



## Burn Out

*Kristi Helvig*

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## **Burn Out** Kristi Helvig

Most people want to save the world; seventeen-year-old Tora Reynolds just wants to get the hell off of it. One of the last survivors in Earth's final years, Tora yearns to escape the wasteland her planet has become after the sun turns "red giant," but discovers her fellow survivors are even deadlier than the hostile environment.

Holed up in an underground shelter, Tora is alone--her brilliant scientist father murdered, her mother and sister burned to death. She dreams of living on a planet with oceans, plants, and animals. Unfortunately, the oceans dried out ages ago, the only plants are giant cacti with deadly spines, and her pet, Trigger, is a gun--one of the bio-energetic weapons her father created for the government before his conscience kicked in.

When family friend, Markus, arrives with mercenaries to take the weapons by force, Tora's fury turns to fear when government ships descend in an attempt to kill them all. She forges an unlikely alliance with Markus and his rag-tag group of raiders, including a smart but quiet soldier named James. Tora must quickly figure out who she can trust, as she must choose between saving herself by giving up the guns or honoring her father's request to save humanity from the most lethal weapons in existence.

## **Burn Out Details**

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Author : Kristi Helvig

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## From Reader Review Burn Out for online ebook

### Lynne Matson says

BURN OUT is a fantastic sci-fi thriller. I ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT. Packed with action and suspense--and a kick-butt premise! Hello, burned-out sun and last girl on Earth!--and characters that keep you guessing whose side they're truly on until the end, BURN OUT will keep you turning the pages late into the night. Totally satisfying...yet BURN OUT leaves you wanting more. AS IN YOU'LL WANT THE SEQUEL RIGHT NOW.:) \*sits on hands to avoid spoilers\*

An awesome 2014 debut!!!!

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### A. Rolland says

I'm so fortunate to have this ARC in my grubby little hands right now. I'm now scolding myself for reading Burn Out so quickly because 1. I was late for work b/c I couldn't stop reading, and 2. Unfortunately, it's over.

I grew up on a steady diet of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, so I'm all about a kickass heroine with weapons training and a snarky mouth. The beginning reminded me of a futuristic version of the movie Hanna. But of course, Tora has her flaws, her fears, and her fallacies, and that's what makes her feel so real. The dilemma of choosing between her life and what's right for the greater good –gah! Such a great read. The novel is fast-paced, completely immersing, and entertaining.

Most of all, it makes me wonder. Makes me ask, "What if...??" I stepped outside today, took a deep breath, and felt thankful for fresh air and for the beauty of our planet. Gut feeling- this story will stay with me long after I've closed the book.

Recommend.

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### Tara says

Whoa--this book is, like, the definition of "page-turner." I could hardly put it down! Ms. Helvig is a master of ending chapters in just the right spots, on just the right notes, that make it pretty much essential that you dive right into the next one.

What's more, this book has an awesome concept (the sun is burning out WAY sooner than anticipated), a spunky, snarky heroine in Tora, and a cast of supporting characters for whom your trust is always shifting. Some very cool futuristic settings, too. I'll be psyched to come back to this world and learn how this story continues in the sequel!

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### **Marissa DeCuir says**

Oooooobbbssseessseddd!!!! Seriously love this book and want to see it on the big screen. This is a brilliant, thrilling story that definitely had me surprised a few times in the book. Usually you start to have a feeling about what's going to happen, but here, I really was surprised and that is so exciting as a reader!

I love the main character - she's definitely a bad ass and if I were left on earth after the sun burned out, I'd want to be in her bunker.

The overall plot of the sun burning out and how that happened, what that resulted in on earth, and what became of human existence is fascinating. The descriptions make it feel like such a real - and scary - possibility.

And I love the messaging of the book and focus on basis human goodness.

Cannot wait for book #2 to see where this story goes!!

