

ella  
AND Olivia



For Sascha—YP  
For Lucy, Ella and Max—DM

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By  
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Danielle McDonald

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# Chapter One

Ella and Olivia are sisters. Ella is older than Olivia. She is seven years old and Olivia is five-and-a-half years old.

The sisters have lots of adventures together. Ella likes to be in charge. That's because she is the **BIG** sister.





Ella and Olivia also have a little brother called Max. Max learns new words every day. His favourite words are MINE and NOW. When he is older, he will be a real chatterbox. Max will also be an adventurer, just like his big sisters.

Ella and Olivia live with Mum, Dad, Max, and their puppy, Bob.



Ella, Olivia and Max all have different shades of brown hair.

Bob has golden hair that collects in tufts all over the backyard.

‘So much dog hair, so little time!’ Mum always says.



Zoe has come to visit this afternoon. Zoe is Ella's best friend. She has black hair and brown eyes. Zoe loves horseriding and playing netball. Zoe thinks Olivia is fun to play with, too.

Sometimes, Zoe wishes she had a little sister, just like Ella does. Zoe has a big brother called Will. He is not at all like Olivia!

Today, Zoe and Ella are brushing Bob's coat. His fur starts to shine. Bob loves it and wags his tail like he always does when people brush his coat.

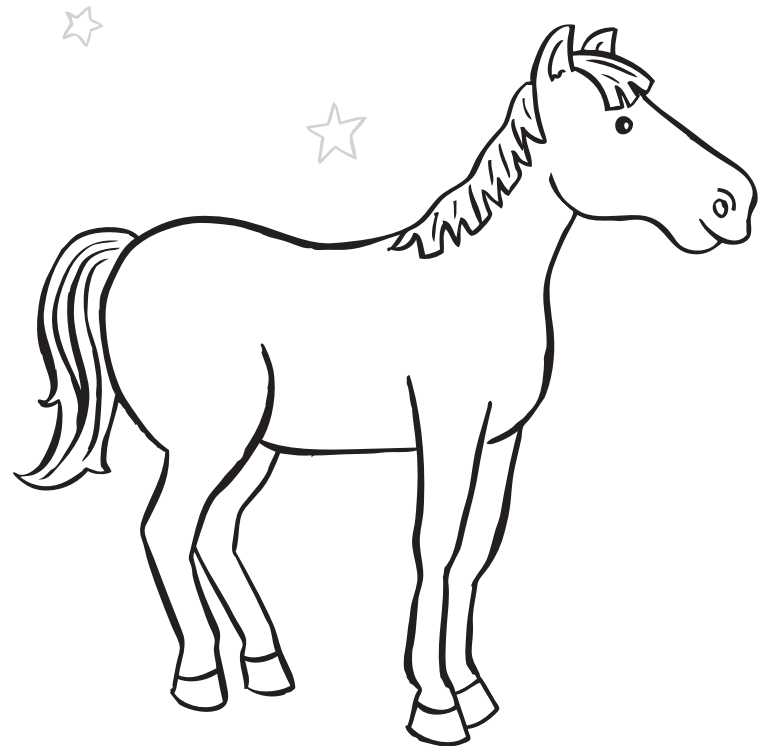


‘I am taking part in an equestrian competition on the weekend,’ Zoe tells Ella and Olivia.

Equestrian means something to do with horses. They think Zoe is lucky to have a horse and go riding on the weekends. It must be fun to trot around on such a beautiful animal. Ella is a teeny bit jealous that Zoe has a horse, but she tries not to show it.



‘Would you like to come and watch my event?’ Zoe asks. It would make her and Hattie very happy. Hattie is Zoe’s horse.





She is a beautiful filly with a chestnut coat. A filly is a girl horse. With Ella and Olivia cheering her on, they might just be able to win the competition! Zoe hopes to win first prize in her event on the weekend.

Ella missed out on seeing the stables last time. She has been waiting for another chance to visit them with Zoe.



‘I would **LOVE** to come to the competition,’ Ella cries. ‘Me too,’ Olivia says. ‘I can’t wait to see Hattie!’ Ella says.



The sisters are very excited that they will be able to spend so much time with all the sleek horses and clever ponies.





The equestrian event is on Saturday. Zoe will train first and then compete in her event. Hattie will need to be brushed and prepared for competition.

Both the horses and the riders will be judged on the day.



Ella and Olivia ask Mum if they can go to the event with Zoe.

‘Of course,’ says Mum. ‘But you must be careful around the animals.’

The girls nod.

‘Yes, Mum!’

they say.

They can’t

wait until

Saturday

arrives.

