



## Louisiana Fever

*D.J. Donaldson*

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## **Louisiana Fever** D.J. Donaldson

During an Ebola-like viral outbreak in New Orleans identical to the one chronicled in the best-seller The Hot Zone, Chief Medical Examiner Andy Broussard and criminal psychologist Kit Franklyn find that the lethal epidemic is not the only killer stalking the Big Easy. When Kit Franklyn receives a mysterious invitation to Grandma O's famous Cajun restaurant along with one long-stemmed yellow rose, she can't resist the urge to discover the identity of her suitor. At the restaurant, she approaches a table where an older gentleman is waiting with another rose. He stands, speaks her name, and keels over dead. Who is this stranger? And why do her parents seem to be holding something back when she tells them the story? Broussard's autopsy of the dead man uncovers the presence of a deadly virus that causes its victims to bleed to death in a matter of days - a virus for which there is no known cure. While conducting an investigation into the dead man's identity, Kit and her longtime boyfriend, Teddy LaBiche, disappear. Another corpse shows up in the early stages of the same disease as the first victim, but with ligature marks around his neck and bearing a clue to Kit and Teddy's whereabouts. Broussard's race to save Kit and Teddy and stop the spread of the virus results in a chilling confrontation with a brilliant, extremely violent psychopath deep in the Louisiana bayou, revealing the lengths to which a family will go to keep its dark secrets.

## **Louisiana Fever Details**

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Author : D.J. Donaldson

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## From Reader Review Louisiana Fever for online ebook

### Shirin says

(I deleted my profile for awhile so updating wth my reviews and reviews from my blog)

Disclaimer : I was provided a free copy from Adam at Astor + Blue in return for an honest review

This book is a unique read, especially for myself I do not often read medical thrillers or thrillers. It is always good to step out your comfort zone and try new things. So when I was offered a chance to read and review I thought why not?

From the minute you start reading your interest is captured and you are in for a adrenaline roller coaster ride, It is fast paced from the start and the author's writing style adds to this with short, direct descriptive sentences. He also writes with such detail that you can picture everything in your head so clearly. He uses his medical knowledge to make the medical facts and autopsies realistic and detailed. Which is always an interest to readers. It adds another dimension to the readers experience, however I would advise a strong stomach. There was a lot of moments where I was left feeling unpleasantly queasy.

Even though I have not read any of the books prior to this one in the series, I did not find it hard to get attached to the main characters. It was obvious there is history between them although I feel that both underwent a great deal of growth and development throughout the book. They were realistic and both became endeared to me, even to the point where I did start to worry over them. However as realistic as realistic as I found them, I did get frustrated with them. I found the way they dealt with certain situations a little contrived and the ending was slightly disappointing especially Kit's attitude/behaviour.

The stand out thing for me in this book was the author's way of giving the virus, its own sort of personality/being. The way he gave us an insight into it was one you would expect of a serial killer novel. The use of sections from its viewpoint was genius.

This is a good read, however I did struggle a bit. It was in no way an easy read for me. I often found myself needing a break not from the story but from the medical jargon and graphic details. However I do think that was a personal thing and not a reflection on the author or his book. I would recommend this book to fans of mystery, thriller novels especially those of medical thrillers.

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### Aly says

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

Right from the beginning DJ Donaldson captures the readers interest. The writing quickly grabs you and makes you pay attention. Not to mention it's a different way to kill victims in a mystery/suspense novel. The descriptions, especially of the medical facts or the autopsies were very realistic and very detailed. This definitely adds to the book in such a way that you can imagine easily what an autopsy looks like even if you haven't seen something like it on TV. Sometimes it was scarily descriptive, especially after just having eaten. But as long as you have a strong stomach or don't read it after eating, you're good to go.

The big picture in Louisiana Fever is slowly unveiled but the danger of the situation is very real and always lurking under the surface. While the threat becomes clear, the danger also is revealed and it's definitely not the kind of danger that should be ignored.

The thing I think I loved most about Louisiana Fever other than the descriptions was the fact that DJ Donaldson personifies the killer. He presents it almost as if it's human and I found that a very interesting way to look at things. It added to the book and I enjoyed it.

