



# Earthrise

*M.C.A. Hogarth , Julie Dillon (Illustrations)*

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**Earthrise** M.C.A. Hogarth , Julie Dillon (Illustrations)

Reese Eddings has enough to do just keeping her rattletrap merchant vessel, the TMS Earthrise, profitable enough to pay food for herself and her micro-crew. So when a mysterious benefactor from her past shows up demanding she rescue a man from slavers, her first reaction is to say "NO!" And then to remember that she sort of promised to repay the loan. But she doesn't remember signing up to tangle with pirates and slavers over a space elf prince... Book 1 of the Her Instruments trilogy is a rollicking space operatic adventure set in the Pelted Paradox universe.

## Earthrise Details

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Author : M.C.A. Hogarth , Julie Dillon (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review Earthrise for online ebook

**Choko says**

\*\*\* 3.75 \*\*\*

**A buddy read with the MacHalo Freaks:):):)**

I had no clue what to expect apart from this book being classified as a Sci-Fi, so I was very pleased to discover a fun Universe of pelted races, humans and Space Elvs!!!! I know, how cool is that??? Well, we get to meet one of them, at least, when a Captain of the trader ship Earthrise, Reese is charged with finding and rescuing a mysterious Eldritch Hirianthial who has been captured by pirates and about to be given to slavers... Reese has no experience at rescuing anything or anyone, since she can barely keep herself and her shipping business out of debt and still running... But she owes a favor to an anonymous downer who once paid her loan to fix the ship's engines and this is it. Captain Theresa "Reese" Eddings gives the details of the planned rescue to her crew, two cat-people, Harat-Shar, one of them a 7 foot Phoenix with metal feathers, and the bio-organic specialist, a lady winged centaur-like person called a Glaseahn. Obviously, this universe is created for the fans of the Furies:):):)

*"... "The best things. Adventures. Destinations. Knowledge. Relationships. All of them start with uncomfortable moments. It's only when you're grappling with something new that you might uncover something wonderful... but unfortunately, that means grappling with something new.""* ...

The gang rescues the Eldritch by the skin of their teeth and become a mark for the pirates. In order to get their ship fixed and to stay low, they visit the Harat-Shar planet of feline people and the culture there is absolutely fascinating!!! I did end up wanting to smack some of those cats, but over all it was more interesting than frustrating:) Money is very tight though and we get to visit the colony on Mars where the Captain comes from. She goes to visit her female only family to borrow so she can fix the ship and pay her crew... Family lets her down and I disliked them with passion:) This leads to her deciding to take on a dangerous contract which pays very well... Things become more complicated as we go...

*"... "Sometimes the things you fantasize about aren't what you end up really wanting,"* ...

Did I mention that the only way the Captain relaxes is by reading trashy romance novels? A girl after my own heart:)

I enjoyed the book, despite it having some pacing issues and me wanting to kill Reese on many occasions for her stubborn pride and prickliness. I see a lot of potential in this Universe and would like to continue with the rest of the series and maybe check the author's other work. A good choice for Sci-Fi and light Fantasy readers:)

Now I wish you all Happy Reading and may you always find what you need in the pages of a good book!!!

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**Cathy (cathepsut) says**

Free ARC, provided by Netgalley, thank you!

Wasn't so sure at first, if I would like it, but about a quarter into the book I was in love with all of the main characters. I adore Hirianthial, his psychic landscape is fantastic. The Harat-Shar are great comic characters and the bird-like Bryer is fascinating. The Flitzbe is like a more advanced tribble.

Throw in a classic run-chase-and-hide scenario with an asteroid field, and your swashbuckling space adventure is off to an entertaining ride.

I really liked the second part of the book. The swashbuckling comes to an abrupt stop, but it gives a great additional depth to the characters of Reese and Hirianthial. The changing POV between those two is very well done and flows smoothly. The setting is a nice bit of world building as well.

And after the nice interlude on the planet of the hedonistic furry people and lots of eyebrow action we're back to the swashbuckling bit in part three of the book.

I am not sure, why this book resonates so strongly with me. Perhaps if I had picked it up at another time, it could have had the potential to bore me to death. But I really liked it. The characters are vibrant and their cultural misunderstandings and differences and moral codes feel so real. I just want to hug them all and join the crew for a bitchfest about the injustice of life. And then I want to ravish the Eldritch. What a fab character. I could laugh myself silly over Reese's addiction to Eldritch romance novels.

