



Sunset Bay Sanctuary

Roxanne Snopek

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The spectacular scenery and craggy beaches draw tourists to the small Oregon town of Sunset Bay. But Sanctuary Ranch offers a different kind of experience: a refuge for people--and animals--desperate for a new beginning . . .

Haylee Hansen has made a career out of caring for and training the dogs and horses on her aunt's ranch. Part halfway house, part work camp, it also gives troubled kids and adults the tough love they so desperately need. Haylee should know. She was her aunt's first success story. But now her turbulent past is about to show up on her doorstep . . .

After thirteen years running a level one emergency room in Portland, Aiden McCall arrives in Sunset Bay a broken man. Anger and anxiety have nearly taken over his life--and could sabotage his new job at the local hospital. Until someone proposes an unconventional solution: a therapy dog.

Haylee has seen her share of damaged people, but no one like Aiden. As she tries to match him with the perfect dog, he'll help her to see that no one has a perfect life. And that opening yourself up to love is the only way to heal your soul . . .

Sunset Bay Sanctuary Details

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From Reader Review Sunset Bay Sanctuary for online ebook

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

4.5 stars

Sunset Bay Sanctuary was not what I expected. I thought it was going to be a romance with people who were broken or damaged, healing themselves, and falling in love. It's that and so much more. I read the blurb several times. Nowhere in the blurb did I get a sense that this was going to be a story that would almost bring me to tears. A story that would have me hating, yes, hating the characters. Sunset Bay Sanctuary is a story full of love, friendship, family, and angst. I can't forget about the dogs. They are characters as well, and at times really steal the scene.

Haylee Hansen has lived a tough life. She lost her mother at the age of thirteen and then only two years later lost her father and brother on the same day. She ended up moving cross country to stay with her aunt Olivia who she barely knew. Through many trials and heartache, the two became close and ultimately started Sanctuary Ranch. The place is a combination of a working dude ranch, foster home, and animal rescue. All those working and/or living at the ranch have deep scars and troubled pasts. However, they are family to the core.

Aiden McCall has lived through a nightmare. One that for the past four years he keeps reliving nightly. Once at the top of his field in emergency medicine, he now finds himself temporarily in the small town of Sunset Bay, Oregon at Sunset Bay Memorial, a low-level hospital.

Haylee and Aiden are thrust together when it is suggested that Aiden get a therapy dog to help with his anxiety. What should only be a professional relationship turns personal when desire is awakened in them both. Haylee insists that because of their issues, she and Aiden would never work. But Aiden sees that she's scared and is very persistent.

I have to admit that there is A LOT going on with Sunset Bay Sanctuary. I initially found the large number of characters, almost introduced at once, daunting to keep up with. Haylee's past threw me for a loop. A discovery by Aiden had me screaming and turning on the waterworks. The climax of this story had me happy for Haylee and Aiden and glad that I stuck with the story. However, I was left with some unanswered questions. As I mentioned, there is a large cast of characters and I'm looking forward to getting more of their individual backgrounds in future stories. I really hope a certain knitting cowboy gets a story.

Received a copy from the author and reviewed voluntarily.

Sandy says

This book had a lot of my favorite things; a ranch, the Pacific coast, rescue dogs, and more. I loved the characters and how all of their backgrounds had things that brought them to the ranch to heal. The characters all had a way of bonding and coming together for one another. Just enough romance! Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for the ARC.

ShinyObject says

I received a copy of *Sunset Bay Sanctuary* by Roxanne Snopek from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I enjoyed reading this novel. The characters were flawed, but likable; and their problems/challenges seemed relatable (as did their reactions). This was a quick read of the best type.

Nicola says

I'm no stranger to Roxanne Snopek's work—her *Three River Ranch* series is one of my favourites of all time—and *Sunset Bay Sanctuary* definitely had a similar vibe for me, with a strong message that DNA isn't a necessary requirement to call people family. And once I'd wrapped my head around the who's who of characters—because we do have a few, human and hound—it was an enjoyable, promising start to the series.

We're called Sanctuary Ranch for a reason."

Harbouring painful pasts, both dog whisperer, Haylee and ER doc, Aiden have focused on their careers as a coping mechanism and, fittingly, the romance is slower burn, with it almost playing second fiddle to getting to know all the characters the first half. Because this isn't just Haylee and Aiden's journey—granted they're at the very centre—but they're surrounded by a cast of secondary characters who are integral and each have their own stories to tell. And whilst the narrative shifting between the characters did initially take some getting used to, as things began to fall into place and Aiden and Haylee give into their growing feelings, we're brought everything from tenderness to frustration, and moments to make you smile.

Maybe I'm planning to compromise your virtue. The two of us, alone, at night, in a barn."

