



The Oceans Between Stars

Kevin Emerson

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It is Earth year 2223, but the Earth, along with the entire solar system, is gone.

Liam and Phoebe, having barely escaped our exploding sun with their lives, are in stasis for the decade-long journey to the rogue planet Delphi, where they hope to meet up with the rest of the human refugees, find help for their injured parents, and pass along the devastating things they discovered on Mars: that someone destroyed their world intentionally, and that that someone might still be after them, trying to finish the job.

Phoebe is carrying her own dark secret. One that finds her waking up secretly at various points in their journey, changing their path through space. One that will decide the fate of the human race, and many more besides. One that, very soon, she must reveal to Liam, whether he's ready for the truth or not.

The Oceans Between Stars Details

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Author : Kevin Emerson

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From Reader Review The Oceans Between Stars for online ebook

Rachel Meyer says

I didn't enjoy the first book in the series that much, but I was hoping the second book would be better. However, it still wasn't my thing.

Things I Enjoyed:

- More serious. One of my problems with the first one was that it wasn't serious enough, but this one had plenty of that. Liam especially seemed to grow in this book.
- Another great time limit. It had me on the edge of my seat as I was reading. (Although if book three has one it will start to feel repetitive.)
- A few more answers. All the time travel stuff made my head hurt, but I mostly understood.

Things I Didn't Like:

- I didn't always understand the characters. There was just so much hate going around, between humans and Telphons. Everyone just wanted to blow each other up. While I know that's accurate to how people are, I just don't see how they can hold onto all this hate for so long.
- Phoebe wasn't my favorite character still. I just didn't connect with her the way I connected with Liam.

So, three stars for this. I might read the next book, I might now.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Plus

After Last Day on Mars, Liam and Phoebe managed to escape the destruction of their adopted planet when the sun went supernova, and they are on a space ship in stasis waiting to get to another destination. When they wake up, their parents are still asleep, and have been injured. Liam fears that his sister didn't make the shuttle in time, and fears that she is dead. With the help of JEFF, a droid in the shape of a panda, they manage to figure out what is going on. Liam still has the watch that he found on Mars, and takes comfort in being able to go back and watch scenes from his life before things all went wrong. Eventually, he meets the original owner of the "watch", a chronologist from the future who warns him that the watch is not meant to be used by him, and may be causing space/time anomalies. When the two come across the wreckage of the Scorpius, which is supposed to be intact. Phoebe has many secrets that she is hiding, but decides to tell Liam about them, since the two have become close. These secrets change many things about what Liam needs to do, and he resorts to using the watch to explore different realities in the multiverse in hopes of putting everything to right.

Strengths: There are a lot of VERY interesting twists in this that I didn't see coming even though I should have! There are several asides that all come together, so I don't want to give anything away. The terraforming of Mars, the plans for sending out colonies on ships when the sun is in danger of exploding, and the machinations of the scientists are all well depicted and fascinating. This is different from the first book (Which was a 2017 Cybils finalist) but still really intriguing. Even with all of the action, the relationship

between Liam and Phoebe is multilayered and very interesting. This employs the idea of multiple realities that Bishara's Relativity, Edge's The Many Worlds of Albie Bright and Lawrence's A Crack in the Line explored. Interesting to read about, but hard to really believe! Emerson has written so many different things, but science fiction may be what he does best.

Weaknesses: Lots of characters, and lots of brain melting multiple realities. Made my brain hurt a bit, but in a good way. The cover is a bit murky and should show way more action!

What I really think: Definitely must purchase this one as soon as possible as well!

Ahmed Ejaz says

"Trust is a powerful adaptation of three-dimensional beings...It's your engine for still making a choice when you don't have all possible information."

It was so good to be back to this space adventure. It was perfect. I enjoyed it way more than I expected. In the first book, the excitement level was increasing gradually, like one or two steps at a time. But here, it went to peak point from the very beginning. I was so absorbed in this world. But yeah, it took me a good time to finish, because I got involved in 3 to 4 buddy-reads or a TV-series I'm watching these days. But that's okay. I enjoyed it and that's what matters.

