



## The Greenland Breach

*Bernard Besson , Julie Rose (Translator)*

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## **The Greenland Breach** Bernard Besson , Julie Rose (Translator)

Experience the eco-thriller at a whole new level in this cli-fi spy novel. What is the real impact of global warming? This stylish thriller about climate change and its consequences couldn't be more topical. Espionage, intrigue, and behind-the-scenes struggles for natural resources combine with French freelance spies and Bond-like action for a convincing, beautifully orchestrated tale, "like a sophisticated manga."

The Arctic ice caps are breaking up. Europe and the East Coast of the United States brace for a tidal wave. Meanwhile, former French intelligence officer John Spencer Larivière, his karate-trained, steamy Eurasian partner, Victoire, and their bisexual computer-genius sidekick, Luc, pick up an ordinary freelance assignment that quickly leads them into the glacial silence of the great north, where a merciless war is being waged for control of discoveries that will change the future of humanity.

"Masterfully paced and wondrously prescient a cautionary tale ...Equal parts Clive Cussler and Michael Crichton, this is a terrific tale that charges out of the gate and speeds in relentless fashion to a wholly satisfying finish."--Jon Land, bestselling author of Strong Rain Falling

## **The Greenland Breach Details**

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## From Reader Review The Greenland Breach for online ebook

### Anne Trager says

I loved this book from the first scene, when a huge crevasse opens up on the Greenland ice sheet, scaring even the nasty hit man. Then, I liked that as the US and Canada braced for a tidal wave, the story focuses on something else entirely: the very real battles for information and resources. I also enjoyed the characters, the gadgets and the action. These are all reasons why I chose this book to be translated and published by Le French Book. We were lucky to have Julie Rose take on the translation. She did a great job.

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### Riley Banks says

I have a confession to make. When I was first asked to read this book, I was certain I was going to hate it. Why? Because I absolutely hate preachy, greenie books that tell us we're destroying the planet. I'll even admit to being a bit of a climate change sceptic. But before you all stone me as some petrol-guzzling, meat eating heathen, I will say that it's not that I don't believe we need to look after our planet, and to protect it for future generations. It's just that I'm a realist (or is that cynic). All that doom and gloom about the sky is falling I tend to view as climate change scientists desperate to keep their funding. After all, if they told us things weren't as bad as they first expected, why would we continue to give them millions to study climate change? I believe the truth lies somewhere in the middle (as it usually does in most things). I'm all for researching new energy efficient technologies, and for reducing our impact on the earth. I just don't like being preached at.

So anyway, that was the state-of-mind I went into this book with. In fact, if truth be told, there were really only a handful of reasons I agreed to read it in the first place: 1 - part of the action took place in France, and I'm a total francophile. 2 - I was intrigued that Bernard Besson was a real life French spy. 3 - I was intrigued that the translator was both Australian, and had translated Victor Hugo's classic masterpiece Les Miserables. 4 - It's not everyday you get to read a book set in Greenland. If nothing else, I'd get to learn a bit more about a country I'd love to visit.

Why am I pointing out all the negatives I felt before reading it? Because I think knowing my pre-reading state-of-mind is important in judging how epic my end-of-reading state-of-mind is.

Simply put, I loved the book. I could not put it down, which is a welcome change for me these days.

The book opens with a massive bang. Greenland is dying right before the world's eyes; a massive mile and a half deep chasm splitting the island continent in two. And in the midst of Greenland's death throes, an assassin waiting in the ice with a sniper rifle.

By the time Besson introduced me to Loïc Le Guévenec, the captain of the Bouc-Bel-Air, a ship that has just been crippled by a massive tidal wave of ice and water, and then had the assassin not only shoot his targets but the team of sled dogs as well, I was well and truly gripped by the tale.

So here's what I loved, and the few things I didn't love as much.