I loved Aidan: from his ability to take charge in difficult situations to his gentler side and determination in fighting the inner torment of his past, he was lovely, but I can't deny there were times when I struggled with Haylee because irrespective of how amazing she is with animals, when it comes to humans she can be thoughtless and harder-hearted. However she has her reasons for protecting herself and as the story develops and Aiden works his way through her steel reinforced exterior, I admit I did warm to her hugely and felt I'd been a bit of a judgemental bugger.

Some aspects felt a little unfinished, mainly involving Sage, but that didn't detract from a sound opener to a series which brings the small-town family-feel in spades and scope for much more. *Driftwood Creek* is due for release mid 2018 and I'll definitely be checking out Jamie and Gideon's story.

Copy received courtesy of Kensington for an honest and unbiased opinion.

Paula says

Oh, I do hope that *Sunset Bay Sanctuary* is the beginning of a new series for Roxanne Snopek. I did so enjoy

this book about healing animals and people through a working/training/refuge ranch. There is an entire cast of likable and believable characters who I would love to see have their own stories. Haylee Hansen, niece to the owner of the ranch, now a dog and horse expert has her story in this book.

Aiden McCall is the type of person who would benefit from Sunset Bay Sanctuary. It is a marvelous story to read as he finds healing for his soul and love for his heart. In fact, this is a perfect description of the book; soul touching and heart embracing.

An ARC of the book was given to me by the publisher through Net Galley.

Isha Coleman says

Sunset Bay Sanctuary (Sunset Bay) by Roxanne Snopek

Ms. Snopek makes it hard not to believe in happily ever after. The trials of being human are realistic and painful, but ever the optimist, Snopek finds a way to heal as she entertains. There will be tears, but there will also be moments of hope and that is something everyone needs. Sunset Bay Sanctuary opens the eyes to life's missed opportunities, but it also unlocks the heart to endless possibilities. Informative, innovative, overflowing with that trademark Snopek humor and wisdom, Haylee and Aiden will prove faith can move mountains, if you believe.

Diana says

I requested this free ARC copy in return for an honest review, so here goes.....

Romantic and refreshing.... A beautifully told story that captivated from the start. An amazing storyline that flows easily. An honest portrayal of an uplifting love story that is well written, edited and to the point, kept me entertained throughout. With memorable characters that you are sure to fall in love with. The characters and events in this book are completely relatable.

Brilliantly detailed, with realistic writing style that draws the reader in. Classy, intriguing, interwoven and beautifully done. A breathtaking adventure that is wonderfully heartfelt. I have absolutely no hesitation whatsoever in recommending this book. A MUST read. Thank you RS ?

Susan says

Sunset Bay Sanctuary

Roxanne Snopek

I have read a few other books by Roxanne Snopek before but after reading SUNSET BAY SANCTUARY I will read every book she has written. I instantly felt like I was on the beach in Oregon dodging seagulls and feeling the sand between my toes. SUNSET BAY SANCTUARY is the first book in the Sunset Bay series. It's all about family and even though you might not share DNA with these family members, you are still family no matter what. Haylee has had a painful past and works on her aunt's ranch taking care of the animals and the troubled youths who come to the ranch for a second chance. It's almost like a halfway house. Hold on people, it's going to be a crazy ride!

SUNSET BAY SANCTUARY is filled with family and second chances and once you start reading, it is impossible to put down. Keep the tissues close by because this will be one heck of an emotional journey. When Haylee meets the new doctor in town, Aiden McCall who is looking for a peaceful and anxiety free life, neither of their lives will ever be the same. Will Haylee be able to help Aiden heal from his past? Once I started reading SUNSET BAY SANCTUARY I found myself cheering for all of these people and praying they could find their happily ever after. Sometimes, it just doesn't happen but I still had hope the whole time.

Roxanne Snopek really knows how to write about family drama, heartbreak, and forgiveness. I can not wait to read more by this wonderful and heart tugging author. I have many of her older books to read and that makes me so happy. SUNSET BAY SANCTUARY is all about letting go of the past and learning how to move on. It is filled with likable and relatable characters that will find their way into the readers heart. If you are looking for a book about a less than perfect family, SUNSET BAY SANCTUARY is the story for you. Spend the afternoon on your beach chair or on your couch devouring this beautiful story. You will love every minute of it!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Netgalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

Liz says

This is another heart-warming story by Roxanne Snopek. An easy read with interesting characters, it's the type of book you want to read after a hard day. In addition, the dogs make it even more pleasurable. I am sure that I will be reading more about Sunset Bay in the future.

I won a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway for this honest review.

