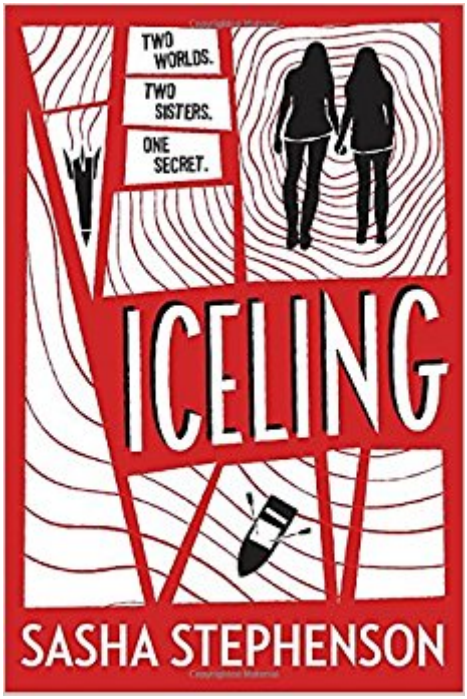
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Iceling



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Synopsis

"AÃ Â story that delivers action, conspiracy, and betrayal alongside a meditation on love, family connection, and humanity."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly Sasha Stephenson’s intriguing debutÃ Â is a combination road trip story and sci-fi adventure about the strange, strong bond between two sisters.Ã Â Fans ofÃ Â Under the Never SkyÃ Â andÃ Â The Darkest MindsÃ Â will devourÃ Â ICELING, the first book in a new and utterly original sci-fi series.Seventeen-year-old Lorna loves her adoptive sister, Callie. But Callie can’t say "I love you" back. In fact, Callie can’t say anything at all.Ã Â Because Callie is an Iceling--one of hundreds of teens who were discovered sixteen years ago on a remote Arctic island, all of them lacking the ability to speak or understand any known human language.Mysterious and panicked events lead to the two sisters embarking on a journey to the north, and now Lorna starts to see that there’s a lot more to Callie’s origin story than she’d been led to believe. Little does she know what’s in store, and that she’s about to uncoverÃ Â the terrifying secret about who--and what--Callie really is.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 UpÃ¢â ¬â •This new, interesting addition to the sci-fi YA fiction world follows the life-changing adventures of Lorna and her adopted sister, Callie. Lorna is a kindhearted 17-year-old caregiver to mute Iceling Callie, who is from a mysterious land. The teen longs to be the best sister possible, so she doesn’t hesitate to take Callie to an unknown, distant island for help. They’re joined by a new guy friend, Stan, and his Iceling brother, Ted. While the premise is intriguing, the novel’s uneven

execution, including jarring sentence structures, will make it difficult for readers to stay engaged. Lorna is presented as a teen who can think about nothing but her sister and isn't developed further, while the secondary characters are also not fully fleshed out. In addition, Lorna's inner thoughts as well as conversations among characters are repetitive and sluggishly paced and may provide a further challenge for readers. VERDICT Purchase only for collections in dire need of sci-fi fiction.Ã¢â ¬â •Danielle Jacobs, Las Vegas Clark County Library District

"AÃ Â story that delivers action, conspiracy, and betrayal alongside a meditation on love, family connection, and humanity."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â œPublishers Weekly"ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s some classic and enjoyable sci-fi here that could be straight out of a 1950s film, with inexplicable natural activity and shady government actions that go farther than the protagonist realizes. Lorna is a witty but sincere narrator, and the heart of the book is her love for a sibling she doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t understand; her devotion to Callie and her negotiation with CallieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s role in her life are more powerfully depicted here than in many realistic novels about disabled or neurodivergent siblings."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â œBCCB

Although based on a sci-fi theme, babies found on a mystery ship in the Arctic by a scientist, the heart of the story is the bond formed by families and their adopted "alien." Lorna is the daughter of the scientist and the adopted daughter is Callie. Lorna would do anything for Callie, including an unspeakably difficult road trip to return Callie to her birthplace. Their is government interference and intrigue along with a hair-raising rescue. The book is a very quick read and well worth the time. My thanks to the author and the Penguin First to Read program for a complimentary copy.

