



## Changes for Kaya: A Story of Courage

*Janet Beeler Shaw , Bill Farnsworth (Illustrator)*

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Speaking Rain has returned to Kaya's family, but Kaya still has one last fear--that she'll never see her beloved horse, Steps High, again. When Kaya hears of a herd of Nimípuu horses running wild in the mountains, she hopes Steps High is one of them. Kaya soon has a chance to find out for herself when she joins the elk-hunting party traveling into the mountains. Kaya is filled with excitement and hope, but Speaking Rain is troubled by the smoke she smells on the wind--smoke from mountain fire. As Kaya searches for her beautiful horse, she has to face a fear greater than any she's ever known.

### Changes for Kaya: A Story of Courage Details

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## **From Reader Review Changes for Kaya: A Story of Courage for online ebook**

### **Miss Clark says**

Read in year of publication

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### **Elise says**

Great stories.

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### **Partridge Public says**

Shaw, Janet PB

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### **Kyra says**

this book was pretty good. I read it in two days, since it was actually only four chapters long. The book had not much going on in it though; pretty much Kaya (an american girl) has searched for her stolen horse Steps High. Kayas tribe, (the Nez Perce) Hunters, come back with big news for the tribe.

First, the Hunters found a trail for Elk season. Second, Raven (a hunter) said he found a herd of wild horses said to be escaped from the Salish people.

Kaya then decides to go after her horse Steps High with her father Toe-Ta and Raven, they found Steps High with a foal. A forest fire then starts, and Kaya, Toe-Ta and Raven have to find a way to escape. Will they make it to the other side and back to her tribe? Will Brown Deer, (Kayas big sister) get married to the love of her life, Cut Cheek? Read the book to find out!!

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### **Marilyn says**

Had to return it. Will finish.

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### **Kimk says**

It was okay. Typically AG book. My 5 year old loved reading it together.

### **Danae says**

[Steps High's beautiful foal (A+ illustrations!). (hide spoiler)]

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### **Ashley says**

We finally made it through the Kaya series! This book was sweet and had a great message about growing older and being brave. Abby really liked the Kaya books--she liked the adventure and learning about Kaya's people. I liked--once again--the lessons that Kaya learns about herself and about her family.

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### **Leona Carstairs says**

The whole Kaya series is a great look at Nez Perce culture for kids and has great illustrations as well as story lines. None are too long or hard to read, so they are great for struggling readers!  
I am so so so happy she gets reunited with Steps High, who happens to have an adorable little foal!!!!!!Kaya has really matured throughout the series and this is an exciting ending.

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### **Felicity The Magnificent says**

I liked this book because in the book Kaya's Escape Kaya's horse Steps High got taken away with the other horses and Kaya's sister Speaking Rain, and Speaking Rain returned home. In this book, Kaya still did not have Steps High. In the beginning of the book, Kaya found Steps High. When she found Steps High, Steps High had a foal. -by Felicity

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### **Stephanie P says**

Listened to it as an audiobook. It was a satisfying close to Kaya's series.

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### **G.R. Webster says**

it was a petty good book

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### **Alice says**

I read this series aloud to my 6, 8, & 12 year olds, and we all enjoyed them. I especially enjoyed the history at the end and the way my kids picked up and began using Nez Perce phrases. We will get another American

girl series.

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### **Sarah Crawford says**

This book in the Kaya series is primarily about her search for her lost horse, Steps High. It's also about the normal activities of her tribe, in this case riding out and hunting elk so they could have meat for the tribe.

It's during the hunt that Kaya finds Steps High, but she first has to get her horse away from another horse that claims her as his, and then if she can do that get her horse, herself and her horse's foal out through a major fire.

One of the very interesting things in the series is the philosophy of the Native Americans in relation to food gathering. They give thanks to the animals and plants that they took for food for "giving" themselves to them so that they can eat. All the food gathering is done with a very high degree of respect for the living things they are taking for their own survival. It's a philosophy that helped them live in balance with nature, rather than in a seeming continual fight with it as we do in today's world.

The historical section does not make for happy reading, as it tells about how the Nez Perce were chased for over a thousand miles by the American military, trying to force them back on to a small reservation. It also tells of how the gold rush led the U.S. to dishonor treaties they had made with the Nez Perce (and actually with all the other tribes treaties were made with, to be honest.)

It's a good book and quite thought-provoking.

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### **Christina says**

Nice ending to the series. Isobel and I finished this a couple of weeks ago and I'm having trouble remembering anything about it already (which is not a good sign) but I did like it. There was some good peril in this series that I think really introduced Iso to the idea of getting wrapped up in a book caring about the characters- it was fun to hear her ask questions, express concern, etc. as we read. Now I'm curious about which American Girl she'll want to read about next!

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### **Bree says**

This review is from the perspective of a mother - Kaya's final book is hair-raisingly adventurous, and Kaya displays more of her budding maturity.

Aah, American Girl, this series was going so splendidly. Kaya faced real physical and emotional dangers, loss and heartache. And then this book has gratuitous adventure, and then wraps the whole mess up in a pretty bow fictionally in a way that is glaringly different from the rest of the series.

Oh, and then rips the rug out from under you in the Looking Back section with the history of the Nez Perce tribe.

I can't say much without spoiling the whole book, but really?

### **Miri says**

Kaya has her sister Speaking Rain back, her grief over Swans Circling is finally passing, her sister Brown deer is soon to be married, the only thing Kaya wishes she had now is her horse Steps High. When her uncle's visit and tell her of a herd of horses running free that they believe might me Niimiipuu Kaya is hopeful that her horse may be among them. When her father agrees to take her out to see the horses Kaya is delighted when she finds Steps High and her new foal, but on the journey home they are trapped by wildfires and running for their lives, can Kaya be brave like her namesake and find a way to save herself along with Steps High and her foal when they are separated from her father?

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### **Rachel says**

I cried a lot.

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### **Kristine Hansen says**

Action! Adventure! Changes! This last book of the Kaya sextet thrilled all the way through and came to a satisfying conclusion. I liked Kaya at the end and think she's grown quite a bit.

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### **Yvonne says**

Well, my 7 year old and I have officially finished the series. This has been my favorite series, so far, of the American Girl books. I really liked the character, Kaya, and it was nice to watch her come full circle. In the final book of the series, you see that Kaya has learned from her past mistakes, and is officially older AND wiser. I really enjoyed sharing this series with my daughter, and it sparked some great conversations.

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