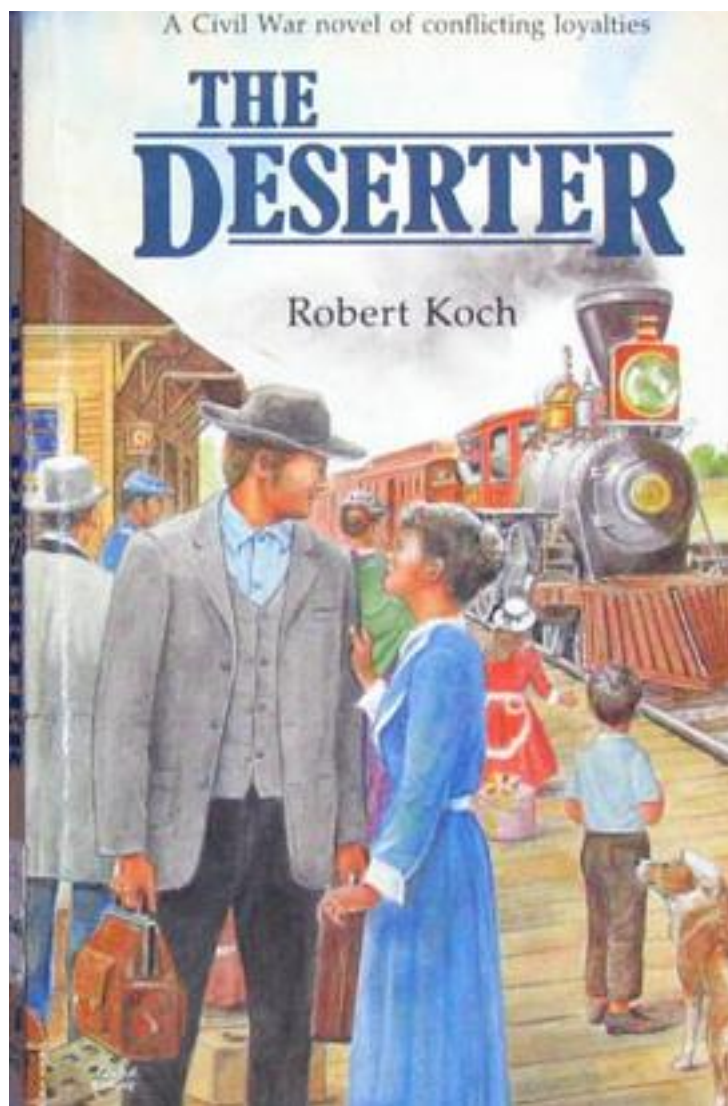


The Deserter



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著者:Robert Koch

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Gr 7-10-- In this moving novel set during the Civil War, young Joseph King enlists in the Union forces. As with many others, he is inspired by patriotism to assist his country in its darkest days. But, when faced with the finality of death in battle, he begins to question his reasons for fighting, and starts to understand the teachings of his father, a Mennonite minister. In order to be true to his religious beliefs, he commits treason in the eyes of his commanding officer, and walks away from battle. He is sent to prison, but is released by orders of President Lincoln. Joseph then assists his country in a nonviolent manner, working in the hospital service. Koch has done an excellent job in portraying in genuine terms the daily life of a soldier, especially in the details of camp life. Joseph s experience in battle is shocking, somewhat gory, but realistic. Because of the novel s unusual perspectives, this book is an important purchase for many libraries. It will spark questions and discussion, and will fit into a discussion of objectors during Vietnam or the recent call-up of reserves. The Mennonite view on peace is clearly presented, although it is occasionally overly imposed on the story. --Elizabeth M. Reardon, McCallie School, Chattanooga, TN

作者介绍:

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