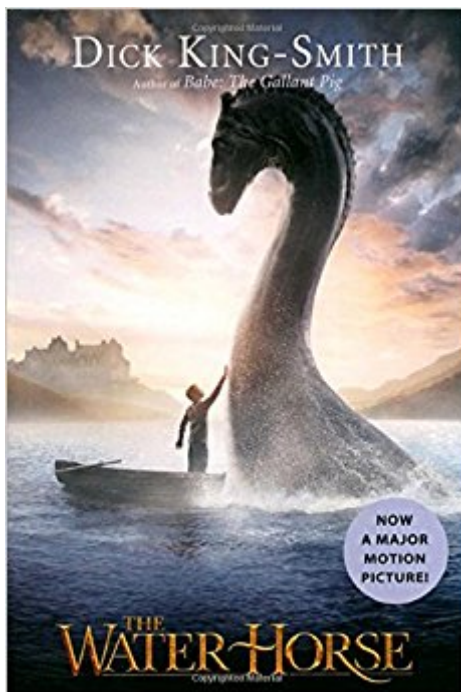


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# The Water Horse



## Synopsis

Dick King-Smith's classic story about a very unusual pet "a water horse" returns with a charming new cover to win over a new generation of readers! When eight-year-old Kirstie finds a strange egg near her home, she has no idea what will come out. Part horse, part toad, part turtle, and part crocodile? Only Kirstie's grandfather knows what it is: a water horse! While it is certainly the oddest-looking creature Kirstie has ever seen, it is also the gentlest. But soon, the unusual pet gets bigger. And bigger. And BIGGER. Will Kirstie and her family be able to keep their new pet or will he have to make a splash in someone else's home? A rich, mostly tender fairy tale that combines elements of such children's classics as *The Secret of Roan Inish*, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, and *Born Free*. . . . Combining the best of fantasy and somber reflection, *The Water Horse* is a lovely ride. • "The Washington Post on the film adaptation A Well-written, fast-paced . . . with appealing, distinctive characters, humor, and drama. King-Smith's imaginative spin on an old myth makes the outrageous possible. • "Booklist A One of the most delightful children's authors. • "The Guardian on Dick King-Smith

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 910L (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Mti Rep edition (November 13, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375842314

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #31,985 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #552 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths #751 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Tweaking Scottish legend, King-Smith (*Babe: The Gallant Pig*) fabricates a just-shy-of-believable

fantasy about the origins of the Loch Ness monster. The story, set in the early 1930s, begins as eight-year-old Kirstie finds what looks like an oversize fish egg washed up on the seashore after a violent storm. She and her younger brother Angus tote it home, and next morning out hatches an odd-looking creature that their grandfather informs them is a kelpie, or water horse, a staple of Scottish folklore. Thanks in part to a steady supply of sardines and chocolate chip cookies, the "beastie" grows by leaps and bounds, dwarfing the family's bathtub, goldfish pond and a nearby lake, and in the end is transported secretly to his final home (which King-Smith refrains from naming until the very end). Told partly from the kelpie's point of view, the story perks along with seeming effortless. The cozy domestic formula that has worked well for King-Smith in other venues translates smoothly to this setting, and the author again achieves just the right balance between action, snappy dialogue and deft characterization. Illustrations not seen by PW. Ages 8-10. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Grade 2-5-Set in the 1930s, this story tells of a young Scottish girl, Kirstie, and her brother, Angus, who find a mysterious egg capsule washed up on shore after a storm and take it home. To their delight, this "mermaid's purse" hatches into a lovable sea monster they call Crusoe. It keeps growing and growing, until finally it is too big to live anywhere but in nearby Loch Ness. Children who enjoy animal stories will welcome one about this unusual creature. The characters are believable and, since King-Smith relates events from the point of view of the water horse as well as those of Kirstie and her family, readers get to know the friendly, not-at-all-fearsome monster. Occasional black-and-white illustrations effectively complement the text. Crusoe is bound to make a splash with children everywhere. Linda W. Tilden, Cherry Hill Library, NJ Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I discovered the charming novels of Dick King Smith when I was substitute teaching in grade schools back in the 1990s. "The Water Horse" is the most recent one I've read. It's sweet, but lacks the tension and mild conflict found in "Babe" or "Martin's Mice." It is a bit bland. "The Water Horse" would appeal to the youngest of readers who would then move up to "Babe" and "Martin's Mice." Older kids would enjoy re-reading the book and then renting the well done movie version and comparing and contrasting them. "The Water Horse" is a gentle tale, perfect for a parent or older sibling to read to a preschooler or kindergartener. It's a perfect introduction to the works of Dick King Smith.

What a great story!

Cute book. My 8 year old son picked it for a reading project. He read it and enjoyed it. I also read it. It was cute. There's nothing really dramatic but that is ok. Fun, family friendly book.

My grandson (7) loves this book and his parents reported that the book was well written, using a high level of vocabulary.

Charming and easy to read. Captivated the children.

If your child believes in the loch ness monster and Tessie, they will love this book. A must read with your young ones.

My 9 year old daughter loves this book and has read it twice. If your child loves Nessie she'll love this book.

My granddaughter was anxious to read this book after seeing the movie. It arrived in good time and in good shape. She has finished reading it and was telling me the differences between the book and the movie. She enjoys reading. Thanks!

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