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Retrieval Artist Miles Flint brought one of the Disappeared out of hiding, believing she would be safe. But then she's murdered, plunging Flint into a mystery involving an enigmatic alien race-and the fate of the entire solar system.

Consequences Details

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Author : Kristine Kathryn Rusch

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From Reader Review Consequences for online ebook

Glen U says

"Consequences" is the best Retrieval Artist story yet, by author Kristine Kathryn Rusch. This book, like all in her Retrieval Artist series, involves a person who voluntarily disappears to avoid dire consequences. Where this book differs from Rusch's others is that the Disappeared is only a beginning to the main story. The main plot of this story involves planetary alliances, Machivellian machinations, and a host of secondary characters that Rusch does an excellent job of developing for us as the story goes on. "Consequences" is much more than a science fiction set on the Moon. She rivals Asimov in her ability to make the incredible, credible. The pacing is excellent as the reader does not get bogged down in the multiple characters and diverging story lines. And all is brought together wonderfully at the end. Even though you can predict what the final piece of the puzzle will be before the end of the book, it still is one of the better SF books I have read this summer. Totally enjoyable.

April says

This book, at its core, was about assumptions, I think. What assumptions do we make about people and situations, even when we may think we're being open-minded? Things may appear to be one way, but that may only hold a shade of truth (or none at all). As a former journalist, I thought especially of reporting situations where everyone has different interpretations of what had happened or what kind of person the "villain" was. It seemed impossible to ever fully know the truth: people's actions and motivations. Motives are slippery, too—we may kid ourselves into thinking we act for one reason but actually have other, deeper motivations.

I wish this book had more fully explored the leader of Etae, since she seemed so different in her thoughts from others' perceptions and knowledge of her (all of which could be true!). I suspect she will come up again in this series.

Irene Wight says

Awesome

I stumbled upon her books looking on amazon for another book. I thought it looked interesting. I love her books a I recommended them to my son. Awesome

Laura de Leon says

I wish I could give 1/2 stars on the rating, because 3 stars seemed to low, 4 stars too high. I did enjoy the book. At times,I liked it a lot, but at other times, it was just OK.

The primary characters were still interesting to me, even if many of the ones introduced in this story seemed one dimensional.

Perhaps the problem was that this book took itself a little too seriously, which wasn't what I was looking for. The question of what behaviour is acceptable in war, and what the implications are after war, is an important and even a timely one. It was even handled in an interesting way, setting up future stories.

And in the end, I decided on 4 stars, and I'll probably read the next one soon.

PCress says

Whodunit , ... maybe "Whatdunnit", ...?..

Sarah (CoolCurryBooks) says

Consequences is the third book in Rusch's Retrieval Artist series, a science fiction mystery series that focuses on Miles Flint, retrieval artist, and also on Noelle DeRicci, a detective in the domed city of Armstrong, which is located on the moon.

Given that this is a mystery series, each book has a plot that's self contained, and they could technically be read out of order. However, Consequences refers to the prior books, and I think character development and relations would be best understood if the books were read in order. Unfortunately, I do not have currently a review of the first book in the series, The Disappeared, but I will try to avoid too many spoilers for prior books in this review.

With Consequences I have the same complaint that I had with the second book—I'd like to see more of the alien cultures. The first book set them up, and I loved them. But now both the second and the third have focused on human vs. human conflicts. Oh, well. Hopefully some of the other books in the series will have more with all the different alien species.

While I might be grumbling about the relative lack of aliens, the plot still worked well and remained interesting with a good pace. My only criticism here would be that it felt rushed towards the end. All of a sudden a dramatic event happens, and I feel that there's not enough page space given to the repercussions of that event.

One other criticism—I think that there were too many point of view characters. Miles and DeRicci are obviously necessary, and one or two others could be argued to provide crucial insight and information, but there's still some that felt unnecessary. While I like the mayor of Armstrong for instance, I don't think his sections were in any way important or integral.

I enjoy the relationship between Miles and DeRicci. They're no longer partners and are still adjusting to that, while Miles is also becoming more and more isolated due to the nature of his job. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that they'll somehow be able to stay friends.

