Gathering Mist

By Margaret Mizushima

A Book Review by Lani Christianson

Finally! A book featuring a GSD that I can really get behind.

Deputy Mattie Cobb and her SAR (Search and Rescue) GSD, Robo, are summoned from their home in Colorado, to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State to search for a celebrity's missing child. Robo is especially valuable since he's been trained to air-scent. This is important since it's been raining in the search area and scent may have been washed away on the ground.

Initially it's assumed that the boy wandered off into the forest and is lost. As the search proceeds, Mattie becomes suspicious that something more sinister has happened to the boy. When one of the other SAR dogs ends up being poisoned, Mattie's veterinarian boyfriend joins the search to protect Maddie and Robo.

Mizushima paints a good picture with words. I felt as if I was in the forest. It was 85 degrees outside when I was reading this book, but I was chilled by the cold and rainy weather as I joined Mattie and Robo on their search.

I learned a lot about SAR dogs and their training. Air-scenting was new to me and was interesting to learn about. I love that Mizushima really caught the bond that I like to think most GSD owners share with their dogs. Other books I've read just don't quite capture that.

It was a very good read and I look forward to joining Mattie and Robo on other adventures. I give this book 5 bones.