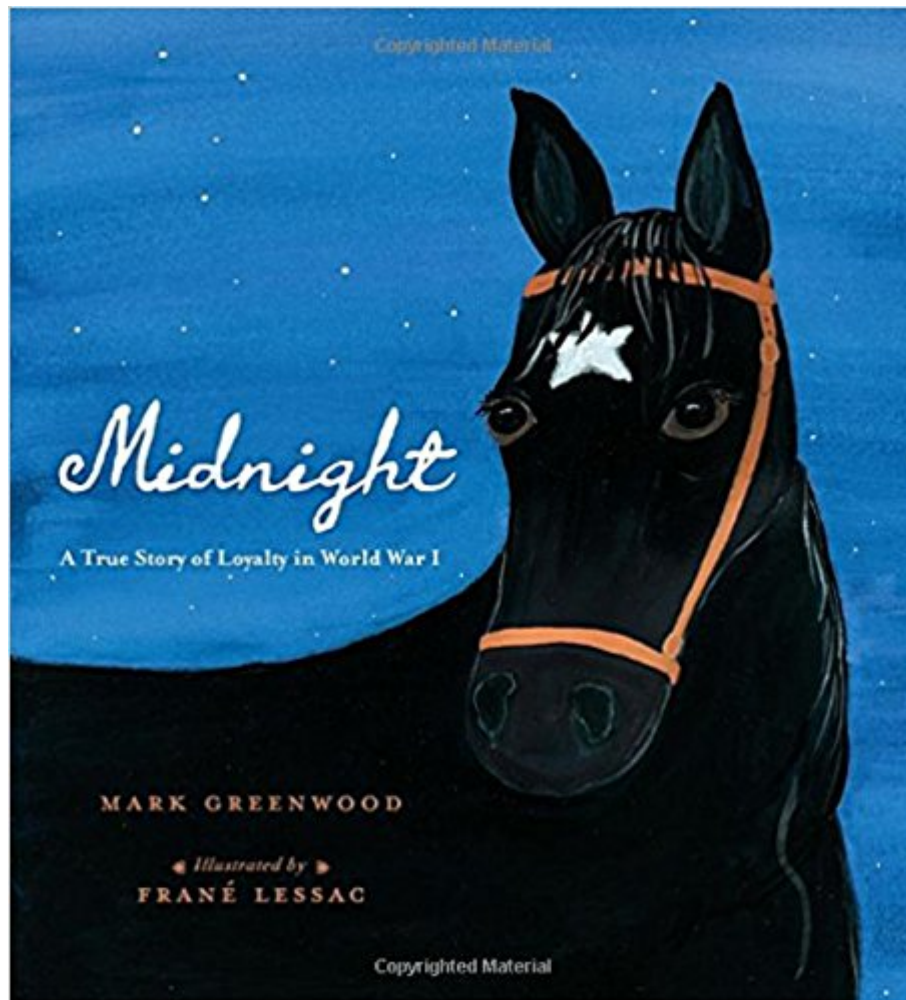




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# Midnight: A True Story Of Loyalty In World War I



## Synopsis

At once sobering and inspiring, here is the true tale of a World War I cavalry soldier and his heroic horse, Midnight. Guy Haydon raised and trained Midnight from the time she was a foal. The two had such a strong bond that when World War I broke out, Lieutenant Haydon slipped away from the frontlines of Gallipoli on an Egypt-bound ship to reunite with his horse. There, in the city of Beersheba, on October 31, 1917, two regiments of the Australian Light Horse Brigade took part in one of the last great cavalry charges in history. Among the first to leap the enemy trenches was Lieutenant Guy Haydon, riding Midnight—who succumbed to a bullet that might have otherwise killed her rider. In a new story from an award-winning duo, luminous illustrations and lyrical narration bring a sad moment in history to life.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (March 9, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 0.3 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #660,130 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Australia & Oceania #102 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Australia & Oceania #364 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 4—This gorgeous picture book tells the story of a black foal named Midnight and his owner, Guy, who headed off together to the cavalry in World War I. They were separated in Egypt, when only soldiers were needed on the Turkish coast, but Guy returned as soon as he could to find Midnight. He succeeded, and they began desert patrol together near Beersheba where Midnight was killed in one of the last great cavalry charges of history, saving her rider. The battles aren't depicted graphically (there's no blood seen, just a few bodies on stretchers). The style of the writing

and illustrations look ideal for younger readers, but most children this age will have only limited knowledge of World War I. VERDICT Presented with some context, this book may make a suitable addition for historical units. — Dorcas Hand, Annunciation Orthodox School, Houston, TX

This gorgeous picture book tells the story of a black foal named Midnight and his owner, Guy, who headed off together to the cavalry in World War I.... a suitable addition for historical units. — School Library Journal The text is well matched by Lessac's bright and colorful gouache paintings...the pair's loyal friendship, as well as Midnight's ultimate sacrifice, will likely resonate with animal-lovers. — Booklist Online

A wonderful book. Tender, poignant with simple pictures conveying more than words can say. The only drawback to the book was the ending. I knew the horse would perish which was gently portrayed. It ended suddenly and I would have wished a last drawing showing the horse's soul or a memory of the horse whispered in the wind.

It is the true story about a horse and his young owner set during WWI. When WWI comes to Australia, Guy Haydon and his horse Midnight join the fight. They become separated but eventually find each other in the hot desert sands of northern Africa. They experience some harsh conditions and eventually find themselves in one of the last great cavalry charges of all time to capture the city of Beersheba. A very poignant and moving story about sacrifice, honor, and the bond between a man and his horse. It reminded me of WARHORSE, but with a very different outcome.

Based on a true story from World War I this tale about an Australian horse and the battle of Beersheba may not be for all readers. The horse is killed in the charge and many young children will have a hard time accepting that fact. For older children this book underscores the senselessness of war and the fact that good people and animals sacrifice their lives on the battlefield.

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