Louisiana Fever gets your heart pumping, and along with the detailed descriptions, it keeps you coming back for more. If you would like to read Louisiana Fever or any other books by DJ Donaldson, they are on sale on Amazon for \$0.99. The buy link for Louisiana Fever is above. If you're a fan of suspense and mysteries, than I strongly suggest you give Louisiana Fever a read.

Find this review and many more at [Reading Shy With Aly](#)

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### **Kristelle says**

*I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher Astor + Blue Editions in exchange for my honest and unbiased review. All are my opinions and not compensated by any individual, organization, or company. This might contain spoilers.*

The story starts off by some unknown guy dying. When other dead bodies showed the same symptoms and body marks, Broussard think it is some kind of an unknown illness.

This book is the fifth in the series but can be read without the previous books. This had captured my attention at the very beginning. I love the detailed writing of the author. I could actually imagine very clearly the events. This book though is not an easy read.

The story started pretty strong but as it progresses, it started to get corny and clichéd. I was really into the diseases that is why I think when the author decided to give focus more on the kidnapping, I already started to lose interest. There were just too many confusing story pacing.

This book is truly entertaining and a good read. But I think it did not give me my expected satisfaction so I am left disappointed. But I am sure that there are others who will like this book so much.

This is recommended to readers of mystery and suspense and interested on stories with diseases/illnesses.

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### **Christine Whitlock says**

#### **Great!**

Loved this book. Couldn't put it down. I can identify with the characters and have grown so fond of them all!

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## **Tomi says**

Good mystery...although reading about ticks carrying a deadly virus might not have been the best choice for an Arkansas spring!

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## **Monica Fastenau says**

Be forewarned—this book is not for the faint of heart. While I was fascinated by the in-depth descriptions of the autopsies and the forensics Broussard and his assistants used to figure out the cause of death and search for clues about the mysterious new disease, they are definitely not for everyone. The mystery itself is interesting and suspenseful. The disease that Broussard is investigating and the mysterious circumstances surrounding Kit's kidnapping begin to converge, and the team has to work quickly to solve both pieces of the mystery. The New Orleans setting also works very well here. My husband and I took a trip to New Orleans this summer, and I was excited to recognize many of the street names and landmarks mentioned in Louisiana Fever. I got a little annoyed at the Cajun accents that several of the characters had, but I'm not a fan of written-out accents in general.

My one regret about reading this book without having read any others in the series is that Kit's character was not very well fleshed out in Louisiana Fever. Because she is either missing or kidnapped for the majority of the book, we don't get to see her character develop or interact with Broussard. I also felt like Kit majorly overreacted to some of the events that occurred near the end of the book. Sure, she just got kidnapped, but how old are you, Kit?

\*Note: I received a free digital copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Read more on my blog: <http://newberyandbeyond.com/review-co...>

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## **Katherine P says**

This was a quick read. The pace was fast and consistent. The mystery was interesting and unpredictable. It was less of a whodunit and more of a how are they going to get caught. As readers we know more about what is happening than any of the investigators and I found myself wanting to yell into the book to tell Broussard what he was missing. The characters behave like responsible intelligent adults that they are with the exception of Broussard's rivalry with the expert in contagious diseases Blackledge. However, the rivalry felt natural and didn't interfere with the work. While this is definitely not a cozy and is a pretty intense read it isn't an emotionally difficult read. Think an early episode of Bones or a forensic heavy NCIS. While this is the 5th book in the series I was able to jump in with this one with absolutely no confusion. I might have felt more connected to the characters if I had read the series in order but that didn't keep me from thoroughly enjoying this mystery.

Some of the autopsy scenes went a little long. I found myself skimming some of them. I could have used less detail. I also would've liked a little more sense of place. While the references were definitely New Orleans I didn't really get the New Orleans feel that I would've liked. This was most likely because of the nature of the plot. Quite a bit of the story takes place inside labs versus out on the streets.

Overall: I thoroughly enjoyed this mystery. While there are some murders this doesn't read as a standard murder mystery nor does it read as a medical thriller. Instead it manages to take the best of both and have the

story spin out in a fascinating setting.

