



Ice Island

Sherry Shahan

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What begins as a training run with sled dogs turns into a race against time for Tatum and her new friend, a Siberian Yupik boy named Cole. When a freak blizzard hits this remote island off the coast of Alaska, the duo seeks shelter overnight in a dilapidated hunting cabin. Their harrowing ordeal goes from bad to worse when wind-driven snow forces them to risk an alternate route. Stranded in the untamed wilderness, they must rely on each other—as well as their faithful huskies—to survive sub-zero temperatures and bone-numbing exhaustion. Worse still, their food supply is dangerously low. The most daunting decision comes when the strongest dog runs away. One person must go for help, while one must stay behind. Either way, they'll both be alone in the wild for an uncertain amount of time.

Ice Island Details

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From Reader Review Ice Island for online ebook

Zachary says

In the beginning I don't like the part when the sirens go off and wake everyone up. I don't like that Tatum's dad has to work for 4 weeks straight and gets one week off. I like the part when Tatum gets a Timex for her birthday. I don't like the part when it is minus twenty degrees out without the wind. I like the part when her dad thinks about getting rescue dogs from the shelter. I like the part when he said that they don't have to be fast just strong and healthy. I like the part when he says that they have to laugh at his jokes to. I like the part when J.M. crossed the finish line two days ago. I like the part when he finishes the race in nine days and sixteen hours. I like the part when he comes outside and congratulates the team mates when they cross the finish line.

Dean Deters says

Summary-This book is about a boy and a girl on a island made of ice and they are trying to survive. At one part they split up one of them takes the strongest dogs and to go to find help and the other one will stay behind with the weaker ones.

Setting-There on a island made of ice it is important to the story because without the ice it would be way easier to survive.

Character Trait-Tatum is very brave like when her and Cole split up.

Most Important Event-I think it is when Cole and her split up.

Recommendation-I think that people that like action books would like this one.

BY MASON

David says

Good cover and pretty good story. Character development is a bit light. The first half of the story runs a tad slow and weighty as the author educates the reader on the 1049 mile Iditarod through the main character Tatum; the second half of the story is very fast paced once Tatum and Cole are out with the sleds. The second half of the book is the story of Tatum and Cole surviving the elements; the author does a great job bringing the reader into this struggle. This book is a wealth of information about the Iditarod and the Alaskan culture. It contains vivid descriptions of the Alaskan way of life and the beautiful, descriptive scenery. Story told in 3rd person limited narrative; flip flopping between Tatum and Cole in the second half. It also has a glossary of terms in back. This is pretty interesting reading and informative. I found myself hunting a google Alaska map for the towns in this story, only to find out the reader changed them to make the story more feasible.

Rebekah says

This book was pretty good, but it had a terrible ending in my opinion. I was hoping for a little more of what happened to Cole, but unfortunately that didn't happen. I really think that boys would enjoy this book more than girls. It would be a perfect read for 5th-7th grade. The only downside I had of this book was that there were times when I felt like the author was kind of skipping around in events of what was currently happening. I'm not sure if this is just how I read the book and interpreted it or if it was done on purpose to put more emphasis on the confusion and chaos happening. Either way it was a good book, I just wanted more to the end, or at least a second book.

Serendipity Reviews says

Did you know there are ninety nine different words for ice in the Yupik language, depending on its size and consistency?

No?

How about that Alaska had fifty different types of wild berries including chokeberries; bearberries and salmonberries?

Still no?

Mad isn't it. This is why I love doing weekly specials of different parts of America, the culture is just so diverse.

This book really brought to life the Alaskan culture I was looking to find during this experience. The Alaskan traditions were strongly described in this book, bringing to life whaling and mushing. I felt this book was extremely well researched and provided a clear understanding of the culture of the Alaskans. The grandfather in the book, brought tears to my eyes as he described the traditions dying out as the younger generations wanted to live like the rest of America. It really is sad to see them slowly being lost.

I thought Tatum made a brilliant lead character. Her quest to compete in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, when she was older, has consumed her life, but kept her alive as the book progressed. I didn't warm to Cole; I couldn't help but feel he had been a bit foolish, leading Tatum out and into so much danger.

The second half of the book really goes off at a pace and you feel exhausted and cold as the story comes to a climax. You cannot help but feel frozen, and you find yourself putting on extra layers as you read on.

The dogs really made this book for me. I fell completely in love with Bandit, who reminded me of Lassie. She was such an intelligent dog and knew exactly when trouble would wasn't far away.

I really enjoyed the book, but there were a couple of little things that annoyed me about the plot. Now this will contain spoilers,so if you are planning to read it, please do not continue reading.

Spoiler Alert! Spoiler Alert! Spoiler Alert!

Firstly, when Bandit had the puppies, I didn't see it coming and I felt like it was dealt with far too quickly. I can't imagine that puppies instantly appear and I felt it was a case of just telling us what happened rather than

showing.

Secondly, I found that the book ended rather abruptly. I was left with too many questions. I wanted to see what happened after they were rescued and that just didn't happen.

Spoilers Over!

Apart from these two little niggles, I did enjoy the book and I felt I learnt quite a lot about Alaska and the traditions held dearly there.

Liz says

3.5 stars. A free intermediate grades book with my last Scholastic order. About a girl who lives with her parents in Alaska and grows up watching the Iditarod. She finds herself in a situation where she must survive in the Arctic with just some sled dogs and a boy her age. It wasn't amazing, but it was highly readable and action packed. I can see all of the 'Hatchet' lovers out there going for this book.

Eryn G says

I did not like this book at all!

