



Star in the Storm (Aladdin Historical Fiction)

By Joan Hiatt Harlow

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A RISKY SECRET

All non-shepherding dogs have been outlawed from the rocky coastal village where Maggie lives. Unwilling to give up her beloved Newfoundland, Sirius, Maggie defies the law and hides Sirius away.

But when a steamer crashes into the rocks during a violent storm and starts to sink with a hundred passengers on board, Maggie faces a difficult choice. She knows Sirius can help rescue the people trapped on the ship, but bringing him out of hiding would put his own life in jeopardy. Is Maggie's brave dog a big enough hero to save the desperate passengers -- and himself?

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A Newfoundland dog becomes the focus of a rich man's plot to keep its owner in his employ. PW called the novel, set in 1912, "atmospheric and briskly paced." Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-Harlow's descriptive prose clearly evokes images of the Newfoundland coast and life in 1912, and she carefully incorporates folklore of the region into her story. Maggie, 12, is determined to keep her beloved Newfoundland, Sirius, in spite of a new law that bans all but sheepdogs from this sheep-raising community. The characters are drawn with a heavy hand and are either evil or good at the beginning. Maggie's determination makes her the most interesting and endearing character. Howard Rand, the wealthiest man in town, is the villain who champions the law that threatens Sirius's very existence. Obvious foreshadowing shows the canine's bravery and amazing abilities to perform rescues from raging sea conditions. How convenient that the dog is able to save Mr. Rand's older daughter and grandchild from almost certain death when the steamer they are on crashes into some rocks close to shore. At this point, Rand mellows, and he withdraws his opposition to Sirius. Even his nasty younger daughter, Maggie's nemesis, comes around in the end. It's unfortunate that the story and the changes in the mean characters are so predictable. Still, in spite of its shortcomings, the book will be a popular choice among readers who love dog stories.

Renee Steinberg, Fieldstone Middle School, Montvale, NJ

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From [Booklist](#)

In this stirring adventure, a girl and her dog save a ship full of stranded passengers in 1912 Newfoundland. Along with all the dogs not used for herding sheep, 12-year-old Maggie's big Newfoundland, Sirius, has been banned from the community. To save him from being shot, Maggie hides him in the woods. When a passenger ship founders off the coast during a storm and Sirius' swimming skills are needed for the rescue, Maggie risks her beloved dog's life. Containing many authentic details of life in a remote region in days gone by, this story is educational as well as exciting. Character development lags a little, but the relationship between the girl and her beloved dog is beautifully drawn, giving the book surefire appeal among dog-lovers as well as readers who like adventure. *Debbie Carton*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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