Full review: <http://iwishilivedinalibrary.blogspot...>

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### **Star says**

LOUISIANA FEVER is the fifth book in the Andy Broussard/Kit Franklyn Mystery series. It is the first book in this series which I've read and I was immediately entranced. I liked the detail and care which went into the scientific and medical aspects of the case. Some details may be too gruesome for the average mystery lover, but it added a depth and realism I enjoyed. When Psychologist Kit Franklyn decides to meet the mysterious stranger who had been leaving her roses, he drops dead after saying her name. Medical Examiner Andy Broussard determines the mystery man died of a hemorrhagic virus similar to Ebola. As more bodies are laid at the feet of this deadly virus, the threat of an epidemic is looming over the department. As Kit delves further into this case, she sets herself in the sights of a killer. LOUISIANA FEVER is an action-fueled mystery, beautifully drenched in the atmosphere of New Orleans. The characters were complex and I didn't feel lost at all for not having read the first four books in the series. I'm looking forward to reading the other books in the series, especially if LOUISIANA FEVER is any indication of the author's steady, detailed, and creative writing skill.

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### **Stacie says**

Unexplained deaths, a merciless killer, and a missing psychologist make Louisiana Fever an incredibly gripping suspense you can't put down.

When a stranger suddenly drops dead of an apparent heart attack in Grandma O's restaurant everyone is eager to discover his identity, but the search leads to more questions than answers. The discovery of a second body with similar odd markings suggests a dangerous bacterium might be to blame. As Broussard seeks to uncover the source of the deadly disease another body turns up and his friend and colleague, Kit Franklyn goes missing. Is it mere coincidence or is the apparent kidnapping related to the mysterious deaths? Will they find Kit before it's too late?

Louisiana Fever is a well written thriller with fantastic characters and the perfect amount of Cajun flair. The author's extensive medical and forensic knowledge gives the story plausibility and makes readers respect Broussard's character even more. The plot is complex and captivating and I thoroughly enjoyed this mystery from beginning to end.

I recommend picking up a copy. Available on Amazon.

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### **Shannon McGee says**

Kit Franklyn gets mysterious phone call to meet someone who dies at the beginning of their meeting. Finding out who he was eventually leads to her kidnapping and the spread of a nasty killer virus. As her friends fight to find her, others have to fight for their own lives as well.

I have not read any books from this series before and did not feel that they have to be read in order. From the first moment the book grabs you as the deadly virus spreads through town. You biting your nails waiting as they try to determine how the virus spreads and then adding on to the tension there are kidnappings.

I give this three stars even though the story grabs you there is a big no no for me. As the kidnapped escapes it is glazed over by saying it would take to long to explain how one of the characters got free. It is literally describes “It would take to long to explain”. I understand it may be hard to get the story where you want to but that just seems lazy.

Even though I have that one beef with the story I still enjoyed most of it and I would consider reading another from the series.

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### **Kait says**

To be honest, when Rachelia and I were approached to review this book, I said “yes” after only skimming the synopsis—mostly because I read “mystery” and was sold. While I’m actually not usually a mystery reader, I’ve been wanting to branch out lately in terms of my reading habits. Suffice to say, I was intrigued by Louisiana Fever, but had no idea what to expect in terms of writing style or conventions.

As I mentioned above, I had never read a detective novel before, and Louisiana Fever is actually the fifth novel in a series. It was not difficult to jump into the Andy Broussard/Kit Franklyn mysteries in the middle. While the two characters obviously had history, there was still character development and growth, which I loved. I was attached to the characters to the point where I was getting stressed out at certain high-tension points: it was absolutely a page-turner. To me, mysteries and thrillers have to have that attention-grabbing quality.

When I went to write up my review and check some of the publication details, I was surprised to note that it was actually originally published in 1996. I would never have guessed that! The writing is definitely not dated almost 20 years later, which is a pretty good indicator of how great a book this is!

