



Breakup

Dana Stabenow

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Breakup

Dana Stabenow

Breakup Dana Stabenow

April in Alaska is the period of spring thaw, what the locals call breakup. For Kate, this year's meltdown brings nothing but mayhem. First, the snow uncovers a dead body near Kate's home. Then a woman is killed in a suspicious bear attack. Kate is drawn further into the destruction of breakup -- and into the path of a murderer...

Breakup Details

Date : Published April 1st 1998 by Berkley (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9780425162613

Author : Dana Stabenow

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime

 [Download Breakup ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Breakup ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Breakup Dana Stabenow

From Reader Review Breakup for online ebook

LJ says

BREAKUP - VG+

Stabenow, Dana - 7th Kate Shugak

Kate finds herself involved in a murder investigation after a body is found near her homestead and, through the guidance of her Aleut grandmother's spirit, she assumes the role of clan leader and takes on major responsibilities to help her people.

This was a non-stop, very funny read from the opening page. It's a delightful contrast to the rest of the books in the series.

Jeff Dickison says

Wow! A Shugak novel with a sense of humor. Many weird and funny things happen to Kate when the Spring thaw begins. Kate manages to take charge, even when she doesn't want to, solves a murder mystery and generally straighten out all of the messes. Reminds me of the witticisms of the old Johnny Horton song: When It's Springtime In Alaska It's Forty Below. Highly recommended, especially to Shugak fans.

Steve says

Kate Shugak grabs the bull by the horns, any bull before her, with tenacity and initiative, sometimes whether it's hers to take or not. A thirty-something Aleut woman living on her own in rural Alaska, the forces weighing on her personally include an alluded-to past in law enforcement (this is my first Kate Shugak book, but the seventh in the series) and the responsibilities inherited from her deceased grandmother who was a very capable tribal elder. In Breakup, these forces are put to serious test by the events of the long-awaited spring thaw, called breakup, a time of natural change, but of unpredictable bears and human behavior, too. In the first two chapters alone Kate and sidekick wolf-mix Mutt face jet engine parts falling from the sky and more than one bear adventure. The bears keep on coming, newly out of hibernation, hungry and cantankerous, and the human weirdnesses blossom. There's the deaths in question, a body revealed near Kate's in the thaw and woman's death that may or may not have been a bear's doing. Families engage in shoot-outs within their own ranks and with other families over land rights. Kate ends up having to be the tour guide for a local friend's visiting high-society parents, a job the friend didn't want herself. Kate is an enjoyable character, well made and with enough weaknesses to provide some balance to her great strengths. Perhaps they were revealed better in previous series books, but I found that the secondary characters were not particularly well-developed beyond basic appearance and one or two personality traits (an exception here, the parents mentioned above). This won't keep me from looking for more of Kate, knowing I will be entertained in an interesting setting.

Judy says

Totally fun read -- lots of Alaskan mayhem in the springtime, a couple of murders, people shooting each other for a variety of reasons, and things falling out of the sky. The name "Breakup" refers to the setting of the story, during the springtime when all of the ice is breaking up, the ground is muddy, and the locals are going crazy from cabin fever. Kate Shugak is a great character, I need to go start at the beginning and read through this series.

Kirsty Darbyshire says

This series seems to revolve less and less around mystery as it goes on. This isn't necessarily a bad thing but it can get a bit bemusing at times.

I spent the first half of this book enjoying what was going on (gun fights, bear attacks, engines falling out of the sky) but waiting for the *main* mystery to break. In the second half I just got on with enjoying it and didn't worry about it. In retrospect there is a murder in the book and it is solved but the proportion of page space taken up by this compared to the other sub plots isn't what I was expecting. It's an interesting book but it didn't quite all come together for me.

I found this book to be more of a character study of Kate than a plot centred book. It's more of a case of presenting Kate with various situations, people, and surroundings and seeing how she copes with them. As such I think it may move the series on to be rounder and deeper than it was before especially as I mainly read these books for the characters and the scenery anyway. This is definitely not a book to read out of order, if you're starting in on this series you'd get a better taste of it by reading one of the earlier more plot orientated books first.

Frederick Masterman says

I am reading the Kate Shugak series from the start, and this is the latest book I've read. With each passing story, Shugak's Native American roots are developed more profoundly, along with the difficulty tribal life faces on many fronts. Shugak is a tough, appealing character, and the author does a marvelous job deepening the reader's understanding of the woman as the stories unfold...as well as painting a fascinating word-portrait of life in Alaska. My only complaint (if it's that) is the unbelievable number of events that tumble one upon the other, which frequently happens in the books. In the course of one day there are so many convenient arrivals of various characters to move the story along, that it's comical. Perhaps that's the mood the author wishes to convey, and once you accept the fact that anybody can suddenly drop in at any time in any place, the story is acceptable. Sort of a fantasy of the wildness of Alaskan life, its frontier atmosphere, its tragic interplays of people, both native and white. Though the series is classed as "mystery", that element is often the least interesting and least developed. It's a story about the lives and loves of real people, which is the true value of the book.

Erin L says

The action in this one starts out in the first chapter as Kate encounters two bears in the first several pages. Followed by a jet engine crashing into her yard, more bears, a moose, drunk hunters, and just the general chaos that seems to be expected by the characters in the spring. In fact, my husband worked on the Alaska highway and when I told him about a couple of the scenes and assured me that those kinds of things really do happen.

