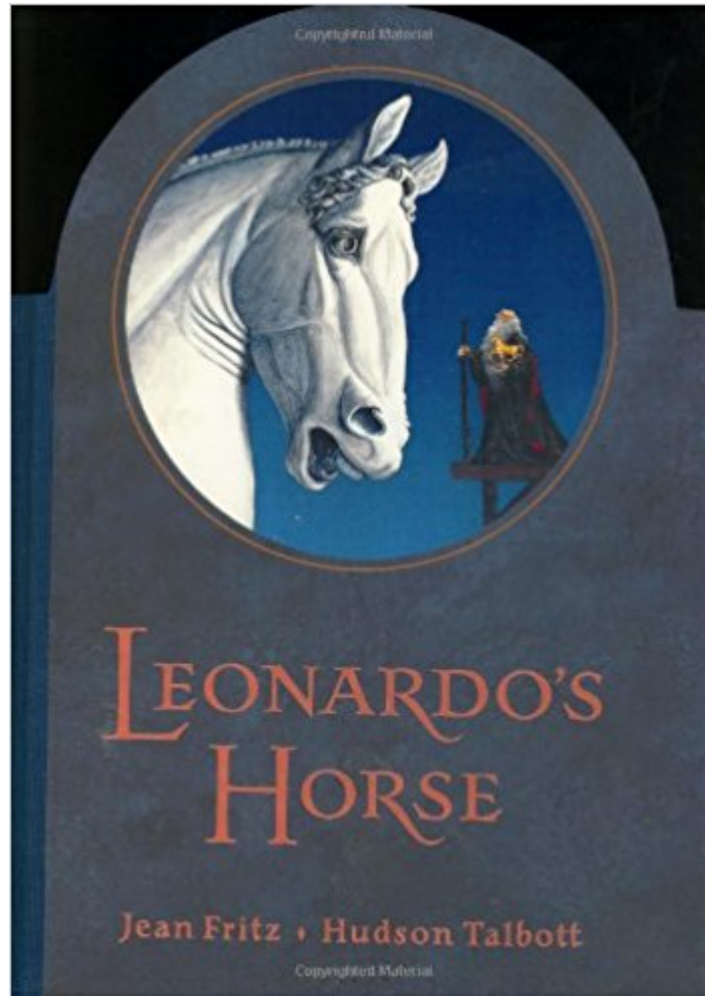




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Leonardo's Horse



Synopsis

"A scintillating sliver of history. . . . An inventive introduction to the Renaissance and one of its masters." (Publishers Weekly, starred review)"An unusual and surprisingly touching story An offbeat and intriguing read." (The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review)"At times sad, silly, and telling, this is a wholly entertaining book." (School Library Journal, starred review)"Filled with engaging details of Leonardo and his world. . . . Illustrations which range from utterly recognizable scenes of Florence to the ghostly horses at Leonardo's deathbed. . . . An unusual biography for young people, and one well worth poring over A unique way of picturing a unique world An extraordinary tribute." (Kirkus Reviews, starred review)

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Fritz (And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?) again calls upon her informal yet informative style to spotlight a scintillating sliver of history, recounted in two related tales. Her narrative opens as the ultimate Renaissance man, Leonardo da Vinci, earns a commission from the duke of Milan to create a sculpture to honor the duke's father a bronze horse three times larger than life. Though this creative genius spent years on the project, he died without realizing his dream and, writes Fritz, "It

was said that even on his deathbed, Leonardo wept for his horse." The author then fast-forwards to 1977: an American named Charles Dent vows to create the sculpture and make it a gift from the American people to the residents of Italy. How his goal was accomplished (alas, posthumously) makes for an intriguing tale that Fritz deftly relays. Talbott's (Forging Freedom) diverse multimedia artwork includes reproductions of da Vinci's notebooks, panoramas revealing the Renaissance in lavish detail and majestic renderings of the final equine sculpture. Talbott makes creative use of the book's format a rectangle topped by a semi-circle: the rounded space by turns becomes a window through which da Vinci views a cloud shaped like a flying horse; the domed building that was Dent's studio and gallery; and a globe depicting the route the bronze horse travels on its way from the U.S. to Italy. An inventive introduction to the Renaissance and one of its masters. Ages 5-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr 3-6-At times sad, silly, and telling, this is a wholly entertaining book. Not only a biography of Leonardo da Vinci, it also introduces another artist/dreamer-Charlie Dent. Although separated by centuries, the two men had a common dream-to create a giant horse for Milan. War and rain helped to ruin Leonardo's original clay work, and he died mourning what might have been. By the 1990s, Dent's efforts to create the horse paid off and the statue, a huge wonder, was presented to Italy. Biographical details of Leonardo's life are mentioned and much of his work is shown throughout the volume, including sketches of the statue. Talbott's mixed-media artwork enhances the engaging text. The Duke of Milan is portrayed gaping at Leonardo's clay model, scarcely able to believe the greatness of it, and there is an informative page of pictures detailing the creation of the statue in eight steps. In one illustration, the artist appears in the center of his Last Supper, attempting to draw Judas, while humorous caricatures fill the bottom of the page. Although there are quite a few books about Leonardo, none delve so deeply into the history of the statue. Even the design of the book is unique. A title that is sure to create a lot of interest among young art, history, and horse lovers. Anne Chapman Callaghan, Racine Public Library, WI Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

I am 49 and bought 2 of these; one for my 2 neices and one for myself! It was moving and beautifully illustrated and a perfect book for horse lovers, art lovers, and history lovers Yes it may be a child's book BUT it opens up a world of history, art, human emotion, for any one over the age of say 7 or 8..Please skip the Judy Blume and the Disney and buy this book instead. .I discovered it while in a research library at the National Museum of Art in DC....(.waiting for my camera battery to charge)... I shouldn't make blanket statements ,I guess, but,I believe every American should visit

DC at least once in their lives.....

The book is in great condition and is a fantastic story.

I bought this book for my granddaughter who had seen a copy of it in a library. She loves to draw and wanted to draw some of the images. This was a couple of years ago, and she still has it. I think she will always keep it. Aside from the drawings, the book has a good story as well.

my grandson loved this book, and quite frankly so did it.

This book is a keeper on my grandma shelf. My six years old loved it. Beautiful and easy to read yet on an upper intellectual level.

This is an amazingly written and illustrated book that anyone who is in awe of the tremendous talents of Leonardo Da Vinci will definitely enjoy! This true story is told in a manner that is sure to hold the attention of all ages! As an Art Director of grades ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade, I used this as a teaching tool in all these grade levels....much to the delight of the children and participating adults! A Serious Must Have!!

This book is far from the whole truth. It should have been written giving equal credit and justice to Charles Dent (original benefactor), Nina Akamu (sculptor) and Frederik Meijer (benefactor). It was a combination of all three wonderful people to make this a reality for the people of Milan and the people of Grand Rapids, Michigan. To have reduced Mr. Meijer's role in making this a reality for the world to see and experience, on the book's last page under "Author's Note," is not giving the reader of this book the whole story. Without Nina Akamu and Frederik Meijer these beautiful horses (Milan, Italy and Grand Rapids, Michigan) would never have been created and the reader deserves more.

I was surprised by how beautiful the illustrations were in this book. My children recognized a lot of da Vinci's drawings from the backgrounds of the pages. They added depth to the story by showing Leonardo as the true Renaissance Man he was. The arched shape to the book is a nice touch as well. My boys range from 6-12 and they all enjoyed this charming book.

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