



The Snow Child: A Novel

By Eowyn Ivey

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Alaska, 1920: a brutal place to homestead, and especially tough for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel. Childless, they are drifting apart--he breaking under the weight of the work of the farm; she crumbling from loneliness and despair. In a moment of levity during the season's first snowfall, they build a child out of snow. The next morning the snow child is gone--but they glimpse a young, blonde-haired girl running through the trees.

This little girl, who calls herself Faina, seems to be a child of the woods. She hunts with a red fox at her side, skims lightly across the snow, and somehow survives alone in the Alaskan wilderness. As Jack and Mabel struggle to understand this child who could have stepped from the pages of a fairy tale, they come to love her as their own daughter. But in this beautiful, violent place things are rarely as they appear, and what they eventually learn about Faina will transform all of them.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, February 2012: In her haunting, evocative debut Eowyn Ivey stakes her claim on a Russian fairy tale, daring the reader--and the characters--to be lulled into thinking they know the ending. But, as with the Alaskan wilderness, there's far more here than meets the eye. On the surface it's the story of a childless pioneer couple running from their East Coast lives and struggling to survive in the harshest of climates while also attempting to reconnect with each other; but it's also the story of the spring of hope that bubbles out of new friendships, of the slow realization of love for a surrogate child, of the ties between man and nature. Ivey spares no words in describing the beauty and the danger of her native Alaska, bringing the sheer magnitude of the wilderness alive on every page. With the transparent prose of a fairy tale and descriptions to put nature writing to shame, *The Snow Child* immerses readers in a 1920s Alaska that will draw them back again and again. -- *Malissa Kent*

Review

"Ivey's prose is beautiful and precise...Magical...As real and mysterious as winter's first snowflake."? **Buzzy Jackson, *Boston Globe***

"The real magic of *The Snow Child* is that it's never as simple as it seems, never moves exactly in the direction you think it must...Sad as the story often is, with its haunting fairy-tale ending, what I remember best are the scenes of unabashed joy."? **Ron Charles, *Washington Post***

"Full of wonder, longing, hope, pain, and beauty...*The Snow Child* will keep you frozen in its spell until the very last word."? **Sarah Willis, *Cleveland Plain Dealer***

"Ivey sets up the two most powerful forces in any story: fear on the one hand, potential for the miraculous on the other."? **Susan Salter Reynolds, *Newsday***

"A magical yet brutally realistic tale."? **Karen Holt, *O, the Oprah Magazine***

"Bewitching."? **Meganne Fabrega, *Minneapolis Star Tribune***

"Captivating."? **San Francisco Chronicle**

"Spellbinding."? **Gill Hudson, *Reader's Digest***

"If Willa Cather and Gabriel Garcia Marquez had collaborated on a book, THE SNOW CHILD would be it. It is a remarkable accomplishment -- a combination of the most delicate, ethereal, fairytale magic and the harsh realities of homesteading in the Alaskan wilderness in 1918. Stunningly conceived, beautifully told, this story has the intricate fragility of a snowflake and the natural honesty of the dirt beneath your feet, the unnerving reality of a dream in the night. It fascinates, it touches the heart. It gallops along even as it takes time to pause at the wonder of life and the world in which we live. And it will stir you up and stay with you for a long, long time."? **Robert Goolrick, *New York Times bestselling author of A Reliable Wife***

"THE SNOW CHILD is enchanting from beginning to end. Ivey breathes life into an old tale and makes it as fresh as the season's first snow. Simply lovely."? **Keith Donohue, *New York Times bestselling author of The Stolen Child***

"A transporting tale . . . an amazing achievement." *?Sena Jeter Naslund, New York Times bestselling author of Ahab's Wife*

"THE SNOW CHILD is a vivid story of isolation and hope on the Alaska frontier, a narrative of struggle with the elements and the elemental conflict between one's inner demons and dreams, and the miracle of human connection and community in a spectacular, dangerous world. You will not soon forget this story of learning to accept the gifts that fate and love can bring." *?Robert Morgan, author of Gap Creek*

"Eowyn Ivey's exquisite debut transports the reader away to a world almost out of time, into a fairytale destined to both chill and delight. Her portrayal of an untamed Alaska is so detailed you can feel the snowflakes on your own eyelashes, even as her characters' desperate quest for, and ultimate redemption by, love will warm your heart." *?Melanie Benjamin, author of Alice I Have Been*

"Magical, yes, but THE SNOW CHILD is also satisfyingly realistic in its depiction of 1920s homestead-era Alaska and the people who settled there, including an older couple bound together by resilient love. Eowyn Ivey's poignant debut novel grabbed me from the very first pages and made me wish we had more genre-defying Alaska novels like this one. Inspired by a fairy tale, it nonetheless contains more depth and truth than so many books set in this land of extremes." *?Andromeda Romano-Lax, author of The Spanish Bow*

"This book is real magic, shot through from cover to cover with the cold, wild beauty of the Alaskan frontier. Eowyn Ivey writes with all the captivating delicacy of the snowfalls she so beautifully describes." *?Ali Shaw, author of The Girl with Glass Feet*

About the Author

Eowyn LeMay Ivey was raised in Alaska and continues to live there with her husband and two daughters. She received her BA in journalism and minor in creative writing through the honors program at Western Washington University, studied creative nonfiction at the University of Alaska Anchorage graduate program, and worked for nearly 10 years as an award-winning reporter at the Frontiersman newspaper. This is her first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Sims:

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Martha Howell:

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