



# The Planet Thieves

*Dan Krokos*

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## **The Planet Thieves** Dan Krokos

*The Planet Thieves* is the first thrilling installment of a new middle-grade series by Dan Krokos.

Two weeks ago, thirteen-year-old Mason Stark and seventeen of his fellow cadets from the Academy for Earth Space Command boarded the *SS Egypt*. The trip was supposed to be a short routine voyage to log their required spacetime for summer quarter.

But routine goes out the airlock when they're attacked by the Tremist, an alien race who have been at war with humanity for the last sixty years.

With the captain and crew dead, injured, or taken prisoner, Mason and the cadets are all that's left to warn the ESC. And soon they find out exactly why the Tremist chose this ship to attack: the *Egypt* is carrying a weapon that could change the war forever.

Now Mason will have to lead the cadets in a daring assault to take back the ship, rescue the survivors, and recover the weapon. Before there isn't a war left to fight.

## **The Planet Thieves Details**

Date : Published May 21st 2013 by Starscape

ISBN : 9780765334282

Author : Dan Krokos

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Genre : Science Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Young Adult, Adventure, Aliens, Fantasy, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Planet Thieves for online ebook

### Charissa Sophia de la Rosa says

Oh goodness! I can't wait for this book! The first sentence totally got my attention *Star Trek meets Rick Riordan* . As a fan of Rick Riordan, I will really check this out!

I hope 2013 will come soon. A few more months and this would be released! I can't wait! :)

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### Muhammad Ozair says

It took me a year to find book.And when I finally find it would kind of suck if i didn't even like it.

But Damn it.It was *Good*

It's your typical Middle Grade.Good vs Evil,Child hero blah blah blah but at the same time while everything shouts **CLICHE** it was different.

Scratch that it was a *true* Middle Grade.Right there till the end

#### **THE LIKE SECTION**

TO begin with it was almost entirely believable.Up until the end Mason and the ESC did not once find that random silver of luck that so many Heroes often depend upon.They planned,they fought,they *failed*and all hell would break loose.

The Cadets aren't suddenly transformed into battle hardened veterans,they only go to battle when the odds are in their favor and heavily too.The Olympus didn't appear in time,people died,The Earth Incident happened.Things happened but Dan kept it realistic and kept it real.

Another thing i really enjoyed was that Dan Krokos really seems tuned to his Characters.They weren't half dead and without personalities they lived,they laughed,they cried,they fought and died all beside you.You really felt the vibes.When The ESC fought the Desperate Battle for the Gate i could feel their pleas,almost hear them,when Mason told them of the Planets fate i could feel their anger,their outrage.

The terminology wasnt at all complex like You'll often find in Sci-fi or Military themed books.Everything was extremely futuristic yet simple.

Tiny details like the types of Classes for Crusisers (Isolaters,Country Class Cruisers)were really enjoyable.

#### **THE NOT LIKE SECTION**

It all felt really great and well written up until the FangBorns entered.IT felt like Dan was trying to prepare for the sequel and the ending suffered because of that.

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### Fantasy Literature says

The Planet Thieves, by Dan Krokos, is the first in a new children's science fiction series set in a far future during a half-century-old interplanetary war between humanity and a mysterious race known as the Tremist. Thirteen-year-old Mason Stark, his best friend Merrin, and his sometime rival Tom Renner, along with another dozen or so cadets, are on board the warship SS Egypt for what is supposed to be a routine mission

when they are suddenly attacked by a Tremist ship. Soon, Mason and his fellow cadets are on their own, fighting to regain control of their ship, prevent the Tremist from getting hold of a supersecret weapon, and save the Earth.

The Planet Thieves starts out with a bang (almost literally, as the Egypt is buffeted by the Tremist's surprise attack) and the pace continues at a breakneck speed with our characters being placed in one perilous situation... Read More:

<http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

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## Heidi says

Four stars: A fun book that feels like a Star Trek adventure!

Mason is horrified to hear the alarms sounding while he is on the bridge trying to play a silly prank on his older sister Susan. Quickly, he hides and watches in terror as The SS Egypt is engaged by their enemy the Tremists. Before the action gets dangerous, Susan insists on escorting Mason off the bridge and locking him in the Brig, not only to punish him for his actions, but in her mind it is a great way to keep him safe. Mason refuses to be held prisoner. He resorts to calling on one of his fellow cadets, Tom, for aid. Tom and Mason have not exactly gotten along, but soon the two are thrust together as they are in a fight for their very lives. Can Mason, at thirteen, somehow save the Egypt and his planet?