Penguin First-to-Read ARC.This was a very strange novel. I thought it was going to be YA but it's more sci fi. There wasn't a whole lot going on, not a lot of explanation. It was a short book that took me a long time to read. I liked the sibling bond, even when they're not siblings. Who you grow up with can be as close as blood relations. There's a severe lack of parental guidance and a lot of killing. It was a very bizarre book that, if given 100 more pages, could've went somewhere. It didn't even end so there must be ideas of a sequel.

Iceling was provided to me by the publisher via Edelweiss, in exchange for an honest review.Seventeen-year-old Lorna loves her adoptive sister, Callie. But Callie can't say "I love you" back. In fact, Callie can't say anything at all.Because Callie is an Iceling--one of hundreds of teens

who were discovered sixteen years ago on a remote Arctic island, all of them lacking the ability to speak or understand any known human language.Mysterious and panicked events lead to the two sisters embarking on a journey to the north, and now Lorna starts to see that there's a lot more to Callie's origin story than she'd been led to believe. Little does she know what's in store, and that she's about to uncover the terrifying secret about who--and what--Callie really is."In the beginning I struggled with the dichotomy that is Lorna; one moment she speaks in typical teen fashion, and the next she whips out the word ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“portmanteauÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, which, if you ask me, is an impressive vocabularic addition for anyone, much less a teenager. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m still not sure what to think of her, because by the end of the book, the only thing I could say for sure is that she loves her sister. There just wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t a lot of character development. The road trip is interminable. There are things happening, but nothing that justifies dedicating 30% of the book to the drive. Trying to avoid spoilers, but there is a random scene of violence in the middle of the road trip that is never really explained in the book. Unless itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s addressed in one of the sequels, the scene is just jarring, random, and unnecessary.Also, I understand that the Icelings being non-verbal is an important part of the story, but, not only do they not speak, but their body language is jilted at best, and mostly the result of copying the actions of others. As a result, not much is understood about the orphans, either personally or as a group, by the end of the first book.I could have forgiven all of this and called it an okay book, but the author chose to end with a 60s sitcom type cliffhanger. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a cheap device, and completely un-needed. If the author has done their job, the reader is going to come back for the sequel. The cliffhanger felt like a lack of confidence in both the story and the reader. I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t feel compelled to read the next book.

I don't often cry over books, but this book left me trying not to shed tears during certain parts. When she was a baby, Lorna's parents were researchers who, after finding seismological anomalies pointing to an arctic island, find an abandoned boat filled with strange, under-responsive babies. Monitored by the government, they are adopted out to families in the US. Lorna's "Arctic Recovery Orphan" sister Callie cannot talk or understand any language, and is captivated by plants and occasionally has strange seizure-like activity. Though unable to communicate verbally with Callie, Lorna love her sister and knows her sister loves her back in her own special way. When certain events happen and they end up heading on a trip to learn more about Callie's and the Arctic Recovery Orphans' origins, Lorna finds that the sister she loves so much is unknowingly embroiled in a mysterious and potentially dangerous operation that could threaten Lorna, Callie, and the rest of

the AROs' existence. The author writes the story so beautifully, and truly captures the intense love and protectiveness Lorna has for her very different sister. The story sometimes seems simple at times but complex during others, and there are quite a few surprises that truly caught me off guard. It is very heart-wrenching during certain parts, especially closer to the end and I definitely shed more than a few tears. The problem I have with this book and the reason I didn't rate it five stars is because of the ending. I understand it is part of a series, but it was still ridiculous how the story ended and how vague the book was. It was like the author just stopped writing the chapter and decided to end the book there. It's very frustrating and didn't hardly tie up a single end but it leaves me with a mad desire to read the next book. First thing I'm doing after payday is going out to buy a hard copy of this book to put on the "Favorites" shelf of my bookshelf.

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