This is a sadly unappreciated and unknown series that deserves some love. If the idea of humans dealing with complex alien cultures and mysteries on the moon interests you, you should give the Retrieval Artist series a try.

Originally posted on The Illustrated Page.

Ree Linker says

I would give this book 3.5 stars if I could. I enjoyed it, and I look forward to the rest of the series.

Liked:

- * The idea of consequences - poor past decisions can be damaging even if you've had a change of heart.
- * The fact that it was hard to tell who were the "good guys" and who were the "bad guys."
- * The series story arc: can a detective and a retrieval artist be friends? What is the deal with Paloma? What will happen with the political situation in Armstrong?
- * Some questions broached: what is acceptable in a state of war? What role does the media play? What role should it play? What happens when the revolutionaries become the government?

Not so much:

- * The ending felt half-baked
- * So much information left out - perhaps to leave room for future books.
- * I want more aliens! What I took to be the original premise of the series (conflicting moralities between races leading to problems with justice) doesn't really make much of an appearance here.

Happy overall though. (Are the people satisfied?)

David Fox says

The human politics of this one seemed more interesting than the previous two in the series, and I hope Rusch returns to this conflict. However, this novel seemed to go off on a tangent and never come back.

Christine Taylor says

Like many other people who have reviewed the book, I wish I could give this book a 3.5. Out of the 3 that I have read (I am reading them in order) this one is my favorite.

Liked

- *This book gets back to the idea of intergalactic relationships
- *There is an element of excitement (at least for me) throughout the book
- *Noelle and Miles's relationship
- *Blurred "bad guy, good guy" roles
- *The idea of humans being foreigners to Earth

Could have been better

- *Etae's back story needed to be fleshed out just a bit more. Now that I am done reading I still feel that there are gaps. Why did the rebels start fighting the established human government? If it really was to save the Idonae, then why don't the rebels and the Idonae get along? There are a lot more questions I could ask. Hopefully they will be answered in the next book.
- *The opening story did not have much else to do with the book. It is mentioned again towards the end, but it did not necessarily have to be there.

*The only clear "bad guy" for me was kind of a generic character and was not developed a whole lot

Anissa says

The third installment of this series gives a deeper look at the web of interstellar politics and connectedness going on in the universe and it's all taking place in Armstrong City Dome on the Moon. This one took me a little longer to get into because at the beginning there are points of view from characters unknown & unnamed on planets never heard of and in the past. I felt a bit disconnected and took in the information like one does all info dumps thinking that this is probably important to what's coming but this isn't making it a riveting read by any means. Things improved greatly when Noelle & Miles are back on the scene and it's clear that the story is firmly planted on the Moon. That's kind of what I'm here for. I liked meeting the mayor Arek Soseki and hope he's around for future books (perhaps as the governor-general because he had better foresight than the current one).

There was a detailed conspiracy going on concerning Etaa and their bid to become part of Earth Alliance that was so multilayered I'm not exactly sure I've got all the details worked out. Suffice it to say, many threads were related and culminated in multiple murders, rioting and some serious terrorist activity that damaged the Dome and killed a bunch of people. The descriptions of that were unsettling. Also in the unsettling category was the way the media & corporate influence played a pivotal role in social sway and political shifts. It was an all too timely reminder of our modern age.

As always, Miles & Noelle get the job done in the end but this time they ended a lot farther from one another as the line that is the solitary life of a Retrieval Artist, has been underscored. I'm a little sad about that but I do look forward to seeing how their cases intersect in future books. I'd recommend this one, of course.

Michele says

Another good mystery - DeRicci and Flint are such likeable characters... you find yourself pulling for them no matter what happens. It seems rare these days to find clean mysteries, but these fit the bill. Just good nail-biting suspense!

Stef says

These Retrieval Artist novels are still like candy.

This one is not as tight as the previous two, though. Although the first two books share a setting and characters, and the relationships between the characters develop, each book's plot is pretty self-contained. The plot of this book sort of has a resolution, but it also feels more like "part one of a multi-book arc."

This book has interplanetary politics as a theme. Although there are some characters who are non-human, most of the interplanetary politics involve humans this time (unlike in the first book).