Roxanne Snopek says

Perhaps every author feels this way about certain books, but this one has a special place in my heart. This isn't a review, obviously. I love Sunset Bay, these characters, this story, and I hope you will, too. Happy reading! -roxanne

Eileen says

WOW!!! Words cannot describe how much I loved and was moved by Sunset Bay Sanctuary by Roxanne Snopek, the first book in her Sunset Bay series. This is a story of two people who are struggling with soul-crushing pain, anxieties, and past decisions that have affected their lives. Haylee Hansen trains dog on her aunt's ranch which is part halfway house and part work camp. It's a place where troubled kids and adults receive the love they greatly need. Haylee understands, as she was once one of those teens, after losing the last of her family to 9-11. Only now, her troubled past ends up on her doorstep, turning her life upside down. Dr. Aidan McCall is a broken man when he arrived in Sunset Bay. He is controlled by the anger and anxiety from his past, affecting his life. He is fearful of this interfering with his new job at the Sunset Bay hospital, until someone suggests that he get a therapy dog. Haylee knows Aidan has baggage and is troubled but she wants to match him with the perfect dog to help him. As these two spend time together, Aidan helps Haylee see that no one has a perfect life and that opening yourself up to love is the only way you can heal your soul.

I really loved reading this heart-warming book, it moved me, and brought tears to my eyes. Ms. Snopek, is a wonderful story teller drawing me into her book, making me forget the world around me and not letting me go until I turned the last page. I did not want to put this book down to stop reading. I highly recommend this book to other readers and look forward to the next book in this series.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.

R says

Dear Aiden,

Your world has fallen apart, and you're a broken man. But even as you run away from your fears, Fate has given you a second chance.

There are places of healing in this world...

Places where all your broken pieces can rest where they are-- while you wrestle through the puzzle of putting yourself back together.

Sunset Bay Sanctuary is such a place.

There is peace in the roar of the ocean and the sting of the salt-wind.

There is support when you need it-- but no coddling here...

There is no one here to tell you to suck it up and move on. There is no judgement. The expectations go from moment to moment, day to day.

There are therapy dogs... and horses...

And people to tend... the chores of ranch life.

The hard work of your body and hands can earn the space you need for the hard work in your soul.

And there is friendship and love.

Bottom line: I wanted to linger in Sunset Bay Sanctuary... In fact, I did. The book stayed with me for several days after I finished it, while I pondered the words for my review. 5 stars.

Cathy Geha says

Sunset Bay Sanctuary by Roxanne Snopek
Sunset Bay #1

Great start to a new series set on the Oregon coast – I can't wait to see who will have their story told yet – there were so many great characters waiting in the wings to step on stage!

Haylee Hanson has not had an easy life but has found her way through dark times to co-own Sunset Bay Sanctuary with her aunt Oliva. This is a ranch setting near the beach where they take in guests, help wayward youth and where Haylee trains dogs that will help others. The dogs were charming, the people intriguing, the backstories and subplots like a web with intricate threads...this was a story I could not put down.

Aiden McCall is working temporarily at the local emergency room. He has his own set of demons to deal with that include panic attacks, nightmares and other assorted issues that make work difficult and his life stressful in general. With the suggestion a dog might help he is off to see Haylee.

Sage is another person of interest that shows up pregnant and in need. Her story is a whopper and impacts more than one person in the book. I don't want to say much more but I will say that I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was well plotted and written and a delight to read. I am eager to read book two in the series as soon as it comes out.

Thank you to NetGalley and Kensington Books – Zebra Shout for the ARC – This is my honest review.

5 Stars

Bea Charmed says

A sweet, wrenching love story about family and healing. I liked that the leads, Haylee and Aidan were in their 30s instead of the ubiquitous 20s so popular currently. And there's an older couple and they happen to be a lesbian couple. Their relationship wasn't the focus though they played important roles in the story. Snopek wrote a lovely story of the family we're born into, the family you make, the choices you make, and the pain that comes to everyone. With insight, hope, and quiet tugs at the heart, "Sunset Bay Sanctuary" is a wonderful love story encompassing both familial love and romantic love.

Roberta McCord says

I received an ARC copy of Sunset Bay Sanctuary by Roxanne Snopek in exchange for an honest review. I would give this sweet romance a solid 4.5 rating. I enjoyed the way Ms. Snopek brought two hurting people together along with other characters that also grew and benefited as the story progressed. In addition to romance there were times of suspense that definitely kept me turning the pages. Besides the happy-ever-after

I enjoyed the fact that the heroine, Haylee, trained service dogs...sometimes using stray dogs or dogs no one wanted... whether this is true-to-life or not, I choose to believe that there can be a HEA for animals as well as people. Great story Roxanne! Thank you!
