



Refuge Cove

Janet Dailey

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Refuge Cove, Alaska, stays true to its name when a woman who has lost hope and a man in need of healing come to each other's rescue . . .

She came to Alaska on the promise of marriage, only to find herself on the run from her would-be husband. Lost and alone in the wilderness, Emily Hunter nearly weeps with relief at the sight of a small plane in the distance—until the rugged bush pilot makes his way through the brush to help her. Can she trust this stranger any more than the menacing predator on her trail? But there's something in John Wolf's dark eyes that wills her to believe in him, something about his gentle nature that allows her to accept his offer of protection . . .

He'd let her into his life because he knew she was in trouble. The last thing John Wolf expects is to feel so much so quickly for the vulnerable woman in his care. For sharing his lonely wilderness home with Emily means allowing her to see his sorrow—the son he longs to reconnect with, the loss of the family he once dreamed possible. Sharing his heart with Emily means being willing to risk everything to keep her safe . . .

Refuge Cove Details

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Author : Janet Dailey

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From Reader Review Refuge Cove for online ebook

Shalini says

A classic Janet Dailey book, where romance is at the forefront, with a background of suspense and desperation. The story is thus, Emma leaves her life to marry Boone all the way in Alaska, and when she reaches there, she sees Boone to be what he really is, a conman sociopath. And she runs....

She is saved by John, who has his own history with Boone. But the story does not end here. Boone wants Emma back and plays a cat and mouse game with her. John and Emma try to remain a step ahead of him. Will they succeed???

Of course, they will. This is a Janet Dailey book, where love always succeeds and bad men always are arrested. I am reading Janet Dailey after nearly a decade. And her writing is still the same, clean and precise. I wouldn't say this is the book of today's times, as things have changed in the literary world. But Janet's books are still a pleasure to read.

The story reads fast, I took 3 hours from start to finish. Janet maintains the same pace throughout. Love happens quickly, without being too mushy. There are a lot of characters, as this book is based in a small town Ketchikan, in Alaska. I liked the two main characters and I didn't like Boone, as the author wanted. The rest of the characters popped in and out throughout the book. They just go on to bring about a background story for John.

There are many stories within this story, and they all pertain to John and his life. Emma, has no such story, other than being a teacher and getting fooled. If the book was set in the 1980s before smartphone and internet, this story would work. But it is set in modern times, so a teacher giving up her job and marrying a stranger all the way in Alaska, is a little far-out and then giving this 'husband' all her life savings. I wouldn't do that even if I knew my man.

The book is a classic romantic suspense, written by an elegant author, to be read in moments of nostalgia. BTW, there is a redneck mother-in-law, there is mentally ill brother-in-law, there is a ex-wife, there is a son, there is a chopper accident, there are storms, marshes, chase by dogs, there is a skinned bear carcass hung from the tree, there is a dead woman buried with a deer deep in the woods, a burnt trailer, and a fake preacher... All this and more in Janet Dailey's Refuge Cove.

I received an ARC from NetGalley and publisher Kensington Books, and this is my honest and unbiased opinion

Donia says

This novel started out to be a 5 star read but soon fell down in appeal. As others have noted, reading stories set in Alaska draws me in and the initial suspense in opening chapters held my interest BUT after we know the cute, pretty, tiny, sweet little Emma will not die in the first chapter, it's down hill from there. Emma's only merit seems to be that she is tiny and pretty. As a woman that really bothers me and then to boot, I kept getting distracted asking myself why a teacher would quit in mid term to go marry a stranger she knows nothing about? This just kept intruding throughout the story.

John her newly found lover is the more interesting character being native American with a troubled past. There is intrigue in the middle of the book but overall this novel left me so lacking. A couple of paragraphs here and there to ramp up the value of Emma as an intelligent person would have helped.

The whole story could have worked with just a bit more effort here and there.

Paula says

Janet Dailey is a name that has become a staple to the romance genre. She continues to write intriguing books with Refuge Cove being an example of this. This Alaskan romance filled with more than a little heart stopping suspense is a gripping read. Emma is a seemingly naïve person, but I liked the woman had a backbone when she found herself in dire straits. John Wolf is more complicated being a man of few words. These two together were memorable.

There is a feeling of desperation that conveys itself to the reader as Emma makes what looks like will become a fatal mistake in coming to Alaska. The opening scene is heart racing, with her safety always in question. So from the beginning I found this to be a page turner. It is also a quick read being a short novel less than 200 pages.

I enjoyed Refuge Cove from beginning to end but found that it had an 80's feel to it at times. That was not a bad thing.

4.5 Stars

An ARC of the book was given to me by the publisher through Net Galley.

Miriam Wolfe says

This is a voluntary review of an advanced copy.

I love that the setting is in Alaska and there is so much details of Ketchikan. I love romantic suspense books and this one was full of the intrigue along with a bit of romance.