CHARACTERS

Liam & Phoebe are major ones. Their friendship is so great. Like their trust on each other is incredible. I loved it.

JEFF, hah, that's my robo-panda! Soo cute.

"We're a team. Best in the galaxy."

PLOT

After our Solar System has been wiped out from our universe, Humanity, via starliners, are going to another home planet. As Liam, Phoebe and *JEFF* have lost them on Mars, they are trying to catch them via their cruiser piloted by *JEFF*. Their parents get injured on Mars, so they are also with them in statis pods, sleeping all the way. Eventually, the team get to know that someone is exploding stars on purpose by speeding up their supernova process. That's not a very good thing for the universe.

--The book has a lot of time travel. It sometimes get little complex to get along by just reading once. They time travelled via an alien watch they found on Mars.(view spoiler)

--Their arrival on Delphi was amazing. I loved the scenes written on that place.

--We also got to see Centauri System too. It's like our Solar System but has two stars, Centauri A and Centauri B. You know this system exist in reality too. Centauri A is the closest star from our Solar System, 4 light years away I guess.

(view spoiler)

--(view spoiler)

--(view spoiler)

--(view spoiler)

--Probably the only thing I didn't like is the name of series. It's the Chronicles of Dark Star. And the name

Dark Star appears barely 2 to 3 times. We don't know the D of Dark Star right now and the next book is the finale. Don't know why, it feels so soon. :(Let's hope for the good.

--(view spoiler)

To sum up, this is the best book I read this year so far. (^__^)

But give this series a go if you like space-travel, time travel, concept of multiple realities and dimensions etc..

???5 Stars???

6 October, 2018!

Michele Knott says

Fantastic sequel. Questions are answered, yet many more pop up. More science explanations/discoveries in this one, but even when it got tough to completely understand, I could figure it out enough - I would tell readers who might not think science fiction is a genre they enjoy, there is so much action, adventure and suspense that makes it worth it! What a ride! Can not wait for book 3!

Liz Overberg says

Middle grade sci fi, second in a series.

This sequel is even more sciencey than the first book, with lots of complex time travel.

Fun, fast-paced, and funny, but a little hard to follow. Very well written. Positive messages about friendship and working through differences.

Sarah says

I was super excited to read this having really enjoyed the first book so, so much. Unfortunately, I didn't find this sequel as exciting or compelling as the first. For one thing, I felt it really became just too complicated and bizarre. And maybe that's just science fiction and I don't typically read straight up science fiction. I loved the prologue which explained events well before the events of the first book. In fact, much of this book is really about explaining why things are happening (in a word, it all comes down to just elaborate revenge plans), but then vague things like giant doorways and "the Drove" get in the way.

There were definitely a lot of things I liked about this: getting Phoebe's point of view, Phoebe and Liam trying to figure things out, descriptions of vast space. But beyond that I just found myself a bit annoyed wading through the rest.

LeeAnne says

“One unknown at a time.”

Liam’s mom’s words echo in his head as he tries to save his parents, his friend, himself, and all of humanity. Phoebe and Liam have been traveling toward Delphi in stasis for years, hopefully arriving in time to catch the *Scorpius* and board with the rest of humanity, arriving safely to their new planet. What he doesn’t know is that while he’s been in stasis, Phoebe has been awake carefully manipulating their path so that they arrive late to Delphi. This starts her on a path of deception and betrayal, a path that she is not certain she wanted to be on in the first place.

“Trust is a powerful adaptation of three-dimensional beings. The hope or belief in something. It’s your engine for still making a choice when you don’t have all the possible information.”

Receiving conflicting advice from two unexpected beings, one being his bot, JEFF, Liam has to make the decision to continue to work with Phoebe on their original mission or abandon her altogether. Should he follow his visions or follow his logic? Should he save himself, his family, the attackers, all of humanity? It is all up to him and which choices he makes.

“We prefer what happens to what could have happened.”

Echoes of friendship, loyalty, trust, choices, and bravery ring out through this heart-stopping sequel in a wonderful middle-grade science fiction series. Kevin Emerson’s science (teaching!!) background plays a wonderful part in building the world for Phoebe and Liam. Several of my students “stole” this book from me when we finished *Last Day on Mars*, and kept me from reading it right away. They reported back with great reviews, and I agree with them - it is exciting. My favorite character, by the way, might be JEFF.