I also have this weird fascination with disease and illness, so the focus on a virus as part of the mystery plot was really fun for me. There was a lot of detail in terms of medical developments and I enjoyed that a lot. (As someone who can geek out a bit in terms of morbid diseases, but has no clue about medicine at all, these sections were fascinating.) It’s kind of like a mix between Grey’s Anatomy and The Mentalist... which happen to be two of my favourite TV shows.

While I felt that the book started out strongly, it petered out a bit over time. The plot started to feel a bit clichéd and corny. I wasn’t completely happy with the ending, either—I found it a little implausible at times and I didn’t love how some of the characters reacted to some situations. Overall, though, I really enjoyed Louisiana Fever, and would absolutely consider reading some of the previous instalments in the series.

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### **Jessica Bronder says**

Kit has been receiving yellow roses from a stranger for a couple days. She is on the way to meet this stranger at Grandma O’s restaurant. While there, an older gentleman says her name then collapses. His is pronounced

dead and sent to the morgue. Kit is very curious at who he is since he knew her name and had a picture of both of her parents.

Broussard is the one working the autopsy of the guy when his assistant cuts herself. It doesn't seem like a big deal until he starts looking at the body and finds strange lesions on the organs. When another guy is found with the same lesions and his assistant falls ill, Broussard knows he is in deep trouble. But when Kit goes missing, things get ramped up. Now Broussard is in a race to find the cause of the bleeding dead and find Kit before she falls victim to that or kidnappers.

I admit that this is the first book of DJ Donaldson that I have read. All I can say is WOW! I instantly got sucked into the story, I was on pins and needles waiting to find out the cause, and I was wracked with nerves waiting for them to find Kit and Teddy.

The only thing that I was disappointed in was the ending. Don't get me wrong, I loved how the mystery was wrapped up. I was just disappointed in Kit. I understand that she has been through this whole kidnapping ordeal and everything is off kilter. I was upset with how she treats her parents and Teddy.

Having said that, this was a great book. If you like mysteries, this is one book that you don't want to miss. Now I'm going to go and get the rest of this series so I can find out how this started.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Priscilla says**

“The human race moves on, but so do the viruses. It’s an ongoing war.” I had this Doctor Who quote circulating my brain the entire time I was reading Louisiana Fever. With the recent Ebola outbreak, I can’t help but think how true this sentiment is. Terrifying, isn’t it?

I was scared out of my wits while reading this medical thriller. The symptoms of the mysterious virus is spine-chilling. “The victim starts to feel nauseous and may get a nosebleed shortly before they begin to vomit blood. They may also experience a loss of touch and position sense in their hands, so they drop things.” Right?!

Louisiana Fever is an extremely well-detailed book. The medical terms are fascinating and I had no trouble understanding them. Kudos to the author for keeping it exciting without making it into an info-dump type of book. (Don’t you just hate it when that happens?) I’m glad I had this with me during an exceedingly dull weekend.

Maybe it’s because this is the fifth in series, but a part of me wishes that there’s more of a character backstory. I wish there’s more to the characters. However, I do like the part where we get a glimpse of Broussard’s tender side when one of his colleague gets affected by the virus. The relationship between the disease and Kit’s disappearance is very well put together. Louisiana Fever will definitely not disappoint medical thriller fans.

The identity of Kit’s mystery suitor is predictable and serves as the perfect cliffhanger. Which is already tempting me to read the next book. The novel can be read as a standalone, so if you’re up for a thrill ride, be

sure to pick up a copy!

-- I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

#### **Top Quote:**

"I've got only two bad habits. I eat too much red meat and I never forget who my enemies are. Guess which habit involves you."

