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Black Star, Bright Dawn



Synopsis

In this redesigned edition of Scott O'Dell's classic novel, a young Eskimo girl encounters frightening obstacles when she takes her father's place in the Iditarod, the annual 1,172-mile dogsled race in Alaska.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (49 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

I read this for a seventh grade advanced class. I like this book, because you never know what is going to happen next in it. I thought for sure i knew what was going to go on, and the exact opposite happened! I also like the way that Scott O'dell made this book. All of the characters are formed well and you knew exactly what he was talking about. It has a lot of adventure in it, that is one of the many good things about this book. For anyone who likes adventure stories I think this would be a good book for them to read. I really enjoyed it. In some parts of the book I really felt sorry for Bright Dawn, but a lot of the other parts were happy. I loved reading about Bright Dawn, Black Star and all of the others going out on their adventures. The suspense, the adventures, the real life situations, and much more is what kept me in it. If you read it I am sure you will agree with me too.

Bright Dawn is a teenage Eskimo girl who loves dog sledding. One day when her father was preparing to race in the Iditarod, a 1,200 mile race, he got so injured that he couldn't race. Of course

while Bright Dawn was sorry that her father was hurt, she was ecstatic that she would be taking his place. She comes across many dangers such as the bull moose, a vicious moose that attacks the human and the dogs on the team. Bright Dawn also makes some friends including Oteg, an experienced racer, and a girl that she saves who later ends up quitting. At the end of the race neither Bright Dawn nor her dogs were tired of running. With Black Star, Bright Dawn's favorite dog, in the lead, they set off for home. This book flows very well. Every sentence ties in to the next and every paragraph ties in with the next. Scott O'Dell, like he often does, has a girl main character, natives that play important roles, and exciting adventures. This book is mainly about action and changes. His writing can put on a "film" in your mind of what's happening in the story. If you have not yet read this book, than you should. I would recommend it to the children 8-12. It's a great story for animal lovers and adventurous ones. Adults might appreciate the story but it is clearly meant for the younger generation.

It is refreshing to have a female heroine to counter Paulsen's male survival specialists. Bright Dawn is a teenage Eskimo girl whose father has trained her to handle a dog sled, after the death of her older brother. In defiance of their social customs, she trains in a male-dominated area of expertise. When her father is forced to withdraw as the village's representative in Alaska's gruelling Iditarod, he urges his daughter to take his place, since village money and honor are at stake. It takes an incredible combination of factors to win this thousand-mile race across arctic wastes; knowledge of huskies and use of all supplies, wisdom in determining when to stop and when to continue; experience with human nature since other contestants may use foul means or sly tricks to leave competitors behind. And never underestimate the forces of vicious and capricious Nature: weather, topography, wild animals. Bright star learns to trust her beloved dog, Black Star (part Husky-part wolf) for many things, including her very life. But can she trust herself--her knowledge of dog teams and which of the entrants to believe. Can she expect compassion or help from the others, who are just as determined to win the prize for their village or city? She is not the only female in the race, but will the women prove more kindly or vulnerable? Bright Star learns much from this race, especially about her worst enemy: Fear. This brave heroine is torn between Eskimo superstition and her modern education. Is there place for good sportsmanship in the Iditarod? This exciting tale of survival in the Alaskan wilderness will captivate readers of all ages.

Scott O'Dell once again creates a stirring novel about a teenager set out on one of the most dangerous races ever. Her father is injured while training, so she takes his place. From then on, it is

a race for not only 1st place but for her life. She puts her life completely into the hands of her dogs. You come to realize how much she needs them, and if one of them dies, it is as bad as her dying. It makes you wonder at the danger people will put themselves in, and selfishness and courage, and most of all, loyalty and trust. After I read it, I could think of nothing else. It is one of the most inspirering books that I have ever read.

This author takes historical people and events and creates a story to go along with it. My son, who is 12, loves this author so much we have purchased every book written by him. They have kept his attention, and he has reread several. My son's time and energy going into a book instead of an electronic device, can't ask for much more!

I liked it but the ending was a little bit disappointing. Otherwise, I enjoyed reading this book. I didn't like that she wasn't first but this book did have a lesson. It's not about her winning it's about how much she cared about everyone else even though it was a race, and they were her opponents. She didn't want anybody to feel that the race was unfair. It was about how much she cared about respecting the other opponents and having good sportsmanship that allowed her to be awarded. Because those qualities do matter. It shows that even if you're not very good at something that if you are respectful to others and have good sportsmanship that it pays off, that it matters. Still try your hardest but don't be disappointed if you can't do something because as long as you have good sportsmanship and you respect others that it matters.

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