It feels to me that Rusch, by trying to expand the stage, has lost touch with the strengths of the first two books, which create conflict by means of characters with compelling and sympathetic individual motives. The characters with political agendas are not as interesting to me.

Lois says

I read this book quickly. I had forgotten about DeRicci's promotion. I had forgotten that this book introduced the governor-general as well as Mayor Soseki. I had also forgotten that this was the book where Miles first starts to kinda screw over DeRicci. Miles gets on my nerves from this book until the mystery of the book 'Paloma' in regards to him is solved.

Cathy says

3.5 stars again. Another good sci-fi mystery. The pace was still weird, most of the book was one mystery, then suddenly it was something else and then it was over. This is the third book in the series and I've thought the pace was odd every time, slow up until near the end and then a sudden wrap. It's not a terrible problem, it's just a bit odd. The character development also isn't what I'd hope. Noelle is still the best character, which is great, but kind of strange for a series that's named after Miles's profession. He's exactly the same every time, very shallowly portrayed. The book was much more about the journey's and the story that was unfolding than the characters. And a new character, the Etaean government leader, was interesting, although probably a temporary visitor to the series. Though the impact of her visit will probably be felt for a long time. Rusch writes books that are easy to read and that keep me wanting to turn the pages, even if I wouldn't exactly call them page-turners. I had a strong steady interest throughout, and I definitely want to get the next book as soon as I can.

One thing that I liked in this book as opposed to the previous two was that it was more clear that the corporations were at fault for rushing into alien worlds and not learning about their customs and laws. When their people broke those laws, the businesses found it cheaper and easier to find ways for the employees to Disappear than to have done the right thing in the first place. That had become the standard business practice to the degree that many corporations at the time of this book were now requiring contracts saying that their people wouldn't have families at all so worlds like the Wygnin wouldn't have children to target or so it would be easier to Disappear the employees if necessary. As annoying as that attitude was, it felt like a predictable extension of corporation behavior that we have now, good science fiction extrapolation into a future scenario. And it helped smooth over one of my concerns from the first two books where the author's attitude seemed too cavalier about humans breaking the laws on alien worlds, since some of the examples that had been used for people needing to Disappear didn't seem so trivial.

The new aliens that were introduced, the Nyyzen, were also interesting to me. They work in pairs and are triangle shaped. But once humans began working with them they realized that they weren't actually just pairs and working in twos wasn't just a custom. Compatible Nyyzen created a third, transparent entity between them. In this book the third entity of the pair was the actual ambassador. It reminded me of Jack Chalker's *Cluster* series from many years ago and his spherical aliens, how much their physiology shaped their psychology and language. These guys were shaped like triangles to some degree, but more importantly functioned in partnerships that are totally different than anything humans have. Our mental drive seems to be either toward attempting monogamy or no commitment at all. Group commitments are rare other than in business partnerships, which often fail. It's interesting to think about how that dynamic, a partnership that produces another (adult? not a child anyway, they aren't parents to the being) sentient being of equal or greater ability, a group of three, how that would shape a society. I love that kind of thing in science fiction, new ideas that make me think and wonder.

So, another good but not great book, uneven and a bit wobbly, I think because the author was looking more toward her long story arc than toward making this the best book possible. She's doing more toward bringing Noelle's story along than Miles, though I do see him moving in a certain direction with his career and how it's affecting him emotionally. There just isn't a lot that goes on with him other than hacking, hacking, hacking sometimes, he's a great hacker, one of the best, and don't you forget it!

Frank says

Consequences is the third novel in the Retrieval Artist series and, like its predecessors, is a cross between light speculative fiction and a police procedural thriller.

The plot of this novel centers around a murder investigation in the Moon colony of Armstrong and the connections between the murder and an escalating political crisis.

The novel, though well-written and a fast read, is at times weak in its character and future-world believability. This is most noticeable with the Retrieval Artist character Miles Flint, who Rusch imbues with such overwhelming computer skills that he is able to bypass any security or firewall so as to advance the plot.

Despite the reservations, the novel is more fun than it is contrived, so I would recommend Consequences to fans of the Retrieval Artist series and readers interested in a fast SF thriller.