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### **Kristi Helvig says**

Of course I'm being totally unbiased about my debut novel! ;)

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### **Brittany (Brittany's Book Rambles) says**

I received *Strange Skies* (the sequel to *Burn Out*) on Netgalley and thought that I should get my hands on this book and give it a go before trying instead of starting with the sequel. I was pleasantly surprised by how much I liked this book. I had never heard of it before and since it was so little I didn't expect much out of it. Oh boy, *Burn Out* should be talked about more. Tora is badass and the plot had a lot of twists and turns that left me wanting more. It's fast-paced, action-packed, and heart-wrenching. Plus, there is a *smokin'* hot guy in it.

Check out my full review on my blog here.

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### **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

#### **Warning: Long science-related rage rant ahead >\_<**

*Putting my trust in James would make me just as dumb. I couldn't let him get to me no matter how amazing his abs were. Still, that sadness in his eyes—*

Look, you fucking moron, a serial killer could have a sad look in his eyes right before he kills you and mounts you. Hopefully mounting in the taxidermy sense and not the sexual sense, but whatever.

I had hoped that a YA sci-fi written by someone with a Ph.D would make sense. I was tragically wrong.

This is probably one of the most outrageously nonsensical dystopian/post-apocalyptic setting I've ever read. **The plot is barely worth mentioning, because it stems from one Too-Stupid-To-Live girl's idiotic inability to keep her fucking mouth shut.** The book contains pseudo-science that might be believable to a 6th grader. It throws a bunch of abstract scientific bullshit at you in the hopes that something will eventually stick. The setting just doesn't make any sense on top of the inconsistencies. I will go over the setting in excruciating, profanity-filled details in a bit, but **let me give you a taste of why this book is so fucking dumb.**

It is 300 years in the future. We have almost no oxygen. The oceans have all boiled away. There is no water; water only exists through an artificial system that gathers up water molecules in the air and condenses it into actual drinking water. Because of this, **the main character lives on...**

*"...one cup of water a day."*

Let me tell you something. That's bullshit. A human cannot live on one cup of water a day. I don't care if you do nothing in your day but lie in bed, you still need a hell of a lot more water than that. Try 3 liters (or roughly 3 quarts) of water a day. One cup is nothing. The human body can last weeks without food, but only days without water. **ONE cup of water (8 ounces) a day doesn't fucking cut it. It's a biological fact.**

You lose water through breathing, you lose water through your pores. It's called **insensible water loss**. You don't necessary see yourself sweating, but rest assured, your pores are constantly breathing water. That's why we wear cotton clothes instead of plastic clothes. Our bodies are constantly losing water and we need to ventilate.

AND YET in the middle of all this water conservation, the people in this book still sweat constantly. Every other chapter is a mention of how someone is drenched in sweat (because Earth's temperature is so hot), and you know, when you're trying to conserve water within your body, you really shouldn't be fucking **exercising until you're dripping in sweat.**

*"Sorry, I thought I'd get a run in before tonight. Did you want to use it?" Although he looked like he'd been running for hours, he barely sounded winded.*

And I don't know if you've ever ran for 45 minutes at a gym, but **one cup of water a day isn't going to fucking cut it**, particularly not on a futuristic treadmill.

*...forty-five minutes a day on the motion machine.*

#### The Summary:

*"That's why he made sure [the guns] wouldn't work for anyone but me."*  
*Markus looked surprised by my last statement. **Oops.** Guess I shouldn't have mentioned that part.*

This book wouldn't have happened but for **Tora's** inability to **keep her fucking mouth shut.**

It is 300 years in the future. The sun's pretty much went boom, or rather, it **KEEPS EXPANDING**. It's getting bigger and bigger and burning up the Earth. There's no oxygen, no water. And Tora might be...