### What I Liked:

\*Okay, I admit it, I am a big Star Trek fan. Not to the point that I would dress up and attend a Trekkie convention, but I do love the TV series and the movies. When I picked up The Planet Thieves, I was delighted to find that it read much like a Star Trek episode. It is packed full of adventure and danger and there are deadly aliens, unexplored planets, intelligent computers, advanced weapons and technology and more! I had a lot of fun with this book and I would highly recommend it!

For all of you adrenaline junkies out there, this book won't disappoint. In the first few pages, the action comes at you with a frenzy. It doesn't let up the entire book! I almost wished that there were a couple more slow scenes just so I could catch my breath. Many of the chapters end on a cliffhanger so you are forced to keep turning the pages. I think this is an excellent read for the younger crowd as it will stir their imagination and encourage them to stick with the book.

\*Mason, the main character, at thirteen he is rash, a bit immature and doesn't always stop to think things through, but he has a lot of heart and he is incredibly courageous. He is willing to do what it takes to ensure the safety of the others and the entire human race, for that matter, even if it means paying a great price. I think that he is a character that young readers will really enjoy.

\*I appreciated that one of the focuses of the story is upon friendship. Mason has formed a solid bond with a female cadet named Merrin. Mason learns a shocking secret about Merrin that could put her in terrible danger. Mason refuses to let any harm befall his friend, and he goes to great lengths to protect her. I admired his loyalty, especially when it would have been so easy for him to turn his back and resort to hate and prejudice. I also liked the fact that Mason ends up forming a strong relationship with Tom. At the beginning of the story, Mason and Tom aren't exactly friends. They have had a difficult past and even gotten into a squabble. When faced with danger, the two are forced to set aside their differences and learn to work together. This is an important theme in the book as it once again surfaces at the end. I certainly appreciated the positive messages in this one. It is a reminder that we need to set aside our prejudices and work toward a better future!

\*This book has illustrations! I loved that there were pictures of some of the things that weren't exactly easy for me to imagine. I am a fan of pictures in books and I wonder why we don't get them anymore in adult books, who says we grow to old for pictures?

\* I loved that this one had a solid ending with a couple of exciting hints dropped at the end that will be followed up in the next book. It just goes to show that you can easily generate excitement and interest for the sequel without resorting to the despicable cliffhanger. This book is a great example of how it should be done! And The Not So Much:

\*This book is being billed as a Middle Grade novel. I think that it is best for readers on the older end of the middle grade range. Not because there is anything inappropriate, but more so because the material is a bit complicated. As an adult, I even had a bit of trouble wrapping my mind around the hyper gates and all of that. If I hadn't watched plenty of Star Trek I would have maybe struggled a bit more. Some people may feel like this is a rip off of Star Trek, but I personally liked that it seemed familiar to me since I have watched plenty of Star Trek. Due to the sci-fi elements, I think this is best suited for readers 11 and up.

\*At first, I was wondering why the cadets didn't just do away with the Tremists when they were in a fight for their life. I thought it was crazy that they would resort to trapping them and trying to lock them up instead of killing them. However, once I thought it through, I realized that I was reading a book for younger readers and then I appreciated that the author steered away from violence. For all of you parents who are concerned about violent content, this book does have some confrontations and a few characters get beat up. There are some deaths as well, but the majority of the deaths occur from falling. There is nothing graphic or brutal with these scenes. It is mild violence.

\*This is the adult reader coming through, I was a tad bit disappointed that there wasn't a romance. I thought that the pieces were in place for a romantic development, but it doesn't go there. Even though, I was let down that there was not a romance, once again I realize this is a book geared toward younger boys and so romance is not what they are looking for in their reading.

Planet of Thieves was a fun, action packed adventure that kept me thoroughly entertained. If you are a fan of sci-fi you are sure to enjoy this book. Don't be fooled by the middle grade label, there is plenty to like in this book for teens and even adults. If you want an adrenaline fueled read and a great adventure definitely get this one, whether it be for you or a younger reader.