Fun, well-drawn characters, interesting plot, snark, humour, eyebrows. We have a winner. Onwards to the next installment.

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## **Simply Sam ? says**

Alright, here it goes. A semi-crappy review bulked up with some pretty crappy pics but honestly, it's all I have the brain cells for anymore.

I purchased and listened to the audio for this one, and I'll be honest, I don't think he was a great choice for this book.

Big shocker there, right?

His voice was way too raspy, whispery, and gravelly for the role. He sounds like he should be voicing an old-time, down and out cowboy like this,

not a 30 year old woman like this,

I listened to bits in the car and my daughter even cringed listening. She said he just sounded like Batman reading different lines. So I guess he could even look like this:

Oops! Wrong Batman. But you get my drift.

I don't mean to be disparaging to the narrator. I can totally see his voice being perfect for other roles....just not this one.

It took me several starts and stops before I decided to push through it and acclimate. Unfortunately that never really happened. I feel like the narration kept me disconnected from the characters and pulled me right out of the story.

If I had time to actually sit down and read, I think I would have enjoyed this one much more than I did. I know that there is a good story here. I loved the cast (aside from Reese, who is just prickly, irrational, and rude---and who I hope ends up growing as a character.) Who wouldn't love overly amorous cat people (think Khajiit), phoenixes, and space elves?

I mean come on, that's a winning combination. Add mysterious benefactors, slave trades, harems, romance novels, inter-planetary travel, and extreme matriarchal societies and you have yourself a fun space opera. However, that last like 50% of the book just felt like it dragged on, and on, and on.

When the last line was read, my only thought was, "Finally." That can't be good, right? Again, I really think it was due to the poor narrator choice and not the content of the story. I'm even going to give book 2 a shot.

I'm giving it a solid 3 stars. I thought about going 3.5 stars but in the end it just felt too long and Reese got on my nerves for the majority of the book.

Initial Review:

Wow, I feel like I've been listening to this book for-ehhhhh-verrrrrrr. I think it's in part because I didn't like the narrator and truly felt he was not a good choice for the part (maybe another part, maybe another book, just not *this* one), but also because the last 40% or so of the book seemed to drag on. It's bad when the audio comes to an end and the only thing I can think to say is, "Finally."

**RTC. Maybe. Hopefully. But we all know how that goes...**

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**Hélène Louise says**

This book was absolutely perfect for me.

I don't know how to explain it, maybe by making a list: perfect characters, action but no non-stop-action, alternative humans and aliens, an every day live story, endearing characters, humour, a lot of good psychology, people who act like real people, a sentiment of reality in an alternative world and, at least but not last, a very easy and comfortable read.

Some people could say that the tonality is a little bit naive, but not me. On the contrary, I love this kind of intelligent choices, of letting the reader (if they wish) imagine the details about violence and sexuality. It's probably also my definition of Young Adult literature, and the reason why I love it so much.

The writing is very good, the alternance of points of view isn't excessive, the switching is sometimes quick, but always quite clear (well, except some few times on my kindle version, when the line break had disappeared).

The character of the heroin, Theresa, is also quite Young Adult as she's often cross, and impatient, and unjust. But she's also kind and loyal, and her history makes her reactions coherent. And, of course, she evolves slowly during the story - slowly and so, credibly.

I appreciated the numerous and funny veiled (or not so veiled!) references for she-readers, those who love romances. The whole book is probably quite feminine, and personal, and it's the reason why I loved it so much: there're no concessions to the supposed obligations of the genre, there aren't any stereotypes, it's a lovely melting-pot, clever and fun, thoughtful but never boring or preachy, full of delicious details...

(Allacazam is the best alien ever!! <3 ^-^)

If you appreciated books like *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet*, or *The Best of All Possible Worlds*, or maybe my *Lysandre Chalkhill - Livre 1 : "Filigranes"*, and if / or you're mostly / also a reader of fine social comedies like Jane Austen's books, you'll very probably love 'Earthrise'.