*...the last girl on Earth*

She is an orphan, living in a hideout outside of the pod cities. Her father was a brilliant scientist who

designed a bunch of dangerous weapons for the government (the Consulate) only to regret it. The thing is that the weapons are pretty much useless because **Tora is the only one who can use them.** So the future is hopeless, Tora's running out of air, she's **thinking of Plan B** (killing herself) when a knock on the door comes. It's a baddie, Markus. **Markus wants the weapons that her father designed.**

Instead of lying to him or telling him the weapons don't work, or SOMETHING, **Tora decides to be a motherfucking moron and tell Markus that she's the only one who can use the deadly weapons.**

*I wanted to kick myself for telling him about being the sole person who could fire them.*

And now after moping and whining (50% of this book is Tora doing absolutely nothing but moping and whining), Markus has come back. **WITH COMPANY.**

**So Tora hears suspicious noises on her underground bunker's door.** Instead of like, fucking shutting herself in like what you should do if you suspect there's an intruder, **SHE FUCKING GOES OUTSIDE** (into oven-like temperature) **TO CHECK!**

*Something was definitely hitting the door. My heart raced. This could go very badly, but I didn't make it to seventeen by being an apocawuss. I braced myself, took a deep breath, and pushed the door open.*

**MOTHERFUCKING IDIOT.** So now it's a 5 vs one fight, and to make it worse, there's **YET** another party shooting at them. And **NOW** instead of running the fuck away back into the house like she should have done in the first fucking place, Tora allows the intruders to break into her bunker for safety.

*Markus shrugged and had the nerve to smirk at me. "Guess we're all on the same side now."*

But it's ok, because one of the people trying to kill Tora is **James.** Dreamy, dreamy James. Who just tried to kill her, but who cares, **he's so hot!**

*His body was solid muscle. Sweat dripped down his face, his chest, his arms ... he wasn't just sort of cute, he was hot.*

Her stomach goes "fluttering." Her breath catches.

James and Tora get to know each other. She should be angry with him. But the sadness in his eyes...and...

*I should be angry with him, yet a small part of me liked the look on his face.*

They exchange Sad Life Stories (tm) (after he tries to kill her).

*"They said that the world didn't need another worthless child to feed and they shot her, her arms still wrapped around me."*

;  
;

**Tora finds multiple reasons to lift her shirt off for James.** Like finding a place to hide a gun.

*I turned away and lifted my shirt.*

And check on the state of her rib injury.

*I shifted my satchel over to the other side, and lifted my shirt up a little.*

And play doctor with each other.

*Aside from my panties, the only things under this flimsy excuse of a gown were bandages.*  
*"You put me in this gown?"*

**Will James and Tora ever find a non-medical excuse to take each other's clothes off?**

*Both his hands slid down toward my hips and his lips almost touched mine. I was no doctor but this was definitely not part of any medical exam I'd ever seen.*

Or will Alec, the boy with the puppy, get in the way of their One Twoo Wuv?!

*Alec couldn't die. Somebody as decent as him had to live. He saved the last dog on the planet. Tears welled in my eyes.*

**The Setting: I'm going to try to type this out without laughing.** 300 years ago, the sun went boom because an asteroid hit the earth but we deflected it and it hit the sun instead (?! that's a long fucking distance for an asteroid to travel, damn, son!) but the asteroid contained Dark Matter so it made the sun go BOOM and there goes life on Earth as we know it.

Nope. Failed. BWAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH AHAHAH OH MY DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?!

Ok, the "asteroid" was the size of the moon. 300 years ago is OUR PRESENT DAY. You mind telling us how the fuck we got the technology to launch a rocket that could deflect a giant asteroid into the sun? It's a long fucking way. **Furthermore, a moon-sized asteroid would probably be predicted like HUNDREDS OF YEARS ahead of time, so why did it suddenly just fucking happen?!** Dark matter inside an asteroid? PLEASE! Dark matter is an energy. It's a concept! It's not like a black hole, it doesn't make things explode. **Dark matter just a term to explain things that we cannot actually find electromagnetically, like gravity.** IT'S NOT GOING TO CAUSE THE SUN TO GO BOOM. NOT LIKE THIS.