Favorite Quotations:

"I am not a brave man. But bravery, like most things, can be faked. And sometimes, in rare instances, it will lead to the real thing."

"With icy clarity, he saw now what the worst part of command was. The glory came by chance, after you made the hard calls."

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@ Rainy Day Ramblings

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## Liviania says

THE PLANET THIEVES is something I don't think I've encountered in middle grade before - military sci-fi. The closest I can think of are the later Alien Adventures books by Bruce Coville. I loved those books, and I enjoyed THE PLANET THIEVES quite a bit. The genre isn't the only unexpected thing.

THE PLANET THIEVES was darker than I expected. I was expecting a bit of a madcap adventure based on

the cover and tagline ("Two civilizations. One planet. And a race to see who steals it first!"). But those two civilizations are at war, and neither side has behaved their best. Dan Krokos does a good job of describing war, and the actions that are acceptable and unacceptable during wartime, in a way that's suitable for children but not didactic. (There's also a subtle environmental moral, since both races want a new planet after using their own up.)

Mason Stark is a thirteen-year-old cadet on a diplomatic mission. He and seventeen other cadets are just supposed to be along for the ride, but when their ship is attacked by the Tremist, the crew is killed or taken hostage. The cadets have to take charge and Mason become acting captain almost by accident. His two greatest allies are Tom, a former rival who likes to play by the rules, and Merrin, his best friend who he has a bit of a crush on.

THE PLANET THIEVES weakest aspect is that it's rather boy heavy. Tom's mother and Mason's older sister are both competent, in-charge women who get sidelined early in the novel. Willa is the only named female cadet aside from Merrin, and she only plays a part for a split second - fake crying to act as bait. Several of the male cadets get to take turns as leader. Merrin, meanwhile, has to be rescued at least twice. Tom and Mason at least trade off rescuing each other. When Merrin does get a chance to save Mason, it's Tom who saves him instead. In the end, Merrin only gets to keep her agency by the skin of her teeth. She's not weak. But she is relegated to the damsel-in-distress and love interest roles despite the fact we're told she's a fierce fighter and good with a computer.

The strongest aspect is the plot. THE PLANET THIEVES is fast and furious, keeping Mason constantly on the move. They're doing anything they can think of to save the day, but what the day needs saving from keeps changing. I also liked that Mason rarely comes out ahead. He and his allies are clever, but they're thirteen and still training. They lose in physical contests against adults. They're out thought by high-ranking officers. But they keep trying, because they want to do what's right and Mason has the courage and charisma to keep them coordinated and motivated.

THE PLANET THIEVES is a terrific choice for sci-fi fans looking for culture clashes and unexpected revelations. (I'm definitely giving the nod to Doctor Who fans.) It ends with quite the hook for the sequel, and I know I'll be back for more.

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## Ms. Yingling says

Mason lives on the USS Egypt with his sister Susan as an ESC Cadet after the death of his parents. When Tremists (an alien race hostile to humans) attack the ship, the captain is killed, his sister is taken hostage, and Commander Lockwood is so gravely injured that he puts Mason in charge. Tom, the captain's son, is a bit put out, but knows that the cadets must take back the ship if there is any hope of defeating the Tremists. They have been fighting with the ESC over the habitable planet Nori-Blue. When they board the Egypt, their goal is to steal a large "gate" which collapses space and makes travel faster. Once they get the gate, they use it to transport Earth nearer to their planet! Mason realizes that his friend Merrin is actually a Tremist when the Tremist King insists that she's his daughter... and after he sees under the Tremist uniform and realizes that Merrin's violet colored hair and eyes do make her look just like them. A hostage exchange (Susan for Merrin) is arranged, to be conducted on the neutral planet of Nori-Blue. Once there, the cadets realize that Nori-Blue, thought to be uninhabited, is not. Secrets about the past of both the humans and Tremists are revealed. The ending is full of lots of twists, and I don't want to ruin the suspense!

Strengths: This is classic, action-packed science fiction. Travel around in space, deal with hostile aliens, travel to new planets where there are even more dangers, figure out that the aliens are not that different from

us. Have cool weapons, used judiciously, and add children in charge-- awesome! There is even a jet pack at one point. Still not understanding how it's 2013, phones can send pictures, and I STILL don't have a jet pack!