The Good:

The action was superb. I love multi-character books so really appreciated having the action unfold through multiple viewpoints. It carried you along, switching scenes and characters with flawless pace. For those who might struggle with rapid change, Besson did delineate each change with a location and time, so you knew you were getting a scene change (and therefore, a character change). Had the book just been told through John's eyes, I don't think I would have liked it anywhere near as much. Had Besson just chosen two or three characters, it still wouldn't have the impact that his finished product does. Another thing I loved about the multi-character format: people I'd met earlier on who I thought weren't important became vital players by the end. Not only are their multiple characters, there are also multiple plots and subplots, which in the end means more things to keep my interest piqued (I get bored so easily these days). The sex scene on the third and fourth page was a keen reminder this was a French novel translated into English. We've spent a fair bit of time in France, and one thing we learned early on - French TV is very sexual. We'd be watching family shows in the middle of the afternoon, only to see full frontal nudity or vivid sex scenes...

The science was simple and understated, which is kind of weird coming from me about a book that describes an entire continent dying! What I liked about Besson's take on the science: he didn't try to overwhelm the reader with facts to prove his theories beyond a shadow of a doubt. The scientists and the science were just part of the storyline and at times I even forgot it was about climate change because I got caught up in the rest of the action. If anything, Besson left me with more questions than answers - which for a sceptic is actually a good thing. :) I never really felt like he presented greensies as good, and everyone else as bad. In fact, some of the greensies did stuff just as questionable in their pursuit for change.

When I first read about Luc being bisexual, I rolled my eyes a little and wondered if he'd be the token gay thrown in just to be politically correct. I also thought he'd be more of the third wheel/sidekick type character to John and Victoire's tight partnership. But Luc really did turn out to be one of the most interesting characters. He was such a naughty boy. He fell in and out of bed so much, they should have changed his label to trisexual - as in he'd try anything once. Of the Fermatown trio, I liked Luc the best. He was deeply ingrained in much of the action of the book and used his sexuality as a tool to get what he wanted. It actually made a refreshing change that the sidekick, rather than the super spy, got all the action between the sheets (It was also refreshing to read a story where the Americans weren't the heroes that saved the world - but that's probably only something a non-American understands). By the end of the book, I could completely understand why both men and women threw themselves at Luc. Heck, if he was real and I wasn't married, I'd be tempted to throw myself at him!

The Greenland Breach is chock-a-block full of intrigue. You never knew who to trust or who had 'pure' motivations. The bad guys weren't completely bad and the good guys weren't completely good. Rather they all had their reasons for doing what they did. I love books like that - where the author doesn't tell you how you should feel about the characters but allows you to come to your own conclusions. I also love characters that are multi-faceted rather than one dimensional. There was also a healthy dose of sexual politics going on, particularly Isabelle Le Guévenec, Connie Rasmussen, and Luc. Mind you, at no time did I feel the sexuality dominated the book. It was more a subtle undertone that, in true French fashion, didn't even try to differentiate between good and bad. There were no judgements made or scarlet letters issued.

While being a spy novel with some completely over the top action scenes, Besson still maintained some realism to his heroes. Take John for instance. When he first goes to Greenland, the locals give him a very heavy-handed welcome that includes a full internal inspection! Now I don't think James Bond was ever subjected to one of those!

Despite the fact that Besson describes a Greenland in its dying throes, he still managed to describe it with enough love and passion to make me want to go and visit. I like books that inspire me to travel and visit new places.

The Bad:

One of my biggest complaints, at least early on in the book, was finding a character I could connect to. The action was big and bold, the pacing brilliant, the descriptions flawless. But I just didn't feel there was a character I could really champion. By the end, I had found plenty to connect with, including my favourites: Luc, Le Guévenec, Connie Rasmussen (though I flipped between hating her and loving her), and John.

Early in the first chapter, the author described John Spencer Larivière as a five foot eleven gentle giant. Hmm, don't know about France, but in Australia, that's a very average height. My 16 year old son is almost 6 foot, my husband 6 foot 3, my daughter's partner 6 foot 4, his father 6 foot 5, and my best friend's son almost 7 foot! In fact, my daughter is 5 foot 9 - only 2 inches off John's giant status!

Throughout the book, I really struggled to like Victoire. There was just something in her character that irked me, and I can't even put a finger on it. It wasn't until she extricated herself from a very tricky situation (yes, I'm being deliberately vague) that I gained an appreciation for her. I'm not a fan of damsels in distress, so the fact that she saved herself earned her some big brownie points (and a few shocked expletives from me). She did get marginally better after that, but I still didn't find her the most likeable character.