*An unexpected reaction occurred and the sun kicked into hyperdrive. It began burning hydrogen like crazy, and before anyone could comprehend what had happened, the helium in the core was exhausted.*

So the sun did went boom, against all fucking odds. And now **there's no oxygen on earth** (?! OMG THE HEAT TOOK AWAY ALL THE OXYGEN TOO?!) and now there are no water because ALL THE SEAS BOILED AWAY. **Fuck evaporation, right?** Gee, the water cycle. I WONDER WHERE ALL THE FUCKING WATER MOLECULES WENT WHEN IT EVAPORATED AND DIDN'T GO OFF THE EARTH.

So the earth is hot, and if you go outside, expect to catch fire.

*Please don't let me catch fire.*

There's no water, but there's a technology designed to **harvest motherfucking water molecules from the air**. Hmm, WHAT ABOUT THAT WATER CYCLE, HUH?!

*When the ponds, lakes, and finally, the oceans had boiled and evaporated, the Consulate scientists came through with technology allowing us to glean the precious water molecules from the atmosphere.*

*The technology was termed Water in Air Recycling, W.A.R.*

And WAR SUCKS, because you can only get enough for one cup of water per person a day. Right. Because the human body can totally live on that.

And now the oceans are gone, the animals and plants are gone, we live on gel foods. There are Pod Houses inside Pod Cities. The United States is now a Sector 5, and we're all ONE BIG HAPPY CONTINENT NOW because the oceans don't exist anymore. We have one common currency. We have **one common language** (which is English. So sorry, France) but somehow **Tora is a rebel because she loves dropping Spanish phrases into her vocabulary**.

*I was muy caliente, and not in the good way.*

*Your pink swimsuit looks muy bonita on you, she would tell me. We felt like rebels using Spanish now that it was supposed to be extinct too. Gracias, I'd respond.*

**What do you call a Spanish weabo?**

**Tora.**

There is hyperdrive speed technology, we can travel to other galaxies, and in fact, we have found a planet that's EXACTLY LIKE OUR OWN. In the solar system Hydrus (Hydro, for water, get it?!?!?!11111). It's exactly like Earth. How very convenient.

*Yes, it's like Earth, minus the astronomical temperatures. Caelia's sun is where ours was back before the 'roid hit it." Markus smashed his fist into his palm like I needed a visual. He smirked. "People are already soaking up the rays—right next to the oceans."*

But don't get your hopes up, because we don't get to see anything except the inside of a bunker and a very boring ship.

Oh, and The Ultra Secret Weapon? It's powered by some New Agey HUMAN VIBRATIONS stuff. Sorry, but I have to laugh. I know it's possible, but I can't think back to my high school physics class without laughing at the concept of humans vibrating at a frequency to power a weapon.

**The Plot:** There was essentially no plot. Very little happens in the book besides Tora being a motherfucking idiot and pretending that she's *Under The Sea*.

*I lay down and pretended to be submerged in the cool depths as the waves crashed above me. It was somehow harder to catch my breath down here on the imaginary ocean floor. After another minute, the need for oxygen overwhelmed me. I must have done a better job visualizing than I thought.*

Or else moping and whining and giving us infodump after infodump on this post-apocalyptic world that doesn't make any fucking sense. The romance is forced, as expected, the writing is underwhelming.

Furthermore: WHY NOT JUST KILL HERSELF?! Sorry, but Tora ALREADY had a plan to kill herself because her world is about to end anyway. So she learns that she is the key to a destructive weapon, nobody can use it but her, and **people can use her to destroy people, and her morals won't let her give the weapons away.** So why not just kill yourself and save the trouble? Sorry if this sounds callous, but if you're already suicidal and millions of lives could be destroyed by a weapon you can fire, then why not? Ugh.

**There's also girl-on-girl hate.** There is one other girl in this book, and man, is she portrayed to be a jerk, a slut, a sharp-cheeked, bird-faced bitch who sits on guys' laps and does nothing except make dumb plans that gets overthrown by our beautiful, fantastic Tora.