“ ‘JEFF, be careful!’

JEFF reached the deck and looked back. ‘Thank you, Captain Liam. I will follow all safety protocols.’ ”

And now, that is my new catchphrase.

Angela Blount says

Originally reviewed for YA Books Central: <http://www.yabookscentral.com/yaficti...>

A trust and friendship-centric second installment in this middle-grade sci-fi series, *The Oceans Between Stars* is fast-paced follow-up to *The Last Day On Mars*.

Once again, the book opens with an exposition meant to explain alien things and ideas with manageable human analogies—using a touch of matter-of-fact wit and irony (vaguely Douglass Adams styled, sans silliness.) Just as with the vast majority of the first book, the parents are out of the picture. Still badly injured and kept in suspended animation for the long journey to their hopeful new home. It’s up to Liam, Phoebe, and their trusty panda-shaped android, JEFF, to ensure they actually make it to their destination.

A number of information tidbits come together in this book to form some fairly big reveals, so that was

rewarding to see. All these details turned out to be well-threaded ahead of time, so there isn't the sense that any of it was forced. Those hoping for clarity on Phoebe's origins will not be disappointed. And while some of the revelations provoke obvious philosophical quandaries, there isn't too much time spent watching 13-year-olds attempt to soapbox over them. The primary focus is 'run, outwit, survive,' and while the overarching plot has grown in complexity, it never gets too far from that rooting.

On the downside, the splitting off of multiple realities, while a useful plot device in some cases, can become a bit confusing at times. Especially as Liam begins inexplicably stepping outside of his own timeline and dimensional limitations. (The first book only involved time travel... er... maybe time-voyering is the more accurate term? So, I'd expect some readers may not love the complications brought on by the addition of multiverse concepts.) Bottom line: It isn't quite as easy to follow as the first book in the series.

On the upside, the slow and drawn-out portions of the first book (particularly toward the beginning half) don't pull an encore in this book. While there is still some scene drag here and there, there is notably less dwelling on the mundane details of spacefaring/colony life. It also stays fairly consistent to the previously established respect for realistic tech and physics seen in book #1.

Though this book doesn't stand alone nearly as well as its predecessor, it *does* answer a number of pressing questions generated by the first book. It also ends on a note sure to propel readers on to the next installment.

Breakfast and Books says

The Ocean Between Stars picks-up slightly after where *The Last Day on Mars* ended and continues to follow Liam and Phoebe's journey to catch the *Scorpius* to be reunited with their friends and family. However, Phoebe is hiding a major secret from Liam, a secret big enough that it could threaten to destroy their friendship. Despite the secret being revealed, the two quickly realize there is something bigger the two need to overcome that will have a greater impact on everyone they know than Phoebe's secret.

While the book does start off slow, there is plenty of action to keep the reader's attention and to make it a fast read. I will say the time-travelling/time-jumping does start to get a bit confusing. All-in-all a good sequel to the first book. In fact, I may have liked book two more than I liked book one.

Pop Bop says

This Sequel Is Even Better than the First Book

This is the sequel to "Last Day on Mars" and is part of the continuing series "Chronicle of the Dark Star. I don't know what's planned, but it feels like it will take at least two or three more books to wrap up the whole series. You could start the series with this book, but that would be an unnecessary challenge. If you are patient and are willing to piece things together you could probably figure out how this all starts. But, it would be a lot easier and a lot more rewarding to just start with "Last Day on Mars", which is a fine book on its own, anyway.

But, this sequel is way better. The first book, in retrospect, seems fairly standard. Earth is already burned up,

everyone's holed up on Mars, and the big deal is that everyone is escaping Mars before the Sun goes nova. So, it starts as a Mars colony tale, then a humanity in space/colonization tale. Our two heroes, Liam and Phoebe, get left behind and they and the AI JEFF have to catch up with the fleeing fleet. In addition to all sorts of space acrobatics, there are lots of hints about sabotage, other dangerous alien civilizations, hidden conspiracies, and the like to keep the pot boiling.