There were a couple of eye-rolling coincidences, common to all spy novels, that were just too convenient and plot driven. Like the phone John was given by his employer that allowed him to listen in on conversations

the employer's daughter was having. How is it that every time John remembered to listen in, he overheard an important detail? In real life, I'm sure he would have overheard her order a pizza, make an appointment with her doctor, maybe arrange to meet up with friends for a coffee... But in spy-town, John had the good luck to only hear the juicy stuff. Then there was John dreaming about a guy trying to kill him in the exact way the guy was trying to kill him...

The big family secret reveal at the end of the book was a little too Days of Our Lives meets Bold and the Beautiful for my liking but it was such a small part that I can forgive Besson for going there.

Besson managed brilliant pace throughout the novel. If I had even the slightest complaint about pace, it was actually in the translation. Don't get me wrong - there was nothing wrong with it. I didn't pick up any obvious flaws in the translation itself. It's just that language - whether French or English or otherwise - has a natural rhythm and flow. I'm sure Besson had that rhythm when he wrote this in French, but there were moments where the natural rhythm was lost in English; where the sentences (while perfectly translated) had lost some of their poetic prose. This was only in the beginning, when I was still getting a feel for the characters and storyline. In fact, by the end, the translation had all but receded into the background.

Another thing I noticed more early on was the effect on flow the French words had. For example, where John, Luc, and Victoire walked back to Fermatown via the Rue Deparcieux, which was parallel to the Rue Fermat. I know rue is the French word for street. In fact, I speak a little French myself. I just have to wonder whether it wouldn't have made a more cohesive translation (for those who speak absolutely no French at all) to just call it Fermat Street. Or to take it a step further, to call Luc and Victoire Luke and Victoria. There were lots of instances of French words that could have been put in English. However that is just me being incredibly picky.

The Ugly:

There was nothing ugly for me to comment on. Even the things I didn't like did not stop me loving the book overall.

At the end of the day, this was a very good book and one I hope gets picked up by Hollywood and made into a movie. While I still remain a sceptic of the doom and gloom predictions, there is no taking away from the breakneck drama and intensity of The Greenland Breach. All in all, it is a book I highly recommend to anyone looking for a book they won't be able to put down.

## Kathy Davie says

A melodramatic tale of confusion, incompetence, and loose threads revolving around an environmental catastrophe with a wanna-be-James-Bond vibe.

I did receive an advanced reading copy from the publisher. *And probably won't get another...!*

### My Take

Bloody hell! This story has no focus and so many “primary” subplots going on with the “wrong” one taking precedence. Actually, I suspect this is meant to be the first in a series, so it would have behooved Besson to focus there. To have all the minor plots revolve back to the main one, the main characters whom I believe are John, Victoire, and Luc (JVL). Instead, it's so all over the place that JVL are NOT getting their due. Instead, they're battling for primacy with Loïc and Connie.

It's also JVL's new company versus the ice core samples and here is where JVL wins hands down. In spite of the core samples being so incredibly important, Besson ignores them, just as he ignores the plight of the *Bouch-Bel-Air*.

While an uneven play of drama and tension exists, I spent more time rolling my eyes and noting way too many “oh, please”s to make this a fun read. It's incredibly confusing, partly because of the lack of focus and too many main players who don't come across as competent.

I gotta wonder why John or Victoire are even in the business; I'm not impressed with either of them. Sure they're nice enough people, and Besson has set up an interesting background for them, but John spends *way* too much time being humiliated while Victoire is such a weasely chicken heart that I want them to find new jobs. As for Luc...yeah, he's colorful, but more in the sense of a curious child than a competent operative.

Besson does have a way with words---with a nod to Julie Rose's translation---“...muffle the howling of Greenland as it begins to die”. However, Besson over- or underplays everything. He contradicts his characters, and throws in disconnected sentences that don't appear to be related to what the character is saying with info dumps galore.

Could someone explain how Luc is flourishing at Fermatown when they're just doing boring background checks and tedious surveillance?

”Things don't change. Change your way of seeing them. That is all you need to do.”

Geez, the “evil villain” speech at the end was so lame....and consistent to the end as well as it jumped all over the place.

