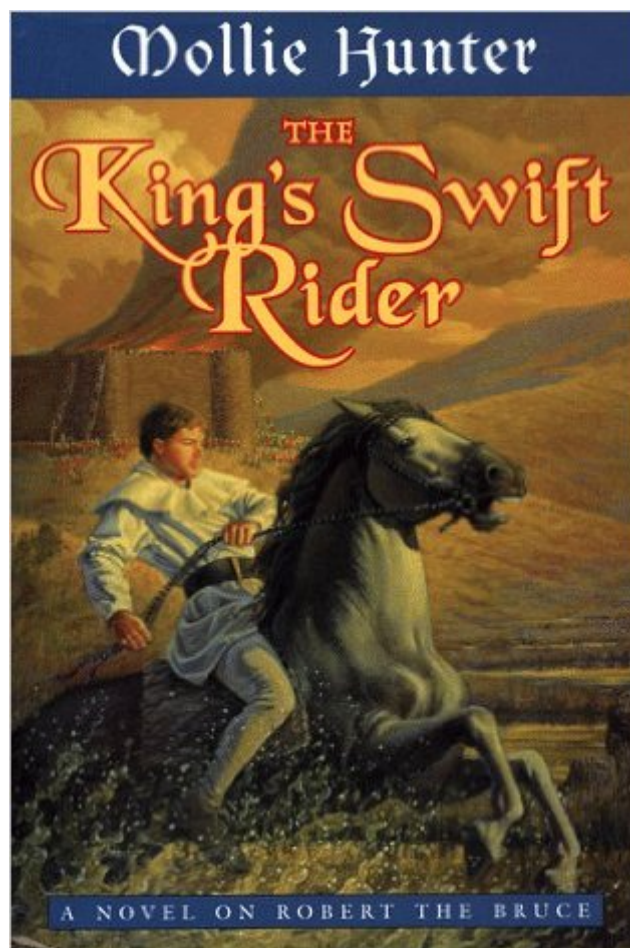


The book was found

# The King's Swift Rider



## Synopsis

"Are you there--the man they are hunting? Can you hear me? If you can, come quickly to the river, and I will save you." Sixteen-year-old Martin Crawford succeeds in rescuing this fugitive--only to be surprised that the hunted man is none other than Robert the Bruce, rightful King of Scots. Hoping to lead a quiet life, Martin instead is asked by the king to commit himself to the war the Bruce is fighting to regain Scotland's freedom from the brutal rule imposed on it by the English. The rebel campaign gathers bloody momentum. Martin impresses the Bruce with his resourcefulness and valor, and also learns the elements of espionage. He is proud then to be chosen as the king's swift rider--a vital link in the freedom army's scattered forces. And such is his daring and boldness in this dangerous position that the Bruce later appoints Martin the king's master of espionage. Daily now, Martin must risk his life as he secretly gathers the information that will advance the rebel cause--and enable the Bruce to fight the climatic battle of Bannockburn. Defeat there will leave the Scots forever slaves. Victory will mean that longed-for freedom. Based on real events in Scotland's thirty-year War of Independence, *The King's Swift Rider* is a gripping tale of adventure into which Mollie Hunter weaves her own tribute in history, Robert the Bruce. Unblinkingly, she tells of the terrible bloodshed of that war, yet still makes her story's keynote one of courage, honor, and a people's determination to achieve freedom. "Martin," the king told me, "I need a courier." A courier? I stopped, wondering if this was a word from the French language spoken by the nobility. "A swift rider," he explained. "One who carries messages--in this case, messages of great importance." The king's swift rider...I liked this name, liked the ringing sound of it. "If you trust me to act as such, Sire," I told him, "I am waiting."

