



Taken by Storm

Kim Baldwin

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Lives depend on two women when a train derails high in the remote Alps, but an unforgiving mountain, avalanches, crevasses, and other perils stand between them and safety.

Associated Press reporter Hudson Mead is an extreme skiing enthusiast who has covered war zones and natural disasters during her long and distinguished career, but nothing could have prepared her for the challenges she'll face when the snow train she's riding is decimated by a massive avalanche.

Librarian Steffi Graham, on her first trip abroad, is anxious to hone her rock-climbing skills in a new and unfamiliar terrain of ice and snow. She gets much more than she bargained for when her talents put her on the team that goes for help.

As the two strangers struggle to reach civilization, they must compromise and learn to trust each other, a task that may be nearly as difficult as the journey itself.

Taken by Storm Details

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Author : Kim Baldwin

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From Reader Review Taken by Storm for online ebook

Marilyn says

Loved the setting in the Alps.

Tinything says

This is such a great journey! Its incredible how the story goes. It was thrilling and hardly to put it down, because you want to know what happened next. I think it's a bit slow at the start. But yeah such a great experiences. I love everyone is working together to survive and willing to help each other. There are part have a touching moment that made me to tear as well.

~ * K E L L I E * ~ says

All aboard... Taken by Storm is a gripping adventure story with a dash of romance that tells the story of Hudson and Steffi (along with a handful of other characters) who fight for survival after an avalanche hits and buries the train car they were traveling in on the Bernina Express.

The author paints a wonderful, yet terrifying, picture of the Swiss Alps and the drastic measures needed to survive the elements with limited resources after such a catastrophic natural disaster.

PS - love the book cover!?

Velvet Lounger says

Hudson Mead is a badass AP reporter who has seen more than most, and survived it. In her recreation time she goes extreme skiing with her buddy and cameraman. This year it's the Alps, and they are taking the scenic route. Librarian Steffi Graham seems like a bit of a wallflower. First time abroad, new to extreme climbing, lacking self-confidence and way beyond her comfort zones. But when a train wreck forces them to work together to try and save the survivors it is their complimentary skills and resources that keeps them going.

This is a good solid cross between a trad romance and an action adventure. The plot keeps moving along, from the slow build to the wreck and the multiple and various attempts to survive and get rescued. While the scenario is extreme the action is well thought through and planned, and the individuals and their actions are realistic and true to their natures. I never really doubted their survival, but that doesn't detract from the enjoyment.

The characters are well drawn and three dimensional, even the baddies have validity and the wide ranging cast before and after the wreck make an interesting read. The main players are well developed and hold together with realism and veracity. Hudson and Steffi are great. Strong, independent, recognizable women who are in some ways complete opposites but in others have an resonance in their strength.

The romance is slow and sweet, nothing more than growing feelings and a promise, but it adds to the tale and gives force to their determination. The development of the characters under duress, both individually in their own right and as a couple, gives a huge emotional backdrop to the main action plot.

Well written, well researched – well done. My first Kim Baldwin and won't be my last.. thoroughly enjoyed this – now going to have to go and read Force of Nature.

Anja says

Wow, what a thrilling ride (literally). I don't want to give away too much, experience it yourself. I love the setting (the Swiss Alps) and Kim Baldwin did an awesome job with creating two wonderful main characters (and lots of supporting ones) who take you by storm and make you fall in love with them. I had to finish the story in one go because I wanted to know how it all will end. It's not a dabbling romance, it's a struggle for survival, a battle against time and nature. Take your seat, buckle up and hold on!

Val says

3.5 rounded to 4. Another good book by Baldwin. She tends to write many books about the outdoors and I seem to gravitate to that type (Beautiful, outdoorsy lesbians anyone? Yes!) This one has a good story and I found the climbing sequences interesting and suspenseful. Thumbs up, Kim

Paige Braddock says

I just finished reading Taken by Storm last night. Curse you, Kim Baldwin, I couldn't put the damn book down. I had to stay up until 12:30 because I just had to finish it.

I love stories about people thrown into extreme survival situations, in extreme conditions, in far off places. I'm fascinated in both books and movies by how characters react when faced with life and death... it's a great pressure cooker for character flaws to reveal themselves. Those individuals who hoard water and food vs those individuals who selflessly put themselves in harm's way for the sake of others. (By the way, if I'm ever in one of those situations I pray I'm the latter.) This book had all of those things with a dash of romance thrown in.