Loose threads include Navaran, a minor point I grant, but I do worry about her; why is anyone anxious to buy up Greenland if it's falling apart; who Jensen works for; why the Congress is so nasty; Isabelle's purpose in this other than for salacious value; the meaning behind “the South is heading north”; why Luc, in his freelance reporter role, wouldn't find Connie's name familiar; why Isabelle spills so much to this reporter; the point of preventing the chopper and its cargo from taking off; the point of the sister ship; Terre-Noire's massive incompetence; why John went up to Josephine when the truth is already known; and, why French interest is a problem; and, the significance of Qaalasoq nodding to Moller.

Then there are the stupid moves which include handing over the ship's plans to the enemy. In what world is this considered a smart decision? Why does Connie wait so long to kill the jerks? WHAT was the point of

allowing things to go so far? The box that would cause the police to sink the ship...and here I'm expecting something earth shattering, something so incredibly horrible...\*ow, ow, ow, that eye roll hurt!\*... Why would Laura believe a North Land employee would have information about a Terre-Noire ship? What was the point of keeping Mary out of the loop about the hotel? Why is John reeling from the knowledge that Qaalasoq learned French at an art gallery? Actually, *why* would someone learn French at an art gallery? How is John planning to pilot two Zodiacs all by himself? What was the point of Luc sleeping with these women?

Oh, puh-lease...

"It was now his turn to keep secrets. The two Inuits looked at the Frenchman with respect."

Why??

Intellectually, I get that I'm supposed to be sad, outraged, and tense, but Besson had me so annoyed and confused that I simply couldn't wait to finish.

It's incestuous with all the overlap and excess, and if this is how real world intelligence operatives maneuver through the world, I'm not surprised the world is so effed up.

Please, Besson, get a developmental editor!!

### The Story

Caught in the tumultuous wave caused by the Lauge Koch Kyst, a part of Greenland, falling into the ocean, the *Bouch-Bel-Air* faces her fate and prays in the face of a "gigantic whirlpool of icy black mud".

Her mission? To uncover the secrets of the ages before the earth is destroyed. If she can survive.

### The Characters

The former **Major John Spencer Larivière** and his wife, **Victoire Augagneu**, have both retired from French Intelligence to form their own strategic-and criminal-analysis firm, Fermatown. *And why they did, I'll never understand as they seem to be clueless in the field.* Their former agency, that claims to value them, gives them grunt work and rarely pays them. Each has a horrible past which Besson either over- or underplays. *Hey, at least Besson is consistent.* **Caresse** is Victoire's cat. **Luc Masseron** is the third partner in Fermantown; he's bisexual and supposedly a tech geek with unconventional ideas. As part of their intelligence-gathering, they have a left-wing blog, **future-probe.com**. *I really liked this idea. Very fresh and original.* John is also **Florent de la Salle**, the editorial director while **Luc "Martinent"** is a freelance reporter for it. **Marc Racine** is the fake name Luc uses to impersonate a doctor. **Alicia Spenser** is the artist aunt who died and left John this amazing house.

### French Intelligence

**Hubert de Méricourt** is the director at Les Invalides. **Deputy Director François Guerot** is in charge of security clearance investigations as well as John's handler. **Thomas Curvien** is the driver who picks up Victoire. **Sébastien Le Gall** is a former colleague of Victoire's as well as an experienced analyst and energy expert.

### Terre-Noire

**Terre-Noire** is a Franco-Danish oil-and-gas company, one of a few of the major companies left. **Nicolas Lanier** is the executive chairman who is hiding out. **Christophe Maunay** is the Human Resources manager caught up in scandal; **Claudine Després** answers the phones. **Paul Gessar/Gressin** is the scientific director

for the Arctic and one of Brissac's former students.

**Gaia** is a geological assets software program that knows where all the oil, gas, and minerals are located. *How and why would Isabelle know so much about it? What's the reason for the relationships she has?*

*The Bouc-Bel-Air, a scientific research vessel*

**Loïc Le Guévenec** is the captain of the ship, a man who lives for the sea and not his over-sexed wife, **Isabelle**, who seems to be sleeping with everyone but her husband. **Rox Oa** is the traitorous Spanish boatswain, who comes aboard as a last-minute replacement. **Sylvain Velot** replaces **Hu Yuanyuan**. **Romain Brissac**, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist and renowned climatologist, is Isabelle's primary lover. A mission biologist doubles as a doctor.

