

FAIRBANKS in POPULAR FICTION

Evanovich, Janet, **Manhunt**, 1989. Loveswept Romance.

Eastern urbanite trades homes with grizzly Fairbanksan, intending both to take over his catch-all store and find herself a man. Success is not without misadventure. It's a thoroughly enjoyable hoot all the way through. We've passed a couple of personal copies around the staff here in Fairbanks and the old-timers say Evanovich paints a good picture of Fairbanks in the late '80's. One of our staff e-mailed Evanovich about the book, and we learned that her husband was a visiting professor at UAF and that their daughter (the one who maintains her web page) actually came back here to attend UAF.

Ferber, Edna, **Ice Palace**, 1958.

I don't often read straight fiction about Alaska, other than Edna Ferber's old war horse, (which did, in fact, give a sense, a feel for life here in the 60s). It's not like that much any more, though. (Marie Lundstrom, Dimond High School, Anchorage) Novel about a young girl raised by two grandfathers of strongly opposing views in the mythical city of Baranof, Alaska. (*Alaskana for Libraries: A Core List of Books*, 1993)

Henry, Sue, **Murder on the Yukon Quest**, 1999.

Dog musher Jessie Arnold faces more than the challenges of the trail while competing in the thousand mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race when a fellow musher is kidnapped, a dog handler is murdered, and Jessie finds she must deliver the ransom, pursue her diabolical captors, and rescue the victim. The world of professional distance sled dog racing is rendered in great detail. Many scenes are evocative of the Upper Yukon valley where the story takes place. Some of the details are not quite accurate, but for the most part are convincing. (Jean Trainor, Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library)

Lindholm, Megan, **Cloven Hooves**, 1991.

Lindholm grew up in Fairbanks, as does the protagonist. It's a little strange having a fantasy set in your own back yard! (Sharron Albert, SF/Fantasy Book Group, Noel Wien Public Library, Fairbanks) The protagonist is an independent-minded, tomboyish woman with a young son and an ailing marriage. After a long period of fruitlessly striving to make her life work, she walks away from civilization to mate with, and bear a child to, a satyr, a half-goat, half-man creature. Despite its wildly implausible biological assumptions, Lindholm's tale is oddly convincing and genuinely moving. (Eric S. Raymond, *Raymond's Reviews #171*)

Macomber, Debbie **That Wintry Feeling**, 1984. A Silhouette Romance.

Teacher Cathy Thompson moves to Alaska to help forget a painful past. Alaskan bush pilot, Grady Jones, is finding it difficult to raise his daughter alone. Can a marriage of convenience become a marriage of love? Fairbanks setting quite well drawn.

Parry, Richard, **Ice Warrior**, 1991.

An espionage-thriller a la Tom Clancy. (Eric Heyne, UAF English Department) In 1983, Fairbanks plastic surgeon Rick Benson must draw on the skills that made him a highly effective commando in Vietnam if he is to track down and rescue his eight-year-old daughter from the Russians and Vietnamese who have kidnapped her for the map her double-agent Vietnamese mother tattooed on her head. Wrapped around the Iditarod, the story ranges from Fairbanks to Anchorage and then along the Iditarod trail. Key secondary characters include a rookie musher, a Yup'ik shaman, and a New Yorker who is looking for her first real break into the elite world of true journalism by writing about women mushers – but this is Rick Benson's story all the way. Parry

was a practicing plastic surgeon in Fairbanks when he wrote this book and his character's life as a surgeon, bachelor father, and Fairbanksan ring true.

Parry, Richard, **Wolf's Cub**, 1997.

Parry puts new spin on Fairbanks' earliest days. **The Wolf 's Cub**, the second of a historical fiction trilogy by Dr. Richard Parry, puts an interesting spin on the Barnette story. Parry places Nathan Blaylock, the illegitimate son of Wyatt Earp, in the hills north of Fairbanks, where he and his partner—Jim Riley--witness the *Lavelle Young* trying to maneuver up the Chena. Barnette hires the duo to supply his new camp with meat. Nathan, however, finds it is he who is hunted. Isabelle Barnette, resentful of her husband's inattention, settles on Nathan as a love interest. It seems that E.T. was not the swashbuckling woodsman she imagined while reading James Fenimore Cooper's "Leatherstocking Tales." Barnette suspects Blaylock of taking liberties with his wife, but worries more about the gunman's knowledge of his shady past. How might this affect his investors? These books are great fun. Nathan and Riley--both fictional characters--have a habit of running into real historical figures. They cross paths with Jack London, Soapy Smith, Sam Steele, Bishop Rowe and Judge Noyes and the spoilers in Nome. Blaylock, who was raised in an orphanage in Denver, came to Alaska to hunt down his famous father. Before his mother's death, she placed \$20,000 in a bank account for Nathan under one condition: he won't get a dime until he murders his father. Blaylock and Earp meet in Parry's first book, **The Winter Wolf**. In Alaska, Blaylock finds a home. This Alaskan Western reminds me of the witty dialogue and great characters of "Lonesome Dove." (extracted from a review by Debbie Carter in the *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*)

Pollen, Michael, **Through the Eye of the Glacier**, 1999.

One thousand B.C. In the receding ice age of the vast Tanana River Valley of interior Alaska, mammoth hunters encounter a mysterious and beautiful treasure. Rediscovered deep within a glacier during the heyday of Trans-Alaska Pipeline construction two Athabaskan students from the University of Alaska share an adventure of scientific and cultural discovery in the midst of stunning ethereal beauty of Alaska. (amazon.com book description) As a scientist at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, I am struck by the clever combination of science and plausible science fiction, and am impressed with the sensitivity and obvious love for Alaska and its Native people that pours through the pages. (Glenn E. Shaw, Professor of Physics, UAF) (first recommended by Barbara Sokolov, University of Alaska Anchorage, retired)

Simmons, Diane, **Let the Bastards Freeze in the Dark: a Novel**, 1980.

Hijackers take over the Fairbanks power plant in the dead of winter, holding the entire community hostage with the threat of death by cold. Author formerly worked for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. (Sue Sherif, Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library)

Titles suggested by other than the compiler are so credited, as are other's annotations
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