



Blackhearts

By Nicole Castroman



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In this stunningly creative debut, Nicole Castroman reimagines the origins of history's most infamous pirate--Blackbeard--and tells the story of the girl who captured his heart and ultimately set him on his path of destruction.

When Edward "Teach" Drummond, son of one of Bristol's richest merchants, returns home from a year at sea, he finds his life in shambles. Betrothed to a girl he doesn't love and sick of the high society he was born into, all Teach wants is to return to the vast ocean he calls home. There's just one problem: he must convince his father to let him leave and never come back.

Following the death of her parents, Anne Barrett is left penniless. Though she's barely worked a day in her life, Anne takes a job as a maid in the home of Master Drummond. Lonely days stretch into weeks and Anne longs to escape the confines of her now mundane life. How will she ever achieve her dream of sailing to Curaçao--her mother's birthplace--when she's trapped in England?

From the moment Teach and Anne meet, they set the world ablaze. Drawn together by a shared desire for freedom, but kept apart by Teach's father, their love is as passionate as it is forbidden. Faced with an impossible choice, Teach and Anne must decide whether to chase their dreams and leave England forever--or follow their hearts and stay together.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—After spending a year out at sea, "Teach" Drummond begrudgingly returns to the world of late 17th-century British high society that he was born into. He is desperate to return to the ocean and live the life he's always dreamt of. Not that long before his arrival, Anne, a teenage orphan, comes to the Drummond estate to work as a maid to save enough money to sail back to the West Indies, the birthplace of her mother. After a few "meet cute" moments, they fall madly for each other. When they are met with disapproval from the Drummonds and society in general (Anne is biracial, and interracial relationships were not accepted at the time), they desperately struggle to find a way out of their surroundings and hopefully make both of their dreams come true. This historical fiction story of the love between the man who will become Blackbeard and the girl of his dreams relies heavily on the romance elements to sustain it. Even though this takes place in the 1690s, there are very few historical aspects included. Teach comes off as a generic romantic lead and shows little of the qualities that will eventually make him one of the most feared pirates of that time. The book is left open-ended, with room for an eventual sequel. VERDICT For teen collections with a heavy romance readership; not an essential purchase for most.—Christopher Lassen, BookOps: New York Public Library & Brooklyn Public Library

Review

"Filled with well-drawn and morally complex characters, a rich frame, and smoldering passion, this first novel will hit the mark with readers of historical fiction who want strong heroines and unexplored plots to ponder." (? Heather Booth *Booklist*)

About the Author

Nicole Castroman received her BA from Brigham Young University and has lived in Germany, Austria, and two different places called Georgia. One is the country near the Black Sea; the other is the state of Georgia where she currently lives with her husband and children. She is the author of *Blackhearts* and *Blacksouls*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Tandy:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled *Blackhearts*. Try to make the book *Blackhearts* as your friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Robert Young:

The book *Blackhearts* will bring you to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to read, this book very ideal to you. The book *Blackhearts* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web

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Billy Anderson:

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