Skip this book.

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### **Paula Stokes says**

I read Jen McConnel's comment about Han Solo before I started this, and consequently I read all of Tora's inner thoughts in a gruff Harrison Ford voice. Which actually worked. And was especially funny when it came to her lethal right boob. Alas, her boob does not shoot lasers.

But despite that, I really enjoyed this book :) If you like feisty tough girls who don't take any crap from guys, you will looooove Tora. The story also manages to feel very action-packed, even though for large portions of the book she is trapped in a bunker or a spaceship. Also, water. Mmmmm. Get yourself a tall glass to drink while you read. Yep, 5 out of 5 nephrologists and dieticians recommend this book.

The end manages to be both satisfying and cliffhanger-y, but left me with a lot of questions. Please send book #2 ASAP :D

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### **Kelsey Ketch says**

For me, *Burn Out* has to be the best read of 2013, and I highly believe it will be the best debut novel of 2014 as well. It's action-packed, mixed with the right amount of romance. And the suspense kept me reading from page one.

If you are a fan of science fiction such as *Firefly*, you're going to love the plot and characters of this novel. It's just as diverse and adventurous, yet completely unique in its own way. I never knew who to trust or who to side with. Like the main character, Tora, I basically had to trust myself and my instincts. And with the plot being so intense and the building romance, my stomach just knotted up as I continued to read. Who can I trust? Is it James? Is it Markus? And what about Kale?

Honestly, with how well James is written, I couldn't help fall for him, even when my gut and his actions were screaming not to trust him. I was just completely sucked in by the blond medic. I so wanted to be Tora and have James wrap me in his arms and stay there for eternity. And I haven't felt that way about a character I've read in a while now.

Markus was another one I had a hard time not liking because he reminded me so much of Malcolm from *Firefly*: both in his actions and in his character. Even when he was an arse, he was just so much fun. But the

big difference between him and James was my gut so totally could NOT trust him. Period, end of sentence. No matter how sweet he smiled.

The only time I was nervous about this book taking a wrong turn was when Alec was introduced. I was so scared of a love triangle forming, something that I now feel is getting old in novels. Fortunately, I didn't sense anything. Which was good. I don't think I could've handled another love triangle. Not with my intense feeling for James.

To sum up, *Burn Out* is an excellent read. If you haven't added it to your 2014 TBR lists, I highly recommend that you do. It comes out next April 8th. <3 James!

**For more book reviews, you can also visit my website over at Ketch's Book Nook. Thank you.**

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### **Lindsay Cummings says**

My Initial Reaction: Holy Crap.

This book is SO good, you guys. I'm a major fan of scifi, and always have been. But reading scifi books really started a few years ago, when I picked up ACROSS THE UNIVERSE by Beth Revis. I devoured those books, and when I was done, I was pretty disappointed to find out that there just wasn't a ton of recent YA like it.

I wanted actual SPACE stuff. Spaceships. Weapons. Aliens. Crazy stuff like that. That hunger was sated when I watched all of FIREFLY in a course of just a few days. The show sucked me in---the characters, the drama, the amazing plots, and the badA fight scenes.

So, naturally, when I saw the cover reveal for BURN OUT---I wanted that freaking book. And I got to know the author, Kristi Helvig, over the YA Valentines blog, which we are both members of. She's so sweet and hilarious, so I just knew I'd love her book. Finally, the day came when I got my hands on on ARC of BURN OUT.

And guys, this book rocked my face off.

Seriously. It's so good.

It has all the perfect elements that I love in a scifi. Action, weapons, advanced technology, spaceships, characters who are a little off their rockers.

The main character, Tora, is a total spitfire. I could really relate to her, and she never really disappointed me. I loved that about her. She always did what she thought was right. Even if that meant leaving herself in isolation because she didn't really trust the people who wanted her dad's weapons.

