



## **Moon Filly**

*Elyne Mitchell*

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## **Moon Filly** Elyne Mitchell

Wurring, almost a yearling, and the image of his great sire Winganna, is a golden chestnut with a mane and tail the color of living light of the sun. When Winganna brings a hauntingly beautiful mare and her filly foal to the herd, Wurring is drawn to the tiny filly despite himself. When the beautiful mare dies, only Wurring has the courage to approach the orphan. He calls her Ilinga because she has come from far away. She becomes his shadow, to the envy of the other foals. Where is she from? As she grows, she becomes more and more beautiful, glowing with the beauty of the moon, and it becomes obvious that her dead mother must have been of great value. What happens when an ugly and mean iron grey stallion comes looking for what he has lost? Is Ilinga's and Wurring's love for each other enough for them to overcome the odds? What of the legend that say that before the moon and sun can be together, the light of sun must almost be extinguished?

## **Moon Filly Details**

Date : Published September 1st 1992 by Hutchinson of Australia (first published 1968)

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Author : Elyne Mitchell

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**goodreadsuser says**

1995?

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**Clare O'Beara says**

This is a wonderful tale of the wild horses of south-east Australia. The title is not so well known as some of Mitchell's others simply because it is not about the silver brumby Thowra. However in my view it is a book to rival any of the series for horse lovers.

Wurring (meaning sun) is the son of a stallion called Winganna (also meaning sun) and a bright golden chestnut like his sire. One night Winganna returns to the brumby herd from a journey, with a strange dark mare who has a dark foal at foot. The mare is clearly ill or injured and at the dark of the moon she lies down and dies. Wurring can't bear to see the lonely little filly so he nudges her over to his own dam who rears them together. He names the filly Ilinga (meaning comes from far away) and they grow up, gallop and play with the other youngsters.

Only when a strange stallion comes along and spots the handsome filly Ilinga has grown into, and notices how her coat ripples in the moonlight, does Wurring find that Ilinga's dam was from a rare breed known as mares of the moon. Too late, he discovers his love for the moon filly; she has been driven away by the older horse. Desperately he follows through the bush, unsure if he is strong enough to win her back.

Mitchell is a beautiful writer and this carefully constructed tale draws on sun and moon symbolism as well as the wildlife of the bush to bring us a touching romance coupled with adventure. Any young person should love it and a horse lover could read it at any age.

Read this before Silver Brumby Whirlwind, as Wurring and Ilinga reappear in that book. Their story is complete by itself however and I just regret that Mitchell did not write more about these two.

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**annapi says**

When I was a child, I was crazy for Mitchell's Silver Brumby series, about the wild horses of Australia. I was disappointed to realize that this book was not really of that series, and its story (what little there is of it) is a rehash of ideas she has already used in the series.

It feels like it is written to be a mysterious legend, but while the writing is evocative, she had already done something similar in Silver Brumby Kingdom. In this story, the young golden stallion and the moonlight colored filly who were separated and are looking for each other are the fulfillment of the legend of the meeting of the sun and the moon. Pretty enough, but nothing original in this. I think that even as a child I would have been disappointed.

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## **Dark-Draco says**

I absolutely loved this book. It's about two young horses, Ilinga and Wurring, who grow up together in the Australian brush. When Ilinga is stolen by a rival stallion, Wurring sets out to find her and so the two begin a long quest to be together once again.

It's beautifully written and, although essentially a love story, it really appealed to me. I think part of it is because the horses never speak - there are no speeches and so the quietness of their world is felt. A lovely story that I wouldn't mind reading again.

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## **Hannah says**

The lack of dialogue made this a rather dull read when compared to the previous, exciting and action-packed Brumby books. However, if you're planning to go on to Silver Brumby Whirlwind and Son of the Whirlwind, then *Moon Filly* is a necessary read in order to understand the background behind the Yuri, the moon filly that Thowra claims.

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## **Tara Calaby says**

I don't remember a lot about this one, beyond the fact that I definitely read it as a kid.

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## **Brit McCarthy says**

Elyne Mitchell has a wonderful way of bringing to life the magical high country in the minds of those who have never seen it, and causing those who have (such as myself) to recall fond memories of the bush. The imagery she creates means that you never have time to ponder upon the fact that in this entire novel, revolving around the two beautiful brumbies (wild Australian horses, to the uninformed) Wurring and Ilinga, there is no dialogue. Despite this fact, the reader is still able to connect to the horses and their story, their journey to find each other again.

I felt like I could feel the emotion through the pages and yet it never seemed as if Mitchell had anthropomorphized these creatures, which is an easy mistake to make in any fiction where animals are the main characters, and still create a believable story.

The Silver Brumby stories are Australian favourites for a reason.

3.5 stars.

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