*North Land*

**North Land**, a Canadian-American company, is Terre-Noire's chief competition. **Abraham and Geraldine Harper** run the company and hire John to bodyguard their daughter, **Mary**. She's a right handful, and John doesn't actually do much to guard her. **Harold** is their never-seen son. **Arvid Moller** is their scientific director in Greenland. **Qaalasoq** is a trusted Inuit of the Wild Dog clan. **Sakaeunngueq**, aka Saké, is a friend of Qaalasoq's and has a couple of sled dog teams. **Navaran** is his wife.

*The Northern Peoples Congress*

A Valkyrie and lawyer for the Congress, **Connie Rasmussen** is great friends with Laura and strident in defense of the killer polar bears. **Laura Al-lee-Ah** is a world renowned artist of bears and president of the Congress.

**Thor Johannsen** is director of Arctoil, a Norwegian North Sea oil company.

**Dr. Patrick** has been treating John for his grafts. **Aimé Toussaint** is a lifeguard at the Club Interrallié where **Gabriel** is a bartender. **Omar Al Selim** is the rich Qatar businessman who bailed Maunay out. **Per Sorenson** is a Danish assassin while **Lars Jensen** is another assassin-for-hire, willing to perform the most heinous acts. **Hanne Jorth** is head of Danish Defense Intelligence Security.

The **tupliaq** is a charm made of dead human and animal parts.

**The Cover**

The cover is a collage reflecting important concepts in the story: the Eiffel Tower, of course, represents French interests while the iceberg calving off the cliff face represents Greenland, and the lines for longitude and latitude at the top of a flattened global map represents the North Pole, the source of the waters that will flood the world.

The title is much too accurate, for it is *The Greenland Breach* that starts this disaster.

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**Richard Derus says**

Rating: 3.75\* of five

#ReadingIsResistance to climate change denial and to bisexual invisibility. My review of this 3+ star French cli-fic thriller apparently disappeared, thanks Henry Avila for liking the blank page to bring it to my attention!

It's an exciting book, and it will keep your attention riveted. Besson makes the rare and welcome decision to include a bisexual man as the sexpot of the projected series. Luc is a major player and I couldn't be more amazed that this fact alone hasn't garnered the books more attention. It deserves yours.

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### **Dianne says**

Quite fun to read a book set in the Anthropocene. What is the year? It doesn't say. It could be a few short years from now. Exciting to me were the descriptions of what will (?) happen in Greenland due to Global Warming. Interesting that the author describes some deniers. However, it was hard for me to follow all the threads of intrigue. In my opinion, it is also not well written. That said, I enjoyed it.

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### **Maria says**

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley as a part of a book tour in exchange for a fair and honest review. I rated it 4 out of 5.

Focusing on events leading to the end of the world as we know it, Bernard Besson's *The Greenland Breach* is a well written corporate/political espionage thriller. Told from multiple points of view, and taking place in multiple settings, Mr. Besson's characters are well developed and engaging. Good dialogue and an interesting mystery kept me turning the pages to discover what was going to happen next.

When partners and lovers, John Spencer Larivière and Victoire Augagneur, are offered a large sum of money for a "freelance job" by the CEO of Northland, an oil and gas company, they can't agree on whether or not they should take the job. While John stresses the need their small consulting firm, Fermatown, has for both cash and clients, Victoire suspects their job may involve more than just "babysitting" the CEO's daughter. After accepting the job, they are then asked to "obtain" information on what Northland's rival, French company Terre Noire, has aboard their ship, the Bouc-Bel-Air. Soon John, Victoire and Luc, Fermatown's computer specialist, find themselves in the middle of a global conspiracy while the world's shifting climate begins to tear everything apart.

While slowly paced through the opening chapters, Mr. Besson's story picks up the pace as the events taking place in both Greenland and the rest of the world heat up. John, Victoire and Luc soon find themselves neck deep in danger, with John facing the most danger when he heads to Greenland to try to get to the truth. While a silent villain, it's clear that corporate greed, man's lack of concern over the environment, and progress itself have brought everything to a cataclysmic point.