I recommend this book to anyone who's looking for a well conceived, well researched and compelling adventure tale.

(Oh, and I loved one of the main characters, Hudson Mead, an international correspondent for the Associated Press. She made me miss the days I worked in newspapers.)

Carleen says

I was provided a free download of **Taken by Storm by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank*

*you to Bold Strokes Books for affording me this opportunity.**

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This is not the first time I've read a novel by Kim Baldwin. I've mentioned numerous times - verbally and in print - that **Force of Nature** is one of my "go-to" books when I want to read something good. It's on my list of "comfort books." I've read it so many times that I don't really have to think hard about what I'm reading - I can just sit back, enjoy, and let myself get lost in that world. While I haven't read all of the Elite Operatives books (co-written by Xenia Alexiou), I've read enough of them to know that they are good reading.

So, for me, it's usually a good bet to read Baldwin's next book. The chances are...it's going to be good. But even "good" has varying levels. What distinguishes the higher levels of "good" is whether or not I remember specifics - characters' names, major events, particular plot points - and whether or not I'm chomping at the bit to re-read the book. Until now, **Force of Nature** and **High Impact** have been the two Baldwin novels that are on that level.

Taken by Storm (coming Sept 2014) is the third Baldwin novel I'm adding to that list.

There are a few things I particularly appreciate about **Taken by Storm**: the characters are nicely developed and fully three dimensional; the writing style is simple and well thought out; it's a nice romance and more; and Baldwin's use of location in her storytelling.

If you've ready any of my previous reviews, you know I'm a sucker for great characters. Not just characters who have interesting traits or quirks, but characters that are truly fleshed out and have depth. Baldwin shows her expertise at creating great characters by really taking her time to introduce the reader to everyone involved in the story. Of course the main characters - in this case, Hudson and Steffi - are given lots of attention. The reader gets to know Hudson and Steffi pretty well from Baldwin's descriptions. But, even more than that, the reader learns about these two women through their own actions and interactions with others in the story. And what I really like is that this doesn't all happen within the first 2 chapters of the book. Baldwin takes her time and leads up to the main action of the story. She gives the readers - and the characters - time to know each other. So, when the adventure truly begins and lives are in danger, the reader is invested in the characters. More importantly, the characters are invested in each other. And it's not just the main characters that get the attention. Secondary and even tertiary characters are nicely developed and absolutely essential to the story. So often, a protagonist's best friend or co-worker are forgettable, "throw-away" characters. But Baldwin excels here at truly weaving them throughout the novel.

My opinion of a good writer does not include having a lofty vocabulary or a highly complex writing style. No. For me, a good writer is a clear writer. Someone who is able to simply apply the basics - good sentence structure, good paragraph structure, etc. A good writer is someone who writes with her audience in mind. Baldwin is excellent at this. Her prose is simple and straight forward. She uses words wisely, not pretentiously. She uses words intentionally - if a word is on the page, it has a purpose. What I was especially appreciative of in **Taken by Storm** was Baldwin's ability to tell a story that involved some extreme sports that I know absolutely nothing about, but not lose me in the process. I got to learn about the equipment and terminology used in rock/ice climbing right along with Hudson...but Baldwin didn't take up pages and pages going through the definitions and details. Instead, we learned through the story itself. Baldwin shows us, rather than telling us, simply through Hudson's and Steffi's actions and conversation. Am I ready to tackle a rock wall now? No. But at least I know enough to not be confused as Hudson and Steffi tackle the Alps.

I love a good romance. And this is a good romance. The development and interactions of the characters - and the time Baldwin takes to let the reader get to know the characters - offers a nice "slow build" to the romance. It's a nice twist on the "girl meets girl, girls have a conflict, girls live happily ever after" formula. (And there is NOTHING wrong with that formula, by the way.) But what becomes particularly interesting is that the conflict isn't about getting together then breaking up then getting together again. Instead, Baldwin brings in an adventure! It's a believable adventure. It's "girl against nature," life-and-death adventure. So the conflict here is not about the girls breaking up and then finding their way back together. It's about the girls finding a way to keep nature from tearing them apart. It's really quite nicely done. The romance builds throughout the novel - sometimes in the background, sometimes right in front of us. It makes the payoff that much nicer.