But things really speed up and take off in this book two. I'm not a fan of time travel and not really thrilled by parallel universe stuff, but that's the heart of this book and by gosh the author makes it work. Bottom line, Liam and Phoebe are still trying to fight off or avoid bad guys, they're still trying to catch up with the Earth fleet, and they're still trying to figure out who those guys are who are randomly blowing up suns, (like our sun). (Is it something personal or just the side effect of something else?)

Anyway, **MILD SPOILERS**, it turns out that with the help of a gizmo Liam found on Mars Liam can travel back and forth through time and can switch from one time line to other parallel time/event lines. The secret to this being readable is - 1) there's not too much of it, 2) we don't get bogged down in paradox baloney, 3) a wry and deadpan funny chronologist keeps joining Liam to explain what is/did/was/will/will have/ has been happening. Liam asks the chronologist exactly the questions the reader would ask, and the chronologist gives straight answers that sound both plausible and scientifically sound, in a quantum space/time sort of way. Amazingly, this makes the time travel and multiverse stuff both entertaining and very effective for plotting and action purposes.

So, I admit I expected this to be mostly space action, asteroid dodging, friendship bonding, space opera, (which is fine). It turned out to be more engaging, more sophisticated, more rewarding, better crafted, more gripping, and more satisfying than I could ever have hoped for. There are even interesting twists and turns in the Liam/Phoebe story that kept that angle fresh and intriguing. So, a very nice find and one of the few sequels that outdoes its predecessor.

(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.)

Becky B says

Liam and Phoebe are on their way from Mars to Aaru-5, the new home of humans. Their injured parents are in stasis and they're chasing down the ship they were supposed to be on transporting the rest of Liam's family and both of their friends. However, one of them is harboring a secret with major ramifications, someone is out to destroy the human fleet ahead of them, and the group destroying stars on purpose is still out there. Also, the watch they've been using to see the future has started doing strange things to both of them. Can they safely reunite with the rest of humanity and are they even still sane?

The first book in this series was seriously high octane and loaded with action. This one is more psychological suspense dealing with a deep cover spy, multiple alien species on the brink of war, some weird timey-wimey stuff going on with the watch, and facing the very real prospect of being all alone in deep space. There are still some good action scenes interspersed in here. And I like the depth that the multiple plot lines explored in this book add to the overall story. I can totally see the time and space stuff in here totally frying some readers' minds. (I can also see Dr. Who showing up at any minute.) Phoebe and Liam have some very hard decisions and situations to work through in this one. It's a great read to explore deeper issues like whether or

not to go to war, what is forgivable, if one death is worth saving millions, etc. in engaging ways. I'll be eager to find out how this series concludes, and I know several readers who will be too. Highly recommended to upper middle grader readers on up who enjoy scifi and timetravel adventures that deal with deep topics.

Notes on Content: No language issues. No sexual content beyond a peck on a cheek. There are some fatalities (or possible fatalities) on page, but no blood or gore described. Past or future well mass killings are related/threatened but only structural damage is described.

Hoover Public Library Kids and Teens says

They've left Mars, but they took the drama with them. Outstanding sequel that leaves you eager for the third installment.

Aaron says

This sequel begins the task of answering some of the questions that haunted readers of *Last Day on Mars*. It also opened up some new questions as well. My students and I agree on a few things about this series: we didn't want to stop reading it, we love the changing relationship between Phoebe and Liam, and how both are trying to figure out what the heck is going on, and what they need to do next to stay alive. I love how this series does not dumb anything down for its readers and keeps a complex plot accessible. This was on my Must Read in 2018 list, and the conclusion told me another key fact, I have a title for my Must Read in 2019 list, and it is the third book of this series.

Lorie Barber says

The second book in the *Dark Star* series does not disappoint!! Liam and Phoebe's adventures continue as they try to get their parents back with the rest of humanity as it travels through space toward their new home. Many of my questions got answered in this one, yet I asked so many more and am now biting my nails waiting for book three. Especially after reading **THE LAST PAGE!!**

Katherine says

Love this space adventure!! Will be waiting impatiently for book 3!
