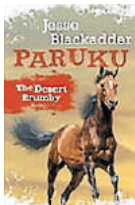


CHILDREN

Paruku: The Desert Brumby

Jesse Blackadder
(ABC Books,
\$14.99)



When an opportunity arises for 12-year-old Rachel to help her father capture brumbies for a sheik in the Kimberley, she jumps at the chance. The trip proves to be life-changing. Rachel falls in love with the high-spirited stallion, Paruku, and finds her place in the world far from her sister's shadow. But when Rachel sets her sights on making Paruku her own, she risks having her heart broken by the untameable brumby. Blackadder deftly captures the rugged beauty of the Kimberley and the raw energy of the wild horses. The tender, tenuous relationship between girl and horse is palpable.

Aleesah Darlison