



Dogsled Dreams

Terry Lynn Johnson

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Twelve-year-old Rebecca dreams of becoming a famous dog-sled racer. She's an inventive but self-doubting musher who tackles blinding blizzards, wild animal attacks, puppy training, and flying poo missiles. All of her challenges seem easier than living up to the dogs' trust in her abilities.

Dogsled Dreams Details

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Author : Terry Lynn Johnson

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From Reader Review Dogsled Dreams for online ebook

Katieb (MundieMoms) says

"What a fun, fast paced, action packed story! Having grown up around dogs and dogsledding, Rebecca has a dream of leading her own team in a dog sledding competition. Through a lot of hard work, dedication, preparation and with her father's support, Rebecca competes in her first race.

It wasn't hard for me to get sucked right into Rebecca's world. I really liked various elements that make up Dogsled Dreams. It's a mix of adventure, learning to trust yourself and being courageous. Twelve year old Rebecca learns to not only trust herself, but also her dogs, and it's this trust that will help them overcome the elements, the dangers of wild animals and anything else that they may encounter on the trails. It's a lot of responsibility for a young person to take on, but Rebecca accomplishes this with a fierce determination and courage. I admired how supportive her father is. He teaches her some important lessons and is there to help her along her way.

Terry paints a vivid picture of setting, and I loved getting a picture of the beautiful northern night sky. From the description about what it likes to be caught out in the elements, to getting a glimpse of the bond Rebecca develops with her dogs, and seeing the courage it takes to train and compete in a race, I felt like I was part of the adventure. I really appreciate that Terry includes an handy educational tool at the back of the book with her glossary or terms and illustrated picture of how a dog sled team is set up.

Dogsled Dreams is a wonderful, engaging adventure that I highly recommend picking up!

Susan Fields says

This book is unlike anything my kids and I have ever read before. I read it out loud to them, and I was a little nervous my fantasy-loving offspring would have a hard time getting into a book about dogsledding. Not to worry! This book grabbed us right away and kept us turning pages straight to the end.

The writing is so vivid and the descriptions so clear, I felt like I was right there with Rebecca, caring for her dogs, dreaming of becoming a famous musher, and running her first dogsledding race. Details like the sound of the Northern Lights and the smell of Juicy Fruit gum on the breath of the boy she likes put me right in the moment. With a perfect balance of Rebecca's personal life and dogsledding adventures, plus plenty of obstacles to keep me in suspense, Dogsled Dreams is a joy to read.

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

What a fun, fast paced, action packed story! Having grown up around dogs and dogsledding, Rebecca has a dream of leading her own team in a dog sledding competition. Through a lot of hard work, dedication, preparation and with her father's support, Rebecca competes in her first race.

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Medeia Sharif says

Twelve-year old Rebecca wants to be a dog sled racer. Young and inexperienced, she sees there are many challenges ahead of her. From animals attacking her dogs to blizzards, there's a lot to learn and obstacles to overcome. With determination and a love for her dogs, she sets out to become a musher who not only travels far and wide, but also gains the trust of her huskies. I'm neither an outdoorsy person nor a dog owner, but I became involved with Rebecca and her story. The character development is excellent and I felt for Rebecca during her highs and lows. This MG novel is educational throughout: a glossary of terms and a detailed illustration of the sled and dog positions accompanies the story.

Darby Karchut says

Dogsled Dreams, the debut novel by Terry Lynn Johnson, is a delightful ride. Rebecca dreams of competing in her first big dogsled race. Along the way, she not only learns more about the sport of dogsledding, but also about herself.

A charming story for any middle grade girl or boy who likes adventure and dogs!

Bethe says

Basic story about a girl and her sled dogs getting ready for her first competition. I liked the helpful diagram of the sled dog team and the vocabulary list. If you enjoyed this one - please read Johnson's latest book Ice Dogs - it is excellent!

Susan Quinn says

This debut middle grade novel is about a girl who dreams of racing her dogs in the frozen north. It's fast-paced, stuffed full of doggy goodness and racing lingo, and charmed the anorak off me from the very first page. Johnson has created a story that will appeal equally to 7-year-old boys who love puppies and 12-year-old girls who dream of being on American Idol. That is quite a feat, and mark me impressed.

Rebecca lives with her dad and step-mom, raising their Alaskan Huskies. She dreams of being a champion

musher and doesn't shy away from the hard, cold work of caring for the dogs she loves. But will her dad ever let her run her own team? Or even race? One doggy adventure after another pulls Rebecca and her team toward the fame she imagines in her hilarious daydreams of success. And throughout, Rebecca's love for her dogs shines as bright as the northern snow.

I wish I knew the reading level of this book, but it doesn't shy away from Big Words, with beautiful descriptions of the dogs and their snowy world. There's even a glossary in the back with all the dog mushing terms, and a teacher's guide on Johnson's website. But I'm sure this would be a challenging read for young advanced readers, and a simply delightful story for the older ones. Except for the occasional porcupine quill encounters, there's no violence to speak of in this lovely book. I highly recommend Dogsled Dreams for advanced readers as young as five.

Lindsay (Everyday Is An Adventure) says

I picked up this novel really because after reading a few THICK books, I needed something light, short, and quick to read. I was able to finish it in one afternoon so that was refreshing! Plus, after looking at my Goodreads challenge and seeing how behind I am, I needed something that would push my number up, and quick! Plus, it is a read that qualifies for the 2011 Debut Author Challenge as well.

