



Search

[What can I search for?](#)

ADVERTISEMENT 

Download a Free Audiobook

Try Audible with a free audiobook. No Shipping, No Waiting. Try Now!



Captain

BY [SAM ANGUS](#)



In 1915, fifteen-year-old Billy Bayliss enlists in the army, using his older brother's papers to pretend he is seventeen and old enough to fight. He arrives in Alexandria, on his way to Gallipoli with his regiment. He doesn't fit in with the older men

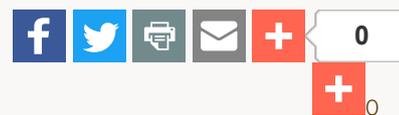
and is lonely and homesick until he meets a young refugee boy, Captain, and his donkey Hey-ho. The regiment sets sail for Gallipoli, and Billy is relieved to find his new friends are on the boat, too. His relief is short lived when the troop ships are shelled in the harbour before the soldiers, mules and horses on board can disembark.

So begins Billy's war, a time of death and terror as he struggles to cope with the appalling carnage around him. Through it all, his friendship with Captain and his donkey endures and deepens, until a tragic event changes Billy's life forever.

This book has a warmth and compassion that made me care very much about Billy, Captain and Hey-ho the donkey. All three were brave and loyal, to each other and to their comrades in arms. It shows the part animals played in war and the often brutal reality of their fate. Angus's writing is lovely, and her impressive and extensive research is worn lightly as she builds a vivid and at times horrific picture of a war fought at close quarters. There are lighter moments but this is ultimately a bittersweet story without an easy ending. I loved this book and would whole-heartedly recommend it for older mid-grade readers and upwards.

ADVERTISEMENT

Share this review



Details

PUBLISHER

[Macmillan](#)

PUBLISHED

[2014](#)

GENRE

[Children/Young Adult](#), [Military](#)

PERIOD

[WW1](#)

CENTURY

[20th Century](#)

PRICE

(UK) £6.99

ISBN

(UK) 9781447263029

FORMAT

Paperback

PAGES

246

Review

APPEARED IN

[HNR Issue 70 \(November 2014\)](#)

Learn Language for Free

Audible - over 200,000 free titles
Download your free audiobook now!



[« PREVIOUS REVIEW](#)

[NEXT REVIEW »](#)

REVIEWED BY

[Pat Walsh](#)