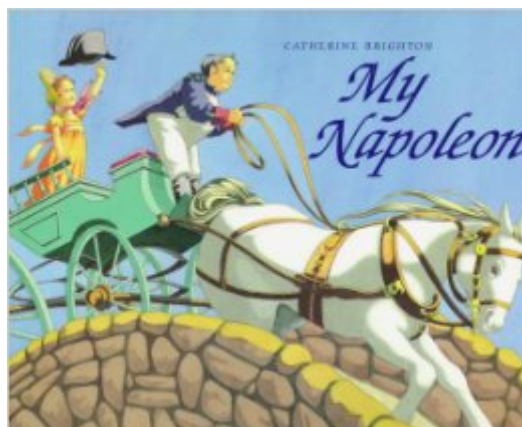


The book was found

My Napoleon



Synopsis

The arrival of an important prisoner forever changes the lives of the residents of the island of St. Helena, in a child's eye view of the life and times of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Millbrook Press; First US Edition edition (April 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761301062

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Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.3 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,400,728 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #117 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #945 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe

Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my child as a gift from my trip to New Orleans because I wanted her to learn a little something about the Emperor from a child's point of view. The book's illustrations are lovely, and there is a good deal of truth to the story. Napoleon loved children, not just his own, but all others to whom he came in to contact. Betsy was a breath of fresh air in an otherwise miserable situation. My one BIG complaint is the error at the end stating the Emperor died not long after Miss Balcombe returned to England. I found myself doing something I rarely do in my daughter's books: I sat down with a pen and corrected the error. The Emperor lived, I believe, about 3 more years after Miss Balcombe left the island.

I'm writing this review in part because I take exception to the library review journal saying that older children wouldn't enjoy this version of events. I first read this book as part of a homeschool program and it had me laughing out loud. Betsy was a mischievous girl, to say the least. The snippets of her life included in this book show a side of Napoleon that you won't find anywhere else. I have a degree in French and have studied French culture and history. Napoleon has been described as ambitious, overbearing, prideful, and begrudgingly, as a brilliant general and tactician. Napoleon was also very much a human being who paid the price for his pride. This book gives you a glimpse

of Napoleon as the somewhat humbled prisoner. I say, somewhat, because we see glimpses of his ties to his past throughout the short book. I think it's important when studying history, to keep in mind that our historical heroes and villains weren't superhuman. They weren't static. They had flaws and strengths, times of weakness and times of greatness. We are able to see how ordinary humans became extraordinary and that those who were extraordinary were also ordinary. This book serves that purpose. It is not a complete picture of Napoleon, but it does help complete that picture. And, as to whether or not older children will enjoy it, I just read it to my 13, 11, and 9 year old boys. My 13 year old has begun reading an "older" version of Betsy's journal, and he mentioned it to me knowing how much I like this book. And, yes, even my 13 year old boy enjoyed it.

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