



# By the Shores of the Middle Sea

*Dana Stabenow*

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## **By the Shores of the Middle Sea** Dana Stabenow

By the Shores of the Middle Sea is the second novel in Dana Stabenow's Silk and Song Trilogy.

In *Everything Under the Heavens*, 16-year old Johanna fled Cambaluc—and her murderous stepmother—joining her uncle's westbound caravan on the Silk Road. With her foster brother Jaufre and a few faithful companions, they made it to the rooftop of the world—Terak Pass—separating Mongol China from the scattered sheikdoms of the Persian empire. Then, disaster struck. In a climactic skirmish, Johanna and her stallion, North Wind, were abducted and Jaufre left for dead.

Now, in *By the Shores of the Middle Sea*, Johanna is a prisoner in the harem at Talikan, with Baron Ogodei's army pillaging the countryside and preparing to sack the tiny Persian enclave. Hundreds of leagues to the south, in Kabul, Jaufre lies recovering from his near-fatal wound. Their journey has taken them halfway across a continent, yet an equal distance still lies between them and Gaza, where Johanna and Jaufre once meant to take ship for Venice and the sanctuary of Johanna's grandfather's family.

Gaza and Venice: two cities on opposite shores of the Middle Sea that together open a door to the West. For Johanna and Jaufre, it's a passage that will shape their destiny, if only they can reach it.

## **By the Shores of the Middle Sea Details**

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Author : Dana Stabenow

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## **From Reader Review By the Shores of the Middle Sea for online ebook**

### **Jennifer says**

Bought myself this book as my Christmas gift. Definitely worth it!

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### **annapi says**

At the end of the first book Johanna and her horse Night Wind are taken captive by a Persian sheik, leaving her friend Jaufre stabbed in the back by the sheik's son. The story is told from the split points of view of Johanna and Jaufre, as Johanna tries to escape the harem and Jaufre is struggling to recover.

Lots of good adventure here! Even so I was surprised that I finished this overnight. This is much faster paced than the first book and every bit as entertaining, if not more. On to book 3!

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### **Carol Kennedy says**

Having read the first instalment in 3 days, I couldn't wait to carry on reading, so with the magic of Kindle, off I went. The swashbuckling adventure continues: what's not to like- travelling in foreign parts, historical detail (sounds accurate, don't have a clue!) fighting, trickery... fantastic. Bring on part 3.

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### **Agnes says**

Usually I enjoy books by DAana Stabenow, but found this one tiresome - because of the typographical/editorial errors. The flow of the story floundered every time. Otherwise, the premise was interesting.

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### **Kymm says**

I loved it. Just flat out loved it. Adventure and dirty dealings and chicks with swords and knives. It's great fun, and written with Dana Stabenow's usual wit and intelligence. Johanna and company are terrific companions.

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### **Jennifer says**

A rip-roaring continuation of Johanna and Jofre's silk road adventures. It is killing me that this is coming out in three parts... can't wait for the final volume on October 31st. As always, Stabenow did her research. The characters are engaging and multi-dimensional, the strong female characters take care of themselves and

everyone around them, and the historical context is fascinating. Tantalizing bits of historical fact inform the story, not distract from it, and just make me want to plop down in the silk road history section of my local library and read until they kick me out.

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### **Anne says**

This new series by one of my favorite authors just keeps getting better and better. The trials thrown at the young Johanna Wu and her foster brother Jaufre as they travel along the Silk Road from China to Venice in 1324 while beset by Mongol raiders and tribal sheiks intensify in this second installment. Four and a half stars for this highly entertaining read.

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### **Joy says**

I ate this book up. Fascinating!

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### **Jacqueline says**

By the Shores of the Middle Sea is the second book in this trilogy. Johanna gets to sample life in a harem at Talikan. In Kabul, Jaufre recovers from his near-fatal wound. In this book their journey takes them separately, with a couple of adventures, to Gaza. Both Johanna and Jaufre do a some growing up on their journeys, I had to remind myself that they're both very young. Johanna and Jaufre mean to meet in Gaza and take ship for Venice and the sanctuary of Johanna's grandfather's family. Better ending than the first book.

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### **Judy says**

See review for book 1 in the series, Everything Under the Heavens.

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### **Nancye says**

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE! I have raved before about how much I love anything by Dana Stabenow, but I am absolutely in love with her historic fiction trilogy. I cannot wait for book 3 and the chance to find out what happens next. This second book follows the journey of Johanna and her companions who have been separated. They each have their adventures and challenges before they meet again. It is interesting to see how they fight their way through and grow with the experience. I cannot wait to see what Stabenow delivers next.

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### **Jeannie says**

The concept of exploring the Silk Road (just after the time of Marco Polo) from the perspective of an outsider / a woman is fascinating. Add face pace and good historical detail and it's a good read!

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### **Laz the Sailor says**

This is the middle of the trilogy, and it reads that way. The crew from book 1 is split up, they survive various travails, and then they get back together. These books have never been about plot - they are about the journey and the descriptions of the people they meet and the people they see.

Wonderful writing.

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### **Katherine says**

Dana Stabenow is doing very well with her historical series. This second one, like the first, is well researched and the cultures and customs of the times are interestingly revealed. The characters are engaging and believable; they are continuing to develop and grow. As Johanna and Jaufre continue their trip to Venice, they are beset with varying experiences and adventures. It was a delightful read.

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### **Christa Schönmann Abbühl says**

I finished the second part in record time. Is it just me or are there words missing from time to time? Apart from that: great read, great adventures, great characters. I have no idea if the history and the depiction of all the different places and cultures is correct - but the author certainly made me believe so.

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