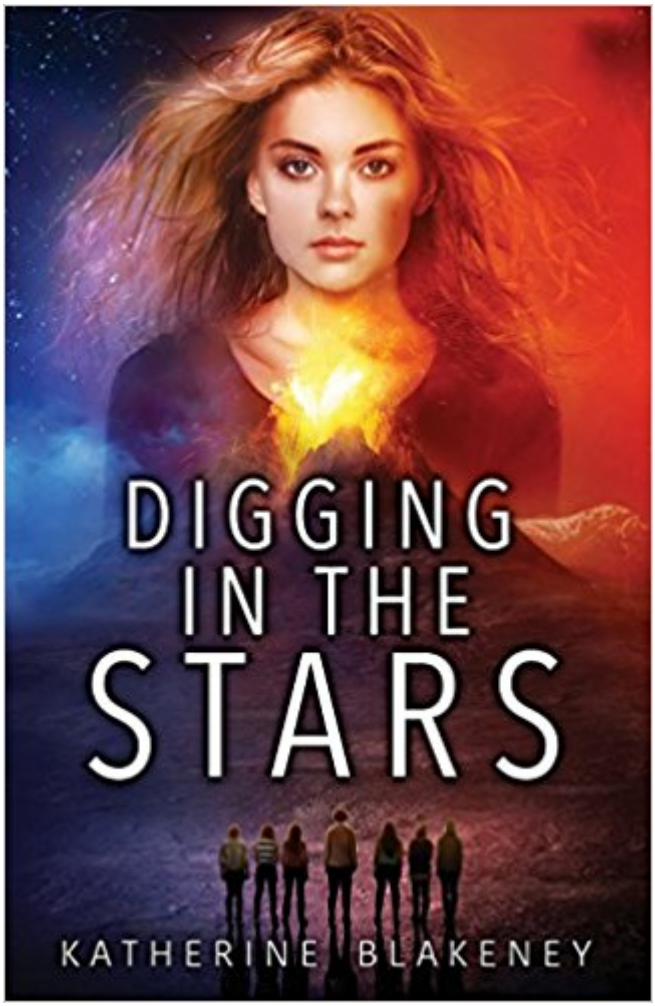
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Digging In The Stars (Scent Hunters)



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Synopsis

A lost ancient civilization and the tomb of a legendary king lie buried beneath centuries of ash on the volcanic Planet Thror, but thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not the only reason sixteen-year-old Carter has tricked her Archaeology of Outer Space class into coming here. Her best friend Conrad has just disappeared on a trip to Thror, leaving behind little more than a broken vintage camera. The strange and disturbing photographs she manages to extract make her suspect ConradÃ¢â ¬â„¢s disappearance is somehow connected to the hidden tomb of the last king of Thror. Unfortunately, the ludicrously over-friendly Ã¢â ¬ËœFurry GiantsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ who have taken over the planetÃ¢â ¬â„¢s barren surface would rather offer her cheap souvenirs than answers, and the local officials insist they have no record of ConradÃ¢â ¬â„¢s existence. Inspired by fear for ConradÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life and the chance to make the greatest archaeological discovery of the century, Carter and her friends follow ConradÃ¢â ¬â„¢s footsteps deep into the mountains of ThrorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s forbidden Black Zone and launch an illicit excavation. Coded messages, stunning ancient ruins, and clues left by Conrad himself begin to surface as the young archaeologists fall victim to an alarming series of accidents staged by the increasingly hostile Furry Giants. Piecing together a history of dictatorship, terrorism and disguise, Carter glimpses the horrors beyond ThrorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s flamboyant faÃƒÂ§ade and startling revelations about the friend she thought she knew. The masks of Thror hide devastating secrets, and the golden tomb buried deep in the frozen core may claim the lives of everyone she loves.Ã Â

Book Information

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Action & Adventure > Science Fiction

Customer Reviews

Katherine is an independent stop motion animator, filmmaker, and writer. She produces independent films in her animation studio in Scotland and has worked for many years as photographer, videographer, digital artist, and assistant director at an archaeological site in Luxor, Egypt. Katherine is currently working on a PhD in Film Studies at the University of Edinburgh, UK.Ã Â

What a fun ride! I loved every second of the space travel, treasure hunt, archaeology, and learning about the culture on the planet Thror--the writing was so vivid, I could almost SMELL the planet!After receiving a blank note and an old camera, Carter travels to the planet of Thror to solve the mystery surrounding her friend, Conrad's, sudden disappearance. She kidnaps her archaeology class--a group of interesting, very different girls and her professor--forcing them along for the ride. Digging in the Stars was very well-written and the characters were relateable and smart. I learned a lot about archaeology and what it entails. Katherine Blakeney sure knows her stuff! Carter's search for Conrad kept me guessing at every twist and turn. Was he really missing or was he like Margo in Papertowns by John Green--was he just playing her? The ending was satisfying but came way to soon! I can't wait to read more by Katherine Blakeney!

