



North Star

Karly Lane

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When Kate escapes to the vast but rundown property of North Star after a bitter divorce, it doesn't take long for her realize that she's going to need every ounce of determination to restore the homestead to its former glory

Since her divorce a year ago, Kate Thurston feels like she's lurched from one disaster to another. Her teenage daughter, Georgia, seems to have morphed into a monster overnight, and her son Liam breaks her heart with his sad brown eyes.

When Kate receives news that her grandfather has bequeathed her North Star, the vast property that has been in her family for generations, it feels like the perfect opportunity to flee the hectic pace of city life for a calmer rural existence. As soon as she arrives, however, Kate realizes it's going to take untold amounts of work to fulfill her dream of turning it into a bush retreat. As she starts to make headway with the homestead's restoration, and falls for a local guy, Kate finally feels like life is going right for her, but then her ex-husband comes to town and triggers a series of events that will change her life forever.

Can Kate face her demons and put her past to rest and find happiness and her true destiny?

North Star Details

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Author : Karly Lane

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From Reader Review *North Star* for online ebook

Dale Harcombe says

Four and a half stars. If it hadn't been for the good reviews of others here whose opinions I value, I would never have picked up this novel, since I hate covers with girls in the bushy hats.

After leaving her husband who is a gambling addict, Kate takes the family back to the property *North Star* she inherited from her grandfather who she despised and with good reason. Though the place has been let go and also has many negative memories, she still figures the children 8 year old Liam and 14 year old Georgia who is in with the wrong crowd in the city will benefit from the change. Needless to say, Georgia is anything but thrilled by this change. Georgia is one of those characters you'd want to shake some sense into. It makes me thankful I never had a teenager like this one. I liked the setting and the character of Kate even though at times I didn't understand some of her behaviour. Jenny, loyal friend from Kate's childhood, is also a great character. I loved the relationship between Jenny and her husband. The other character is the Australian setting which I enjoyed. There's mystery, a romance and a great deal about friendship as well as the attitudes of small country towns. This is the second novel I have read by this author and I really enjoyed it. Towards the end, I simply had to read when I should really have been doing other things.

Brenda says

With the fourteen-year-old teenage hormones well and truly working overtime, Kate Thurston was struggling to stay calm in the face of daughter Georgia's sulky bad temper. Eight-year-old Liam was finding their life changing circumstances a little hard too, but he was easier to control. As the three of them neared the end of their long journey from the city to the country, and the little town of Widgerry near *North Star*, the property Kate had just inherited from her grandfather, she was looking forward to a rest. The heat was relentless, and the sight of a pool at their motel lifted their spirits somewhat.

Kate and the children's lives had changed in recent months with Kate's divorce from their father, Andy, and the loss of their home and possessions through Andy's addiction. The children didn't understand; Kate hadn't told them any of their father's problems so as to shelter them and not taint their love for their Dad, but Kate found their blame of her for the situation a little hard to take at times. So when notification of her inheritance had arrived, she decided it would be a wonderful opportunity for a new start for all of them.

Discovering *North Star* had been let run down terribly during the last years of her grandfather's life, Kate's determination to restore the property to its former glory looked like it would make or break her. For there were secrets in Kate's past which no-one knew about, and she wasn't about to let the walls which surrounded that part of her life crumble. As Kate's hard work began to pay off, a tentative friendship with the handsome local policeman began, her friendship with the best friend from her childhood rekindled and Liam at least, was settling in well, suddenly Andy arrived unexpectedly and Kate's life was rocked to the core once again.

I loved this book! Karly Lane is a new (to me) Aussie author with this being the first I have read by her. I also met her recently (she's a lovely person!) and she signed my books. The tingling suspense blended through the story is fantastic, the characters are great (even teenage Georgie!) and the blending of the history of Kate's ancestors and the early days of the lovely old homestead is vivid. The twist at the end was one I certainly didn't expect either! I have no hesitation in recommending this book highly.

Dianne Sidebottom says

Another Aussie book n a good read. Dealing with difficult subjects of kids handling divorce, teenage experiments with drugs n bad influences, addiction, along ago fear that was resolved by the law. Second chances that eventually has good outcomes.

Sharon says

Excellent read by a Macksville author. Look out for Karly Lane as her writing continues to get better and better!!

