

Flambards (Flambards, #1) By K.M. Peyton English It's hard to put my finger on why I didn't want to give Flambards more stars.

It was a quick easy read and I basically enjoyed it (apart from two areas where I became so disgusted with the characters' behavior that I was fuming - in that sense perhaps the book did do well in representing the social injustices of the time.) The horses are there more as a comparison with the air craft: neither are given too much depth (although I could have done with about a quarter of the description of fox hunting tbh - not a supporter. Great British past time my a**e) but they serve to represent the old ways of the gentry and country side in comparison to the new coming ways of social equality.

Technological advancement and comparative freedom. There's no clear winner and there's a definite sense of sorrow for the passing of the times when a semi feudal state meant a land owner looking after his land and people and lived close to the land that supported him. (Not that the Russel family are great representatives of this but that is the beau ideal) this aspect of a nation already being pulled in two directions pre WWI was done well. In the end her willful ignorance.

A totally absorbing novel about twelve-year-old Christina who is sent to live with her fierce uncle and his two sons in their decaying mansion Flambards. Flambards has been one of my favourite books for about twenty years but this reread is especially wonderful because I now finally have a copy of the second book *The Edge of the Cloud*. I'm very excited about it! Something that was interesting about reading Flambards this time was how clearly I remembered Part One: 1908 the section that follows Christina at twelve and how little I recalled of her older years. His elder son Mark is more like his father and the other son William is kind and has a great interest in flying machines but hates horse riding and hunting. When Cristina will turn 21 she will get money which her parents left for her. But I appreciate this book because it's really engaging to read Cristina's arrival at the Flambards her attachment with her mare which she rides William's passion about flying machines and friendship with Cristina Cristina's feelings and crush and also this book end for new beginning. This is historical fiction that takes place just before the beginning of World War I in idyllic semi-rural Great Britain where the gulfs between the classes are large and no one seems to see anything wrong with the system. It is generally accepted by everyone except Christina herself that she will ultimately marry Russell's oldest son Mark (who is very like him) and thus use her money to finance the upkeep of the Flambards estate. Her teacher is the stable boy Dick who is a better rider than Mark and much more gentle with horses and people and also totally dependent on the Russells for his livelihood. The Essex manor house Flambards in this eponymous story (and that's the correct way to use eponymous) is becoming a neglected pile since all the family money is being spent on maintaining a stable of horses for fox-hunting. Between the older lad taking boorishly and drunkenly after his father a testament to the old droit de seigneur and the withdrawn younger son plotting to escape and develop flying machines a look to the future of science and warfare the characters stand at a crossroads. When our heroine comes of age at 21 she will inherit money and other relatives expect she will marry her elder cousin who will put her money to use propping up the stable. But a telling incident is when a good mare is badly ridden at a ditch and seriously injured; to save treatment and escape a reminder of his ill-judgement the rider condemns her. In 1914 horses will be bought up wholesale for the cavalry such as the older brother; while the fledgling Royal Air Corps will be hoovering up mechanics and aviation-minded young men. For instance the way Christina arrives to a house in turmoil because her cousin William has been thrown from a horse; also the way she is treated almost like a servant and forced to ride when she's not sure she wants to. That may be an artefact of the time - perhaps now we expect our heroines of whatever era to be more proactive and to have more in their heads than a far-off notion of who they will marry. He disappears for a week and Christina faces humiliation if he doesn't return to take her to the ball (a clever device to externalise her feelings) but I didn't feel his absence very keenly I knew only that Christina was