Weaknesses: Hmm... can't think of much. Of course it stretches credulity to have the cadets in charge of the ship, but when everyone else is captured or disabled, what can you do?

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## **Tabitha says**

### **Just like watching a Star Trek episode in your head!**

The Planet Thieves was a super fun, fast-paced romp filled with action, heroism and a touch of sadness!

Mason is our young protagonist, a cadet spending some time on one of the Earth Space Command's greatest ships, the Egypt. His sister, Susan just so happens to be an officer on the ship. I loved Susan and the relationship that is evident between them. When siblings have a shared crisis in their past, it changes them and the sort of bond they share. I recognized this and it made me wonder if the author had this sort of intimate knowledge or if he just writes that good!

I finished The Planet Thieves in one afternoon. From the time I started I did not want to put it down. It reminded me of my childhood when I would watch episodes of Star Trek. I've already pushed the book onto one friend's son knowing he would love it. Mason is a smart kid but easily bored, and seems to have some issues with authority. Sometimes his mischievousness gets him into the hot seat. I adored some of his insightful inner dialogue.

An example of why I love Mason:

Mason knew what it was like to say things you didn't mean, to just have them vomit out, and then feel that crushing ache when you realized you could never pull them back. – pg22

Though adults don't have a lot of front time in The Planet Thieves, the ones that do get some face time are awesome. Mason's oldest sister Susan is a great person. What's great about his relationship with her is he actually listens to her and remembers the things she says:

Sometimes, if she was afraid, she'd take all her fear and gather it up and turn it into anger. Anger didn't paralyze the way fear did. It was the opposite of being helpless. But it was dangerous too, because you could end up being angry all the time. – pg 48

Susan had told him once that bravery was when you wanted to pee your pants, but you kept fighting. – pg 56

Now every good space adventure needs alien villains – and oh boy do we have them here. They are in these

crazy suits and you don't get to see what they look like for awhile. They could not be summed up any better than the crazy rumors that circulate among the kids:

The Tremist were aliens bent on annihilating the human race. The uncertain: They had better technology and, depending on who you talked to, would probably win the war. They were vampyres inside of human-shaped spacesuits that resembled armor worn by ancient knights of Earth. And they wanted to drink your blood. – pg 13

What is all boils down to though is this is a tale of bravery and self sacrifice. Mason is willing to do a lot and give up everything in order to do the right thing and to save those he cares about. No matter how scared he is, he has some awesome morals and these are things that I loved. Plus I just love the slightly military feel to the book. Below are my two absolute favorite quotes from The Planet Thieves. I always know when I'm REALLY loving a book when I'm pulling quotes out left and right to save.

He'd read in a textbook once a quote by the famous Captain Reynolds: I am not a brave man. But bravery, like most things, can be faked. And sometimes, in rare instances, it will lead to the real thing. – pg 101

A hard soldier is a strong soldier is a living soldier. – pg 105

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## Wendy Darling says

**3.5 stars** A fun read overall, with tons of cliffhanger chapter endings to ensure you'll be turning the pages to find out what happens next. I'd recommend this one specifically for readers in the book's target age range of upper middle grade or younger YA, who will likely find the quick pacing and action-packed story an easy and entertaining read.

The full text of this review may be found in [The Midnight Garden](#).

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## Misty Baker says

Reading, in my household, is a way of life. Books are everywhere. Stacked on shelves, stuffed in random boxes, perched precariously on the tops of lamps. Walking into my house is like walking into hermit's habitat, with slightly more light. Though it irritates my husband from time to time (I've deduced this from his annual threats of "Don't make me sell your books!") I have found that my children don't seem to mind. So I asked my son once, "Why doesn't mommy's books bug you? They are all over the place." His answer: "It's like a library in here. It's kinda cool." Apparently, after a little conversation, and a lot of prodding, I discovered that BOTH of my kids view the books as an extension of ME. They see me read them. Laugh

with them. Cry with them. Even (from time to time) chunk one with great force across the living room in a fit of anger. Mommy loves the books, so THEY love the books.

But it got me thinking. As much as I adore their thought process, I don't want my children to love books because I do. (Abstractly or otherwise.) I want my children to love books because THEY connect with them. I want them to get lost inside new worlds. Battle dragons, and save planets. I want my children to READ the books I have stacked around the house, not just stare at them in wonder.