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Lexile Measure: 1120L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 242 pages

Publisher: HarperTrophy; First Edition edition (October 1998)

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ISBN-13: 978-0060271862

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #979,519 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #224 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Medieval #239 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval #625 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Europe

## Customer Reviews

The book, *The King's Swift Rider*, is one of the best books I have ever read to date. I like to read books on historical fiction because you learn of the past and use it in the present to help you make decisions of things you go through. You also learn of things that you never knew took place. The main character, Martin Crawford, a young Scottish person, joined the alliance with the Robert the Bruce, king of scots, in 1290's. The Bruce is at war with King Edward, who is known as Longshanks. Martin's mother sends his brother, Sean, and him off to fight with the Bruce. Martin is not a fighting person, but he is a very clever lad, so the Bruce made him his page. As time goes on, the Bruce wins many battles and Longshanks dies. Martin's mother also dies in the book. After his mother's death, the king makes Martin his swift rider. Martin goes through many adventures and many more battles to come in the book.

Although this story is told through the eyes of Martin Crawford, a young Scot in the late 1300's, it's really about Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, and his passionate fight for freedom from England's rule. Many have said that this book's more for boys, but I'm a girl and I loved it, SO THERE! :P It reminds me a lot of America's own fight for independence. If you like historical fiction, Scotland, male heroes, or people with wits rather than brains, then you'll LOVE this book. I know I did.

Martin at the age of sixteen saves Robert the Bruce, King of Scots from the British and their men. The Bruce needs soldiers for his very small army. Martin's mother told the Bruce that he could have Martin and his older brother Sean. Martin doesn't want to fight in any army, so the king has other ideas for him. Martin can read and write. This is very useful for the king. Sean, Martin's older brother joins the army and uses his dead father's spear. There are many battles in this book. The Scots win a lot of them. This rallies up more soldiers just as the Bruce wanted. Martin is sent on spy missions to find out what the British army is going to do or when they are going to attack. The Bruce wants to win this war badly, for his family's sake. His family was killed by the British, and they also took his daughter hostage in a castle. Winning the war also means Scotland's freedom. You will have to read the book to see if Scotland gets its freedom back, or if the Bruce gets his daughter back. I liked this book because it has a lot of action. There are battles when you have no idea what is going to

happen. It keeps you thinking, or wondering what is going to happen. You could expect something to happen but the exact opposite happens. There is nothing that I didn't like about this book. It gets right into action right away and that is what I like. I would want someone to read this book if they liked action / war books. Books that have hand- to- hand battles. This book just grab's your attention. I would recommend it to someone that loves battles. Not to someone who wants a book about a pretty pony. This book has some blood or brutal combat.

Except for a few stylistic adverbs that could have been eliminated or changed, this is an excellent novel about Robert the Bruce's unwavering quest to free Scotland from English tyranny. It is told through the eyes of Martin, a young boy who inadvertently saves the Bruce and who then becomes the king's swift rider, a person who delivers messages to the king's various friends and allies. Martin also spies for him. I got a good sense of the history that was happening during those turbulent years of the late 13th century and the miracle of the Bruce's victory over the English.

THE KING'S SWIFT RIDER Mollie Hunter Have you ever thought of being in the army in the medieval times, fighting for the Bruce, King of all Scott's? Well this is what happened to a boy named Martin. This book is about Martin fighting for the Bruce. I liked this book because I like knights and battles. I also like history about main events. One main event in the story is when the Scots killed thousands of English soldiers in one single castle! The moral to this story is to believe in yourself, have trust and do things for reasons, not just for fun. One example is being mean to somebody or something for no good reason. That is what the English did to the Scots. I think people who like history and war should read this book.

This is a young adult book regarding the history of Robert the Bruce who fought the English at the Battle of Bannockburn. It is very well written and really gives a good look at "The Bruce". I got to know him much better, how he and the troops prayed before the battle, the fierce loyalty and love his men had for him and the mercy he demanded be given the enemy if asked for. Don't let the fact that it was written for teenage readers keep you from enjoying this tale if you are older. Anyone can read this and learn from it!

Although this story is told through the eyes of Martin Crawford, a young Scot in the late 13th century, it's really about Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, and his passionate fight for freedom from England's rule. Many have said that this book's more for boys, but I'm a girl and I loved it, SO

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