



Karin Livingston:

"This is a stupid way to die."

The thought came to her as her parents' car spun across California State Route 34. The chartreuse Plymouth Duster shuddered when a white Cadillac slammed it broadside, the second of two hits. A Ford Pinto station wagon had started the chain reaction by darting out from a "T" intersection and presenting itself for road kill.

The god-awful-green Duster vibrated again. Something big dropped out from under it. The world sped by in a blur of sparks and foliage. Time slowed inside the car. Better ways to die, not dying at all, second chances, came to mind.

Horses caused that accident. Karin Livingston was on her way from the University of California at Davis to an A-rated horse show in Santa Rosa, where she planned to make money catch-riding. The big thing falling out of the Duster was its engine block. The Duster died.

Karin lived, with only a bruised right pinky toe, which hours later, was stomped on by a 1200-pound black mare named Clementine. The pair won a Top-10 ribbon in that halter class.

In the second chances since then, Karin Livingston's life has been about horses, their people, and their stories.

Karin started her writing career as a reporter and editor with the award-winning McClatchy Newspapers, and later taught junior-high language arts and Spanish. In 1990, she and her husband bought Poudre River Stables in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Tragedy struck the evening of July 22, 2003 when Karin returned home from a saddle club meeting to find her husband dead in his chair. He fell asleep and never woke up.



A career 4-H horse leader, Karin says we all make a "winning bet" when we dare to believe in our gifts and take those second chances. In her case, heartbreak spurred a "now or never" second chance at writing.

"Hoofprints", the ad-free version of her online horse blog, is available on the Kindle.