



Still Waters

Sara Warner

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A frisky tale of love, literature, terror and state politics.

When environmental researcher and would-be writer Teena Shostekovich returns home to find her computer files stolen, she suspects it has something to do with the “hot potato” case she’s working at her job with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. But a phone call from the thief complicates things when he suggests he can help her with her writerly ambitions. Nothing gets any clearer when Detective Logan Deo comes to her door and an unusual call from her ex-husband Mack alerts her to peril that seems a world away. Meanwhile, the story of Jessie Weston, a cowgirl turned biologist, unfolds on the shores of Lake Ponder, where a dike her father built on the lakebed is bringing nothing but trouble from state officials, including Teena’s boss, Steve Donneroe. As Teena and Jessie’s paths veer ever closer to collision, the dangers in their lives threaten to explode beyond what either of them can understand or control, and they must work past their fears to protect the land and life they love.

Still Waters Details

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From Reader Review Still Waters for online ebook

P.V. LeForge says

With the intense specialization in literature these days, it is refreshing to find an author who isn't afraid to set her own boundaries. Part mystery, part romance, part thriller, and part cultural philosophy, *Still Waters* is not only fun, but educational. The author sets up two stories running simultaneously, one featuring a state worker, the other a ranch owner. Like sleek and excellently trained thoroughbred horses, the stories run neck and neck to an exciting finish.

Scott Campbell says

This is a multifaceted novel that works on many levels. Full of emotion and yearning and passion featuring characters like people I know, or would like to know, - fully realized individuals with conflicted emotions and complicated motivations. The story is set in realistic day to day life but events conspire to make for a surprising and compelling yarn.

The novel is paced like a thriller, yet relaxed enough to explore characters and their interests; horses, literature and the ecology of Florida. This intriguingly structured novel incorporates the local and personal with global, political machinations smoothly, resulting in an intellectually stimulating yet, simply, fun and exciting read.

Kristeena Rheault says

I can't believe I found a book with a character who spells their name like me so that was exciting, well at least like my nickname Teena :)

Read my review here:

<http://tanatime.com/2017/12/06/still-...>

Barbara Cameron-smith says

Written from the women's point of view, this intriguing book is set against the unusual backdrop of the navigable lakes and rivers of Florida, USA.

At the heart of the storyline is the inexplicable theft of the hard drive from researcher Teena Shostekovich's home computer, and with it the only version of the novel she had spent six months writing to take her mind off a fraught and highly contested work situation. As the story unfolds, the consequences of this puzzling theft lead to unsettling email communiqués from the thief, interspersed with Teena's growing friendship with the detective intent on getting to the bottom of the heisted hard drive.

I enjoyed this book on so many counts, not the least for its original subject matter, skilful writing, sure-footed characterisation and compelling relationships. Equally satisfying was the unexpected interweaving of two strands of the plotline, namely the twists and turns in would-be author Teena's personal and working life and those of her fictional heroine, feisty cowgirl Jessie Weston, disparate storylines that eventually meld into

one.

The further I delved into this book, the more apt the concept of navigable and unnavigable waters became for the trials and tribulations of Teena and her fictional heroine as they take their chances with life and love, delivering well and truly on the old adage, 'Still waters run deep', surely the starting point for Warner's choice of name.

How refreshing it was to come across a book that unsentimentally explores the unsung roles of public servants 'fighting the good fight' against the odds. In this case, it is Teena and her colleagues who are tasked with preventing the covert conversion of Florida's navigable waters into private land for sizeable personal profits. The subject matter of this book rings sufficiently true that it came as no surprise to discover that the author is an authority on Florida's navigable water bodies and a dressage rider and trainer to boot.

The female characters were wonderful, strong, gutsy and unpredictable, and the men were just as well drawn and appealing. One of the compelling things about this book was the coming together of the male and female protagonists in dangerous and plucky circumstances, a surefire recipe for sparking relationships.

Quite simply, I didn't want this book to end, and right up to the last page, couldn't begin to guess at the final outcome.

Sequel, author!

Jill says

It was a simple earth dike on a farm owned by Carl "C.W." Weston in Florida that attracted the attention of environmentalists. When state surveyor Teese Lessler shows up one morning, C.W.'s daughter Jessie finds herself thinking about more than just water regulations. Meanwhile, Teena Shostekovich returns home to find her computer's hard drive stolen, even though it contains none of her environmental research. Things go downhill when the detective looking into the theft ends up dead and everything starts pointing to Teena.

Surprising twist in this environmental mystery.

Karen says

Ms. Warner does a beautiful job of letting the reader get to know her characters and empathize with them. The details from which the reader can visualize settings are due to the skill of Ms. Warner's descriptive talents. This book is perfect for a sequel (at least one!).

Judy says

Still Waters is a story as simple and, at the same time, complicated as our own lives. Sara Warner weaves the everyday life of Teena, a state employee, through a myriad of situations which reveal the underlying current of our political and personal interventions as well as the private thoughts and desires of a dedicated professional. Teena introduces us to Jessie, a Floridian and equestrian, with desires and goals of her own and

the wild ride begins! All three of these women have an agenda and together they will open your eyes!

Judie says

I liked it a lot. A very well written book full of intrigue.

Lynnett Palindat says

Loved it! Well written and engaging but it left me with unanswered questions. It's a "dual" storyline that is really 2 sides of the same story. Treena works for the Florida Environmental Department protecting public lands and investigating historical and riparian (water boundary)rights. The story follows one of her cases and the intricacies of the parties involved with a dash of international terrorism thrown in. It was interesting to note that the romances in the book were not allowed to take over the story line.

I was left with several questions and wanting a sequel. What happened to the settlement proposal, does it go through? Does Jessie win in probate court? Do the dikes come down? What about Bud/Bobby? Does he eventually give up fighting for the ranch? Is he involved with the poisoning of the marsh? Is he responsible for Gordon's death or is Haji working alone on that?

Given the limited rating system I give this 4 stars. I only give 5 stars to absolutely my favorite books that resonate with me and although this was a very good book that I would recommend to others interested in water boundary and environmental rights it doesn't touch me deeply. It's also not a "feel good" book that ends happily ever after but instead shines a light on some of the politics involved with government agencies torn between "big business" and environmental rights. Something that is quite familiar in Alberta as much as in other jurisdictions such as Warner's Florida.
