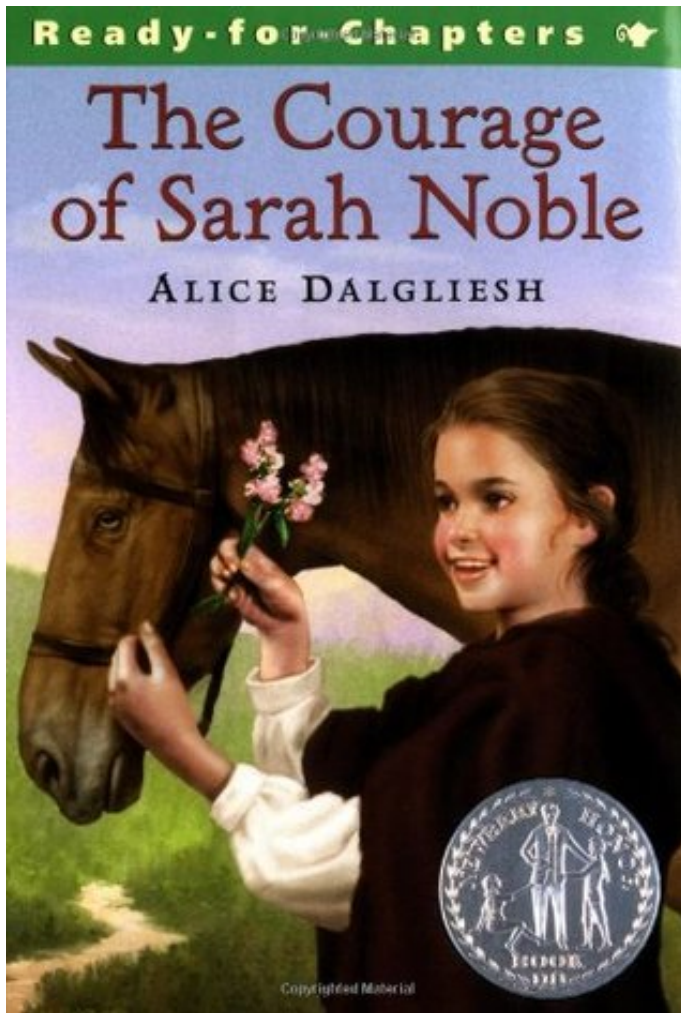

Alice Dalgliesh

The Courage of Sarah Noble



Title: The Courage of Sarah Noble

Author: Alice Dalgliesh

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Description

In 1707, young Sarah Noble and her father traveled through the wilderness to build a new home for their family. "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble," her mother had said, but Sarah found that it was not always easy to feel brave inside. The dark woods were full of animals and Indians, too, and Sarah was only eight!

The true story of Sarah's journey is inspiring. And as she cares for her father and befriends her Indian neighbors, she learns that to be afraid and to be brave is the greatest courage of all.

Insightful reviews

Shanna Gonzalez: Eight-year-old Sarah Noble's father is setting out from colonized territory into the wilderness of Connecticut. Knowing that her mother and siblings must stay behind with the baby, Sarah volunteers to accompany him on the dangerous journey to establish their new home. Upon her departure, her mother fastens her red cloak under her chin and admonishes her, "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble." The cloak and the words travel with her all across the wild territory, through nights in the open with wolves around, and a night under shelter with unfriendly fellow settlers. During this night of grudging hospitality, Sarah is confronted with fears about the Indians she will meet at her future home, and she must wrestle with these fears for the rest of the journey. Throughout this engaging tale, Sarah makes choices in spite of the persistent thoughts that hinder her, and she learns she can do what is right even when she feels afraid. It is an inspiring, accessible story of character, expressed in the context of a loving family.

Dalgiesh writes compellingly at a transitional-reader level, effectively using repetition of the phrase "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble" to draw out the theme of Sarah's inner struggle through each of the story events, like beads on a cord. The story is pleasingly illustrated in old-fashioned style by Leonard Weisgard.

