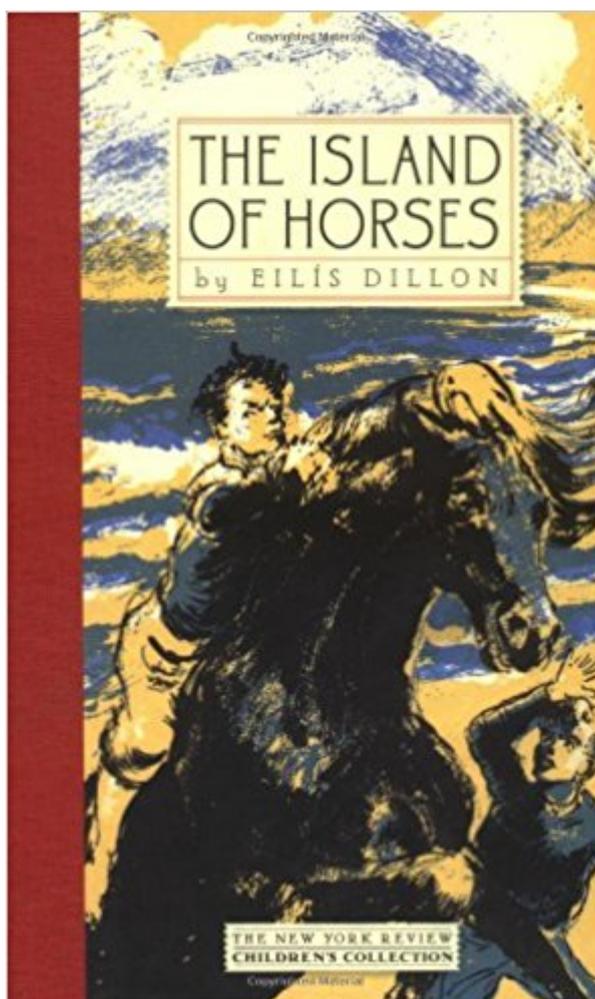


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The Island Of Horses (New York Review Children's Collection)



Synopsis

Chosen by the Sunday Times (London) as one of its 99 Best Books for ChildrenThe people of remote Inishrone, a few miles off the Connemara coast, know better than to go to the Island of Horses. Everyone has heard tales of men who have gone there and never come back. Yet one day young Pat Conroy and his friend Danny MacDonagh head off anyway, telling their parents that they are fishing for eels. On the island they find no ghosts but many mysteries, including a beautiful "and tame" black colt. But when they return home, with the colt in tow, they find themselves launched into a world of trouble. Before their adventure is over, the boys must brave rough seas and the murderous duplicity of a conniving horse trader, with only the advice of Pat's frail grandmother and their own good sense to guide them.A loving, clear-eyed portrait of rural Irish life, The Island of Horses is fraught with suspense and peopled with unforgettable individuals.

Book Information

Series: New York Review Children's Collection

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: NYR Children's Collection (June 30, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590171020

ISBN-13: 978-1590171028

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,222,154 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > St. Patrick's Day #1179 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #1707 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Everyone who loves children's books, no matter what your age, should snap up this novel while it is in print. The writing is superb, and the flavor of the western islands of Ireland is irresistible. Add to that the unbeatable combination of adventure, sailing, and horses, and you have a book no reader of any age can put down. Homeschoolers looking for books for teenagers that are fascinating, yet devoid of a lot of the less savory aspects of modern teen novels, take note.

The folks of Inishrone, live on one of the islands off the western coast of Ireland. Everyone's life is bound in one way or another to the vast sea that surrounds them, so boats are woven into the very fibre of their beings. Two teenage boys, Pat Conroy and his friend Danny MacDonagh head off by boat on an unforgettable adventure to the Island of Horses where they are forbidden to go. Once there they must practice their survival skills and to their delight they discover a herd of beautiful wild horses in a valley. They manage to capture a stunning little black colt which they bring aboard their boat and back to their island. He is a gift like no other they have ever witnessed. The boys decide not to keep the prize pony for themselves even although Pat's heart aches to do so. They instead give it as a bridal present to appease a mean, tyrannical shopkeeper on another island. This resplendent bribe will result in the shopkeeper consenting to give his lovely daughter in marriage to one of the boys from the Inishrone clan. Once the colt is unveiled to the islanders the boys find themselves in a load of trouble. These difficulties lead the duo to brave turbulent seas, tangle with an evil conniving horse trader relying only on the wisdom and advice of Pat's fragile grandmother and their own instincts to guide them. The story is told eloquently from start to finish and gives the reader a perfect portrayal of rural Irish life. The characters penned are strong and believable. There is the perfect blend of suspense and resolve throughout. I loved the book and I highly, highly recommend it.

Really great story. I read my 3 yo. novels at night and I enjoyed this one very much in my 30's. I would say it's geared more towards a bit older children for sure.

This is a good youth book. The reader will learn Irish ways and traditions and enjoy a good adventure story in the process.

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