With Kate's grandmother's death, she's feeling a lot of pressure to be everything that Ekaterina was to the community. Big shoes to fill while she's also trying to deal with the removal of a jet engine from her property among other spring tasks she should be doing. Yet she isn't. She's running around being everything to everyone.

I love Kate as a characters. She's fully rounded with flaws and emotions and a hardness that years of seeing the worst in people instilled in her. There is a reason that at 34, people look to her to act and fill her grandmother's shoes, including solving a mysterious death.

This series is a great one, even if it is older and has 20+ books in it.

Quinn says

Kate Shugak (the hero in the book) is having a bad day. In the first 50 pages, an airline engine falls on her house, her garage, and her food storage, she is nearly eaten by a grizzly bear, a body is found near her house, and it's breakup--the early Spring when ice melts and refreezes at night, creating emotional and physical havoc.

While this is #7 in the series, I had not read any of the others. I'm interested in her conflicts--she is Aleut, torn between being a cop and a female tribal leader. In this book, she is highly conflicted, and that part of the book was really interesting to me.

The one flaw of the book is that everyone hates breakup--and I get it--but if one more person mentions it and blames *everything* on breakup, I may become violent. Heaven knows, everyone else in the book is! An easy and interesting read.

Sharon Penman says

This was my first Dana Stabenow book. I found it at a Boucheron conference and then made the mistake of opening it. After that, I didn't want to do anything but read, and as soon as I got home, I bought the rest of Dana's mysteries. She offers a darkly compelling view of life in the Alaskan bush, well laced with lots of gallows humor. Her characters are very believable, the story lines are always suspenseful, and every now and then she lets a truly vile villain be eaten by a grizzly. Who could ask for more?

Bill Lancaster says

'Break up' in Alaska is evidently the spring season when the snow thaws and everyone starts moving and working again after a long winter. I always enjoy reading about different locations and cultures in a fictional context, but in this case, the improbable plot simply got in the way of enjoying this work.

Kate Shugak, the super protagonist, is chased by a bear, has a plane engine fall on her car, breaks up two families who are shooting at each other (and at innocent bystanders in a bar) over an access road, tour guides a stuffy Boston couple to a mine and resolves an Indian Reservation dispute. All in a day or two. And yes, I forgot, paves a new new road and solves a murder.

The plot is primarily a series of disconnected events that happen to Kate; it is not a compelling set of developments that lead to the solving of a murder. In fact, the murder seems to be of little consequence in the book, with the murderer being told by Kate to leave and never come back again.

Lastly, the term "break up" is used repeatedly in the novel. Mostly, when one improbable event after another occurs, Kate says, "I hate break up". She says it so often in the book that she reminds herself to not say it anymore. And then, later on, she says it again.

The book has vast potential: interesting locale, quirky characters, but it is lost on a meandering series of actions that hardly arrive anywhere.

T says

And in this episode....

Kate's homestead gets sat on by an airplane engine falling out of the sky. While the investigators are checking the engine landing out, they discover a body in the woods outside of Kate's property.

Kate's friend Mandy's parents are in town and driving Mandy nuts, so Mandy begs Kate to take them on a tour, using Mandy's new truck. Kate and the parents run into a man who claimed his wife was killed and eaten by a bear.

And through all of this Kate is finding her new and evolving role in the community as a mediator/arbitrator, investigator, and an elder-in-training.

Victoria Moore says

Tense and slow going in parts and meditative, witty and biting in others, "Breakup" by Dana Stabenow is such a beautifully written mystery it brought the story and characters to life with stunning clarity. Set against their annual "Spring Thaw" the story focuses primarily on Kate Shugak, an Aleut woman who lives with her dog, Mutt, in a colorful, but close-knit community. Initially I didn't understand why Stabenow chose the term "breakup" for the title until I plunged deeper into the drama Shugak experiences in such a short period of

time. First it does mean the transition from winter to spring displayed by the ice cracking caused by a warmer season, but second, in this story, it also means the possible dissolution of the Aleut family and culture due to alcoholism, grief and other issues.

A natural leader, because of her past as a law enforcer, age, strength and intelligence, Shugak immediately became a literary role model for me by using cleverness and persistence to staunchly face two back-to-back wildlife encounters, adjust to being temporarily homeless and stranded without transportation, refereeing a lengthy neighborhood feud, and advocating for improvements at her tribal council. And if this weren't enough she soon becomes involved in a homicide and puzzling bear mauling that may or may not be suspicious. Surrounded by the majestic loveliness of Alaska, she's highly regarded by the people around her- Dan O'Brian, a policeman, Mandy, her best friend, her Auntie Vi, Bernie, the owner of "Roadhouse", Bobby, her ex-lover, and Dinah, Bobby's current fiance. Somehow they form a close and diverse family that provides support to her and each other despite the challenges they face.

Profoundly meaningful, especially when it centered around the daily struggles of the Aleut's and those who live in such a contentious environment, "Breakup" is such an adventurous and action-packed tale it kept me highly engrossed throughout.

Cynthia Letts says

Although I've read all of Kate Shugak's adventures, I had the most fun with Breakup. It seems that Ms. Stabenow had some fun with this one and I could just imagine her giggling through many scenarios!

Andrea says

Just when I think I know what to expect from this series - moody, atmospheric mysteries with a heavy dose of Alaskan history and spiritualism - along comes this crazy, mad-cap romp through the craziness that is an Alaskan spring. Definitely a fun read, in spite of the grizzliness of the murder.

Sheila says

Many odd things are going on with the coming of spring. The bears are waking and are very hungry. A plane engine drops on Kate's truck and cabin. Bodies are found.
