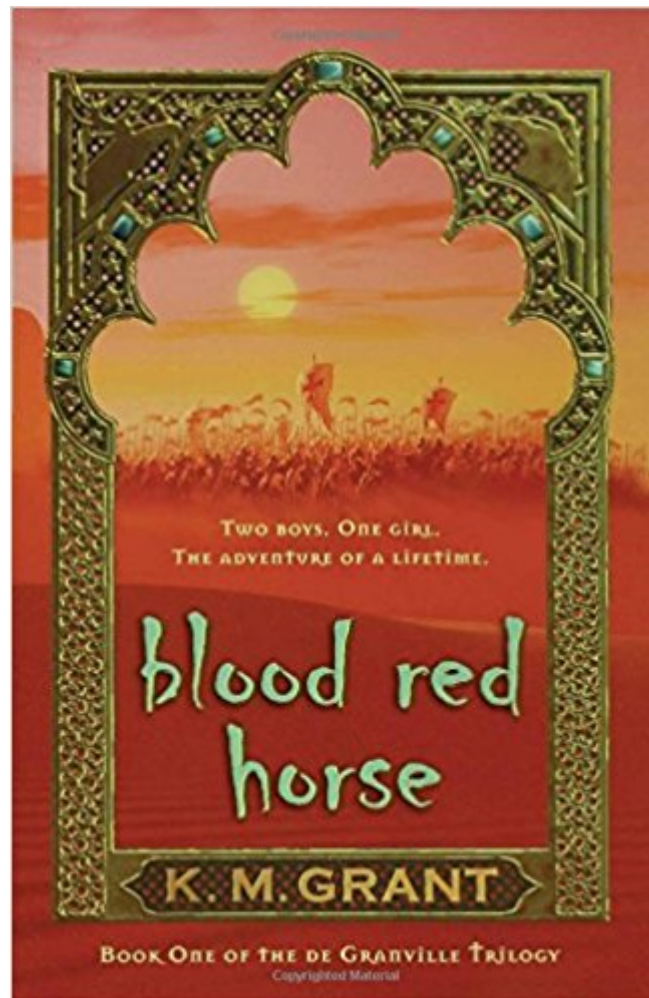




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Blood Red Horse (The DeGranville Trilogy)



Synopsis

You need three things to become a brave and noble knight: A warhorse. A fair maiden. A just cause. Will has a horse—a small chestnut stallion with a white blaze in his brow. Ellie is a fair maiden, but she's supposed to marry Will's older brother, Gavin. And as for the cause, King Richard is calling for a Crusade. The Knights of England must go to the Holy Land to fight. Will and Gavin will go. Blood will be shed. Lives will be taken. But through it all, two things will be constant—Ellie, and a blood-red horse called Hosanna. . . .

Book Information

Series: The deGranville Trilogy (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9 — Based on the Third Crusade with England's King Richard I and the Muslim leader Saladin, this novel takes readers from the de Granvilles' Hartslove Castle to the bloody battlefields of the Middle East. It is a story of loyalty, honor, and nobility and centers around the lives of two brothers, Gavin and William; the fair maiden Eleanor whom they leave behind; and Will's beloved red horse. Readers are caught up in the bloody battles, with alternating chapters revealing what is happening on the "home front," and in the Christian and in the Muslim camps. Tying these stories together is the red horse, Hosanna, who is the book's most compelling and empathetic character. The futility of war is a theme throughout and readers will discover that, much like war today, combat in the 12th century had devastating consequences. The historical setting and the vocabulary may challenge younger readers but ensure that older ones will find the book a rewarding

adventure, one not soon forgotten and one that lends itself to great discussion. --Denise Moore, O'Gorman Junior High School, Sioux Falls, SD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Gr. 6-9. In the tradition of Kevin Crossley-Holland's Arthur trilogy and Catherine Jinks' Pagan novels, this epic of the Crusades offers a historical perspective on modern conflicts, and lays bare the gap between propaganda about the Crusades and the "dismal, stinking nightmare" of warfare's reality. Onlookers scoff when 13-year-old William de Granville chooses Hosanna, a charismatic red stallion with a puny, impractical build, for his first warhorse. But after what seems to be a miraculous recovery from a grave injury, Hosanna earns widespread respect and a celebrated place in the campaign for Jerusalem, which William and his elder brother, Gavin, have zealously joined. Left behind is Ellie, who is promised to Gavin but feels more connected to William. Awaiting the Crusaders is the noble strategist Saladin and his young ward, Kamil, who eventually lays claim to Hosanna--and is similarly inspired by the horse's soulful presence. The parallel coming-of-age stories are compelling, and Grant portrays both sides of the conflict without demonizing or idealizing either. The novel's only false note is the overdone mysticism surrounding Hosanna; in the end, perhaps the stallion's most amazing achievement is the way in which its story--the first in a planned trilogy--transcends boundaries of gender and genre, with something to offer fans of equestrian fare, historical fiction, and battlefield drama alike. Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent story, presenting the Crusades from both perspectives and showing an honest depiction of the characters and the horrible conditions of the time. Also would be enjoyed by horse-loving readers.

I have readjust about everything to do with King Richard. This book does not disappoint. I gave it only 4 stars because I would not give it to a child to read. Some passages are rather too graphic for children. I enjoyed the crusades chapters and I have fallen in love with the red horse too.

My 12 year olds had to read it for school, very much enjoyed it.

Good book for Tweens studying the crusades.

this is the second of a trilogy and I thoroughly enjoyed the historical viewpoints written in this book. I was able to see both sides of the story. Not sure how accurate it was historically, but I did enjoy it.

This is an excellent example of historical fiction making sense of the seemingly maniacal driving motivations of the crusades. A must read for seventh graders studying the middle ages.

THIS IS SPAR- NO IT'S AWESOMEthis is the best book ever and i hope to read the rest of the trilogy

Didn't catch my imagination...don't plan to continue the series. I thought there were too many total reversals, with a disappointing ending.

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