



Shivering World

Kathy Tyers

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Kathy's best so far, says an enthusiastic reader of Shivering World. Dr. Graysha Brady-Phillips is suffering from a genetic disease that causes weakness and early death. When she is offered a position on planet Goddard, where the average life span exceeds 150 years, she leaps at the chance. The colonists' radical--and illegal--science just might be her only hope for a cure. Graysha must convince a group of paranoid rebel scientists to trust the daughter of their worst enemy, her mother. Kathy Tyers has rewritten this favorite science fiction novel to deal more clearly with issues of faith.

Shivering World Details

Date : Published March 1st 2004 by Bethany House Publishers (first published 1991)

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Author : Kathy Tyers

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From Reader Review Shivering World for online ebook

C.M. says

Very well written book. Great Characters, solid mystery thread. Needs a sequel though, or at least an extended ending.

(MILD SPOILER WARNING)

It ended quite abruptly. We never found out about how things turned out for the heroes in the end, if they succeeded or failed, lived or died. And most of the villains get away. Only one who got taken down was the one who hardly did anything worth mentioning.

Jamie Words says

I've been a long time fan of Kathy Tyers' work and was delighted to read Shivering World. Definitely the more 'hard science' read of her books, I enjoyed seeing her explore the quandaries of what impact different technologies could have on humanity and how a more faith-based people group would navigate it. It left me pondering some 'what ifs,' which good science fiction should do. I would recommend this read!

Yvette (bookworlder) says

Rarely in Speculative Science Fiction do I find myself so quickly and so completely invested in a main character or her world. This is hard science fiction that focuses on personalities, relationships, politics, and faith while walking the fine lines between entertainment and commentary.

With much of the plot concerned with the danger the settlers are in should the truth of their genetic manipulations, Graysha's rare genetic disorder that has led her to the terraformed world of Goddard, and the eugenics policies that dominate this future, I was immediately reminded of a favorite university course subtitled "Science Fiction and the Future of the Body" where I first learned about the history of eugenics and was fascinated by the frontiers being explored in science fiction.

At 480 pages, this novel is longer than I've typically been reading, but I was left wishing it had been longer. I requested a galley of this book through NetGalley before I was aware that this is a revised reprint, and that the original publication date was 1991. The revisions, adding or enhancing the faith content, appear seamless to a first time reader.

Kathy Tyers manages to tick so many boxes with this novel - including science that is thoroughly researched and related in an understandable way and a very interesting take on a future relationship between feminism and "genengineering." Definitely one I'd like to add to my physical shelves (particularly with Enclave's fabulous new cover) for future rereading.

This review refers to a NetGalley e-galley read courtesy of the publisher. All opinions expressed are my own.

C.J. Darlington says

Kathy Tyers has fast become one of my favorite authors, and she proves it again in each novel she writes. There's such depth in her science fiction. Sometimes I have to read the sentences carefully to keep track of the fictional names, but it's well worth it.

Kerry Nietz says

I've read quite a few of Kathy's books over the last decade or so, but "Shivering World" is my new favorite. It is solid and compelling hard science fiction from beginning to end. The characters are multilayered, the setting feels legitimate, and the plot moves along at a steady pace. Even though the book is on the long side, it never felt superfluous, thin, or slow. Due to the demands on my time, it took longer to finish than I would've liked. Yet I never had a problem stepping right back into world and enjoying the experience. Even if only for a page or two. (That's the mark of a good book there.) Can't say enough for this book. I loved it! (We need more!)

Engel Dreizehn says

ARC Copy...It was a long read but interesting read offering a complex narrative on the nature of the human self + spirit in relations to natural and the "unnatural" facets of radical genetic-engineering. I did like the female protagonist is very much strong in fortitude despite her genetic flaws and the workings behind the genetics feel solid.