Will John be able to outsmart and outmaneuver the agents hired by their competition? Will Victoire and Luc be able to provide John with backup when he needs it? And what will happen to us all when two rival companies are determined to decide the world's fate based on what they discover in the deepest ice from Greenland? You'll have to read *The Greenland Breach* to find out. I enjoyed it and look forward to reading more of Mr. Besson's work.

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### **Kimberly says**

I know I seem to review a lot of romance on the blog but back in the day when I was like 14-17 I was a huge

action adventure/thriller fan so when I saw the summary for this book included a blurb from an author saying the story telling was reminiscent of Clive Cussler (one of my favourite authors) and Michael Crichton (another author I enjoy). I knew that this book was one I had to read.

The Greenland Breach was a heart pounding adrenaline filled thriller that I hated having to put down to you know eat and sleep. Right away, I felt myself being sucked into the story line. There was so much going on in the story that at first I was worried about the author being able to tie everything together, but those worries were proved unfounded because by the time I reached the end of the book I though things wrapped up just nicely. I loved how even the smaller plot twists added to the overall flow of the story in a grand way.

I thought the characters were all unique and I just loved all their little quirks and how they added flare to the novel and I enjoyed that they all had a sense of humour because I hate when a book doesn't have any laughs and in a thriller like The Greenland Breach it is really needed. I also enjoyed the way that the author told the story. It was detailed when it needed to be without being mind numbingly so and I appreciated that the author knew when to reign that aspect in. I also enjoyed the pacing of the novel because it damn near took my breath away with all the action but like the seriousness of it was balanced out by humour the action was also followed by some nice lulls where the plot was explained more.

Overall, I loved the Greenland Breach. It really did remind me of a Clive Cussler novel but it didn't come across as being a rip-off of his works either. Bernard Besson is definitely a writer that has his own unique voice and I can't wait to read another of his books.

I would recommend this book to fans of Clive Cussler, Michael Crichton and overall fans of thrillers that have a lot of action, adventure and laughs to balance of the seriousness of the story.

**\*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my free and honest review. All thoughts and opinions expressed herein are 100% my own.**

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## Clare O'Beara says

Bernard Besson was a high-ranked intelligence chief in France. There's industrial espionage and hired killers in this thriller, but first of all, there's the spectacle of the ice sheet covering one of the world's largest islands splitting apart and sliding into the Baffin Bay waters.

A ship laden with deep ice cores has just left, while an assassin crouches in snow to murder researchers and the world holds its breath. Tsunamis and icebergs smash down the coast of Canada, heading for New York. The focal characters however live in Paris, where a lot of the action occurs. A small private investigation agency is hired to find out about gas reserves in Greenland which two competing firms would like to exploit. Victoire monitors a Franco-Danish oil company from the office and Luc heads off to a protest rally at Le Havre. John, a former soldier, is asked to protect a student daughter of the oil firm's owners. Her mother calmly hands him a phone which will spy on the girl's conversations. Then there is just the small matter of the student's missing father, last seen in Greenland....

As various agencies and surveillance teams counter one another, the private investigators realise that they are themselves in danger. Global interests crowd in and everyone is lying. The inhabitants of Greenland have been nouveau riches, but what will this new disaster mean, with methane rising from permafrost and seabed sediment?

Predictably many of the women sleep with anything in trousers, despite the fact that their husband is injured

on board a ship, say. There's also an entirely gratuitous and not very good sex scene at the start. It's a French James Bond, what do you expect? Some of the details emerging, like a person suddenly being connected to neo-fascists, seem unnecessary and over-complicated. However there are lots of little touches to aid a feeling of authenticity. Point of view jumps rapidly making the narrative complex to follow, and causing repetition, while it feels forced that everyone including the French intelligence service wants to pay the same investigators. Gruesome deaths, polar bears, sliding glaciers and the stench of escaping methane make **THE GREENLAND BREACH** by Bernard Besson and translated by Julie Rose, a thriller you won't easily forget.

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### **T.B. Markinson says**

This is the type of book that's hard for me to put down. Right from the start there's action. Lots of characters, plot twists, subplots, and I couldn't wait to see what happened next. Then I sat down to write this review and I started to think, wow so much happened I don't know what to say about the novel since I would hate to give something away. I'm not a fan of spoilers.

