



Heartbroke Bay

Lynn D'urso

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A powerful literary debut inspired by a true story.

In 1898, Alaska is an untamed wilderness with an unforgiving climate. At the tail end of a world-wide depression, thousands of destitute people are drawn north by rumors of easy wealth coming out of the remote claims of the Gold Rush. Many of the pilgrims are unprepared for the hardships that await them and find nothing but a desolate landscape already pillaged of its riches by those who came before.

Hannah Nelson, a beautiful young Englishwoman, is one of the late arrivals. After following her husband to a glacier-wracked fjord in the company of three equally desperate men, she discovers that gold is only one of the desires that can consume a person's soul...

Heartbroke Bay Details

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Author : Lynn D'urso

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From Reader Review Heartbroke Bay for online ebook

Julie says

Loved it! History, suspense, and romance all taking place in a remote and increasingly dangerous setting. The characters are in an emotional and physical pressure cooker. The narrator and main character is an english woman in the late nineteenth century who is thrown into a situation completely contrary to what she had planned for her life. She's a strong and fabulous guide through this story. What she cannot tell us herself, she uses her journal as a cryptic guide. Historical fiction at its finest.

Audrey Terry says

Holy crap, this was really depressing. Take all your notions of adventure and romance and just throw them out the window. This is all made the worse by the juxtaposition of the beginning, when Hannah thought the shittiest part of her life was having a bitchy boss, and along come Hans to rescue her. Ha! From the frying pan straight to the fire. In some ways I'm disappointed with the ending, but it works, it's just sad as hell.

Deon Stonehouse says

Heartbroke Bay by Lynn D'Urso is historical fiction based on a real incident. Hannah takes a position as a lady's companion when her family falls on hard times. Lady Hamilton is a difficult, demanding woman but leaving England for a trip from New York to the Pacific was an adventure. Perhaps too much of an adventure, Hannah is charmed by Nelson. Her innocent flirtation will change her life, taking her to isolation in the cold north of Alaska. Hannah's story should not be lost, she was a strong woman. History is blended with fiction to give us a look at the gold rush days of Alaska and the greed of man.

Suzan says

I would rate this as a good, not great book. Maybe just ok. The pacing in the first 100 pages is slow or just odd. The last half is fascinating. But, the end just ends terribly suddenly. The descriptions of the immenseness of Alaska are very realistic and at the same time lyrical. Character development of Hans, Harkey, and Dutch was pretty non-existent. This is perhaps why the end was so sudden. When half your remaining characters don't have a character, there isn't much to talk about. Parts of Negook's motivations and interactions were indecipherable to me.

My grandfather was born on a claim in the Yukon Territory so I enjoyed "reliving" through this book what that might have been like. Perhaps, I am very forgiving with stories about the "Great North".

Carol says

Really more like 2.5 for me. An interesting story about gold prospecting on one level and desperate greed & perfect misery on the other. Nagook, the native, provides a dose of reasonable, experienced perspective along with the tribal beliefs of the area. He was my favorite character. Harky was the other character I enjoyed. He was drawn sparingly but effectively and I felt great empathy for him, maybe because I just finished a book set in World War 1 and had plenty of those descriptions alive while reading Heartbroke Bay. I liked this book ok.

Evan McKinney says

Good Southeast Alaska story.

Lisa says

Based on the real life events of 4 men and 1 woman who venture into the Alaskan mountains in search for gold in 1898 find themselves stranded and left to survive the winter with very little provisions. D'Urso gives a fictional account of what may have happened to the group when they are unable to return when their ship is destroyed during an early storm. Told from the perspective of Hannah, who is the only woman on the journey. The desire for gold brings together 5 unlikely partners and challenges who they are and who they are to become when hardship strikes. There is Hannah who is an English woman who has eloped with Hans. Hans, a German, whose quest for gold stems from a desire to prove himself worthy to those who had no faith in him. Harky, looking for friendship; Dutch, the original brain child, and compulsive liar, of the expedition and finally, Michael, a charming Irishman who teaches Hannah about desire and conflict. Each of the characters in their own way are deeply sympathetic. D'Urso does an excellent job of creating characters that are rich and the reader is easily wrapped into their plight. The only part that was unnecessary was the subplot regarding the "Bear Spirit". Although quite possible, it was a bit distracting from the lives of the prospectors and didn't add anything to the overall plot. I found the ending slightly anti-climatic but I'm not sure whether it was due to my own distraction or a lack of energy towards the end. That said, I would recommend this book.