Teresa says

I found the first third of this (70pp) a bit fact heavy; it felt like the author was trying to educate me about life in modern-day Alaska and working with dogs--interesting but a bit clunky. After being given a sled dog by a musher friend, thirteen-year-old Tatum has left Nome and flown into a small town with her mom for a few days, and is eager to pursue her interest in dog-sledding (one she shares with her dad) while she's there. BUT, once Tatum heads out on what is supposed to be a few-hours-long training run and gets caught in a freak snowstorm, I couldn't put this down. Her harrowing adventure is one I won't soon forget. And survival books featuring girls are very few and far between. Dog lovers would be another target audience.

While the reading level of this is above many of the third graders in our district when they study the Arctic, this would make a great classroom read-aloud.

Valeria says

Great book especially for children and teenagers! I read it in a few hours after my 10 year old brother excitedly told me I that he really enjoyed it and I HAVE to read it. Nice way to learn about sled dogs, Yupik, Alaska and the adventures of a teenage girl. If you want to curl up and read an adventure story you can't un-

glue your eyes from this is it!

Mr. Kohlhausen says

Ice Island by Sherry Shahan

Surviving in the Alaskan wilderness can be extremely treacherous! I was on the edge of my seat with this book wondering if the characters would make it out alive. The story is about a girl named Tatum and her mom. They were visiting Santa Ysabel Island, Alaska. Here, Tatum has a friend who is an Iditarod racer with many sled dogs. She gave Tatum a dog named Bandit. Later, Tatum meets a boy, Cole, who is training for a dog sled race. Cole thinks Tatum would be good competition, so he invites her to train with him. She couldn't have been happier, since she always wanted to race. When out training, a blizzard hits and they become stranded in the wilderness for almost a week. While in the wilderness Tatum's dog, Bandit, has puppies and two other dogs get sick. They have to make the decision to split up. Cole stays behind with the sick dogs while Tatum goes for help. Will Tatum and Cole survive? The message of the book is survival, the will to live, and most of all, never giving up. Tatum is an outdoors girl who likes adventure. She would someday like to become an Iditarod racer. This is a 4th/5th grade level reading book with lots of adventure. Anyone who loves animals and enjoys winter sports would love this book! Will Tatum, Cole and the dogs survive a wintery wilderness, or will it be their last race together?

Trish says

Title: Ice Island
Author: Sherry Shahan
Publisher: Random House
Due: January 10, 2012

ARC Copy
Rating: 4 Stars

A test of survival in Alaska's wilderness leaves two young dog sled trainers relying on instinct and determination to make it back home.

What starts off as a fun, informative story about the 1049- mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race quickly turns heart-stopping as Tatum and her new friend, Cole, find themselves caught out in a freak blizzard on the frozen tundra.

Tatum and Cole must work together using all they have been taught to forge their way through the blinding storm, sometimes relying only on the dogs as their guides. When they realize that their supplies are running low and it appears no one is coming for them, they must choose whether or not separating for the sake of survival is the best choice.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I loved learning new and interesting facts about the Iditarod race from this

author who has spent a fair amount of time in Alaska doing the same. Shahan paints a descriptive picture of the climate, race environment and the daily care of the animals that pulls you into the story from the start.

I appreciate the strong quality of Tatum's character. She was independent and smart with just a touch of the selfish nature that one would expect from her age. Tougher than most, her attitude and inner strength made her very likeable.

Cole, on the other hand, brought his own willpower and loyalty to the story. Though a few times he seemed a little stand-offish towards Tatum, once it was established that he felt a responsibility and belief to honor his native Siberian Yupik people and their customs, he came into his own.

I think this is a great book. Recommended for ages 9-12.

B says

Good adventure story featuring a 12 year old girl and 14 year old Alaskan boy as they get lost in a storm while dog sledding. You'll learn so much about surviving in frigid conditions, dogs and dog sledding as well as experience the fright that they feel. I'm considering this for Book Buddies, although the seriousness of it gives me second thoughts.

Laura says

I enjoyed the vivid descriptions of the Alaskan terrain and the brutal conditions that the young characters (Tatum and Cole) endured as they battled against the elements to survive. The descriptions of sled dog racing, the Siberian Yupik culture, and the inner drive of those who choose this extreme sport feel authentic. The glossary of Yupik words and dog sled terminology at the end of the book is a nice resource for readers. There were a few points where I would have liked a little more depth about the characters and their motivations. This book will appeal to both boys and girls who enjoy adventure and survival stories. Readers who liked Gary Paulsen's Hatchet will also enjoy this book. Recommended for children ages 9 and up.

Stephanie - Adventures Thru Wonderland says

Cover: Pretty!

Rating: 3 Stars

Overall: Exciting and detailed

Characters: Well Written

Plot: What started as a game, becomes life and death when two friends become stranded in the Alaskan wilderness after a freak storm hits.

Page Turner: Yes

Series Cont.? N/a

Recommend: Maybe

Source: Library

Short review:

While I really enjoyed this story, it has one of those endings that leave you with more questions than answers, which I hated. It was a fun read, and a quick in-between for me. It's nice to get away from the usual, and I have always loved stories about dog-sleds, and the adventure they promise. In that this story did not disappoint! A fun story about two children who have only each-other and their dogs to survive. While this is a middle grade read, it was detailed and well informed both about dog-sleds, and about life in Alaska, a great educational aspect that makes this book even more valuable to young readers.

For my full review, and other book posts, please visit my blog: Adventures Thru Wonderland
<http://adventuresthruwonderland.blogspot.com>

Clare says

Set in Alaska with references to the Iditarod races, this children's book was interesting to read. There were a few unexpected turns along the way and kept me wanting to read on to see how events would turn out.
