



The Stubborn Season

Lauren B. Davis

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The Stubborn Season Details

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From Reader Review The Stubborn Season for online ebook

Cynthia Hail says

LOVE this book. Wonderful story, beautifully written. Great research about a fascinating chapter in history. Characters I'll never forget.

Mik says

A story of a young girl growing up during the great depression. This is a great read, with a realistic story. There's two separate story lines that eventually blend into one, when it happens, it's seamless yet noticeable and brilliant.

Paula says

The Stubborn Season had me hooked from the very beginning right through to the end. Lauren B. Davis effectively alternates and weaves together the story lines of Irene and David, starting in 1929. Irene is 10 and living in Toronto with her alcoholic father and mentally ill mother. David, a few years older is living in a Jewish farming community called Sonnenfeld, Saskatchewan but goes out on the road in 1930 to try to find work. Their stories tell of how they coped during the depression with rich historical details. The ending wasn't what I expected but I loved it!

Daysleeper236 says

One of those rare novels that not only manages to make Canadian history interesting but downright **exciting**. Beautifully written and a terrific read.

Sandra says

By far my favourite...will there be a follow up?

Maka says

Excellent!!!! I loved reading about Toronto in the 30's. Great portrait of mental illness in the family, the secrecy and ways families use to deal with it. I recommend it 100%!

Laurie says

A beautifully written, heart-breaking, "coming of age" story set during the Great Depression. Initially I gave this book three stars because I did not like the ending. After I dwelled on the book for a few days I realized the ending was very appropriate. I will definitely read more by this author.

Sue Pettit says

I liked Daily Bread better, but both tell compelling stories from the point of view of outsiders. I like the historical links, too.

CJC says

This is a beautifully written book, and a heartbreakng story.

The characters are well done, the history seemed well researched, the story moved at a good pace and it managed to be awful and hopeful at the same time.

Susan Moshynski says

Nicely written and full of images of Toronto in the 1930's...perhaps a bit depressing at times (after all it was during the Depression), but thoroughly engrossing. Highly recommended.

Melanie says

This book transported us back to depression era Toronto as well as to life (if you can call it a life) on the rails during the same period. The story of Irene and her family is darkly compelling in its gut-wrenching heartache. All three members of the family are afflicted by the ravages of improperly treated mental illness and an ill advised sense of propriety (what WILL those neighbours think?). This mixed with the story of David leaving his home in hopes of finding something better, only to be thrown into a life of danger and desparation, travelling around the country, trying to survive.

However, what I found just as compelling, perhaps more so -- particularly as someone who now enjoys the benefits of unions -- is how horrific the living conditions were, for those hardest hit by the depression. I remember hearing the stories from my grandparents about how hard life was in the thirties. My mother was born in Toronto in 1932, right into the worst of it. However, in spite of my family's tales of woe, they suffered little (my grandfather always had a decent job) in comparison to many people in the same area and across the country. Union organization and social programs sprung up as a result (thank heavens!!) but reading about it in such a frank way, really makes me appreciate how far Canadian social programs have come and how lucky we are for the Labour movement, in spite of what the media and corporations try to make us believe!!!

With such bleak subject matter, this could easily have turned into a depressingly hard book to read. Not the case. The matter-of-fact style along with the tenacity and dogged determination of the central characters to persevere in hopes of something better, kept me enthralled and, best of all, looking for more information!

This is another great read from Ms. Davis! I look forward to more!!!

Alexander says

I generally have a hard time getting into books with a woman/girl as the protagonist, but this story transcends the sexes, touching both the hope and the despair of a young person coming of age. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting to relive those emotions, or for one who finds his or her self still struggling through those times.

VWrulesChick says

This story was based in 30s mainly in Toronto, where Irene is growing up with a mother, Margaret, who has some form of mental illness and a father, Douglas, who becomes a heavier drinker each day. Irene struggles to breathe while living at home with her mother's condition and distance from her father, with tension between her parents. All the while, David leaves his family's farm in Saskatchewan to ensure survival of his dad and brothers. Follow these two on their life's journey, see what they can do to help each other and what hope lies for them in the future.

Jlmayne says

I would count this book among the best books I have ever read. The characters are unforgettable, the descriptions are realistic and artistic, and the historical information is enlightening and shocking. I am astounded that we know so little about our own history during the Great Depression: the appalling conditions in the mines and workcamps, the situation of the hobos who rode the rails, the struggles of daily life in the cities. I had no idea that in Canada we had signs in restaurants that said, No Jews or dogs, that Jewish people had a hard time getting jobs, that there was such anti-semitism, and fascism. This book enlightened me on so many levels. I raced to the end, and now, as with all books I love, I will read it again more slowly and savour every word. As a survivor of an alcoholic father and mentally ill mother, I related so deeply to the main character, Irene, and I admire the author's honest description of each member of the family. I urge anyone who loves exceptional writing and historical fiction to buy this book!

Kathy says

Wow! What a riveting book. It has everything: crisp writing, excellent research, history, suspense, romance, drama. Written against a historical backdrop of the Great Depression in Canada, this is a beautiful story of a girl growing up in an oppressive household with a mother who had mental health issues and an alcoholic father. I googled often to learn more about the issues of the day: unemployment and homelessness, riding the trains, the Relief Camps, the Regina Riot, and R. B. Bennett's government. It's a page turner and a beautiful

story of a young person's determination to make something of herself against all odds.
