



The Lost Colony of Roanoke

By Jean Fritz

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Who better to collect and share the clues than Jean Fritz and Hudson Talbott?

The creators of *Leonardo's Horse*, an American Library Association Notable Book, again combine their masterful talents to illuminate a tragic piece of history that still fascinates Americans today.

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The Lost Colony of Roanoke By Jean Fritz Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #181943 in Books
- Brand: Putnam Juvenile
- Published on: 2004-05-24
- Released on: 2004-05-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.30" h x .40" w x 8.30" l, 1.01 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 64 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-6-This fluidly written account describes the colony founded under the aegis of Sir Walter Raleigh in 1585. The opening section, "Looking," discusses the first attempt at settling the island and highlights the English policy regarding the Native population: "Never turn the other cheek" and "smite [hostile Indians] hip and thigh." When harsh conditions caused the men to return to England in 1586, 15 individuals were left behind to hold the colony. "Settling" describes how the second expedition arrived in 1587 and found the men gone, perhaps victims of the "hip and thigh" policy. The travails of these settlers began on landing and continued unabated until Governor John White agreed to sail to England to get help. "Lost" details White's frustrated attempts to get back to Virginia, and what he found when he finally returned two years later. In the final chapter, Fritz explores various theories about Roanoke's fate. She discusses the 1937 hoax involving stones with counterfeited inscriptions as well as current archaeological and historical exploration. Talbott's softly colored watercolor illustrations, ranging from cameo insets to two-page paintings, are at once detailed and impressionistic. Clever touches of humor abound. This book is superior to existing works such as Dan Mabry Lacy's *The Lost Colony* (Watts, 1972; o.p.). Fritz has scored again, making history breathe while showing both historians and archaeologists at their reconstructive best.

Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3-5. This history of the Lost Colony is more than a simple tale of settlers who disappeared, leaving a cryptic message behind. Fritz weaves the tangled threads of historical records, the multiple voyages, and the large cast of significant figures into a single narrative that enables children to envision the main events as well as many colorful details. The presentation is surprisingly traditional in some ways, from a Eurocentric reference to America as the "newfound land" to the anecdote (undocumented, as the appended notes acknowledge) about Sir Walter Raleigh's laying his coat across a puddle for Queen Elizabeth. In four chapters, Fritz discusses the English exploration of the region, the settlement on Roanoke Island, the mysterious disappearance of the colonists, and the conjectures, hoaxes, and evidence that have fueled speculation about the colony for 400 years. The fluid, expressive watercolors enhance the writing by using styles that reflect Talbott's research into the paintings of John White and sixteenth-century portrait artists as well as more romantic, imaginative interpretations of people and events. Notes and a bibliography are appended. *Carolyn Phelan*

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About the Author

Jean Fritz, the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Homesick*, is best known for her engaging and enlightening nonfiction for young readers, including *What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?*, *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?*, and *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution*. She was honored with the Knickerbocker Award for Juvenile Literature by the New York State Library Association, and won the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for her career contribution to American children's literature.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ira Knudsen:

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Carlie Manson:

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