Full review & more quotes -- <http://pressedupinabook.com/louisiana...>

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#### **Angie says**

Louisiana Fever by D.J. Donaldson is a great read. The book kept me on the edge of my seat the whole time. I loved how there are so many aspects to the story that all tied together perfectly. The author always got to the point and did not drag anything out which I really appreciated. What is this book about? Most of the story is told by two people in the book; chief medical examiner Andy Broussard and psychologist Kit Franklyn who works with Broussard in the medical examiners office. One day Kit goes to meet a secret admirer who dies at her feet. Broussard learns not soon enough during the autopsy that this admirer is a carrier of a lethal pathogen similar to the deadly Ebola virus. People are now starting to turn up at the morgue, dead of corpse, with this virus. This book has really good writing about the process that takes place in the morgue and the science was flawless. I loved that the virus actually had a voice in the book by saying what it had to do and the situations it was in. Very cool and original. Broussard where is Kit? She has not showed up for work. Hmm... Kit has been taken by the bad guys. Her boyfriend Teddy goes looking for her and then vanishes too. Let me add I was so happy that it just spoke very little of their feeling for each other and not a bunch of romance added in. Thank You Donaldson. The description of the bayou was told in such a way you felt as if you were there among it. Now this is where the review gets tricky because I do not want to give anything away. Remember me mentioning bad guys? Well, these guys are cold blooded killers who are trying to make a quick buck smuggling in the the U.S. birds. Are they only bringing in birds? Believe me it all ties together so nicely. Who lives? Who dies? Who in the world was Kits admirer? Not going to tell you but I will say this is a book you should not miss. Louisiana Fever is action packed, white knuckled, cannot stop reading so you will be up all night type of book!

"Thank you D.J. Donaldson for allowing me to review your book"

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#### **Kim Bishop says**

\*\*Book provided by the author for an honest review\*\*

This story follows a medical examiner, Andy Broussard, and his colleague, and friend, Kit Franklyn, a criminal psychologist in New Orleans. After a man collapses and dies right in front of Kit in a restaurant after arranging to meet her there, the mystery begins. Not only is Kit baffled about who he is and why he wanted to meet her, Andy's autopsy on the man reveals strange findings that don't fit. During Kit's investigation to find out who this man was and where he came from, she is lead to the docks and questioning the shipyard workers in hopes they know him. Along for the ride, Teddy, Kit's boyfriend, accompanies her to head the investigation.

While they are still trying to figure what the "John Doe" died from, another body comes in with the same findings. During the autopsy an assistant cuts herself and is exposed to the corpse's bodily fluids. Kit goes missing, and Andy is none the wiser of the true nature of these deaths. The story only continues to get more complicated and bizarre and will blow your mind!

As a first time reader of this author and also this series, I felt pretty in tune with the characters, even though I did not know their beginnings/background. As I was introduced to Kit, she lives in a mansion rent free for three years thanks to a friend of a friend who's going to be out of the country for that period. Along with her dog, Lucky, they are anxiously awaiting her boyfriend, Teddy. Teddy seems like a pretty decent guy. Teddy seems to truly care for Kit, and they have a wonderful relationship. The only part I had a negative reaction to is when Kit fed her dog Lucky grapes.....the veterinary technician in me winced hard!

The supporting characters in the book were very colorful and even lovable at times. Grandma O and her grandson, Bubba, the owner of Grandma O's restaurant, were so sweet and caring, especially toward Kit and Andy, and it was pretty endearing. Also the fact that Grandma O has visions is an awesome twist! Go Grandma!! Nick Lawson, crime reporter for the Times-Picayune, came off sleezy at first but then redeems himself in the end of the book with his heroics, so I wouldn't walk the other way when I saw him coming anymore. :) Natalie and Guy, the medical examiner's assistants contribute a lot to the storyline, but I didn't get much personal background on them to be able to love or hate them. They were just there, did their job and were ok. Of course, I sympathized with them when tragedy struck, so I guess that says something.

The simple fact that this book followed a medical examiner, so most of the time they were in a hospital setting, was pretty fascinating and intriguing. I was able to follow the autopsy with the medical examiner and listen to his inner thoughts when trying to figure out what was going on, and that came across very realistic with regard to the knowledge and workings of a real medical examiner. The build up of trying to find Kit and Teddy and to put the pieces together with the deaths was excruciatingly painful at times! Sometimes, I did feel like there was too much detail which, in turn, made it feel like the climax took longer, but as I neared the end, I realized if it hadn't been written like that, it wouldn't have felt realistic anymore. I really enjoyed the story and its characters! I think this guy should write CSI episodes 'cause he seems more knowledgeable than the people that write for that show now!

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