



## Blood on the River

*By Elisa Carbone*

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### **Blood on the River** By Elisa Carbone

Twelve-year-old Samuel Collier is a lowly commoner on the streets of London. So when he becomes the page of Captain John Smith and boards the Susan Constant, bound for the New World, he can't believe his good fortune. He's heard that gold washes ashore with every tide. But beginning with the stormy journey and his first contact with the native people, he realizes that the New World is nothing like he imagined. The lush Virginia shore where they establish the colony of James Town is both beautiful and forbidding, and it's hard to know who's a friend or foe. As he learns the language of the Algonquian Indians and observes Captain Smith's wise diplomacy, Samuel begins to see that he can be whomever he wants to be in this new land.

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## **Blood on the River** By Elisa Carbone Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #17343 in Audible
- Published on: 2008-03-28
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 347 minutes

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

*Starred Review.* Grade 5-7—After attempting to steal back a necklace that belonged to his deceased mother, Samuel Collier is sent to an orphanage run by Reverend Hunt. The 11-year-old joins him on a journey to the New World, serving as a page to Captain John Smith. Samuel's account of the voyage to Virginia, political intrigues among the settlers, and the harrowing first winter of the James Town settlement brings to life figures like Smith, Powhatan, and Pocahontas. Details about food and daily life add realism to the story, and quotes from historical sources begin each chapter. This Samuel is more conflicted than the one in Gail Langer Karwoski's *Surviving Jamestown: The Adventures of Young Sam Collier* (Peachtree, 2001). His initial selfishness changes as he responds to the reverend, to Smith, and to his new friends. His time in an Indian village and his changing perspectives on the Natives add interest to the story and depth to his character. While the opening chapters move slowly, the pace picks up as Samuel reaches Virginia. This title is a good choice for a tie-in with the 400th anniversary celebrations of Jamestown in 2007.—*Beth L. Meister, Pleasant View Elementary School, Franklin, WI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. Following *Stealing Freedom* (1998) and *Storm Warriors* (2001), both set in the nineteenth century, Carbone dips further back in U.S. history to the founding of James Town. Young orphan Samuel Collier narrates from his viewpoint as Captain John Smith's page, and the gripping historical fiction reflects Carbone's heavy reliance on primary source material, which she cites in an appendix. The dense particulars of daily life may tire readers who demand high-action plots. Others, though, will be easily caught up in the meticulously drawn scenes, from the fetid ship's hold to the snowy forests where Samuel learns to hunt with Powhatan friends. The cover, showing two crouched Powhatan Indians surveying the settlement, is a puzzling choice, particularly since the British characters are the focus. Still, like Joseph Bruchac's *Pocahontas* (2003), the text offers a view of Indian life that is far from the Disney stereotypes. An author's note offers more historical context. A strong, visceral story of the hardship and peril settlers faced, as well as the brutal realities of colonial conquest. *Gillian Engberg*

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Review

"Lively historical fiction at its best." -**Kirkus Reviews, starred review**

"Samuel's account of the voyage to Virginia, political intrigues among the settlers, and the harrowing first winter of the James Town settlement brings to life figures like Smith, Powhatan, and Pocahontas. Details about food and daily life add realism to the story, and quotes from historical sources begin each chapter." - **School Library Journal, starred review**

## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Marie Daugherty:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled Blood on the

River your mind will drift away through every dimension, wandering in most aspects that maybe unidentified for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Blood on the River giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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#### **Michele Williams:**

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#### **Oscar Jackson:**

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