It was hard for me to determine the good guys from the bad ones. Sometimes that can be irritating. However, in this case, it was perfect. Spy thrillers should be thrilling. If you know what's going to happen and who to trust, why read it? The anticipation and dread are half the fun.

I liked the pacing of this novel and the multiple points of view. Before reading this novel I hadn't heard of the author. I'm hoping more of his works are available in English. If you're in the mood for a fast-paced spy thriller, I recommend giving this a go.

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### **Cathy Cole says**

I have to admit that the main reason why I chose to read this book is that I'm quite the armchair traveler, and I had yet to read a book set in Greenland. I also like to read thrillers with environmental elements to them. Unfortunately, once I'd finished reading *The Greenland Breach*, I felt the synopsis was the best part of the book.

The two strong elements in the book were its depiction of Greenland and two of the main characters. With the melting of the ice caps, Greenland is seen as a land that's literally coming apart at the seams, and this definitely ratchets up the adrenaline and the suspense. Besson has also created some fascinating characters--especially Victoire, who has a scene in which she has to escape a killer that's one of the very best in the entire book. The second character that really caught my imagination was Le Guévenec, the ship's captain in Greenland responsible for those all-important ice samples that were to prove so much.

Where the book fell apart for me was in the plot itself. The samples taken from deep within the earth in Greenland that were so important that everyone was willing to kill for them were like carrots to lure the readers into turning the pages. I never did learn what sort of information they held. The story was very slow-moving at first, and when it began to pick up steam, it unraveled into so many confusing fragments that I had a difficult time keeping them straight.

The three partners in Fermatown placed so much confidence in their high tech gadgets that I had to laugh. I'm no computer whiz, but even I could tell they were using too many things that were easily traceable. Larivière was the focus for the majority of the violence in the book, including a truly horrible scene where he

is detained in an airport in Greenland. The third member of the Fermatown team, Luc, was supposed to be a computer genius, but he spent much of his time adding unnecessary sex scenes to the book.

Even though I liked the book's setting and two of its characters, it was just not enough. The Greenland Breach was most definitely not my cup of tea.

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### **Alyssa says**

Oh my.

(Or maybe I should say 'Ooh, la la', since this is a book by a Frenchman? No. Too cliché, I think.)

THE GREENLAND BREACH is the latest thriller out from digital-first publisher Le French Book, and it's a doozy. The world is gripped in dramatic climate change as the Arctic ice caps are breaking up, threatening Europe and the East coast of the United States and Canada with a tidal wave that will drown their cities. Greenland is splitting apart, the ice is melting, and an environmental catastrophe is the catalyst for international rivalries and espionage as geological research firms and scientists barter and bicker with governments and economic development corporations.

We start in on the action immediately with a gruesome murder, and a ship, the French vessel belonging to Terre Noire desperately trying to escape destruction during a massive tsunami. The damaged ship is a linchpin in the narrative, and its claustrophobic and dangerous atmosphere kept me holding my breath with each plot twist.

When we meet John Spencer Larivière, the head of a small spy organization called Fermatown and a former French intelligence officer, we're already wondering what he'll be thrown into, given the state of the world. He accepts a contract to look after the headstrong daughter of a Canadian-based corporation, North Land, and ends up in Greenland, his organization embroiled in a double-crossing game of espionage where nothing is certain.

By halfway through the book, I was utterly enthralled, and I read as fast as I was able, anxious to follow the twists and turns of the plot, and figure out just who was behind the chaos and destruction. The ending did not disappoint (and that's all I'm going to say about that, because I would hate to inadvertently spoil the book for someone!)

I wasn't familiar with Bernard Besson prior to reading THE GREENLAND BREACH, but now that I have, I'm going to be crossing my fingers and looking for translations of his other work. And if there aren't any, then I know I'll be writing to Le French Book to beg them to translate another!

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### **Eileen says**

The Greenland Breach by Bernard Besson

Translated by Julie Rose

Rating \*\*\*\*\* 5/5

A powerful, fast paced superbly written eco-thriller which will thoroughly entertain.

A powerful, fast actioned thriller, The Greenland Breach just pulled me in. I couldn't put it down. Although written in French and partly based in France the novel translated superbly into English.

