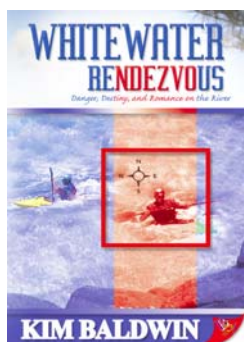


Book Review: September 2006

by Cheri Rosenberg (reviewer at [MBR](#) & [JAW](#))



Whitewater Rendezvous

Kim Baldwin

ISBN: 1-933110-38-4

Trade paper, 240 pp, \$15.95

May, 2006

Lesbian Fiction/Romance

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

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Midwest Book Review

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James A. Cox

Editor-in-Chief

I enjoy a book that takes me on an adventure—both physical and emotional. *Whitewater Rendezvous* by Kim Baldwin does both. Once again, the author of *Force of Nature*, and the critically acclaimed Golden Crown Literary Award finalist, *Hunter's Pursuit*, has given her fans compelling characters amidst a breathtaking backdrop. The journey through the Alaskan waterways with its wildlife and fauna would make even a homebody feel like exploring nature.

Baldwin does her homework, thus creating a believable setting, but it is the gorgeous, buff, and multi-talented tour guide, Chaz Herrick, who will have everyone booking their next trip. Even a workaholic TV network news big shot like Megan Maxwell can't help falling in love with the Northern Alaskan frontier and a certain someone she soon finds she can't live without.

Baldwin sets up the longing between two admirable characters that can be equally stubborn. She then throws other obstacles in their way, which makes finding a resolution sweeter. The author draws the reader in by their senses, dazzling us with the landscape, feeding our desires a little bit at a time until the climax, where all inhibitions are obliterated. More importantly, Baldwin gives us pause to consider what's important, what's worth preserving in life, and it's not always fame and fortune. How can anyone compare the dirty yellow-gray air over Chicago with the vivid blue of the Arctic sky?

Take a *Whitewater Rendezvous*, kayak along with the *Broads in Broadcasting*, and feel one with nature just as Megan learns to do because of an outdoors enthusiast who captures her heart and will capture yours too. You'll be putting your priorities in proper order before you know it or at the very least wishing you could. When it comes to romances, *Whitewater Rendezvous* by Kim Baldwin will leave you sated. The foreplay is excruciatingly exquisite, the sex completely satisfying and hot, and the resolution complete for a worthwhile read. I recommend it and hope to get to visit Alaska someday soon. There is way more than the caribou and grizzly bears that I hope to see there, that's for sure. Megan and Chaz may not seem to have much in common but read the book to find out if they have what it takes for a long-term relationship.

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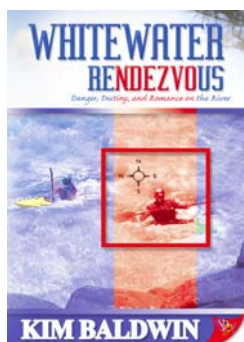
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Book Review: 2006

by R. Lynne Watson (reviewer at MegaScene Magazine)



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Kim Baldwin, the author of the riveting *Hunter's Pursuit*, has given her fans another great story. Set in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, *Whitewater Rendezvous* takes the reader on a wonderful wilderness adventure. Baldwin has faithfully described both the scenery in the Arctic, and the experience of kayaking in Level IV whitewater.

Broads in Broadcasting are a group of Chicago women who work in various aspects of the media. Six of the women have booked a two week kayaking adventure on the "remote and scenic Odakonya River". Included in the group is Megan Maxwell, the vice president of World News Central. As a woman in a powerful position, Megan has earned the nickname of Royal Ice Bitch. She's only on this trip because she lost a bet after too many shots of tequila. Megan isn't any happier after she meets their adventure guide, Chaz. Chaz Herrick is a dead ringer for Rita, Megan's cheating ex.

Baldwin has drawn her characters as well as she draws the setting. Megan and Chaz are both strong, knowledgeable women. The dynamics between the two of them are as stormy as the Arctic weather. Witty, sharp tongued, and attractive, both women keep the reader turning pages to see what happens.

Whitewater Rendezvous is a definite keeper. With strong characters, grizzlies, storms, and stormy women, it's the type of book that you'll want in your collection. Look for it at your favorite lesbian bookstore.

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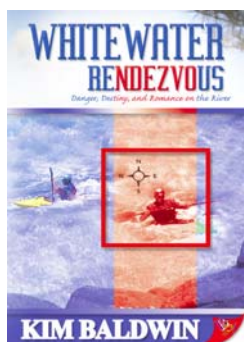
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Book Review: November 2006

by Arlene Germain (reviewer at MBR, L-Word Literature & JAW)



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Editor-in-Chief

Whitewater Rendezvous, set in the remote Odakonya River area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, is the adventurous love story of two disparate and intensely dynamic women, Megan Maxwell and Chaz Herrick. Megan, the driven vice-president of World News Central television news, is known as the Royal Ice Bitch. It is a moniker not totally undeserving for the workaholic. Chaz, the attractive easygoing Alaskan tour guide, on the other hand, is content and treasures living apart from the raucous tumult of the general population. After these two intelligent, resolute, and witty women meet, Megan begins to think that perhaps losing that bet with her Chicago Broads in Broadcasting pals to join them for an Alaskan kayaking adventure may not be as disconcerting as she had thought. Matters are further complicated by harrowing Arctic storms, seemingly incompatible priorities, and the entertaining clash between two very tenacious and assertive women.

Setting plays a key role in a well-crafted story of this type. Baldwin obviously knows her material, and with great care and skill, has transcribed the aura of an Arctic night sky and the grandeur of Alaskan isolation to the written page. The reader's senses are vividly awakened which allows that reader to become one with the environment—not always an easy task for an author to create.

A hallmark of great writing is consummate characterization, and *Whitewater Rendezvous* does not disappoint. This novel is populated with round, not flat, characters. Each is delineated and developed with expertise and style. From the imagery to the diction to the syntax used, the personalities of the major characters are constructed in a credible, lucid, and realistic manner. Megan's workaholic focus is clearly articulated, making it simple for the reader to empathize. Chaz's free spirit is infectious, thus making it equally simple for the reader to identify with that desire to throw caution to the wind and escape. One aspect of Baldwin's writing is the absence of the stereotypical, and her characters in this story display that yet again.

Whitewater Rendezvous captures the reader from the very first page. It totally immerses and envelops the reader in the Arctic experience. The novel deals with basic truths. What is important in life? Is there a soul mate somewhere out there for me? Can opposites truly attract? Superior chapter endings, stylishly and tightly written sentences, precise pacing, and exquisite narrative all coalesce to produce a novel of first-rate quality, both in concept and expression. *Whitewater Rendezvous* is Kim Baldwin's third novel. (*Hunter's Pursuit* and *Force of Nature*) The author's technique, range, and originality of composition continue to expand and flourish with each effort. This reviewer highly recommends *Whitewater Rendezvous* and eagerly looks forward to Baldwin's next novel, *Flight Risk*, to be published in February 2007.

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