So I devised a plan. I registered for library cards. And I went to work. The mission: find that 1 book that lights a fire in my child's mind. The 1 book that turns reverie into reality. Months later, I'm still trying to find my daughters. She's only four so I'll cut her some slack. But my son? Jackpot! The book? "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" by Brian Selznick. A 533 page jaunt through clocks and evil station guards that my 8 year old boy threw back in just 4 days. Poof! A reader was born.

Since then, he has read 5 books. The latest and greatest being an ARC that was sent to ME not him. "The Planet Thieves" by Dan Krokos. And while it would give me great joy to hand over the reigns for an hour and let you hear HIS thoughts on the book, I think 4 paragraphs of: "Omg, Mom! It was awesome!" might be a little much. So I think I'll take it from here.

"Two weeks ago, thirteen-year-old Mason Stark and seventeen of his fellow cadets from the Academy for Earth Space Command boarded the SS Egypt. The trip was supposed to be a short routine voyage to log their required spacetime for summer quarter.

But routine goes out the airlock when they're attacked by the Tremist, an alien race who have been at war with humanity for the last sixty years.

With the captain and crew dead, injured, or taken prisoner, Mason and the cadets are all that's left to warn the ESC. And soon they find out exactly why the Tremist chose this ship to attack: the Egypt is carrying a weapon that could change the war forever

Now Mason will have to lead the cadets in a daring assault to take back the ship, rescue the survivors, and recover the weapon. Before there isn't a war left to fight."

Much like my kiddo, I loved this book.

As should be (with middle grade literature) "The Planet Thieves" was action packed from beginning (were Mason pranks his older sister by removing the screws from her chair) to the end (where...wait, I can't tell you that.) And much like adult literature (specifically Science Fiction) this book was absolutely FILLED with crazy/entertaining/unexpected twists, which made it "read" much more mature than it actually was. (That's not a dig, that's a compliment. A weird one, but hey.)

The truth is, I love authors (like Krokos – who I had the pleasure of chatting with at ATBF12 last year, just FYI) who don't feel the need to "dumb down" their writing. You can't educate or elevate a child by writing on THEIR level, you have to take it up a notch and challenge them. Teach them.

This was the very first thing I noticed about this novel. I didn't feel like I was reading something penned for a toddler. I (as an adult) was as equally engaged in the story as my son. Which is a credit to Krokos' writing ability.

Here...let me give you a few examples:

"No one spoke for a few seconds. Mason's mind spun, and his heart hammered: having the enemy inside the

ship was so different than fighting them on a planet's surface. Here there was metal surrounding them, like a cage. No place to run. And if one of the energy weapons somehow melted through the hull... "We're able hands," Jeremy said. "That's us." "We're trained," Mason added immediately, hoping the idea would catch. Stellan stepped back. "Lockwood's orders supersede any thoughts of heroism you might have. You saw his face – he was dead serious."

"Commander Lockwood, bald head shiny with sweat, lay on his back in a bed, burns covering his neck and the side of his face. His ESC uniform was singed in places, but burned away completely under his right ribs. There the skin black and red. He was going to die if they didn't get him to a real hospital soon, that much was clear. Mason felt hollow, because he knew Lockwood, who was the unofficial cadet herder sometimes. He also felt heavy, because when Lockwood died, they would truly be alone. Just Elizabeth to keep them company on a ship controlled by the enemy."

Supersede? Heart hammered? Felt hollow? All of these require vivid thought (for a young mind.) What does supersede mean? How does one FEEL hollow?

But solid writing isn't the MOST important thing is it? Even horrible (ok, maybe that should say sub-par) writing can be over shadowed by a uniquely imaginative story. And the story that lived inside the pages of "The Planet Thieves" was a character driven, roller-coaster ride of WOW. Aliens were invading. Teenagers were in charge, and jet packs were hanging about like sparkly little droplets of awesome.

Personally? I wish the plot had slowed in a few places so I could relish what was happening. But that in no way affects the quality of the book. Let's just call those "desires of an old coot."

Overall... a truly enjoyable (for both me and my son) ride through hostile space.

I highly recommend this for young readers trying desperately to forge a path to literary love. It has everything a child (and a mother) could ask for.

Happy Reading my fellow Kindle-ites and remember: Reading is contagious...pass it on.