While I enjoyed the drama (the book has quite a bit going on - Emma's fake marriage and Boone's con, John and his estranged son, and their search to find something to bring Boone to justice, there were parts that made me cringe.

It felt like Emma was too desperate to find a husband and didn't question anything that Boone told her - no banks in Alaska??! Who carries \$17,000 in cash around? Just when it seems like Emma is a damsel in distress type, she decides to stick around so that Boone can't to the same con on another woman which is what a strong woman would do. But, then she rides her bike away from town when a psychopath is looking for her??

When Pearl tells Emma to not mention that his son is working with her to John, she obediently obeys so John is blindsided when he comes to visit her. But the part that really got me was when Boone tells Emma that it was his brother, Ezra, who killed the previous woman he conned, and she reported that to the police - after all the conning and lies, she believes him!

In spite of the annoying parts, I did enjoy the overall story as they tried to figure out what Boone had been doing and how to stop him. Nice wrap up at the end as John resolves his issues with his son and he and

Emma have their HEA.

Mari Romancegirl says

I wanted to love this book. It had all the ingredients on the description that I like. Alaska, damsel in distress, bush pilot who rescues her, this book should have worked for me. Except.... the entire story gets weighed down by the drama with the relationship and deadbeat bad parenting of the bush pilot. It was difficult for me feel anything for bush pilot John Wolf. He was an alcoholic, deadbeat dad and husband who didn't take care of his family. His ex wife had to raise their son alone. She remarries a great guy who turns out to be a good dad to her son, too. John, now, 17 years later, wants us to believe he is ready to be a dad and that he loves his son.

Sorry, Janet Dailey. I have no affection for deadbeat dads. A man cannot make up for 17 years of bad, abandoning behavior.

John Wolf's past behavior ruined any romance that happened in this story. Any woman should run from a man like this.

Maria11 says

Well I picked this book because Janet Dailey wrote the first book that I read when I was a teenager that had...OMG.... sex in it! I laugh because my mom had the book and I "borrowed" it and hid it in my room to read with the flashlight at night. I was so darn cool! So she will always hold a special place in my book history.

Well it is a very touching story with quite a bit of drama for sure! I like the characters, but it just seemed like something was missing. Emma did not have the depth of character as John. John went through so much and it stinks that when you make an effort to change someone keeps putting you down again. His ex-wife was so unfair. I am glad he got his HEA. Now the steaminess in Janet Dailey books was not there, unless my teenage self thought kissing was steamy..well I was pretty sheltered then! It really needed more heat.

Ok read. Received an ARC from the publisher through NetGalley.

Tina says

Better than I expected it to be, I was equally surprised (pleasantly) by Dailey's creation of a new character from a different background. Stereotypes aside, this is a compelling, slightly thrilling, engaging read. This new series begins with John Wolf; however, the series could follow the path of his son David or the life he is beginning with Emma. It will be interesting to see.

Bette Hansen says

This was a great read with a nice romance wrapped up in suspense and action. With the Alaskan wilderness as the backdrop and some very intriguing characters, the story is one I very much enjoyed.

When a young woman comes to Alaska for a promise of love and a HEA she has no idea the horrors she has just brought into her life. Luckily for Emily, a man who knows this terrain better than most is flying over the marsh she finds herself stuck in. Not only does he get her to safety but provides her the help she needs to get her life right again. As these two spend time together it becomes clear that sometimes you find love in the most unusual places.

I would definitely recommend this one.

Jessica says

Why are women in danger stupid? That is the recurring storyline here, as it is in so many modern books. Emma is likable enough for her innocence and starry-eyed optimism. The hero, John, is everything a hero should be - good-looking, tortured, brave, and compassionate. Together they make a good combo, but the rest of the story just is not believable. Overall, a fun read, but it will be forgotten within a week.

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Bonnie Ferrante says

Refuge Cove is a 291 page romance. This gentle suspense love story is for adults and young adults.

Emma, lonely schoolteacher, has been tricked into leaving her home and career, travelling to Alaska, and entering a sham of a marriage by a con artist named Boone. When his evil intentions become clear, Emma sets his trailer on fire and flees for her life. John Wolf sees her crawling across the bog and rescues her starting a complicated and suspenseful chain of events involving his estranged, strange, family.

Although the story evolves slowly there are enough foreboding incidents to alert the reader to upcoming drama and danger. Janet Dailey connects a complicated and highly dysfunctional family in surprising ways leading some to reconciliation and some to punishment. It is a satisfying conclusion. Love and heroism save the day and readers who crave a happy ending will smile as they close the last page.

Deb Diem says

Refuge Cove by Janet Dailey is an entertaining read. Ms. Dailey has provided us with a book that is well-written and loaded with outstanding characters. Emily is a naive school teacher that is tricked into moving to Alaska and into a fake wedding. When she escapes her groom she is rescued by pilot John Wolf. Emily and John's story is packed with suspense, drama, humor and spice. I enjoyed reading Refuge Cove and look forward to reading more from Janet Dailey in the future. Refuge Cove is part of The New Americana Series but can easily be read as a standalone. This is a complete book, not a cliff-hanger.