And by the way, the weapons are super cool. I want a wicked laser-gun thingy. Maybe the author is handing some out as swag...

Overall, if you're looking for something fast-paced, futuristic, and super fun, you'll love *Burn Out*. This book is great, because you never know who to trust, and your opinions will constantly change---which will keep you hooked.

This is a killer debut, and I am sooo excited for the sequel!

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## **Dark Faerie Tales says**

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

**Quick & Dirty:** This novel was enjoyable, with slight problems, but it left me wanting the sequel after a sudden twist. It's a dark setting, but the main character's witty, spitfire personality lightened the mood.

**Opening Sentence:** Six months and counting, yet not a whisper of a fellow human to be found.

**The Review:**

Meet Tora: living alone, possibly the last survivor on the planet Earth. Her family is dead. The sun is turning red giant years before scheduled and her father left her a bunch of evil guns that she's somehow expected to protect from the almighty, corrupt Consortium government. Using her WAR machine to collect water from the air, she gets barely a cup or so a day of water, and she can't venture outside without a suit in the daytime. Even in the night, storms rage ruthlessly. But soon, she'll meet some people — some trustworthy, some only using her, who claim they can get her to the newly discovered planet.

Tora is a fun character. She's witty, sarcastic, determined, and strong — she never gives up. Though her situation sucks, she fights to make it better. Sometimes her spitfire attitude can screw up her position even more, especially when she's screaming strings of profanities at her captors, but it was also funny to watch. I could compare her to a more hotheaded version of Katniss, from The Hunger Games (as you all know). I also loved how she wasn't all strength, and had weaknesses and things that hurt her, namely the memories of her family. Her father, she looked up to, for standing up to the Consortium, and his bravery in general. Her mother she didn't look up to, because towards the end she was addicted to the pain medications and hated life, but Tora misses her all the same. But most of all is Tora's sister. We get so many memories through Tora's point of view about how bubbly and sweet her sister was, how kind and hopeful, and the two were very close. Now Tora's all alone in a burning Earth and trying to keep it together. Her efforts are admirable, if I say so myself, even if she messes up every so often.

There are two love interests, and for me, it was a clear choice. James and another one who comes later, Alec. I didn't trust James in the slightest. Certain revelations made me appreciate him a tiny bit more, but I still think Alec is a clear winner. He's funnier, more loyal, and get this — he took care of a dog on the burning earth, sharing his meager supply of water so it didn't die. Tora likes them both, though I don't know what she sees in James, beside his "hotness". He has the shyer, quiet vibe. Alec is more open and witty.

When I was reading this book I was 48 percent through and excited because a huge plot twist had just went down. But, apparently my PDF had two versions of the story, the same versions, just one after another. This made it 50% longer. I was upset when I realized I'd have to wait to read the second because I genuinely enjoyed Burn Out.

Finally, something I would like to address. On Goodreads, I scrolled down to see the average feelings of the reviewers and look at the synopsis before diving into the novel. A few reviews absolutely bashed Burn Out for being unrealistic. I respect their opinions, and definitely there are parts of Burn Out that don't make much sense from a scientific standpoint, so I agree a little. However, isn't the point of science fiction, fantasy, and

dystopian YA to be unrealistic? Isn't that what makes a book interesting, pushing the boundaries at new and unique, even if it doesn't make complete sense? My conclusion — even if *Burn Out* was unrealistic, I don't see any reason you shouldn't read it. I enjoyed the characters and the plotline.

This novel was funny and unique. The ideas, especially for the weapons and some of the newer machinery, were very interesting. It was enjoyable as a whole, easy to read and be hooked into. It's also a very quick book, or at least seems like it. If you're a fan of space travel and dystopian novels than chances are, you will enjoy this to some degree. Yes, there were a few problems. The unrealistic elements, of which I have addressed already. Also, some scenes were a tad confusing and I would have to read again to fully understand. In the end, I still found this book lots of fun to read. Plus, look at the cover! It's so bright and exciting! Little creepy, lots of color — just how I like it.