fretting. Am I judging Flambards by today's standards where we expect to be more involved with the characters and their relationships? Certainly I kept imagining what the writers of Buffy would have done with this material to bring these characters to life - and you could say that is unfair. Ah! To be 16 and in love! Those were the days! English For starters this is not a horsey book - so if that's what you're looking for based on Peyton's other works you might be in for some disappointment. It might be that this is a book it's better to have come to as a child or if you haven't already found the themes it encompasses done better and with more sympathetic characters elsewhere. I think she only appeared to advantage compared to the other other characters - her uncle a bitter broken drunkard who is violent and intractable her brutish and stupid cousin Mark and her arrogant and thoughtless cousin William. I'm sure the point was to show how a great family gone to seed had allowed the dark ages in which gave the new ways a foot hold but they were all equally detestable, What I do find unbelievable is that a young lady is left by her social circle to grow up without a woman or girl to guide her, I would have expected that her female relatives would invite her to stay during summer or send a girl to be a friend to her, Perhaps her uncle wanted everyone to forget about her but she's out in society attending hunt balls: She's also quite ignorant of how a servant girl is abused, I'd definitely have liked her to develop a bit more backbone, I enjoyed the start - orphans are rich fodder for stories of course and Christina couldn't have had a worse start at Flambards, And that's where it stopped because after that first hunt she falls into the same lazy way of thinking and acting as the rest of the family. She has moments of 'I ought to do something' but she doesn't follow through: Christina discovers a passion for horses and riding but finds herself part of a strange household divided by emotional undercurrents and cruelty. Orphaned Christina is forced to go live with her Uncle Russell and his sons Mark and Will at their home Flambards in the early 1900s. Mark and his father are obsessed with horses while Will is obsessed with machinery and aviation: To her surprise Christina becomes deeply attached to Flambards although her relationship with these three strong willed men is unpredictable and stressful, He did not put into words the obvious conclusion to this statement but all three of them were aware of it: I had a similar experience with Jane Eyre with her childhood vivid and the rest vague and forgotten. So the first third of Flambards was familiar and comforting and the rest felt brand new. The book starts quite dramatically with a fox-hunting accident that so perfectly captures the personalities of the two Russell brothers Mark and Will. Christina arrives at Flambards at the same time as Will is carried home on a stretcher to a father who seems to be unconcerned about his injuries. Christina soon learns that this household revolves entirely around horses specifically hunting. She is expected to be hunting by Christmas (it is November) a prospect she initially dreads: If you are a reader who dislikes hunting scenes this may not be the book for you, The focus is more on Christina's experiences as a rider in the field but they are in pursuit of a fox with the expected outcome mentioned at least once. Will is in many ways as I remember him --sensitive dedicated to flying (planes) and wildly unsuited to the household he has grown up in. Yes he is arrogant and brutish at times but he is likeable too, He can no more help that he does belong at Flambards as his brother can help that he doesn't: Then there is Dick the groom perhaps my favourite character in the book: Christina is drawn to each of them though she is very naïve and doesn't quite know why: I enjoyed the conclusion that was very romantic and lovely but grounded as well. The second book picks up directly from this one and is excellent so far, Updated after 2022 reread: I think this book and this series are pretty much perfect. She is my favourite writer and many of her books are 'favourites' but there is a particular magic to the Flambards books.

□□ English Description: A totally absorbing novel about twelve-year-old Christina who is sent to live with her fierce uncle and his two sons in their decaying mansion Flambards: Christina discovers a passion for horses and riding but finds herself part of a strange household divided by emotional undercurrents and cruelty: Not the best of quality yet it is a lovely story English 3, Alternatively Flambards is the trilogy (1967–1969) or series (1967–1981) named after its first book: The series is set in England just before during and after World War I: A twelve years old Cristina Parsons has been shunted around the family since she was orphaned at the age of five: Now she is sent to live with her uncle Russell and his two sons in their decaying mansion Flambards, He was a horse rider