Brooke says

Great Read. Great author. Love the Country Romance genre. Karly Lane is my favorite.

Tessa Baker says

This is the first book I've read of Karly Lane's and I must say I was thoroughly impressed. I loved the action packed story line, the way in which you can connect and sympathise with the realistic characters and the passion with which Karly has obviously poured into this novel. I found that every time I picked this book up I didn't want to put it down. I was so drawn to the characters and the situations that were unfolding I just wanted to keep reading to find out how the current situation was going to pan out.

Poor Kate experienced so much pain and heartache throughout her years, I'm so glad that her move back to her homeland worked out for the best and she met such a nice man that will honor and protect her. You could almost write a sequel to this book! I can't wait to read some more titles by this author.

Ann Harrison says

I really loved this story. It has all the things that make me fall in love with the story, Australian theme, strong heroine up against the odds and a strong man who manages to make the grade against the odds. A real feel good book.

Jessy says

This is a very interesting story. I think this the first book I could finish so fast. The story line includes the concepts such as trust, Second chances, starting a new life in the outback, love between a daughter and

mother, ability to forget the past and move on in life, true friendship etc. You must read this book to enjoy it. I loved it. It does bring a tear to your eye. Happy ending.

Shelley says

great book

Sharon says

Having recently been divorced from her husband, Kate Thurston feels it's time to have a break. Kate and her two children, Georgia aged fourteen and Liam aged eight have been having a hard time since the divorce. So when, Kate discovers she has inherited her grandfather's homestead she decides it's time to have that break even though the children are not happy about going.

It had been sixteen years since, Kate had been in Widgerry, but still she knew that North Star was only about half an hour away. Kate knew her grandfather had let the homestead run down over the years, but she had no idea how bad it really was. The overgrown grass throughout the property was only the beginning. The homestead was quite large comprising of seven bedrooms, but on closer inspection it was obvious that the homestead needed a lot of work. Kate's wasn't sure if she'd be able to get it up to scratch with the limited money she had, but she would do what she could. Of course the children especially, Georgia would've been more than happy to return home, but Kate was determined to see it through.

Kate hadn't seen, Jenny her childhood friend for such a long time. So when they see each other in North Star they have so much to catch up on. Jenny is now married with two children of her own who are close in age to Kate's children. Knowing that Kate has a big job ahead of her with the repairs, Jenny and her husband do all they can to help out.

Kate had only been at the homestead a little while when she meets the local police officer, John. Their first meeting was more on a professional basis when, Georgia got herself into a bit of trouble. From that day on, John gave Kate a helping around the homestead whenever he had a spare moment. Kate was so pleased to have another pair of hands to help out with the repairs and she quite enjoyed his company. But Kate had secrets from her past and that's where she wanted them to stay. Then one day unexpectedly, Kate's ex-husband turns up who will not only turn Kate's, but everyone's life upside down.

This was a very enjoyable read and one that I didn't want to end. A fabulous story of suspense and romance which I found extremely entertaining. Karly Lane is a very talented Aussie author which I have no hesitation in HIGHLY recommending.

Suzanne says

The cool thing about this little Aussie Rural Romance read was the reality of teenage girls! "Only someone who hadn't gone throughout the hell of living with teenage girl could possibly believe that, thought Kate. It was becoming easy to identify other parents of teenage daughters. If they still sounded positive and encouraging, they didn't have a teenager yet." The author also in her acknowledgement section offered

words of positivity to parents of teenage girls. What a nice lady! (I'm struggling big time with this topic right now).

This was ever the sweet read, lovingly chosen for me by my 11 year old son. I directed him to my unorganised mess of a bookshelf and told him to pick his mum one!

A quick pacey read, again set in an area familiar to me – the upper north coast of NSW – where my parents have retired. I do enjoy reading familiar settings. Mostly a romancey read where we meet single mum Kate cleverly doing up the property bequeathed to her by her Grandfather with some family mystery scattered amongst. This was a wholesome, pleasant and possibly, a tad predictable read.

Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

North Star is an entertaining contemporary novel from author Karly Lane that combines elements of suspense and romance in the Australian bush. Kate Thurston has left a disastrous marriage and returned to her home town to raise her children on the inherited property on which she grew up. North Star holds few good memories for Kate but with little choice other than to make a go of it, she sets out to restore the house and land and create a stable home for her rebellious teenage daughter and reserved young son. With hard work and determination Kate begins to rebuild her life, reconnecting with old friends and developing new attachments, until her ex husband shows up forcing Kate to confront her tragic past and endangering her dreams for the future.

