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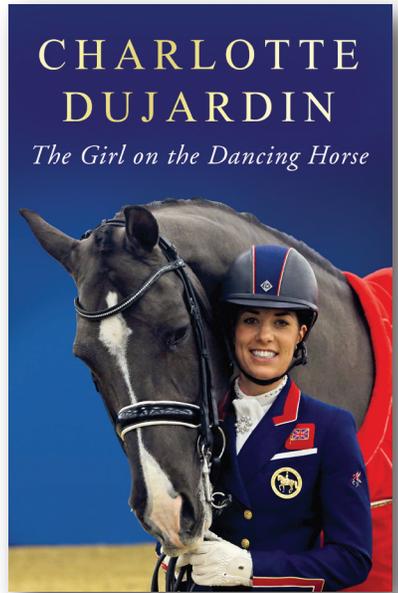
CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN

Trafalgar Square Books is pleased to announce the release of *The Girl on the Dancing Horse* by Charlotte Dujardin.

Charlotte Dujardin and her charismatic horse Valegro burst onto the international sports scene with their record-breaking performance at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The world was captivated by the young woman with the dazzling smile and her dancing horse. The YouTube clip of their Freestyle performance has since had over 1.7 million views, and Dujardin is considered the dominant dressage rider of her era. When Valegro—affectionately called “Blueberry”—retired from competition at the end of 2016, his farewell performance at the Olympia Grand Hall sold out, and the dark bay gelding received a standing ovation.

Dujardin began riding horses at the age of two, but dressage was the domain of the rich—not the life a girl from a middle-class family was born into. Her parents sacrificed to give her as many opportunities as they could, and she left school at 16 to focus on equestrian competition. It was at 22, when she was invited to be a groom for British Olympian Carl Hester, that she met the equine partner who would change her fortune. This is the story of an outsider, an unconventional horse, and the incredible bond that took them to the top.

CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN is an elite British dressage rider, winner of three Olympic gold medals and a silver—London 2012 and Rio de Janeiro 2016—and European Champion, World Champion, and holder of all three world records in the sport of dressage. Born in Enfield, England, Dujardin was brought up in Hertfordshire and started riding when she was two. By the age of 16, she had won the Horse of the Year Show competition four times, and her trainer encouraged her to explore the sport of dressage. In 2007, she was offered a job as a groom by British Olympian Carl Hester, and asked to bring along a young Dutch Warmblood gelding named Valegro;



CHARLOTTE
DUJARDIN
The Girl on the Dancing Horse

their partnership and great potential became apparent, and so began the pair’s meteoric rise.

“Charlotte Dujardin, a thirty-one-year-old British rider who is the European, World, and Olympic dressage champion, rode her first piaffe in the summer of 1999 ... Dujardin’s riding, which is normally so subtle as to be virtually unnoticeable, is helping to reform dressage and to bring it to a state of near-perfection.”

—THE NEW YORKER

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For more information, contact mcook@trafalgarbooks.com

To order, contact: Trafalgar Square Books, Box 257, Howe Hill Road, N. Pomfret, VT 05053
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