There is some historical treatment of the tensions between settlers and Native Americans, with some Native people friendly to the settlers and others hostile. There is also some opportunity for adult discussion of long-held differences in religious thought: at one point while saying her prayers, Sarah wonders if God takes care of Indians and whether she should pray for them. In the same scene, the Indian family observing her decides that "She speaks with her Great Spirit, as we speak with our Great Spirit." This perspective greatly oversimplifies the complex distinctions between the Christian tradition and Native American spirituality, and unfortunately blurs their differences. However, we must recognize that during the colonial period there were serious debates about whether Native Americans were fully human and whether their religion was worthy of the same respect as that of other world religions. This scene goes some distance to address that false prejudice. Modern readers, however, ought to be wary of the opposite tendency in modern thought to equivocate between religions, suggesting they are all really the same. This difficulty can be straightforwardly addressed with adult discussion.

One additional caution: In chapter seven, Sarah's father twice refers to an Indian woman as a "squ*w," a word for "woman" which in colonial times was value-neutral but which in modern

usage has taken on controversial sexist and racist overtones (please see Wikipedia for the etymology and current debate about this word). In a read-aloud context it would be easy to substitute the word "wife" with no loss in meaning.

Ian Wood: This is the complete review as it appears [at my blog dedicated to reading, writing \(no 'rithmetic!\), movies, & TV](#). Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here. Graphic and children's reviews on the blog typically feature two or three images from the book's interior, which are not reproduced here.

Note that I don't really do stars. To me a book is either worth reading or it isn't. I can't rate it three-fifths worth reading! The only reason I've relented and started putting stars up there is to credit the good ones, which were being unfairly uncredited. So, all you'll ever see from me is a five-star or a one-star (since no stars isn't a rating, unfortunately).

If I had known that this was a Newbery honor book (1955) I never would have read it. I avoid honor and medal-winning books like the plague because in my experience, they're universally trashy. This one dates from 1954, when people were a lot more clueless than they are now. It's very short - only one CD, which is the best thing about, it since it really has nothing to offer.

The book blurb claims, rather dishonestly, that this is a "true story of Sarah's journey", but the truth is that only the barest facts are known: that Sarah and her father traveled to this locale to build a new home, and that Sarah was in the care of the native Americans for about three weeks. That's it! Everything else in this story is the purest fiction. Indeed, the journey is very short in the book. Nearly all of the story is about events taking place at the destination, not about the journey at all.

No one knows why Sarah went or what exactly, she did. They sure as hell don't have a clue what she said or thought, or how she interacted with her father or with the locals. They have no idea what Mrs Robinson or her kids actually said. All we have is Alice Dalgliesh's very creative and very dated fiction, colored by the 1950s and by Dalgliesh's religious faith, not by the early eighteenth century and anything which happened in reality.

The locals were the Schaghticoke, whom Sarah and her father met after they had made the fifty mile journey. Not far by our standards, but a week-long journey by theirs, taken on foot. I find it extremely hard to believe that she knew so little about these people before she got there. The very fact that her father leaves her in the care of the locals shows that he obviously knew they were no danger at all. Courage doesn't enter into it, and whatever strength this girl showed here was no greater than scores of other children have exhibited. Even surviving getting lost in the store or in the mall takes courage. This was no different from that that, and Sarah Noble's "courage" was of no greater order than this. The reason given in this work of fiction for her father's leaving her with the locals is laughable: that it was a long journey? It was exactly the same journey she'd just made, so this is purest bullshit and poor writing.

The saddest thing about the arrival of the Nobles was that they pretty much stamped their colonial imprint on the place the moment they arrived. The place was originally named

something beautiful like Weantinogue. Now it's the pedestrian and mundane 'New Milford'. The river, at least, still retains some majesty. It's unnamed in the book, but is now known as the Housatonic, which is indeed a welcome tonic, but there was no attempt made to understand the locals or their culture. Their very names were changed to suit the colonials. Given that native American names tended to change with maturity, behaviors, and endeavors, perhaps this wasn't quite the nuisance or pain to them that we perceive it to be today, but it's still immensely disrespectful to simply change someone's name because their actual name is "too hard".

That said, I've seen some rather blinkered reviews which take this novel to task for what they describe as racism. I'm sorry, but they simply don't get it. This novel depicts a young girl's views, not the author's, and not any politically correct or incorrect agenda. Depicting a young girl as seeing native Americans for the first time, and observing that they are brown, and observing that they "talk funny" or that they don't speak English has nothing to do with being racist. It has to do with accurately describing how the girl might have really felt back then. Depicting her playing with the children, even riding on the back of one of them isn't enslaving the natives or demeaning them. It's depicting what might well have happened. A native American can't carry a white kid on his back across a river - by his own choice - without being subjugated?! Nonsense! I think observations of that nature about this book are lamentably short sighted and biased.