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## **Sarah says**

starts out a little slow but then it picks up and is quite adventurous. The origin story of Earth and humans is a pretty creative spin on things, and I like that the 2 races come together in the end to battle the evil that remains on the home planet. For a middle grade book it has some intense parts and some people die, but it wasn't terrible, nothing too gory or over the top.

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## **Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says**

Το "Κλ?φτες πλανητ?ν" ε?ναι ?να απ? τα βιβλ?α εκε?να που ?φτασαν στα χ?ρια μου στην πρωτ?τυπη μορφ? τους -δηλαδ?, στα αγγλικ?- , ?ταν ακ?μα οι εκδοτικο? το αξιολογο?σαν προκειμ?νου να αποφασ?σουν αν θα το εντ?ξουν ? ?χι στο εκδοτικ? τους πρ?γραμμα. Ως αξιολογ?τρια, λοιπ?ν, βρ?θηκα τ?τε σε πολ? δ?σκολη θ?ση καθ?ς, ναι μεν το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι π?ρα πολ? καλ? στα περισσ?τερα σημει?α του, αν?κει ?μως σε ?να λογοτεχνικ? ε?δος που στην Ελλ?δα, ?πως ?χει αποδε?ξει η ?δια η Ιστορ?α, δεν τραβ?ει και δεν χ?ρει της αποδοχ?ς και της

αναγνώρισης απ' το αναγνωστικό κοινό. Σε μια τέτοια περίπτωση, λοιπόν, τι πρέπει να κάνεις; Να πεις "ναι", ή να πεις "χι"; Προσωπικά, εγώ "χι", αλλά αυτό δεν σημαίνει πως η αξία του βιβλίου δεν αναγνωρήστηκε απ' μέρους μου.

Οι άνθρωποι και οι Τρμιστ βρσκονται σε μάχη για την διεκδίκηση ενός πλανήτη ο οποίος μπορεί να φιλοξενήσει και τις δύο ρτσες. Η Γη πλέον είναι υπερπληθής και η μετοίκηση σε άλλους πλανήτες ανφικτή. Ο 13χρονος Μίσον Σταρκ μλεις έχει αποφοιτήσει απ' την Ακαδημία Διαστημικής Διοίκησης Γης, περιμνοντας την ήρα που θα συνεχίσει την εκπαίδευση του στην ηγεσία του σκφους. Ήνα αθό παιχνδι, μια φήρσα στην αδερφή του, θα αποδειχτεί μοιραία καθής, με την αφέλη του αυτή πρξή, οι Τρμιστ καταφέρνουν να εισχωρήσουν στο σκφος, να πιήσουν ομρους και τελικά, να καταλάβουν τον ήλεγχό του. Ο Μίσον μαζί με τον Τομ, τον γιο της αρχηγού και τη Μρίν, μια παρξενή και γοητευτική κοπέλα, είναι η μοναδική ελπδα του σκφους και των επιβατών του να γλιτήσουν απ' τον αφανισμό και να νικήσουν τους καταληψήες. Φυσικά, αυτό δεν είναι εύκολη υπόθεση ενό πολλή μυστικά περιμνουν να αποκαλυφθούν.

Η γραφή του Dan Krokos είναι κατανοητή και ήμεση, καθιστώντας το σνολό του κειμένου ιδιαίτερα ευκολοδύβαστο για τους νεαρότερους ηλικιακά αναγνώστες, χωρίς αυτό να σημαίνει πως με τον τρόπο του απορρπτει ήνα πιο ενήλικο κοινό. Η "κντρα" ανήμεσα στην ανθρπινή φυλή και των Τρμιστ είναι ενδιαφέρουσα, προσφέροντας υλικό που μπορεί να εξελιχτεί ιδιαίτερα στο μέλλον, με πολλή ώραό τρόπο, περνώντας μηνήματα σχετικά με το πόσο πολύ απομυζόμε την γη μας οδηγώντας την στην καταστροφή κι εμάς στον αφανισμό. Ενδιαφέρουσα είναι επίσης η αναγκαία συνήπαρξη του Μίσον και του Τομ, και το πως το χείρζεται ο συγγραφέας, δύο χαρακτήρων που με μια πρτή ματιά φαίνονται εκ διαμέτρου αντίθετοι και οι οποίοι, παρ' τις διαφορές, τις συμπθέιες ή τις αντιπθέιες τους, κάλούνται να σταθούν πλι-πλι προκειμένου να αντιμετωπήσουν την κρση και να ανακτήσουν τον ήλεγχό του σκφους τους.