For myself it was a wonderful discovery! :)

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## **Cheesecake says**

[ don't worry though, they are

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## **The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says**

The cover! The cover! I adore this cover! So much awesomesauce with this cover! A heroine with dark skin and braids. How often does THAT happen in any genre? Julie Dillon is just so amazing when it comes to creating incredible fantasy art with PoC front and center.

Happy happy! Joy joy! Dancing around the room listening to the latest Blind Guardian. It's been ages since I've read such a kick-ass swashbuckling sci-fi adventure. The last one I'd read with a Black female lead was *Ascension* (which was also kick-ass).

Not only was this an amazing story, but intrepid ship captain Reese was the kind of heroine that I miss. Tough, no-nonsense, a bit unlucky in trying to keep her ship, the Earthrise, out of the red, but she's very loyal to her motley crew which includes a phoenix, two humanoid tigranes, a humanoid centaur and a cute aura reading fuzzball (which reminded me of a smarter tribble). Better still, there's no pesky romance to get in the way of the derring-do and adventure. Having said that, there's definitely the kind of push-pull between Reese and the mysterious Eldritch Hirianthial (and whoa, do I want this man because he's my kind of kryptonite, especially the long hair), but it doesn't take up the entire book nor does Reese lose her agency. Moreover, Reese makes mistakes, takes crazy risks that made me want to smack her, but the risks make sense for the kind of character she was.

Yes there's science and incredible world-building, but the most important aspects are the story and the characters. disparate beings manage to work together and create their own version of family. And it's hilarious that Reese is a huge romance reader (especially romances featuring the Eldritch) only to rescue one and discover Hirianthial isn't even close to the fictional being she read about. He's got secrets and isn't the least bit frail.

I'm off to read the next book in the series Rose Point, curious to see just what Reese and her crew manage to get into next.

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### **Athena says**

The main character ... oh man. I shucked three stars from this otherwise excellent sci-fi novel just because the MC (Reese) is so poorly written. I get that she's supposed to be an anti-hero, oh boy do I get that, but the construction of her personality just makes no sense, at all, in any genre. She's constantly combative and angry (that's her personality, period); she has the galaxy's worst decision-making skills and shows absolutely no command capability, let alone the ability to be in a room with *anyone* for longer than five minutes without having a meltdown: she's so utterly negative her body is attempting to eat itself.

Yet she is surrounded by a crew who not only don't murder her for being such an utter, dunderheaded asshole but actively *like* her, even though her total unsuitability for a leadership role puts them in nearly constant mortal danger. Cuz ... there has to be menace in the novel? Lame.

If you can hold your nose and get past Reese's character this is interesting SF but I just found the whole thing annoying.

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### **Rosalind M says**

3.75 stars. I found myself deeply annoyed by the main character's combative attitude and poor decision-making, but I kept reading to follow the other beings the storyline introduced. Here's hoping Reese is more tolerable in the next book in the series.

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### **Maria Dimitrova says**

I should learn to prioritize the books my dear wife recommends because this was great! It's been a while

since I got so caught up in a series. I actually finished it in a week. Sure there were just three books but still. Especially since RL has been a bitch lately and my reading time is severely reduced.

Back to the book. *Earthrise* introduces the reader to a universe filled with genetically engineered species called the Pelted. At some point the Pelted left Earth and colonised their own planets. I loved the introduced species and their peculiarities. Even when some of them made me a bit squeamish. Mostly I loved the Flitzby and I want one for my own. Though considering it's more of a plant it might be best if I don't because my track record of keeping houseplants alive is dismal.

Captain Reese Eddings is the MC of the series along with her crew. A rescue mission she embarks on sets in motion the events of this series. I loved Reese with her rough edges. She reminds me a bit of me. Especially when I was younger. Hirianthial was also intriguing and I really wanted to learn more about him. (view spoiler)

A note on the audio: it was absolutely awful! This is the worst narrator I've ever encountered. I couldn't stand his voice and quickly switched to normal reading. He has no ability to differentiate between the characters - all females sound the same - like chain smokers and the males aren't much better. Why was he kept for the rest of the series is a total mystery. If I had to stay with the audio I would have ended up DNF a great book. I hope the rest of the books set in this universe have a different narrator or else they would have to wait for a time when I have more actual reading time. \*sigh\* I miss the good old days when I could read for most of the day.