Ok wow. First I just want to say that the writing was fast paced and so smooth, Excellent writing. The story was Intense and mysterious and gripped your attention, I've only read a few books that have involved space travel and different planets and alien species and I love the absolute anything can happen freedom of it! Basically anything seemed possible in this book and that made reading it feel so fun, I Couldn't put it down. I may or may not have read it in two days! There were quite a few creative twists, and you can't help but wonder what happened to her friend Conrad. when you thought you had it figured out, the plot would change. I had no idea how it was going to end...You also can't help but love the main character she's so spunky yet fiercely loyal and with the addition of the other classmates it gave the book a funny banter and lightened it up quite a bit. The ending was intense! I didn't see any of that coming. I would HIGHLY suggest this book to any Fantasy book lovers!

Oh My Goodness. This book.This story follows Carter and her archaeology group to a different

planet for an apprenticeship program. That alone drew me in. Archaeology in space? YES PLEASE. Not only does that sound amazing, but it is refreshingly different from so many other YA novels. This book included family, friendship, sci-fi, and mystery all into one. The plot was seriously never lacking in action.I really enjoyed the writing style of it. It included real historical facts about archaeology, and added in fictional discoveries that mirrored some that actually took place in the early 1900s, and I thought that was fantastic. Blakeney's writing made it so easy to just fly through this book. She had mysterious moments, then made them funny with side characters, then right back to fun science fiction. I loved that we got so many answers in the end, and a lot of it, I was not expecting at all.I went in not knowing too much about the plot itself, and I really enjoyed that way. I HIGHLY recommend this book. It was so unique and fun, and really a great read. Please do yourself a favor and pick it up!

It's a teen drama, girl's own, sci-fi, "King Solomon's Mines", alien world quest adventure. The characters are stock, except when they aren't, and the plot is incoherent, except when it makes sense. It is loaded with loose ends and implausibilities piled on top of coincidences, but it is so ambitious and imaginative, and it is driven by such a helter-skelter narrative, that I stormed through it despite myself.Here's a brief plot synopsis. Moody, damaged heartthrob Conrad heads to the planet Thror and disappears. He sends some clues about his fate to Carter. She books her archeology class field trip to Thror without telling her prof or the other students, and so they get on a spaceship to Magnus and find themselves actually transported to Thror. Really? Since they're all stuck there they all decide to try to find Conrad, because hey, why not. Thror was once home to an advanced, artistic and glamorously exotic civilization that was totally wiped out by massive, cataclysmic volcanic eruptions and earthquakes that basically Pompeiified the entire planet. Or did it? Is there cool hidden stuff out there? Are the few surviving Throrians hiding it? Did Conrad find it? Will we? The only way to find out is to hike out into the baking, ash covered, volcanic wasteland of Thror and have a bit of a look around.This shouldn't work. Our crew is Carter, (a sometimes lion-hearted and sometimes timid heroine), Professor P, (alternately furious at everything and then calmly understanding), and a sarcastic famous girl, a homesick namby-pamby, an earth child nutty granola girl, and a phone dependent gum chewer. The local Throrians are seven-foot-tall furry gorilla/lizards who spend most of their time hitting on attractive Earth woman. (How would that work?) And Conrad is Lord Byron by way of Heathcliff. Stop it; you're killing me here.I think the thing is that when the book gets cooking it's really very good. This book is set in the year 2222, and our Carter wants to be like the Howard Carter who found Tut's tomb in 1922. When she thinks about his

discovery, and reads about the way Thror used to be, and imagines what there is that might be found in Thror now, well, the book just takes off. The writing is beautiful and evocative and romantic in a great adventure sort of way. That part is so good, and there's enough of it, that I was willing to skip over the bumpy parts, the stilted dialogue, and the crazy quilt plotting. (In all of that, by the way, the book is identical to "King Solomon's Mines", and that's a classic.)So, for an older Middle Grade or younger YA reader with a taste for romantic high-energy alien world adventure and mystery quests, my bottom line is that this could be a very happy find.(Please note that I received a free advance ecopy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

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