The biggest problem for me with this novel is that it tells us nothing which we cannot more ably learn from better books. Alice Dalgliesh is not by any means an expert on colonial life, or on the Schaghticoke, and this novel, commendably enlightened as it is for the time it was written, once again goes only to prove what a colossal waste of time it is reading Newbery medal winners. I dis-recommend this book for these reasons, but primarily for it being pure fiction masquerading as fact.

Beth Anne: This was another fantastic read-aloud. Set in early 1700s America, the simple story inspired courage and bravery in the face of the unknown. Emma was absolutely captivated and we read the entire second half in one sitting.

Corinne: Sarah's father goes to construct her relatives a brand new domestic out in Indian Territory. he's taking Sarah, his oldest child, with him to prepare dinner and be a significant other for him. This tale is their trip to that new land and their reviews with the local those who reside there. Sarah, as an 8 yr old, sees and hears many stuff which are valuable of her fear, yet she works so not easy to be courageous and "keep up her courage."This is an enthralling book. I learn it out loud over a pair nights to my 7 and 0.5 yr previous son and we either quite loved it. The language is sparse yet no longer dull and it does not drag (it's effortless adequate that he may have learn it to himself with out problem, yet i wished to learn it too :). The adventures are gentle yet it truly is an enticing sufficient period of time with attention-grabbing adequate issues occurring that it stored his attention. i actually enjoyed its message that youngsters can do difficult and courageous issues - and that simply because anyone appears to be like different, it does not imply we need to be frightened of them. No ask yourself it is a classic.

Nicola Mansfield: this can be most likely my 4th time examining this book. It does not warrant that many readings yet I learn it as a kid, learn it aloud to my young ones and simply re-read it

now due to the fact that i have never reviewed it right here yet. A Newbery Honor Award Winner, ...Sarah Noble is a well-written frontier tale set in Connecticut. it is a great tale in accordance with a real family, that little or no element exists approximately and has turn into extra mythical than historic fact. Father and daughter go back and forth throughout kingdom to decide on new land and this straightforward to learn starting bankruptcy publication info their frontier stories and the pleasant relatives with the within sight "Indian" village. a narrative of Christian people, unlike a kid's e-book will be written this present day at all, with the most topic of getting braveness even if you're scared. not anything occurs within the tale though. it has been a long time considering that my final learn of this and for a few cause i presumed a chance was once coming but, nope, no scares, simply daily wilderness, frontier life; kin separates, reunites, the end. modern-day kids could most likely locate this uninteresting if learn by way of themselves. Audio or an individual with an exceptional storyteller's voice (my young ones loved mine:-) may learn aloud to carry extra lifestyles to it for them. Too stable let alone are Weisgard's illustrations; regular of the time they're monochromatic performed in sepia and black and swimsuit the period of time and surroundings well.

Tracy: I observed this booklet indexed on numerous homeschooler's examining lists, so proposal i might payment it out. I loved the tale and the simplicity with which it used to be told. One evaluate at the airborne dirt and dust jacket read, "This is a ebook unmarred via preachment, piety, or sentimentality--a publication with out flaw, it sort of feels to me, which needs to develop into an American classic." --Christian technology Monitor. Several reviewers chanced on the therapy of the Indians offensive. i do not locate that to be true. the most characters are tolerant and thoughtful. the various different characters reveal judgment and fear, yet their attitudes are mentioned by means of Sarah and her father. He assures her time and again that the Indians suggest her no damage and that she is secure residing close to them. Indeed, she lives with them whilst he leaves to deliver the remainder of their kin to their new domestic within the wilderness. in this time she learns greatly approximately their customs and earnings an appreciation in their approach of life. She involves desire her delicate moccasins to the stiff leather-based footwear she used to put on sooner than she lived with them. The illustrations by way of Leonard Weisgard, in sepia tones, lend a country feeling to the story. They jogged my memory of Barbara Cooney's work.

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