



Blood of the White Bear

Marcia Calhoun Forecki , Gerald Schnitzer

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Images of a White Bear Kachina erupt from the dreams of virologist Dr. Rachel Bisette and invade her daytime consciousness. The kachina draws Rachel to the Four Corners to lead the search for a vaccine against an exploding and lethal pandemic. One elusive indigenous woman, Eva Yellow Horn, carries the gift of immunity. In her search for Eva, Rachel discovers power beyond science, the secret of an environmental disaster, and the truth of her parents' death.

"Masks reveal as much as they conceal in Blood of the White Bear, a novel that smoulders with mystery and crackles with suspense, so much so that readers may start seeing kachina dolls over their own shoulders in the wee small hours." Gary D. Rhodes, author and filmmaker

"Marcia Calhoun Forecki and Gerald Schnitzer know how to write a fast paced, compelling novel. Partially based on actual events in the Southwest, they have a talent for constructing strong characters and a layered plot that keeps gathering momentum, with increasing tension and excitement. All the ingredients for a page-turner are here." Dan Steinbrocker, News Media Services, Inc.

Blood of the White Bear Details

Date : Published November 5th 2013 by WriteLife, LLC (first published October 25th 2013)

ISBN : 9781608080878

Author : Marcia Calhoun Forecki , Gerald Schnitzer

Format : Paperback 282 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery

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From Reader Review *Blood of the White Bear* for online ebook

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

Blood of the White Bear was an entertaining enough read, but ultimately not a memorable one. The story line is a classic one. A pandemic breaks out and one doctor is driven to find the cure for it. It was fantastic that the doctor was a female, and a The Native American elements seemed somewhat forced into it, though. I never really felt like it was connected, even though I was obviously supposed to feel that way. Also, it was really easy to figure out where everything was going. That could be simply because I read a lot, but it took away a good portion of the enjoyment for me. A requirement for thrillers is, at minimum, a feeling of tenseness and intrigue. There was none of that.

With that being said, I want to emphasize that *Blood of the White Bear* was still a good read. I actually read it in two sittings that were almost back to back. I found myself taking it with me as I walked through the house and such. There's a lot going on in it - almost too much at times - but it still manages to draw you in. Engrosses might be a strong word, because you never really care about any of the characters, but it's not an easy book to just lay down.

Even though many of the Native American elements - specifically revolving around the Kachinas - seemed forced, other bits of it were interesting. Especially the drive to get ancestral pieces returned to the tribes via the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the sand painting (which I would love to see). The Church Rock uranium spill mentioned in the book actually happened. While I wasn't at all familiar with the event, it was horrifying to read about.

Overall, I admire the thought that the author put into the work. I would recommend it for anyone looking for a quick, easy read. Its a good 'airplane read'. You won't remember it once you get off the plane but you'll enjoy it while you're in the air.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Linda says

I enjoyed this book, but was little bit disappointed in the writing style and the flow of the material. The storyline is good and I really like the main character but feel she should have been developed more as well as some of the other characters in the book. I am hoping for another if this is to be a series and the story has more depth to it.

Victor says

Review: Marcia Calhoun Forecki's *Blood of the White Bear* - 3 out of 5 stars

Note: I was provided a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Warning: minor spoilers follow.

Good book, but not great. First thing that struck me was how much medical jargon was used in this book. I'm currently in medical school and I was continuously thinking to myself "Whoa... I'm not sure that most people would understand what the narrator's talking about here..." since I myself often had to think for a moment about what exactly particular technical terms meant. Examples include vancomycin (a common antibiotic) and thrombocytopenic (low platelet count). They're not particularly crucial to the storyline but it breaks up the flow considerably.

The only other major thing was that I almost felt like the whole 'kachina' motif was sort of a gimmick. The whole story could conceivably work without the main driving theme (that the protagonist keeps seeing these kachinas in her dreams which leads her to the cure for the pandemic) and I felt like it was tacked on almost even though the author was definitely trying to convey the sense that the kachina was essential to the storyline. The conclusion of the story also seemed quite haphazard and I never got a sense of completion after all the buildup of the first 200 pages.

It reads quickly and it's a good page-turner. Aside from that though, it's mostly forgettable unfortunately as just another pandemic novel with a slight Native American twist.

Mardra says

Blood of the White Bear is about the journey of Dr. Rachel Bisette to find the cure for a pandemic outbreak in the Southwest corner of the United States. Though Dr. Bisette spent most of her life on the east coast, the Four Corners and the kachina bear call her to discover not only a cure but also the secret behind her parent's death from many years before. An indigenous woman named Eva Horn has links to both of these mysteries and hesitates to let the secrets she holds to come forth.

The book's storyline is revealed through many different perspectives and even a few time-shifts, these elements add to the suspense and deepen the connection to what would normally be considered "minor" characters. The bulk of the story is based within the context of a medical drama, Forecki and Schnitzer make sure the reader is invested in the scope of the pandemic and the cure by giving us well painted characters in short spaces. They also explained clearly the medical expositions without including boring or preachy interludes.

I also felt the momentum started early and was well paced. I read this book in two sittings because I knew once I started part two, I would not want to put it back down, so I cleared the time and got comfortable for the ride.

This is a book that once closed and last line read, my mind wandered to explore certain character motivations and potential follow-up responses. I don't think an author has to answer every possibility, art comes into play best when the reader's own imagination can wander within the story. I felt there were a few "loose ends" but real life never ties everything up perfectly and I suspect this leaves just enough room for a potential sequel.

I am a fan of Marcia Forecki and look forward to her next book as well.

Teresa says

A mediocre book, characters I never really connected with, a story that is very predictable and has very little suspense or tension.

I found that the backstory, was well written but when the story actually started to occur, it was sort of..ho-hum.

I just didn't connect with any of the characters and there was no suspense.. just a story that is mildly entertaining and then, ends.

Sarah says

This book was a unique mystery/thriller. From the first page, it grabbed my attention and made me want to know what was happening. I enjoyed the authentic nature of the native american community involved and was refreshed to see a point of view not always highly known in literature.

Emily says

While I read this book in one sitting, it was more out of the fact that I didn't have much to do than being a page-turner.

The story is a good one, but the way it was written just didn't appeal to me. There are many characters in separate but intertwined stories and it seemed confusing and jumbled. The Native American theme was almost more background noise than necessary to the plot.

So I gave this book 3 stars because it was okay to me, but could have been better.

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.