This is a political eco-thriller incorporating the greed of conglomerates and those abusing their power. The ice caps of Greenland are breaking up and will cause havoc in Northern Europe, Canada and the USA. However, the despair and destruction of many peoples' lives and livelihoods not to mention the ongoing damage to the Earth is of little consequence to those who are only interested in money.

Enter the Fermatown Team, consisting of John Spencer Larivière; an ex French Intelligence Officer, Victoire his wife and Luc, the whiz kid on Computers and Technology. John had received injuries whilst in active service but remains a very strong athletic force. Victoire has a past which threatens to overtake her and Luc, the bisexual with such an adorable character. They are pitted against all sides but who is telling the truth.

Besson has incorporated a wide variety of characters into a well thought out plot or should I say plots. The Greenland Breach never lets up, it is just a page turner of a high standard. I won't give any spoilers but the distress of Captain Loïc Le Guévenec of the Bouc-Bel-Air and the resourcefulness of his wife Isabelle add to intrigue. Although Luc gave a completely different aspect to the plot, especially when he went undercover; a super-fit sexual athlete, my favourite characters were John, who can forget his trials and tribulations going through customs, and the all knowing Qualasq.

The scenes when John was fighting for his life in the cold wilderness of Greenland will stay with me as will the depicted ecological disaster that awaits us. Monsieur Besson looks to have led an extremely interesting life and this is reflected in The Greenland Breach. An author to look out for.

I was given a copy of The Greenland Breach for an honest review, which I have done. Thanks.

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## **Oliviaolivia says**

\*I received this book for free from a Goodreads giveaway\*

Being someone who is not typically a fan of crime/thriller novels, I enjoyed this book quite a bit more than I thought I would. Positives: good length for the story told, multiple view points, beautiful settings, and flawed and unique characters. Negatives: somewhat difficult to understand (it is a French translated book), and maybe too many things going on at one time.

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## **Mark Combs says**

The Greenland Breach by Bernard Besson paints a vivid picture of a world in the grips of a global warming catastrophe, including Arctic ice caps breaking up and falling into the ocean, and a tidal wave hitting the East Coast of the United States. Throw in some international corporate espionage, a sinking research ship, and what you have is a well-paced spy thriller.

Lovers and business partners John Spencer Larivière and Victoire Augagneur own Fermatown, a strategic consulting company. Fermatown is hired for a freelance assignment protecting the daughter of the head of North Land, an oil and gas company. What at first appears to be an easy, well-paying assignment turns out to be anything but easy. John, Victoire, and Luc, Fermatown's computer specialist, find themselves in the midst of an international conspiracy, and in great danger.

What I liked most about this book was the description of the physical changes to Greenland as the book progressed. Greenland was quite literally breaking apart and falling into the ocean. Regardless of one's views on global warming, Besson's description of one possible scenario, Greenland coming apart at an ever-increasing rate and the subsequent impact on other parts of the planet, was both thought-provoking and frightening.

I also liked the pace of the novel. The story was told from multiple character viewpoints, with ever-changing settings, both of which kept the story moving along. While the story did not move at a breakneck pace until the very end, there was sufficient action and intrigue throughout the novel to keep me interested and engaged.

The one thing that I found lacking in this book was character development. John, the book's main protagonist, could have been taken from just about any spy book. He was troubled and conflicted, and had a hard time trusting others. Victoire, John's lover and business partner, showed concern for John, but beyond that, she had a very mechanical persona.

The character that Besson best developed and that I found most interesting was the cuckolded captain of the Bouc-Bel-Air, Loïc Le Guévenec. A decent man, he spends his time worrying about his crippled ship, the safety of his men, the company he works for, and his unfaithful wife.

Bottom line: The Greenland Breach is an exciting, well-written spy thriller. Though it lacks character development, the story will keep the reader guessing until the very end.

Reviewer's note: This novel, newly translated into English, was provided to me by the publisher for an honest review.

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## Monica says

Eco-terrorism, murder, corporate espionage, and politics all blend together in "Greenland Breach". Private investigators, John, Victorie, and Luc of Fermatown are contracted to do an investigation that is multi-layered and unclear.

While the story does get off to a slow start, the characters are entertaining and engaging. The concept has potential realistic scare to it. Once the narrative takes off, particularly in the second half, the mystery and action are quite gripping.

Overall, an interesting read.

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