Book Summary:

In Dogsled Dreams by Terry Lynn Johnson, Rebecca is a young girl living in Canada with her father and stepmother. She isn't like other girls her age, who are interested in boys and celebrities - she is interested in dogs and sled racing. She spends her days in school, daydreaming about how she is going to get her dad to let her race and her nights training puppies, doing dog-related chores, and dreaming of making it big as a real musher.

Rebecca goes through a few trials and tribulations with her dogs, everything from a neighbor who lets them lose to wild animals that threaten them along the trails. She even has a somewhat close encounter with a pack of wolves while camping overnight. Throughout all of these, she still rises to the occasion and strives to prove to her father and stepmother that she is ready to run the real race.

My Thoughts:

I have mixed feelings about this book - I recently read a similar book, Black Star, Bright Dawn by Scott O'Dell and I feel as if I kept comparing the two as I read. Dogsled Dreams was a good read, and it did capture what I believe would be the true feelings and emotions of a young girl who was dying to dogsled race, but I just never could really connect to Rebecca. Her emotions didn't feel deep enough, her disappointments weren't my disappointments, and her anger at the break-up of her parents just wasn't genuine feeling. There were a few scenes where she was angry at her stepmother, Heather, for moving in and "messing everything up" but being that her stepmother played a very small role in the novel, it never felt "real." Her relationship with her father and best friend, Jackie, were a little more true. I could have dealt without the stepmother storyline.

The best part of the novel was probably the dogs themselves, but that also had its pitfalls - when you got to know one of the dogs, such as Apollo, something would happen that would take them out of the main storyline so it was hard to invest much emotion there either. I am an animal sympathizer, so that is probably why they were a highlight in the novel.

I was disappointed in the lack of detail regarding the setting. Set in Canada, in the wilderness, the opportunity was there to really reveal what it is like to live there to the reader, but that really didn't happen - the most I got was some minimal descriptions of the trails.

Overall, for a debuting author, this book is "okay" but I am disappointed - I really had big hopes for this quick read, but it just fell short of my expectations. I would be interested in reading something else from this debuting author to see if her writing style evolves.

Jody says

The great thing about this book is that the author really is a musher. Her experience with dogs and the outdoors really shines through with her descriptions of the main character's relationship with each team member. It's a short, quick read which would match nicely with Gary Paulsen's WOODSONG. Any child who likes dogs would love it. I know just the girl I'm going to loan it to tomorrow!

Cindy Hudson says

Rebecca loves nothing more than to be out on the trail with her huskies on a sled. She dreams of leading a team in a race one day, and when her chance comes, she really wants to prove to her dad that even though she's only twelve, she can do it.

Dogsled Dreams by Terry Lynn Johnson is a fascinating look at the life of a musher. Rebecca puts in a lot of time with her dogs, feeding them, cleaning up after them and making sure they're safe for the night. She also has to learn about dangers on the trail, like running in extreme cold and white-out conditions, and encountering wild animals on the trail. She knows that her dogs have to trust her, and she has to trust them, if they want to stay safe on a run.

Dogsled Dreams is a great book for mother-daughter book clubs with girls aged 9 to 12. Becca is confident, and she's also willing to put in a lot of work to get what she wants. The dogsledding details are interesting, and they carry the story along without bogging it down. Moms and daughters can also talk about taking on responsibility and setting goals to work towards a dream.

Tommy Greenwald says

what doglover wouldn't love this? high adventure and great fun!!

Randy Russell says

From BiblioReads: DOGSLED DREAMS: Twelve-year-old Rebecca dreams of becoming a famous sled dog racer. She's an inventive but self-doubting musher who tackles blinding blizzards, wild animal attacks, puppy training, and flying poo missiles. All of her challenges though, seem easier than living up to the dogs' trust in her abilities. Rebecca runs her huskies along the crisp trails near Thunder Bay, Ontario, where

northern lights flare and dangerous beavers lurk. Through the bond she shares with the dogs, Rebecca learns that hard work, dedication and living in the moment bring their own rewards.

Book review: Exhilarating. When Rebecca is dog sledding the reader quickly becomes one with the sport, the dogs and the scenery along with Rebecca. I was drawn into the world of dogsled dreams learning quite a bit about the nuances of the sport, but most importantly learning what matters most to this 12-yr dog-loving old girl who not only yearns for a chance to race and prove her capability, but also for the sense of family she's been missing. It's very easy to get lost in the pages of Dogsled Dreams.

Natalie Aguirre says

I loved this book. Rebecca was vulnerable, but incredibly brave to follow her dream of doing a dogsled race. The book took me to places I know I'll never experience in real life. The plot moved fast and the stakes kept on increasing. I really recommend this.

Lori Henrich says

Rebecca is twelve-years-old and dreams of becoming a famous musher one day.

I really liked this story - it was easy to read and I got attached to the main character very easily.

Amy says

Dogsled Dreams is a great adventure story about a girl who dreams of leading a dogsled team of her own. This story gives you more than a peek into the world of mushers and their dogs--it drops you right into the middle of it with plenty of adorable puppies, dogsled racing, flying poop, a blizzard, and a girl who grows with her dogs and learns to believe in herself. I'd highly recommend for elementary or middle school kids -- just wish this book had been around when my dog-loving daughter had been younger. It would have been a favorite! :-)