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## **Monica *\*\*can't read fast enough\*\** says**

Abandoned. (DNF'd)

I'm sorry to say that I just could not keep going with this audio book. The narration was just too off putting. The narrator's voice is extremely deep which under normal circumstances would be a plus for me, however in this case his voice was so raspy that it sounded to me like he was just recovering from a bad bout of laryngitis. There are odd sections of the audio that feel spliced together along with some kind of odd ambient noises in the background. I think that I like the story so I will eventually get around to reading the book for myself. Because of this I won't give it a star rating since I don't know if it's just my listening experience that I am not enjoying or if I didn't enjoy the story itself. I still have hope that I will enjoy the actual story it was just the narration that was a miss for me.

**You can find more from me at Monlatable Book Reviews**  
**<http://www.monlatablereviews.com/>**

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## **Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl) says**

**This one is free again (July 5, 2018) on US Amazon.**

**3.5 stars**

*Free on Kindle at time of review*



A sci-fi story that is not bogged down by unpronounceable words and textbook-like descriptions typical in a lot of sci-fi books! :) Reese is the captain of the *Earthrise*, a freighter ship with a crew of mixed species... you've got cat-like aliens, a Phoenix, and one that walks on four legs and has wings. They decide to go on a mission to rescue an almost elf-like alien called an Eldritch. He is several hundreds of years old and has mental abilities. Once they rescue him, they have several other adventures, of which mainly revolve around escaping some evil space pirates they evade in the beginning section of the book while saving the Eldritch.

Anyways, good solid beginning to a series. Reese is an interesting character that I could understand, but also found infuriating at times. She's agoraphobic and has \*major\* issues forming relationships and friendships. She also has an awful family. So, her issues make sense, but she still acted immature and irrational at times. However, it's not heavy-handed, so I was able to accept it and still enjoy the book.

I plan to continue the series. I had no idea this book existed until the buddy read, so this was a pleasant surprise. :) The author has plenty of other books that take place in the same world too, so I'm curious about checking them out.

March Book of the Month buddy read with the MacHalo group.

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### **Andrea Jackson says**

This came highly recommended by people I respect, but I guess it's just a matter of taste. The writing and editing were done well. I love the space camp-y feel. But I just disliked the heroine so much that it ruined the book for me. By the end, her TSTL actions because of her anger towards everyone close to her drove me crazy. She almost got them all killed, because she refused to listen to an ally who had proven himself. I HATE heroines like that. To me she acted like some middle-school brat.

edit: Plus the heroine and some other main characters were extremely judgemental and prejudiced towards other races' behaviors. You can't use your own conventions to judge other's sexuality and family traditions. That was a turn-off as well.

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### **Tiara says**

#### **TL;DR Review:**

3.5 stars. Where have you been all my life, book? Even with my few complaints, where have you been?

#### **Longer Review:**

Full Disclosure: A review copy of this book was provided to me by Studio MCAH via Netgalley. I would like to thank the author, the publisher, and Netgalley for providing me this opportunity. All opinions expressed from here forward are my own.

I almost put this book a little lower on my NetGalley pile because the NetGalley description had a side note

that this was a space opera with a romance subplot. That made me grimace a little. However, the Goodreads description did not tout the romance, and I was extra good and didn't read any of the reviews on Goodreads for this book. I was pleased to see that it seem to be fairly well-received by its readers just from gazing at the rating. I have no problem with romance. In fact, I love a good romance, but I find when it becomes the selling point for a book that doesn't seem to exactly romance-oriented, it can come off awkward and unnecessary. However, since I've been looking into more speculative fiction that feature protagonists of color, I decided to go ahead and give this a chance. If I hated it, the worst that could happen was I wouldn't finish it.

Side note before I start this review. I wanted to take a little time out to mention that Julie Dillion did the artwork for the cover, and if you're not familiar with her work, she is an amazing SFF artist whose Kickstarter I recently supported because of her beautiful artwork that I've seen featured many places including magazines. I highly recommend checking out her beautiful illustrations. On with the review!