Tara Chevestt says

Very good goldrush novel about how greed renders people senseless and how the lust for gold can have an everlasting effect.

<http://wwwbookbabe.blogspot.com/2010/...>

Wendy Lu says

I half wish there was just a compilation of the author's research notes for this book, but I also do really love

the insistence on storytelling. I did like the book so much more as I was flipping back through after a first read - the progression of events never seemed remarkable to me the first time around, and I guess its a testament to the author's subtlety that I hadn't realized how far gone the characters were by the end.

Michele says

4.5 Stars. Excellent, excellent new novel from Lynn D'Urso (pen name) who has taken a real historical event and turned it into compelling historical fiction.

In 1898 a young Englishwoman and her American husband hooked up with three other gold-seeking men in Alaska and set sail for Lituya Bay, a remote and isolated part of Alaska where gold was rumored to be found. Eventually finding themselves stranded and starving in the harsh Alaska winter, violence erupts....

To tell more would be to ruin the story for you. D'Urso has woven a masterful tale around the sketchy details that are known about this Alaskan tragedy. Her characterizations are compelling and the plot moves along nicely...a combination that creates one of those I-can't-put-it-down books where the tension steadily builds to "wow" conclusion.

Topped off with an excellent author's note explaining the history of the actual event and how the author came to write the novel, I can't help but highly recommend this one. Not only is it a detailed study of human behavior, but it reads like a thriller that will keep you up reading late into the night.

Jill says

Wow, this is fabulous historical fiction based on a true story, about the gold rush in Alaska. It is also about five gold miners - a woman and four men - who are stranded for the winter near Glacier Bay. I think this would make a wonderful book club choice, although it is pretty gritty at times. But the descriptions of the place and the choices that the miners made outweighed the brutal story for me.

Heather says

3.5

Valerie Williams says

I really enjoyed this book because the storyline is very unique. Knowing how much time and effort went into researching the actual events gave me a great appreciate for it. I gave it four stars because while the story was awesome, and the characters amazing, a lot of the language went over my head. I consider myself an intelligent person, but there was a lot of boating terms that weren't explained and made it difficult to have a clear picture of the event described.

I highly recommend this to historical novel lovers. It was right of D'urso to tell this story, not just because it

is intriguing but because it also says so much about the human greed for wealth and the reality of it's results.

Susan says

This novel is based on a true story of an English woman and her new American husband who join up with three other men to prospect for gold in the wilds of Alaska in the year 1898. After a perilous sea journey they set up camp and begin the serious business of getting rich. Despite warnings from Negook, a native, who advises them it is unsafe for them to stay, they continue mining. He is amused that instead of amassing food for the winter, they are amassing gold which won't help them get through the worst months. D'urso's narrative of the harsh conditions they face made me just about as uncomfortable as they must have been. The smokey hut, the hunger pangs when the gamey seal meat is gone (yuck!), the damp clothing, boots and blankets, foraging for food. As conditions worsen, so does the interpersonal relationships of all five. Further proof that the lust for wealth overcomes all common sense. Even though the characters were all flawed, they were a sympathetic bunch. The romantic in me would have preferred a more harmonious ending, but I liked it anyway. It was a page turner for me.

Rebecca Huston says

Quite a read, set during the Alaskan gold rush of the late 1890's, told mostly through the eyes of a young Englishwoman, Hannah Butler, who elopes with an American and decides to try and find gold in Alaska. But plans never do run smoothly, and their eventual fate is one that will send shivers down your spine. Five big stars overall, and a happy recommendation from me.

To read the longer review, please go here:
http://www.epinions.com/review/Lynn_D...