Becky B says

The planet of Goddard is in just the beginning stages of terraforming. Current residents are the Gaea Consortium scientists working on getting the planet stable and the Lwuite colonists, a religious sect with all sorts of rumors about them. Graysha Brady-Phillips is the newest Gaea employee to arrive. Outwardly she's there because the former soils specialist died and she needed a good paying job. Secretly she's hoping that some of the rumors about the Lwuites are true and they do illegal genetic engineering that could give a woman with Flaherty's syndrome hope. Unfortunately, Graysha's mother is the infamous lead crusader on the Eugenics Board that hunts down any such illegal activity. As soon as Graysha arrives on planet she's suspected of being a spy for her mother. Not only that, but something is going on with the terraforming on Goddard and Graysha's predecessor might have been killed because of it. Graysha may be just too smart for her own good and now she has multiple groups out to get rid of her one way or another. And as if that weren't enough drama for one startup planet, the colonists are having sudden elections to decide their leader and a stowaway arrives who has a big and powerful father with a history of leaving places his son tries to hide at in smoldering piles.

I was attracted to this by the description. It took me a few days to realize I already had an older copy of this book on our library shelves, with a darker cover. I'm glad it is getting a revamped cover because the old one

was obviously not attracting much attention. This was a fascinating read with a lot going on in it. The science aspects are very well done and make you feel like terraforming is a practice that Tyers actually observed to be able to write about in such detail. All the power plays at work on the planet certainly make this an edge-of-your-seat read. I wasn't sure for quite a while how things were going to work out. Even right up until the end there was a lot unsure. I'm kind of hoping that the re-release means that Tyers has a sequel coming out because I would like to know more about what happens after that final page. Don't get me wrong. It's still a great read as it is, but more would be great too. If you like scifi that's rich in actual science and/or very believable near-future science give this a try. Also a good choice for those who like Christian speculative fiction (some of the Lwuites are religious, in fact Christian, and some of the politics revolves around a don't tell don't ask law about religion, and the Eugenics Board claims their principles are based on Christianity but it is really more of a cult that has picked and chosen what is convenient for them). And you can also hand this to those who enjoy political thrillers.

Notes on content: No language issues. One guy tries to seduce women on a regular basis but he's viewed as a slime ball and there are no details. There is some kissing but nothing more. There are several murder attempts (none gory) and one past murder (but it isn't described). Some bruises and scratches described and one surgery vaguely described.

I received an ARC of this title from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Laura Chambers says

This should be a TV series. It has everything you could want - danger, love, Christianity, treachery, hope, and science. :)

I wish this had a sequel. What happens next?

Laura Hill says

Writing: 3 Plot: 4 Characters: 4

Fast paced sci-fi novel about the various people involved in trying to create a new viable planet (Goddard) through terraforming in the year 2134. In this universe, gene manipulation is both illegal and considered a denial of "the perfection of God's creation" by the Universal Church. However, the Hwuite colonists have long been suspected of maintaining the technology to do just that. Women form the majority of the governing bodies as men have been deemed "too aggressive" to be fit leaders. And the Religious Liberty Act has made it illegal to proselytize any religion without a duly registered inquiry.

Graysha Brady Phillips suffers from a genetic disorder which both limits her lifespan and makes it inadvisable to have children. She goes to Goddard as a soils engineer in the hopes of unearthing illegal gene manipulation techniques that might save her — or at least enable her to have children without passing on the defect. What she discovers, however, is a viper's nest of clashing agendas and a terraforming effort that appears to be going horribly wrong. Goddard appears to be cooling, rather than heating up.

Each character is the star of their own story, with their own goals and their own approaches toward others who don't share those goals. No "good guys" vs "bad guys" (though some characters are a lot more irritating than others). I was originally put off by the "Christian / SF fiction" billing but was pleasantly surprised to find that it was mostly SF with a smattering of philosophical and heart felt Christianity. I loved the pioneer spirit embedded in the colonists.

A good read for fans of Kim Stanley Robinson, Tyers combines science (terraforming, gene manipulation, hostile planet survival) with political and cultural clashes to make for a compelling narrative. Plenty of surprises throughout.

J.T. Stoll says

Shivering World was an utterly fascinating read.

