



2005

Lara and the Silent Place

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Duey, Kathleen. *Lara and the Silent Place*. Dutton Childrens Books/Penguin Young Readers Group, 2005. ISBN 0525473416. \$15.99. 140 pp.

Reviewer: Gabi Kupitz

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Horses--Juvenile fiction; Trust--Juvenile fiction; Ireland--History--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

In the Ireland of long ago, Lara raises a horse that is much sought after. In the *Hoofbeats* series, consisting of four books, Lara's life, as a horse loving and determined young girl, is laid out. In this book, Lara and her pony are kidnapped by another clan. Lara struggles and as she and her horse, Danssair, endure and then escape their masters. Finally, Lara must decide where she and Danssair will find peace at last.

Hoofbeats is an engaging and believable historical fiction series that will appeal, on many levels, to young and old alike. The Irish countryside is described in delicious detail and Lara is a believable protagonist. Lara and her horse mature through the course of the four books. Each book stands on its own or in concert with the others. The titles of the other books in the series are: *Lara and the Gray Mare*, *Lara and the Moon-Colored Filly*, and *Lara at Athenry Castle*.