Earthrise follows the adventures of Captain Theresa "Reese" Eddings, a mostly honest cargo captain, and her crew of misfit aliens, which includes a pair of Harat-Shar (humanoid felines) twins who hail from a libertine culture where sex and cuddling is a big thing, even among family members, a female winged centaur-like being called a Glaseahn who has an interest in bio-organics, and a male Phoenix with an impressive plumage and the distinction of being one of the best engineers around. Finally, there's Theresa's Flitzbe, she calls Allacazam, who sort of sounds like a tribble from Star Trek based on description, but can communicate telepathically with Reese and changes colors to express his moods.

Years prior to the book, Reese borrowed a large sum of money from a mysterious race known as the Eldritch (a very pale, almost elven-ish race of people), hoping to patch up her ship, TMS Earthrise, and make a fortune for herself and her crew before having to pay them back. As the old poem goes: "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Reese hasn't made her fortune after six years and now the Eldritch are calling in a favor. Reese was a spitfire for sure. Even though she'd been with her crew for years, she kept them somewhat at a distance, especially the twins, who are not shy about making their intentions known. She even devised a plan of keeping the areas she favors colder than normal to keep them at bay from wanting to be affectionate with her. However, Reese is much gentler than she appears. She has a love for romance novels, which belie her often fiery temper, but her past, which I found partly interesting and partly a shaky concept, is part of the reason that she enjoys romance. She finds escape in romance novels from her stress of being a captain who's barely making it, but she doesn't feel such romance is attainable in her real life.

She finds out her mission is to rescue an Eldritch spy from slavers, which is surprising. The Eldritch are isolationists partly due to the fact that their race can read minds through touching others. This isolationism has made them xenophobic and rarely seen outside of their home planet. Because no one knows very much about them, rumors say that they can do all kinds of extraordinary things like start fires with their mind. Even Reese believes some of these things about them, but because of her romance novels, she also sees them as fragile creatures who needs saving. So, imagine her surprise when Hirianthial proves not only to not be fragile, but more formidable than she ever expected. While she blames the inconvenience he caused her as her main reason for giving him such a hard time for most of the book, it's her feelings for him that prove to be the real problem.

I really, really enjoyed this book. It was a fun dash across the galaxy as Reese tried to make ends meet while dealing with her new, very private crew member. Reese has nothing but the best intentions for her crew and for herself, but she often finds herself in the worst predicaments. She leads a dangerous life, but she's not

really a fighter. She depends mostly on her wits to get her out of situations. She carries a gun of some sort because she feels she has to, but she has no idea how to actually use it.

The so-called romance in this book didn't really happen. I was afraid I was going to get a book with Reese falling all over Hirianthial, but really, there's nothing more than a mutual interest between the two with only one real scene I guess you could consider romantic. Some may argue there seems to be no spark between them, but I beg to differ. He's from a very private culture, one that doesn't allow much emotion to be shown while Reese gets fired up enough for the both of them. I thought it was a very sweet, slow building relationship that's still not a relationship by the book's end. More importantly, it didn't kill the book's vibe.

So, no, I'm sorry. No smut. Especially given that Hirianthial has an aversion to touching for much of the book because he can feel people's thoughts, fears, etc. He's also unique in that he doesn't actually have to touch people to get these thoughts. He can feel it from their aura when they're in close proximity, but he still tolerates that much better better than touching. Allowing someone to invade his aural space and to touch him is considered the ultimate form of trust for him, and that's not just something he reserves for Reese alone in this book because she's not the only person he has to learn to trust on Earthrise. I was happy for that, though, because it gave the story and characters a chance to grow aside from being SO IN LOVE. You get to learn much about Reese and Hirianthial.

This story could feel a little trope-y in places. Remember, I don't hate tropes. That would be ridiculous. They are unavoidable, but what the writer does with them is what counts. I wish there'd been more from Bryer (the Phoenix) and Kis'eh't (the centaur), but they did get their chance to shine a little, especially Bryer toward the end. Irine and Sascha (the twins) and their predilection for being flirty and wanting sexy time all the time seemed to take up most of the time that could've been dedicated to showcasing more of the crew. Also, parts of this the reasoning for things that happened in this story felt like they were written on a weak foundation. I found myself frequently asking, "Why?" Some of the plot just felt ill-contrived and out of place. I'm still not sure I understand one particular bit, but I'm hoping the subsequent books might clear this up for me. It didn't kill my enjoyment of the story or make me like the characters any less, though. I actually can't wait to read the rest of this series!