My favorite best part was the conflict at the center of the book. Graysha is dying of a genetic disorder, and her only hope is to get someone to fix her genes, which is outlawed. She goes to the Lwuites, who are rumored to have a genetic clinic. However, Graysha's mom is the one in charge of prosecuting genetic engineers. So, even if Graysha can gain their trust, her mom will find out via genetic testing, and the Lwuites will lose everything. They want her dead, she wants their help, her mom wants to take down their whole society.

I also really enjoyed the in-depth terraforming. I've always had a soft spot for colonizing new worlds, so this book was fun for me.

Oh yeah, and the characters. Each have their own semi-selfish, conflicting motives for what they do. Even people on the same "side" of the conflict end up at odds with each other. I loved that.

The only part I didn't like was that the story moved a little slow. It's hard SF, so I get that the science is part of the action. And I enjoyed the science. But it took me a bit of time and energy to get through this book.

That said, I still loved it. I loved the imagination involved in creating this world. The characters were great. The world was a fascinating one to live in. Five stars from me.

Katelyn Bolds says

Incredible hardcore science fiction tackling topics like genetics, terraforming, and outer-world politics. Tyers has a mastery over the concepts of world building and science that makes reading her work realistic and vibrant.

Carl says

To be honest, the five star rating is for the original version of the book-- the rewrite for the Christian market

was still good, but as I've commented on her Firebird series, the prose is somehow changed with the rewrite. I had read the general market version first, which was on the preliminary list for the Nebula Awards or something like that. Beautiful hard science fiction, yet with a strong focus on characters and a lot of gene-tech and biological science (in other words, not just nuts'n'bolts), and as early as 1991 (I don't think that side of sci-fi had caught on all that much at that time-- but maybe I just hadn't read enough from the 80s). But as soon as I read the first paragraph in the new version I knew something was wrong. I don't know exactly how to explain it-- maybe if I went over the syntax and word choice in more detail (it's been a few years since I've looked at it) I would be able to characterize the changes, but the first version feels like it speaks the "language" of sci-fi (in terms of prose stylistics, I suppose), while the second feels like it speaks the language of contemporary Christian fiction-- which maybe isn't so weird, because I remember Kathy saying that she wanted to branch out into more contemporary romance (it might have been prarie romance), but it was disappointing for me, and was also a really interesting moment-- before I hadn't really been aware of how important the subtleties of the prose are. And of course, I'm all for an original style and voice, but in this case I prefered the first version.

All that aside-- this is a great book, and certainly worth a Nebula award. Lots of interesting issues with the "Other", only in this case the Other is humanity's children, illegally genetically engineered humans-- and there is also the planetary Other, which is also being engineered (terraformed), and then there is the Mother-Daughter relationship at the heart of the book which all these instances of "Otherness", ownership and control are interwoven with. The whole mother-daughter issue comes up in nearly all Tyers' work (maybe all, if we expand it to parent-child), something I'd love to write about some day (along with the issue of the Other)-- not to turn it into an analysis of Kathy Tyers herself, of course, but it certainly seems to be a rich strand in her work.

I've mentioned this book several times on my blog. Will probably write a more thorough discussion one of these days, but for now here are the links:

<http://vikingsbooksetc.wordpress.com/...>

<http://vikingsbooksetc.wordpress.com/...>

<http://vikingsbooksetc.wordpress.com/...>

Marie Taylor says

I liked this Christian SciFi. It was interesting and exciting. My only problem with the book was the ending. Not enough closure. Too many loose ends. So I sincerely hope she's planning a sequel. I wanted to give it a 4.5 rating I can you do that? Couldn't figure out how.

Chele says

Hard to get into but very interesting when you do!

Jennifer Klenz says

I haven't read any SF in a while but this wasn't bad. The world was interesting, the struggles seemed genuine and the characterization was also good. This books fits in an unusual category. I would call it Religious Science Fiction or perhaps Christian Science Fiction? The religious beliefs of the key characters became somewhat important. It only bothered me that talking about the Christian Lord in this universe so far removed from Earth felt rather forced...like to get published by this publisher or in this series. I have a feeling from the author's comments/acknowledgements, that she is a fairly devout Christian, but nevertheless I would have found it somewhat stronger without such overt ties. I think the writer meant them to not be a strong Christian agenda but it popped out at me somewhat anyway.