I voluntarily read an Advance Reader Copy of this book that I won from Goodreads.

Penny says

I won a copy of Janet Dailey's "Refuge Cove" from Goodreads

Reading the information on the back cover, it sounded like it would be a good read, however, I found it stretched your credibility to think in this day and age a person who is a school teacher, no less, therefore would have a few years of College or University under their belt, could be so stupid as withdraw her life savings – in cash and hand it over to some sleaze.

In this day with the internet so easily accessible, how difficult would it be to actually research the area she is going to re-locate to so she would know what stores and financial institutes might be available rather than believing the story the sleaze gives here about no banks available so hand over all her savings in cash for him to take care of. If she has saved \$17,000 a logical approach would be to ask her bank for suggestions to access her money without withdrawing it all.

I read the entire book, hoping it would get better, but it just seemed too far-fetched.

Anima says

I love that each Dailey book is different. The suspenseful twist I wasn't expecting made me nervous and jumpy. Emma is being stalked by a cruel man with a psychopath personality. A very scared Emma was saved by John, a pilot with very loose ties to the stalker. Immediately he's protective of Emma and putting his life on the line for her. The characters were intense with back story and emotions. The scenery described makes me want to travel to Alaska. I can appreciate the details given for each character, location, and history. Another great read from Dailey. I received my copy from Netgalley and wrote my review voluntarily.

Books and Spoons says

From fake marriage to family drama and trouble to intense suspense and murder investigation to a sweet and rather adorable love story, the Refuge Cove was entertaining, had some unique aspects, and definitely an alluring set with Alaskan wilderness surrounding them with its challenges.

Emily Hunter is a school teacher who was lured into a dangerous fake marriage that left her running for her life while losing every single possession she had, including the shoes from her feet. She was hungry for love and family of her own, a bit naive but definitely sincere, honest, kind, and a good person. Her need to be loved was greater than her sense in a moment of weakness with a seemingly charming man, and lead her to run for her life through the Alaskan backcountry. Yet there was a blessing in disguise in the threat to her life as she meets John Wolf.

John had faced his own challenges in life. He was a surviving alcoholic, but before getting sober he lost his young shot-gun wife and the rights to see his son. He enjoys his quiet life and the last thing he needs is a woman in distress, who has connections to his former in-laws. John is such a solid, good, and honest man. He is helpful, sincere, kind, and protective. An easy man to like.

And I liked the story as well and enjoyed the interactions between Emily and John. There was a touch of innocence that was endearing, deep emotions churning, yet a rather rational way of thinking and existing. John's family life and their history were touching and an important part of John being the good man he is

today.

The suspense was rather brutal at times, and the intensity crept up high in several moments through the tale. The eARC I received could have used little polishing edits with the timeline at some points yet the story itself didn't suffer from that and my enjoyment of the tale was not affected.

With delightfully original themes, intriguing family connections, intensifying suspense and most of all ardent, sweet, and captivating romance the Refuge Cove was a splendid tale easy to enjoy

~ Four Spoons

Jaymy M. says

A suspenseful read, this book tests the different kinds of love through some major family drama.

Central characters Emma and John are thrown together when he rescues her from the man who turn mean as soon as she said I do. She's escaped with Boone and his hounds at her heels in the cold Alaska brush. John sees her from his plane, makes a tough landing and is shot at while rescuing her.

Emm may be embarrassed at her naiveté and terrified on Boone, but she's determined he'll face justice for his deception and actions, and to make sure he doesn't have a chance to lure another victim to his run down trailer.

Throw in an ex-wife Marlena -- who's kept John's kid from him for a decade and told David what an awful alcoholic he is, and is also sister to Boone, married to John's former boss, who is the brother of Emma's new temporary boss/coworker -- and David starting work at the restaurant alongside Emma, and you've got quite the web of drama. Past wrongs and hurts have to be dealt with while Emma and John grow closer as they try to remain safe and put the authorities on Boone's trail.

Refuge Cove was interesting interwoven tale. I did feel like the two main characters got attached a bit fast, but given the danger of the situation, still plausible.

I would have liked more on Emma's background. I felt like the details of how Boone was able to sweep in and sweep Emma up in his lies, her life before that were glossed over. Where were her friends, the married ones with babies, when she was being conned by Boone? Her coworkers?

Typically, you don't just skip out of a teaching job, especially with elementary kids after the semester is underway. What about her contract?

So where did John live after his grandfather died when he was 16? He just stayed at his house? Why didn't John and Marlena just live there instead of with her crazy family?

Loved the full family circle at the end.

* ARC received from Kensington Books via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.