Notable Scene:

Markus watched my face, which I kept blank. Rage bubbled deep down inside but stayed buried, where emotions should stay. Rage was useless, hope only brought pain, and love ended in death.

He cleared his throat. "I think it's safe to say the human race will continue, although I know you don't think that's necessarily a good thing.

FTC Advisory: Egmont USA/Random House provided me with a copy of *Burn Out*. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

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### **Jaime (Two Chicks on Books) says**

That was pretty damned awesome! Can't wait for book 2! Tora is badass and I can't tell if I love James or hate him lol

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### **Gisbelle says**

*Provided by the publisher via NetGalley*

#### **Actual Rating: 4.5**

One of the most thrilling and unpredictable post-apocalyptic fictions I have ever read. Each scene was so crazy good that it was hard to put down once I started reading this astoundingly well-written book. It was full of suspense and actions I don't know where to start with. A must read for any science fiction fans out there, especially those who love post-apocalyptic fictions.

I was completely in love with the characters because they were complicated. Tora was so feisty that even she was in the toughest situation, she still didn't give in. The other characters, such as Markus, James, Britta and Kale were also such great character, even some of them were so evil I wanted to strangle them.

The plots were creative, well-written and fast-paced. I was amazed by the way the story was told which was

so full of surprises and awe-inspiring scenes. The transition from one scene to the next was very nicely executed that it didn't cause me any boredom.

How the book was ending made me want to read the next installment right away. It is hard to predict what will happen next and that makes the wait even harder.

All in all, this is one great book that should not be missed by any science fiction fans or just anyone who wants to read something refreshing and filled with loads of actions and suspense. Kristi Helvig is a debut author that I will keep an eye out for.

Blog: YA Obsession

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### **Sara Raasch says**

Got to read an ARC of BURN OUT through the Valentines, and WOW. I sped through this beauty in less than 24 hours. Lightning-paced, intensity at every turn, and not to mention a gritty, no-nonsense heroine that is at once lovable and deadly. Kristi manages to breathe life and vivacity into a stark, deserted world through characters that grab onto your heart and don't let go!

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### **Farrah says**

Thrilling, action-paced, romantic, and full of secrets and betrayals, Burn Out was a fantastic YA read. I really liked this wonderful book. From the characters, to the unpredictable story, this book was amazing.

The world building was well done in this book. The whole scenario of the sun expanding ahead of schedule due to a human mistake, burning the Earth to a crisp, was well thought out, as well as the human reaction to such a catastrophe. There could have been a bit more description about the state of humans now, on the new planet, but I assume we'll be getting that in book 2. Overall, the world building was wonderful.

Tora was a great heroine. She was fiercely loyal to what she believed in and those she loved. She wasn't the kind to go out without a fight and strong enough to survive living literally all alone in a sun-scorched Earth. I really liked her. She was a total badass.

James was an interesting character. He was the kind of person who held his cards close and, therefore, kept a lot of secrets. He was surprising and, by the end of the book, I both adored him and didn't know what to think of him. He was very sweet and clever and truly adorable. But, he was also secretive and the way the book ended left me wondering who he truly was. He was an wonderful character and I really liked him.

The romance was sweet. Though it wasn't the main focus of the book, it was a major point. Tora and James were great together, both strong willed and a match for each other. Though after the way the book ended, I wonder how things will turn out for them...

The plot was well paced and I was kept interested the entire way through. My one issue with the book wasn't that I didn't like a part of it, but just that I wasn't as drawn in as I could have been. But, I definitely still liked the story. There were tons of thrills and secrets that kept me guessing. I really enjoyed the story and the

ending has me curious about what will happen next. Can't wait to read book 2!

Burn Out was a fantastic YA read. I really liked this book. From the sweet romance, to the endless thrills, to the surprising secrets, this book was a truly enjoyable read. YA lovers, this is a book you won't want to miss.

\*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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