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**XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

**Dec. 31, 2017:** Her Instruments Series Box Set (books 1-4) only \$1.99!!!! **Buy it buy it buy it!!!!**

**? Well I'll Be Damned the MacHalos Actually Picked a Non Despicable Book to Read for Once Buddy Read (WIBDtMHAPaNDBtRfOBR™).** With the MacHalos. Duh ?

**Actual rating: 4.5 stars.** *Yeah yeah yeah, I know, I'm on a nauseating book-loving roll. So sorry about that. I promise to read some pure, undiluted crap ASAP.*

**? Friendly warning:** Petronilla, my air-headed, blonde mojo with a silly smirk on her face is still unavailable at the moment. Read this thing at your own risk.

**Okayyyy...** So this little book right here made me feel **all warm and fuzzy inside**. And yet, I managed to survive. Not only that, but my black, withered heart actually enjoyed feeling all fluffy and cozy and stuff. And in case some of you were wondering (view spoiler): NO, my account hasn't been hacked by the **Fluffy Siberian Bunnies** (FSB™) again, and YES, this is really my little self writing this thing right now. You are most welcome.

**The truthful truth** is, I should have hated this book with a vengeance. It isn't packed with non-stop action. It isn't dark. It isn't violent. It isn't full of yummy blood and scrumptious gore. It isn't filled to the brim with deliciously backstabbing assholes and ruthlessly villainous villains. In other words, it is a **slightly revolting, despicably tame affair** compared to the kind of stuff I usually ~~fangirl about~~ sort of like. But, damn it all to shrimpy hell, I ~~loved~~ **somewhat appreciated it anyway!** (view spoiler)

*This right here ↑↑ is you feeling slightly appalled, My Comely Branchiopoda. Sorry, what? You can't remember why you should feel slightly appalled right now? Oh, good, that means my nefarious plan to side-track you with my fascinatingly insignificant digression worked \*pats her little self on her deliciously nefarious exoskeleton\**

**So. Where were we?** Oh yes, this book should have made me feel like this:

**But it didn't.**

**The End.**

**Hahahahahahahahaha.** I am so hilarious sometimes. Did you seriously think this crappy non-thing would be over so soon? You can be so **scrumptiously naïve** sometimes, my Lovely Arthropods, it really is quite cute. You should know better than to assume that my having **zero inspiration** means I can't pointlessly go on and on and on about this book. Which I slightly enjoyed. **Against my better judgement and stuff.**

**Sorry, what?** You want me to cut the crap and get on with it? Sigh. You really are no fun, my Little Barnacles. But hey, **I just ate my pet hamster** (which put me in an unexpected good mood) so I shall be uncharacteristically compassionate and kind-hearted and charitable and stuff, and **do your silly bidding.** De nada.

► **I kinda sorta did not entirely think this book was complete and utter crap because:**

① **This is one of the mostest awesomest worlds ever :**

**Diversity**, my Little Barnacles! DIVERSITY! This universe is so refreshingly and creatively packed with **multifarious** (view spoiler) **creatures and species and races** I could cry (almost). Check this out:

Humans, **space elves**, a bucket load of **pelted beings**, phoenixes, centaur-like creatures, alien shapechangers, crystal stuff and last, but most certainly not least, **deliriously fluffy**, color-changing, **neural fur-covered**, volleyball-like beings that feed on light and communicate by projecting images in people's little heads. They are called ~~My New Babies~~ the **Flitzbe**. And they are MINE. Every single one of them. Just so you know. Oh, and by the way, I'm planning to start my own Flitzbe breeding farm, because, you know, **pincers are getting kinda sorta old** and stuff (view spoiler). So if you are interested in acquiring a Flitzbe of your own, please call **1-800-Alien-Furballs-Are-Da-Bomb**. Who knows, given the despicably altruistic mood this book has put me in, I might give you a 0.0001% discount if you buy more than 2000 of the little guys. I'm so generous sometimes, **I disgust myself a little**. It's beautiful. Excuse me, what? I'm digressing, you say? Really? So terribly sorry about that. Here, take a break, have a gif:

