, 2014 (*Booklist*).

In 1965, 11 months after Arianne witnesses an unusual Perseid meteor shower over her family's ranch, Agora the pony gives birth to a centaur and life completely changes. As soon as he is on his hooves, the baby centaur, named Kai, embraces and bonds with another liminal being: Ari's six-year-old brother, Robbie, a thalidomide child. Kai's birth, however, brings additional concerns for their mother, Hannah. How do they keep Kai a secret not just from the world but from their boarders and riders—especially Mrs. Angotti, with her big mouth and unruly children? How do they allow him to run as a foal but also develop as a child? And most worrisome, what will happen when he is no longer a secret? When Robbie is accidentally knocked out of his wheelchair, Kai picks him up and places him on his back, inspiring Hannah to create Kai's Kids, a horse-therapy program. Yolen offers something wholly uplifting here: shooting stars, a child's hug, and the nuzzle of a horse's nose. Myth? Miracle? Magic? Yes, it's all that, but also simply a beautifully written story of love and acceptance with a large helping of horse sense. Likely to become not only a popular book but perhaps one that stands the test of time. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *Centaur Rising*

- *The Boy Who Climbed into the Moon*
- *Eidi*