Lane packs a lot into this relatively modest length novel. The plot includes romance, mystery and includes social issues such as drug and gambling addiction, domestic violence, rape, abandonment, suicide and murder. It's an ambitious combination, yet Lane pulls it off quite well.

Kate is a complex character, she has worked hard to escape the family 'curse' however, living back at North Star brings her tortured memories to the surface. I think Lane captures Kate's internal conflicts well, particularly demonstrating how her past affects her present attitude and decisions. The reasons for Kate's marriage breakdown are understandable, as is her reluctance to become involved in a new relationship with Officer John Cafferty. As a mother to a headstrong teenage girl, I could relate well to Kate's concerns and struggles in regards to her parenting decisions. Everything for Kate though is complicated by the secrets she hides.

I really liked the suspense element to North Star, the secrets surrounding not only Kate and the circumstances of her mother's death but also the mystery with regards to Henry's twin's fate, which adds another layer of depth to Kate's family history. The pacing is good though the mystery of Kate's mother's death and her grandfather's brother isn't revealed until around a third of the way in, I would have liked it to be foreshadowed a little earlier though both elements are linked to the abuse hinted at quite early on. The rural Australian setting of North Star is appealing and Lane captures the details that typify a small country town, such as the difficulty of being anonymous as well as the importance of grazing land, water and even Race Day.

I enjoyed North Star, it offered more than I expected and was an engaging read from start to finish. Another fine example of the growing genre of 'rural fiction', North Star should appeal to a wide cross section of readers. Lane's next book, Morgan's Law, is due for release in May 2012 and I am looking forward to it.

Jenny says

North Star is about Kate Thurston divorcee and mother of two. After her divorce, Kate Thurston did not know what to do and was wondering aimlessly. However, this change when Kate inherited her family farm. To Kate, this was an opportunity to improve her families lives for the better. Kate Thurston moves to the small community of Widgerry. However, everything was fine until a body was found on North Star. The readers of North Star will follow Kate and her family to see what happens.

I enjoy reading North Star. I have like all of Karly Lane books that I have read and North Star did not disappoint. I like the way Karly Lane describes how children react when their parent's divorce. Also, like the way Karly Lane handle family violence. I like Karly Lane portrayal of her characters and how they interact with each other. I enjoy Karly Lane writing style that allows her readers to become involved with the story.

Readers of North Star will learn about other ways to help farm properties to be financial propositions. Also, readers of North Star will see how childhood trauma can affect the suffer later in life.

I recommend this book.

Nicole says

North Star is the first book by Australian author Karly Lane and it's the first book I've read by her. It was a quick, easy read that I flew through in two days as it was really enjoyable. Set in the Australian outback, the story follows divorcee Kate Thurston as she and her two children head to the family farm to start a new life. Kate was a likeable woman with enough skeletons in her closet that made her journey better than average. Her little boy was adorable but her teenage daughter Georgia was an absolute nightmare. I really didn't like her at all. The things Georgia said to her mother were awful and I found myself wishing that Kate didn't let her get away with so much. She did come good in the end but that was too little too late for me. Three quarters of the way through I was ready to give North Star 5 stars but a few things towards the end stopped me from doing this. The first was that right from the start it is obvious who Kate is going to get her happily ever after with. I like it when there's tension and it's not clear how a couple will end up together. This was too straight forward. The blurb didn't help by spoiling what will come between Kate and her boyfriend, John. Kate's ex. So I was expecting a lot of angst and heartbreak. With a history of addiction I was also thinking there would be more drama. Instead the ex appears, he causes a spot of bother, he's scared off by John and disappears. It would have been so much better if he stirred up more trouble! I almost think he was a waste of space. The last thing was that it was way too easy for Kate to go from city chic to country girl. I felt like anyone, including me, could just leave their old life behind and reside in the outback by the time I was finished. Thankfully I know better and that includes knowing I'll be reading more of Karly Lane's books!

Monica says

North star is the third ever ebook I read and I loved it.

North Star is the name of the property that Kate and her two kids Liam and Georgia inherit after Kate's

grandfather passes away.

In the rural town Kate discovers a new life and new love.
