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Blackhearts #2: Blacksouls

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Book Review

Title: Blackhearts #2: Blacksouls

Author: Nicole Castroman

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Publisher: Simon Pulse

Publication Year: 2017

ISBN: 9781481491051

Number of Pages: 400

Interest Level: Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding



Review

Finally reaching Nassau, Anne and her friends, Cara and Coyle Flynn, seek out their uncle, Alastair Flynn, for work and safety. Meanwhile, Teach's ship, the Deliverance, is attacked by pirates. The captain refuses to fight and is killed, causing Teach to take command. Teach and the crew are arrested for mutiny in Nassau by Governor Webb. Webb releases Teach but holds the crew hostage to force Teach into capturing the pirate, George Easton. Anne and Beth discover Mrs. Webb's secret, but she kills Beth and tortures Anne to hide her crimes. Teach rescues Anne and locates Easton, but realizes Webb is the real criminal. Joining forces with Easton, Teach returns to Nassau to find his crew and Coyle dead and Alastair kidnapped. Webb is killed during the confrontation, but a new threat, Lord Pelham, takes his place. Escaping with Cara, Teach and Easton join with Anne on planning how to overthrow Lord Pelham.

Castroman does not disappoint in her second Blackhearts novel. The suspense, unpredictability, and action is amped up when Anne and Teach enter the New World. Anne becomes a stronger character as she fights for her independence and Teach's freedom. This is an ironic switch because Teach did the same for Anne while in England. Anne's profound strength and courage is mostly due to Beth's influence. Thanks to Beth, Anne has hope to be with Teach because Beth and Alastair have made a life for themselves in the Caribbean. However, racism, slavery, greed, and Old World prejudices are still prevalent. When things fall apart in Nassau, Anne and Teach realize they must create their own world so they can be together.

*Contains moderate violence.