



## Lara and the Gray Mare

*Kathleen Duey*

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## **Lara and the Gray Mare** Kathleen Duey

Nine-year-old Lara is the daughter of the leader of her cattle-raising clan. While she spends her days tending to the cattle, her heart lies with her beloved gray mare. When Lara goes to the highlands to set the cattle out to graze, she finds the mare in the process of a difficult birth. Lara vows to take care of the foal as a dying promise to the gray mare, and with the help of a childless milk-cow, she cares for the spindly-legged filly. But just when she is confident that the foal can survive, a rival clan captures them both, and throws Lara's life into turmoil. When the filly is eventually given to a titled baron in the castle town of Athenry, Lara, determined to stay with the horse no matter what, goes along. Together, she and her beloved horse face seemingly insurmountable challenges, but all along Lara keeps two things in mind. One day, she will manage to flee, and will set off in search of the family that she was taken from. And she will not leave without her silver mare.

## **Lara and the Gray Mare Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2005 by "Puffin" (first published January 13th 2005)

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Author : Kathleen Duey

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## From Reader Review Lara and the Gray Mare for online ebook

### Anna says

I really want to find out what happens in the next book!

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### Christine says

THE BEST BOOK ABOUT A HORSE AND GIRL EVERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!!!!

Ms. Suey is by far my favorite horse author! How she described the scenery and how the main character felt was just amazing.....this book is like a morning sunrise in the format of fast turning pages. Could not have been better ((LOVE))

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### Rena Sherwood says

Unremarkable book about old Ireland -- *really* old Ireland. Lara lives in a tribe with funky walls around it. Her best friend is a pregnant mare -- or a girl with red hair. She seems to switch her loyalties in the "best friend" department. The book does not have a proper ending. It ends on a sort-of cliffhanger to make you read the next book in the series. I think I'll pass.

The main problems I had with this book:

- \* A horse narrates the italicized words at the beginning of each chapter. That was corny.
- \* Most of the book is describing chores Lara and her friends have to do. It's as if the author is showing off her research skills into life in twelfth century Ireland rather than telling a story.
- \* There are Celtic words used but no clue as to how to pronounce them.

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### Elizabeth says

I have read this book eight times so far, it remains one my favourite books of all time.

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### Alyssa says

I don't remember this book much but I believe I liked it

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### **Jane says**

I found this horse book that takes place in ancient Ireland very charming. So charming that I actually read the next one and intend to read the 3rd.

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### **Taylor says**

I remember being salty about the gray mare dying. Don't remember when I read this as a young-in though

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### **Amber says**

Out of all the Hoofbeats series, this one was my favorite. From what I remember of it, it takes place in Europe during the Renaissance. Duey is a great author, her words paint a picture in my imagination. This series has a fantasy feel to it, which is probably why it's my favorite. This series is a childhood favorite and I would recommend it to all young readers.

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### **Rebecca says**

This is the first book in the Lara quartet, part of the Hoofbeats series of historical fiction horse stories for young readers. This quartet tells the story of a young girl and her horse in Medieval Ireland.

Nine-year-old Lara lives in fourteenth century Ireland, where she is the daughter of her clan's leader. Lara must spend most of her days doing chores, when she would prefer to be with the gray mare that she loves. The mare will soon have a foal, and Lara longs for it to be her own, but girls aren't allowed to have horses. When the mare is stolen in a raid, Lara is heartbroken. Will she ever see her beloved gray mare again?

This was another great historical novel for young readers by Kathleen Duey. The setting of medieval Ireland is very different from her previous books, all set in America, but is very well done and comes alive for the reader. I can't wait to read the rest of the books in the series to find out what happens to Lara next. I recommend this book to young readers who enjoy historical fiction and horse stories.

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### **Elaine says**

Not bad. Nice way to incorporate some historical fiction into our Ireland study. It ended in sort of a cliff-hanger, but I didn't read the next book. E thought it was good, but not great.

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### **Taren says**

I loved it! When the gray mare had her baby it was cute. It sounded cute, it was cute. I didn't like when the

gray mare died. Evelyn (7 yrs.)

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### **Nicole says**

I think this is a beautiful series for anyone who is interested in horses to get involved in. It is an interesting historical view on horses and Ireland as well. Beautifully written. Beautifully done.

For more of my thoughts, here's my video review: <https://youtu.be/viARgSGvGmk>

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### **Virag says**

I read this years ago, but I never forgot the book itself. I remember that Lara was in this horse and cow raising clan, but I just couldn't imagine what time period it could be in. So now I finally looked it up, and I must say I'm intrigued enough to finish the series - even though this is meant for much younger children! I'd definitely recommend this series to any young kid who likes horses and/or history.

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### **Jillian says**

One of the shining gems of the Horse Story genre.

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### **Sylvia says**

Medieval setting in Ireland of girl and her beloved horse. 4-part series. Excellent story

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