



A Force of Nature

Dan McEwen

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Part ghost story, part treasure hunt, part romance, A Force of Nature is all entertainment!!

Do you believe in Fate? Would you recognize it if it was happening to you? Then you'll want to meet Toronto PR guru Claire Chandler. She grew up convinced greatness awaited her. Why else had she survived a series of bizarre childhood tragedies? Yet she doesn't see what's coming when she journeys north on a long weekend in August to Bay Harbour, a post-card pretty tourist town on the edge of Canada's popular Georgian Bay vacationlands. She thinks she's there to reconnect with a former mentor. But Chandler's chilling affinity for the “unnatural and unexplained”, a macabre “gift” that once made her a freak of nature to classmates, will make her a force of Nature. Shadowed by a ghostly white wolf and haunted by the victims of a long-dead killer, she'll discover a startling new ending to a fifty year-old mystery. She'll also discover romance with Tom Katz, an affable, treasure-hunting bush pilot with a reputation for living up to his name. They're an unlikely pair and Chandler thinks it's just a summer fling. Instead, a series of white-knuckle adventures will bring them to a time, a place and a choice that will forever link their lives.

A debut novel by a practised writer, A Force of Nature puts a “crisp, intelligent and engaging” spin on the mystery genre.

A Force of Nature Details

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Author : Dan McEwen

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From Reader Review A Force of Nature for online ebook

Susan says

pretty good book with an interesting story. thanks to goodreads for the copy!

Laurie says

While for me the book started out a little slow, after a bit I just relaxed into the story and found that I really enjoyed the journey. The solid mystery coupled with interesting characters and a mystical wolf that appeared only to select individuals at rare but important moments kept me enchanted and engrossed. I found the writing descriptive, and the words flowed with a wonderful rhythmic musicality that I really liked. I enjoyed reading this book.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Reviewed by Laurie-J

Dwayne Wojtowicz says

What does a treasure hunt, an unnatural and unexplained gift, and a romance have in common?

It's Dan McEwen's "A Force of Nature."

A very well scripted book with a plot that is plausible. Even the characters are very well developed.

Claire Chandler, a Toronto PR Guru, teams up with Tom Katz, a treasure hunting pilot. When they say "opposites attract," then that's Claire and Tom. It is Claire's special gift that helps them solve a mystery that's been haunting them and the Providence of Ontario.

The book isn't a fast read, you really need to concentrate on the story.

Amy (Lost in a Good Book) says

Note: I was provided with a copy of this book from the author for review.

There are many things to enjoy about McEwan's story. It is compelling without being over the top, it has mystery and romance, there are puzzles to solve and unexplained phenomena, all blended into a relatively normal series of events and narrative.

The narrative is well written, there is a great tone and voice that really suits this type of story. The pacing is

excellent, the gradual revealing of new information and clues you don't know are clues are part of its charm and makes for an entertaining read.

From a seemingly normal enough beginning it soon delves into a story about a possible curse, a horrific past, life in a dying coastal town, and mysteries beyond total comprehension. The 'ghost story' element is balanced well with the real and McEwan combines the two naturally and in a wonderful mystical way that makes it border on the realm of possibility.

The characters are interesting and don't take over control of the story with their own personal problems. They each share the space and manoeuvre around the greater narrative, not even always playing that great of a role, but existing around it. So often there are times in which the story could deviate but McEwan always keeps the main story on track, connecting everything to it rather than having side stories; a clever approach and one that works remarkably well.

For all the mystery and unexplained there is quite a strong believability about this. Relationships are real, connections feel genuine, even the strange occurrences have been explained and placed in such a way it is plausible within the realm of belief and who each character has been portrayed to be. Claire is the first mystery, surviving against the odds numerous times and having an unexplained gift. It is this gift that brings Claire to the coastal town, and during her stay it proves useful on more than one occasion.

One thing I did enjoy was how McEwan developed this story, gradually changing focus and making it appear to go in a few directions, telling everyone's story while never truly straying. Claire's terrible secret isn't the main focus like you think, certain characters don't take focus like you think they will; there are numerous moments that could have been a key factor but McEwan instead uses these as background to the main issue. In doing so this adds to the realism and believable nature, it is just life going on, albeit alongside a greater mystery and unnatural phenomenon.

With a story that combines the paranormal and reality it can be hard to make it seem real, however I think McEwan has done a wonderful job in mixing the two. Taking the spiritual approach rather than straight supernatural was a clever idea and one that makes the events of the story much stronger and powerful.

A longer version of this review was posted on my blog <https://lostinagoodbk.wordpress.com/2...>

Shawn says

Claire Chandler, upon seeing a sign (she sees many so acting upon them is not unusual) she contacts a former boss to reconnect and confess a long-held secret. Iris, said boss, is just coming home from her third heart attack and feels nostalgia upon hearing the old coworker, so she invites Claire to come visit. Because of the omen and her pressing guilt, Clair agrees. Claire's visions and omens bring to the forefront some new pieces in a decades old serial murder case.

I really enjoyed the book. I think most of what Clair senses and the things that happen around her could be coincidence as much as they are supernatural, and there are some aspects of the supernatural, but not a lot. You can leave this story and treat it as a series of coincidences or as supernatural powers, no viewpoint is really pushed upon the reader.

There is a tendency in the author to switch between first and last names that made some scenes feel a little

awkward and impersonal and the fact that Claire's high end mountain bike had a kickstand on it drove me insane, but I won't go on the cyclist rant, I promised myself I wouldn't. On the other hand, the licensed bushplane mechanic from the Sault that is mentioned off-handedly and only by reputation, well, I know him, so I forgive all the rest.

Diane Hernandez says

This was a good paranormal romantic mystery. Maybe it's because I have read so many mysteries, but this one seemed rather easy to figure out. However, I loved the characters in the book--each had their own voice, motivations and quirks. The paranormal part was good too just enough to keep it interesting without becoming silly. I truly loved the ending.

I received this book from a Goodreads giveaway but that has not impacted my review.
