



The Shack by the Bay

Lea Davey , Rhonda Forrest

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An isolated fishing shack on a beautiful bay in the Whitsundays provides Luke with a retreat where he can find peace and solitude. However, the discovery of family war relics, and a developing relationship with the beautiful Lily, connects family histories and reveals a story that threatens to destroy his chance at real happiness.

Will the wartime secrets prove to be the breaking point for a beautiful romance? Or can two families put the deeds of the past behind them?

Romantic and purely Australian, *The Shack by the Bay* captures the pristine beauty of the Whitsundays and the wartime memories of older Australians while introducing an eclectic blend of friends and family.

The Shack by the Bay Details

Date : Published July 30th 2016 by Valeena Press

ISBN :

Author : Lea Davey , Rhonda Forrest

Format : Paperback 418 pages

Genre : Fiction, Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review The Shack by the Bay for online ebook

Angela says

***** I was a lucky winner of this book in a Goodreads giveaway by the author*****

Where do I begin in my review of this wonderful book? Wow, wow, wow!! This was a tough book for me to read, one in which I wanted to power through so that I could see what happened, but one I also wanted to take my time with as I was so immersed in the lives of the characters and didn't want to leave them! Each sentence was so perfectly formed, each word carefully chosen, combining into pages of pure delight which left me swooning! It was like poetry in some respects, such finely constructed work. This book took me on a journey of familiar places (as I am born and bred in Brisbane) as well as places I'm yet to experience, but I felt like I was there while escaping into the pages. This book moved me to tears in many places, sad tears (while on a bus, tad embarrassing but the emotion over took me), and happy tears which left my heart happy. This was an absolutely magical read, one in which will remain with me for a long time after turning the final page. I also enjoyed the reading experience as the cover has a lovely tactile feeling and I loved the choice of font that was used. I highly recommend this book and look forward to reading more of Lea Davey's work in future.

Joanne Mawhirt says

I enjoyed this book. It's characters & storylines show just how small the world is with the entanglement of lives. I found its history and location description very good. I recommend this book to all romance readers who enjoy some history with a twist and a happy ending.

M.B. Gibson says

The Shack by the Bay is a lovely, romantic novel set in Queensland, Australia. The author's vibrant descriptions of the secluded bay, the town of Proserpine, and the city of Brisbane were not only beautifully written, they pulled me into the novel with the characters. I was also drawn by the main characters, Luke and Lily, who were so real, I felt I could sit beside them for a cup of tea. I'll give nothing away, but my favorite part was the intriguing mystery within Luke's family. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and recommend it to all who would enjoy a realistic and charming romance.

Sarah says

Just loved the mixture of history, Australian people and places and a beautiful romance. Fabulous debut novel and I can't wait for Lea Davey's second book due out shortly. Relaxing holiday read that I couldn't put down.

Merie McClintock says

I loved it. I became so attached to Lily and Luke that I was dreading the story coming to an end. It completely hooks you in and compels you to keep reading. I've passed it on to all of my friends. Highly recommended!

Brenda says

When Luke was four, his father was killed in a horrific car accident – when he was six he went to live with his Nan and Pa on their farm. For the next ten years Luke was content – he loved his grandparents and spent a lot of time fishing with his Pa, learning about life and how to live it to its fullest. When his grandparents passed, Luke was shattered. But he was left the shack which they had holidayed at; the Whitsunday Islands was surrounded by beautiful, tranquil bays, and Luke's shack was nestled on the edge of one such bay.

Luke's discovery of items which had belonged to his father and not been touched for years changed the course of his life. Among it all were some old war relics which puzzled Luke immensely. He couldn't work it out – didn't know what to do about what he'd unearthed. But life moved on and with his uni course taking him to Brisbane he put it out of his mind.

When Luke met Lily he felt an immediate connection; she was beautiful, but shy and timid with no self-confidence. But was there something in what Luke found that would destroy his friendship with Lily? What would Luke do? How would he move forward? Was his shack by the bay the only place he could find peace?

The Shack by the Bay by Aussie author Lea Davey is a beautiful, emotional and heartfelt story of love, friendship and memories. Of family and friends – of relationships between old and young. My favourite character was Maria; a side character but she was wonderful! I have no hesitation in recommending this excellent novel very highly.

With thanks to the author for my copy to read and review.

Donna Mawhirt says

Great read; fantastic book. Living near the Whitsunday region, I could relate to the locations mentioned in the book. This brings back memories of a fishing shack me & my family have stayed at. I enjoyed the storyline; very descriptive, takes you away to another place. I would definitely recommend!!

Nicolette says

A thoroughly enjoyable read - found myself hooked several times as the story got deeper and more involved. Fascinating insight into war times and stunning depictions of beautiful Australian countryside.

Sue says

(I received a review copy of this book through Goodreads.) I loved this gentle story of coming to terms with a past and developing a friendship - the way it used to be done before social media and the intrusion of too many electronic devices. The writing is evocative and realistic. At a very few points there was a bit of repetition, which was a bit distracting. I am looking forward to Lea Davey's next book - I'm sure it will not disappoint.

Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

A fishing shack nestled in the picturesque and tranquil setting of the Whitsundays, north Queensland, is the anchor of Australian author Lea Davey's first novel, *The Shack by the Bay*. This shack is the place where a forbidden wartime romance played out. It is also the place that draws two souls in the present day together, as their family histories are intertwined with one another and this special shack by the bay.

In the present day, Luke is the owner of a little run down shack, located in the stunning, as well as pristine locale of the Whitsundays. Luke finds himself rummaging through things contained in the shack he has inherited. He comes across a tin containing relics from the war that are directly related to his family history. As Luke pieces together a forbidden war time romance that played out in the shack he now owns, Luke is naturally curious. Delving into this family history brings Lily into Luke's world. Lily is a young woman who does not yet know of her connection to Luke. As a beautiful but complicated contemporary romance sparks in the old shack, memories from past times at the very same shack come alive.

The Shack by the Bay signals my introduction to the writing of Australian author Lea Davey. As I am blessed to live near a beautiful coastal region myself, complete with a bay, I felt very drawn to this book. The inviting premise, as well as the textured feel of the cover, immediately drew me in. Overall, it was a pleasurable experience from cover to cover to be given the opportunity to read this book.

What immediately struck me about *The Shack by the Bay* was the strong sense of place that exudes from this book. Although I am yet to pay a visit to this truly magical part of Australia, Lea Davey provides the reader with the next best thing. Her imagery of the various locations that are featured in the novel are simply sublime. As a result, I could easily picture the shack and surrounding location of the story in my mind. It also worked to remind me that I must visit this side of Australia soon!

The pace of this novel was more of a gentle amble. Normally I race through books at breakneck speed but this is definitely one of those books that made me step down a notch. I enjoyed the slower, relaxed style of this novel, which is in keeping of its setting. I relished the respite it gave me.

The Shack by the Bay features solid main and secondary characters. Luke is a well formed protagonist, with a compelling, as well as complex family background. Emotionally, Luke's story, from the loss of his parents, to the beauty of the relationship he had with his grandparents moved me. In particular, Luke's memories and interactions with his Grandfather 'Pa' jogged some emotional responses from my own relationship with my dearly missed grandfather. There are other minor protagonists who add further character to this novel and I

experienced genuine sense of 'knowing' these people. Lily, Luke's love interest and the female lead, took an interesting path of growth through the novel. I enjoyed reading these parts. The contemporary romance between Luke and Lily is not smooth sailing and although I didn't completely agree with either Lily or Luke's actions at various points in the novel, I still like how Davey handled their budding relationship.

By far the most interesting and memorable aspect of *The Shack by the Bay* would be the historical thread. The letters that Luke discovers and what they reveal had my eyes glued to the page. The unfolding love story that was doomed due to racial differences, societal attitudes and world events at the time was compelling to read. It made me shed a little tear for the outcome and the impact this wartime romance had on future generations. There is no doubt that Lea Davey excels in bringing this wartime romance to floor, in an authentic and historically grounded way.

The Shack by the Bay offers the reader a heartfelt story on taking a chance on love in the present and finding your family roots, no matter how painful. It is a novel that offers a wonderful linkage between the present and the past, while also showcasing the natural beauty of a spectacular slice of Australia. I am more than keen to read much more from a new author I am pleased to have discovered.

Jill Agnew says

Loved the North Queensland setting for this novel - the coastline and fishing, the beaches, the shack, towns and pubs were all brought to life with beautiful description. An interesting mix of family turmoil, a coming of age, love and its complications against the backdrop of World War 2 and Australians fighting in New Guinea. A very commendable first novel - so looking forward to Lea Davey's next book that should be out later this year.

Natalie says

I loved this book so much I read it in 2 days. It is so full of life and I could relate to the characters so well. The Australian history and way of life described in the book tops it all off. Definitely an excellent holiday read!

Lauren says

I was totally hooked on this book and couldn't put it down. It was lovely to read a book where I could reference the places where the story took place. I didn't want it to end and want to know what is next for Luke and Lily.

Andrew says

" Loved this book from the first page. Real Australian fiction incorporating World War II history and contemporary local people and places.

Great relationship story and loved how the connections emerged and unfolded. Refreshing to read this debut

Australian novel.

Sharon says

Luke was only six years old when he went to live with his grandparents after his father was killed in a terrible car accident. Luke adored his grandparents and he particularly loved going fishing with his Pa. Pa taught Luke all there was to know about fishing and the pair spent as much time as they could doing something they both loved.

But sadly ten years on and his grandparents passed away, which deeply upset Luke. Life would no longer be the same without his Nan and Pa, but Luke would now have to find the strength to try and get on with his life the best way he knew how. Leaving him the shack a place they all holidayed at regularly, which was located in the Whitsunday Islands.

The shack was a place Luke could just escape to and not have a care in the world. Luke comes across things that belong to his father and amongst the items he finds old war relics. These items intrigue him and he wants to know more about their history which might lead him to learn more things about his father. When Luke comes across a beautiful girl named Lily he instantly feels a strong connection toward her, but why?

I totally enjoyed this book from start to finish. A story that leaves you wanting more is always a great book in my opinion and this was truly a great and very enjoyable read. Highly recommended.