and loves to hunting fox until he broke his leg in an accident: But uncle Russell has a plan to get that money for finance the upkeep of the Flambirds estate: There Cristina forced to ride horse later on she starts to like it also she feels a little bit crush on a stable boy, I felt like this book is weak at the point of unfolding Cristina's relationship with William: Once again I still like it very much but I had not remembered that the chapters were sometimes years apart: Christina who is twelve when we first meet her is an heiress who will have no money of her own until she is twenty-one. She has been sent to live with her uncle Russell who was a major fox hunter until he was injured in a fall. Russell's younger son Will hates fox hunting and is mad for machinery: cars and the fledgling aeroplanes: Since it's Flambards it goes without saying that Christina must learn to ride and to fox hunt. The people are fully rounded the social mores accurately depicted and the resolution very satisfying. And it's even better when you realize that there are three more books in the series taking you through a great deal more of the history and social changes of the times: English Christina is an orphan sent from relation to relation without any control over her life: But worst of all is Flambards: a huge ramshackle house owned by her choleric uncle and the home of her two cousins: Her uncle was injured in a riding accident but still cares only for horses and hunting: Christina gradually finds a space for herself at Flambards discovering that she is a talented rider and loves horses. But living with her capricious uncle is hard for everyone and when Christina tries to save an injured horse she ends up hurting Dick the groom and her only true ally, This is a fast-paced story but full of depth touching on issues of loss disability war child abuse class and social and technological change. It has the more depth than most horse stories but is also a beautiful portrait of riding and countryside, English I've asked the Librarians Group to change the date :Flambards is listed as having been first published in 1911. Even though it is partly set in 1912 and the author was born in 1929: Published in 1967 according to this interview with the author. "I never read this book as a child and I never hunted though I knew a lot about hunting thanks to the Pullein-Thompson sisters, I always had the impression this book was too much about the English upper class for me: And probably I would not have accepted the read the way I did My Friend Flicka because the inequalities and brutalities are too strong: A young orphaned girl arrives on the scene from dainty rooms in London in 1910 and learns about horse pursuits fast: The father / uncle Russell is a control freak devoid of affection, He was seriously injured and lost the use of his legs and now lives vicariously while asserting his control over his sons: Women at that time had few choices and we are shown that the servant class had fewer choices: The horses are individual personalities from the steady strawberry roan to the topping chestnut flyer: Ominous mentions of war darken the 1912 later part of the story. I can't help feeling that the characters are based upon people the author knew with invented settings, Writing in 1967 she went back in time so she would not be accused of portraying those around her, According to the author but I felt lukewarm at the end rather than enthralled. I liked the way the plot forged bonds between Christina and William and there is plenty of invention in the story of William and his desperation to escape his father's tyranny, Christina's crush on the groom Dick was well executed and KM Peyton managed to hint at instincts the characters didn't themselves understand but knew were wrong. Complications are heaped on top of complications so the plot is always juggling a couple of troubles at once, There's a nice sense of time passing and the characters growing up, All of this is good but I felt overall Christina was passive and ineffectual lurching from one crush to another: When Christina realises she loves William it is told rather than shown. I felt rather uninvolved with the unfolding relationship and so I didn't believe that this was the love that would form a fitting end to the book, Or perhaps she is meant to be uncomplicated at this stage of her life - after all she's only a teenager and there are several more books to go, But I also kept imagining what Jane Austen would have done with little moments that show how the characters spark: I didn't see much spark and genuine bonding between the characters here - and that seems to be what the book lacks: In conclusion I enjoyed Flambards particularly the world it evokes. But I don't think it's the towering classic that its reputation suggests. English I hadn't heard of this book ever but then I haven't heard of so many books in classic children's literature, 'Flambards' is more oriented towards YA I think rather than children: Set in England at a time of a looming war I was drawn into its world

of horse-drawn carriages crumbling estates and well horses: There are a lot of horses in this novel - many of them form almost the fourth or the fifth characters but you will love them all: Personally I also didn't find it to be the great and multi layered classic it's lauded as: So if you've read Eva Ibbotson's adult books (or you watch Downton Abbey) for example this might be a bit unsatisfactory: Still complete inability to show a hint of spine and flashes of gross cowardice nearly made me put the book down: And yet I was engaged and did keep reading until the end and will probably read the other books, There's definitely something here but a lot of Peyton's other books are much much better[1]

Her first boyfriend was shot down over Germany. Riding should have taught her that at least. I'll look out for the rest of the books. I read this book from the Raheny Library. This is a unbiased review. I liked her practicality and resilience. Flambards (Flambards #1) <https://perfectretort.blogspot.com/20>. English 'The horses are all right at Flambards' he said. 'It's just the human beings.' William finished for him after he had ridden away. Which means that at last I can read the entire series. But to her surprise she loves riding and adores hunting. He is more complex than I remembered though. And Mark is not as villainous either. He is the kindest character but even he has his limits. Peyton's writing is beautiful always no matter the book. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlRoi.5/5> Stars Flambards is a YA novel by K. M. Peyton first published in 1967. Her uncle is a fierce man drinks pretty heavily. He is deeply obsessed with horses. It feels like just told rather than describe. English Another of my re-reads. Now he drinks pretty heavily. Fortunately for Chirstina she learns to love riding. This one is well worth reading and re-reading. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/201>. They get far more care and attention than the grooms. There were a lot of elements I liked. But there was a deeper problem. I felt rather uninvolved in the characters' relationships. But this was so utterly delightful. At heart this is still a tale of young emotions. English

