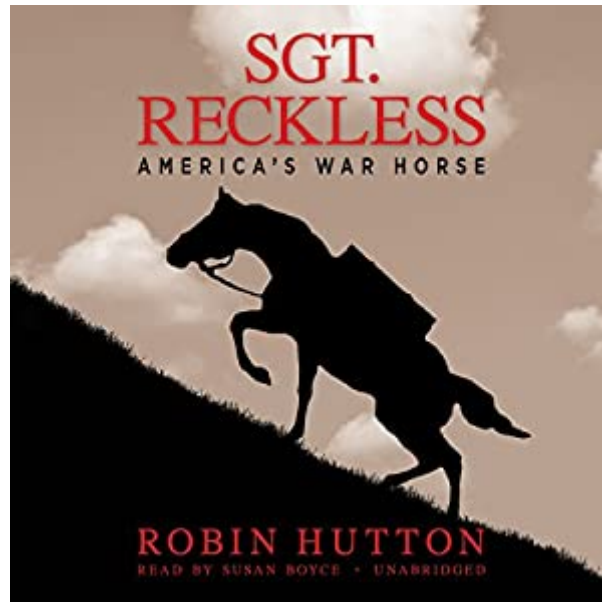




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# **Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse**



## Synopsis

This is the complete and captivating account of how a would-be Korean racehorse became one of the greatest Marine Corps wartime heroes. Amid an inferno of explosives on a deadly minefield in the Korean War, a four-legged marine proved to be a heroic force of nature. She moved headstrong up and down steep, smoky terrain that no man could travail confidently. In a single day, this small Mongolian mare made fifty-one round-trips carrying nearly five tons of explosives to various gun sites. Sergeant Reckless was her name, and she was the horse renowned for carrying wounded soldiers off the battlefield and making solo trips across combat zones to deliver supplies. A widely celebrated national hero, Reckless was first featured in 1954 in the *Saturday Evening Post* and in 1997 when *Life* magazine published an edition lauding history's one hundred all-time heroes. Equine enthusiast Robin Hutton learned about Sergeant Reckless and spearheaded the effort to commission a monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia, near the Marine Corps Base Quantico. In July of 2013, the statue was unveiled. A second monument is planned for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California, where Reckless lived out her days and is buried. Hutton has now written a fascinating full biography of Sergeant Reckless, who earned two Purple Hearts for her heroic efforts, among other military decorations. Hutton has spoken with the marines who fought alongside Reckless and tells the complete and captivating tale of how a would-be Korean racehorse became one of the greatest Marine Corps wartime heroes. Sgt. Reckless brings the legend back to life more than half a century later.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 34 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: July 28, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00M48KTSO

Best Sellers Rank: #83 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Animal Care & Pets #106 in Books > History > Military > Korean War #439 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Horses

## Customer Reviews

If you want to read a wonderful, book about a true war hero then I've got one for you. Sgt Reckless America's War Horse by Robin Hutton is a true gem. It fills in all of the gaps from previous books about this marvelous, courageous little red-haired Mongolian mare. Delving deeper into her "hoof" camp in the field, her unique personality and her courageous, determined non-stop work as the ammo carrier at the Battle of Vegas that earned her not only her Sgt stripes but the love of the entire USMC. I couldn't put this book down and finished it's 319 pages (which included the author's notes) in two days. I've already started to read it again. This is a MUST read for any Marine or any military person who loves a good true war story. It's also a fantastic book for any animal lover who wants to know what lengths this little mare would go to in protecting her men. The only true NCO in the Marines, those stripes meant something to her men. She WAS and always will be SSgt. Reckless. Read about her

All I can say is WOW. What a wonderful job Robin did in bringing Reckless back to life for all to enjoy her story. I love a good "true animal story" and am always reading history non-fiction. To get both in one book is wonderful. I pre-ordered this book as soon as I heard about it, and lo and behold it arrived earlier than anticipated and I spent the weekend 50 years back in time on a battlefield in Korea with a small mare and the men who loved and respected her. The photos were beautiful and the trading cards at the back were an extra special bonus. Well done!

This is a great book for horse lovers and military historians alike. I found it a very thorough telling of the complicated story of a young race mare turned ammo carrier and herdmate for a Marine regiment. Reckless' people-pleasing personality and true commitment to her 'herd' of Marines even under fire makes this story amazing. But the love the Marines had for their tough little red mare and how even the top brass recognized the bond and thought a horse important enough to bring home after the war makes this story unstoppable. I enjoyed both parts of the tale- a mare does her duty in war, and serves with pride even after the battle is over. Men recall their battle buddy (who just happened to be a horse) with fondness as both a source of comfort and a much-needed laugh, and as an inspiration to great heights of courage and fidelity. There are many horse stories of great sacrifice- this one also is about the love between those who have survived something great and horrible, and come home to heal and live their ordinary-looking lives. Semper Fidelis- always faithful- the horse did her work beyond all hope, and the men took care of her the rest of her days.

I loved this book. I've read every horse story written. Never heard of Reckless until now. Miss Reckless or should I say Sargent First Class Reckless was a most remarkable horse. I am, to this day, a horse lover. Horses got me through some really tough times when I was growing up. Loved Reckless crawling into tents for a good warm sleep. Her search for cookies. My husband asked if she was a mascot for the Marines. Indeed not, I told him. She was a soldier. A Marine. Hauling ammo up mountains, on her own. Taking wounded and dead soldiers back to camp. Oh it's a lovely story. Was really amused when she rejected the man of her (their) dreams (favorite of the generals) and had a foal by a bucking bronco. Great. Story is told in such a wonderful way. I highly recommend this book. I purchased a book for my brother-in-law and his family. I think they got tired of me telling them about Reckless. The book is for his grand children to read. He can read it too if he wants. I'll probably read it again and again.

Robin Hutton has brought America's War Horse back to life. From fame in the 1950s to obscurity and back to fame the little Korean war horse lives again. Many of us have every book written about her, have the Breyer statue of her, and love her as if she were actually with us in the flesh. Thank you Robin for all you have done to bring our girl to the world in all her astounding glory. Sgt Reckless is truly as your title says, America's War Horse, pride of the Marines and of all of us.

I love horses. Been riding since I was 2. I love history . I was born just after the Korean War. This book is WONDERFUL! If you've never experienced the bond between a human and an animal.....you will after reading this book. What a courageous little mare! Love and trust are earned. It applies to animals and humans. After 13 years of riding competitively, my horse and I are a team. If he could read, he would love this book.

I've been into horses for 40+ years, but had never heard of Sgt. Reckless until the campaign to raise money for her memorial statue at the Marine Corps Museum. I read all I could about her online, and waited (sort of!) patiently while Ms. Hutton wrote her book. I was not disappointed! This book is very well-researched and detailed, and includes many interviews with people that knew Reckless in real life. There is also a lot of back story and information about the Korean War, often called the "forgotten war", the weapons and tactics used, and the characters that lived and worked with Reckless. This is an inspiring and true story of a brave little mare, no, a Marine, who was born a Korean racehorse but served the United States of America in one of the toughest jobs in the war, earning the respect of the Marines and the South Korean people as well. If you love horses, or

military history, you must get this book. I am happy that Sgt. Reckless lives on!

I just finished reading this wonderful story about this amazing Marine. I could not put the book down. Robin did a fantastic job putting this together and bringing Reckless to life for the reader and deserves many thanks for her hard work on the book and on the memorial at the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico VA.

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