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## Marlow's "Andi lassos trouble" (book review)

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# Book Reviews

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Marlow, S. K. (2017). *Andi lassos trouble*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel. 112 pp. \$7.99. ISBN 9780825444326

Andi Carter and her friend, Sadie Hollister, are enjoying an afternoon by the creek when their play is interrupted by stampeding cattle and quarreling ranch hands. That evening as her brothers are discussing the events of the afternoon, Mrs. Carter suggests that the ranch host a rodeo to celebrate the end of round up season. Such an event would give the men something to look forward to and would allow for the coming together of cattlemen from other ranches to compete in the various events. Knowing that she will be forbidden to enter any contest pertaining to the rodeo should she ask, Andi begins to practice her lassoing skills in private, hoping to convince her brothers of her great skill. She, likewise, takes a daring step when she invites her friend, Sadie and her family to the rodeo. This is a great risk, because Sadie's family are sheepherders. When Andi's older brother uncovers her plot to participate, he informs her in no uncertain terms that she is forbidden to participate in any of the contests. To make matters worse, when the Hollisters appear at the rodeo, there is a great uproar from the cattlemen, since both groups hold each other in equal disdain. When the actions of the other cattlemen cause Andi great distress, her brother steps in to restore peace. First, he reminds the crowd of the barbecue that awaits, and then he invites the Hollisters to present a trick-riding display. To remind her that she is loved and accepted, Andi is also permitted to give a roping display atop one of the ranch horses. The best thing emerging from the events of the day is that Andi comes to realize the assurance that she is unconditionally loved by her family.

Marlow has crafted an interesting and exciting horse story from the days of the Old West. This story is one of the Circle C Stepping Stones books, written for children ages seven to nine. Since many girls that age are enamored with horses and horsemanship, this book fits well within that genre as do most of the Andi Carter books. *Andi lassos trouble* is clearly a work of inspirational fiction, but the messages of truth are covert and flow naturally from the storyline. Not only would this be a strong addition for a church or Christian school library, but it is also appropriate for the juvenile section of an academic library.

## Reviewer

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