In some ways, the location in **Taken by Storm** is really the main character. The whole story depends on the fact that this takes place in the Alps. This would be a completely different story if it were set in Hawaii or Arkansas. The characters and their development, the romance, the tensions could not be easily transplanted to a different setting or location. Just as Baldwin gives us time to get to know all of the characters in the story, she also gives us time to get to know the location. It is just as three-dimensional as any other character. Again, Baldwin shows her skill at "show, don't tell" when it comes to location. Rather than detailed descriptions of the train, the track, the tunnels, the viaducts, the mountains, etc., Baldwin offers us just enough to formulate the idea in our heads, but then taps into the emotions evoked by these settings

through the actions of nature and the other characters in the novel. Again, we learn so much about the setting just by how the characters respond and react. It really is very well done.

Overall, this is a book that I would recommend to others. Though I had the privilege of reading a free download in advance of the release date, this is definitely a book that I will purchase to have on my bookshelf.

Kennedy says

Although the ending seemed rushed, I enjoyed this read and learned quite a bit about survival, climbing and how various people respond in a crisis. Hudson Meade and Steffi Graham are likable because they have purpose, drive and want to do good. Secondary characters were varied which provided an interesting back drop. Hummm... Romance? or Adventure? Read and decide.

Christine says

I was provided a free download of Taken by Storm by Net Galley in exchange for an honest review. I would like to thank Net Galley and the publisher, Bold Strokes Books, for this opportunity.

Taken by Storm, by veteran author Kim Baldwin, is a captivating read. I have always been fascinated by stories involving natural disasters, especially when snow and ice is involved. The main premise of this book relates to a passenger train that is derailed and buried by an avalanche in the Swiss Alps. The main characters are Steffi, a rock-climbing librarian, and Hudson, an Associated Press international reporter who enjoys extreme skiing. As circumstances have it, these two women end up bearing the responsibility of finding a way out for the twenty or so survivors of the wreck. The main thrust of the storyline is how these people try to make it out of a seemingly impossible situation and the treacherous, heart-stopping events that transpire in their effort.

The first 40% of the book is a bit slow (not boring), but in exchange for that, the reader is introduced to several well-developed minor characters. Just before the halfway point, the tension is cranked up considerably, and the book becomes unputdownable. An engaging additional theme emerges during this part of the book, involving the build up of a deep trust between the two main characters as their lives became totally dependent on each other.

This is the first book I have read by this author. Ms. Baldwin's prose is simple, yet highly effective in telling the story. She has researched her topics well, especially the techniques, the thrills and the travails involved in mountain climbing. Overall, I was highly entertained by Taken by Storm and will likely read more of Ms. Baldwin's novels.

Ayse says

Easy fast read -- a little mary sue

M says

Everyone hates Fox News right?

Kim Baldwin always writes good adventures and this one is no different. Nice plot, interesting characters and a tidy resolution.

D. Leigh says

Wow. It seems I've been waiting forever for Kim's next romance and "Taken by Storm" does not disappoint. I stayed up all night reading this tense account of the Swiss Alps, mountain-climbing and a desperate rescue. Kim uses her insider knowledge of American media (people who don't work in the business almost never get it right) and her extensive travel experience to build an authoritative story. It's her characters, however, who make this a story you can't put down. As always, even the secondary characters are well-developed and believable. I can recommend this heart-pounding adventure romance without reservation.

Sarah says

Adventure and angst in the Alps. This novel by Kim Baldwin is definitely more about the train wreck in the Alps, how the characters handle the situation and how they get out of it more than the budding romance. Actually I didn't quite feel the romantic connection but the adventure and suspense make up for that. I'm a sucker for survival stories and this is a good one. There are characters that die and it's done in a way real to life with no preamble. There aren't any meaningful last conversations because if one was enjoying a vacation train ride, they wouldn't expect to be in a life and death situation five minutes after finishing lunch. I really appreciated that aspect of the story and it made it feel more real. Anyone into mountaineering, hiking, extreme skiing, or traveling through Europe by train would probably enjoy this one.

Susanne says

Well written action packed story, with full of twists and turns, and a bit of romance mixed in as well it was very hard to put the book down, until I reached the very last page.