*You are, as always, most welcome.*

② **Captain Theresa Eddings, aka Reese :**

Okay, so **Reese isn't as deliciously** cut cut cut slice slice slice skewer skewer skewer as I'd like, BUT: she is a loner with tons of **delightful issues**. She is charmingly **standoffish**. She is exquisitely **bad-tempered**. And magnificently **touchy**. And a tiny little bit **unreasonable** sometimes. She can be splendidly difficult, too. Some **Uncharacteristically Discerning Barnacles** (UDB™) might even be of the opinion that she is a **huge pain in the ass**. And there is a slight possibility that said UDB™ might actually be right for once. Because Reese can indeed get **wonderfully annoying**. It is quite charmingly mouthwatering. And you know what else? The woman is **totally addicted to silly Exotic Alien Romances**. You'd think that this would be a huge turn off for me, huh? Goes to show how well you know me, you Silly Decapods. Ha. Now the for the scrumptious ~~shrimp on the paella~~ **icing on the cake**: Reese is black. As in, you know, **black**. I kid you not. When was the last time you read a Fantasy/SF/Whatever books/series with a black MC, my Comely Branchiopoda? Thought so. I think this calls for a **celebratory dance** and stuff.

③ **Reese's crew is one of the mostest coolest ones ever :**

- ✓ A **space elf prince-doctor-spy** with telepathic abilities. Yum.
- ✓ **Furry cat-like twins** with dubious sexual practices. Double yum. They come from a planet where **harems and sex slaves** are the norm, too. Guess where I'm moving the day I retire from my life of nefariousness?
- ✓ A **7 foot phoenix** of few words and metallic plumage.
- ✓ A **chunky centauroid scientist** with six limbs and bat-like wings.
- ✓ A **Flitzbe** that used to be Reese's but that is now mine because he is a Flitzbe and all Flitzbe are mine. QED and stuff.

④ **Random Great Stuff** (RGS™):

We've got **adventure**. We've got space stuff. We've got **humour** and great banter. We've got great action. We've got great non-action. We've got pirates. We've got slavers. We've got **deliciously complex characters that feel real**. We've got matriarchal societies. We've got all sorts of **exciting stuff**. We've got overripe yet

lethal rooderberries. We've got judgemental, self-righteous relatives. We've got fun **team building activities**. And we've got surprisingly **thought-provoking underlying themes**, like prejudice, tolerance, cultural and racial differences (view spoiler). And it's all **somewhat luscious and delectable**.

» And the moral of this **Bloody Shrimping Hell Cathy and I both Liked the Same Book for Once This Must Mean the End of the World is Near Crappy Non Review** (BSHCaIbLtSBfOTMMtEofWiNCNR™) is: this book is slightly awesome. **This book is SLIGHTLY FREE**. So what the bloody shrimping fish are you waiting for, my Little Barnacles?!

🔪 **Book 2: Rose Point ★★★★★**

🔪 **Book 3: Laisrathera ★★★★★**

🔪 **Book 4: A Rose Point Holiday ★★★★★**

[Pre-review nonsense]

This book is **disgustingly nice and fluffy** and stuff. And yet I slightly liked it. Therefore, **doom, destruction and complete annihilation** of all life on this planet await. **Run, my Little Barnacles, run!**

?? Full **Bloody Shrimping Hell I Should Have Hated this Book What the Fish is Wrong with Me Halp Crappy Non Review** (BSHISHHtBWtFiWwMHCNR™) to come.

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## Gergana says

Uffffff.... It's complicated.

On one hand, Earthrise is a book with an intriguing plot, well-rounded characters, creative world-building and, most importantly, a cover that borders to absolute divine perfection!

On the other hand.... it took me several months to finish it. Why? Let's just say that despite one of the most likable and unique casts that exists in fiction, despite the huge amount of creativity in terms of races, worlds, psychology and the complete unpredictability of the plot, there was one single thing that failed to resonate with me and that's the writing style... and pacing. Ok, it's two things that are kind of connected.

Nevertheless, I highly recommend giving Earthrise a go if you're a sci-fi fan and if you're intrigued by the synopsis. It's just as awesome as it sounds. Be prepared for long and unnecessary dialogues, inner monologues flashbacks and other things that will slow the book down for you.

Conclusion:

I got bored way too easily and way too often. Wish future readers better luck.

Also, make sure to listen to the audiobook narration sample before investing any of your money in the audio version.