Η ιστορία εξελίσσεται σε ήναν αρκετό περιορισμένο χώρο, που αν και περιγράφεται διεξοδικά και είναι ξεκθάρη η ταυτήτητ του, μας προκαλεί ήρες-ήρες ασφύξια. Αυτό έχει τα θετικά και τα αρνητικά του. Το θετικό είναι πως -προφανώς- ο συγγραφέας πετυχάνει τον στόχο του, να μας προκαλήσει δηλαδή ήνα αίσθημα αγωνίας και να δημιουργήσει ήνα κλειστοφοβικό περιβάλλον που θα εντείνει ήλο αυτό, αλλά προσωπικά θα ήθελα να υπάρχει ήγο μεγαλύτερο έρος δράσης. Αν και καλά, η ιστορία στερετείται πρωτοτυπίας. Κανείς δεν αμφισβητεί την φαντασία και τις προθέσεις του δημιουργού ωστόσο, θα μπορούσε να προσπαθήσει για το κτι παραπνώ που θα ήκανε τελική τη διαφορά. Επίσης, οφέλουμε να αναφέρουμε πως ο συγγραφέας παρασφεται ορισμένες στιγμές με αποτλέσμα να πφτεί στην παγδα της επανήληψης κτι που δεν είναι απαραίτητα ενοχλητικά αλλά κάκ τα ψήματα, κουρζει αρκετά.

Το "Κλήφτες πλανήτην", στο σνολό του, είναι ήνα ιδιαίτερα καλά βιβλίο, αν και δεν θα ήγαμε πως είναι ιδιαίτερα πρωτότυπο. Αντήετα, η ιστορία στερετείται πρωτοτυπίας και παρ' που κανείς δεν αμφισβητεί την φαντασία και τις προθέσεις του δημιουργού, δεν μπορεί να μην αναφέρει πως θα μπορούσε να προσπαθήσει για το κτι παραπνώ που θα ήκανε τελική τη διαφορά και, ήσως, να ήκανε πιο εύκολο το να πλασαρίστε το βιβλίο του και σε ήνα ήλλο κοινό, πήραν αυτό που αγαπεί ήτσι κι αλλιής το sci-fi. Παρ' ήλα τάτα, είναι μια ιστορία με ήντονα κοινωνικοπολιτικά, ανθρωπιστικά μηνήματα, μηνήματα ήρω απ' την ήση και την προστασία της απ' την ήδια την

καταστροφική τήση του ανθρωπου, εν? δ?νεται αρκετ? μεγάλη ?μφαση στον αδελφική δεσμ? και στην αν?γκη να προστατε?ει ο ?νας τον ?λλον με ?ποιο κ?στος. Αν μη τι ?λλο, αυτ? περν?ει με θετικ? τρ?πο στον αναγ?στη, τον συγκινε?, αλλ? και αυξ?νει την ?νταση καθ?ς, αν υπ?ρξουν απ?λειες, μπορε? να ε?ναι τραγικ?ς.

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### **Chris Meads says**

This is a fast paced book for middle graders who love science fiction.

Mason is a cadet on the ship, the Egypt, where his sister is captain. There are 17 other cadets on this mission as well as the mail crew. And Mason loves to play jokes. The last one, against his sister, landed him in the brig. Just when things got complicated with their enemies the Tremist.

The Tremist want Nori-Blue and are willing to steal the planet, and the ESC has the technology to move planets via a "gate" which is on the Egypt. The Egypt is overtaken and the crew is taken aboard the Tremist ship, the Hawk. It is up to Mason and the cadets to try to get the crew back and they fail. He then finds out when he removes the mask of a Tremist, the person resembles his friend, Merrin. And the king wants Merrin--she is his daughter. The Tremist get the gate and steal Earth.

Will Mason save the day, even if he is only a cadet? What will happen to Earth and Nori-Blue. This is a great story and very fast paced--kept me on my toes. I just ordered the second book that continues the story.

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### **Joe Kessler says**

This is a solid middle-grade space opera, capably balancing the terrors of war with the inherently goofy concept of moving an entire planet to a different solar system. I like that the whole book is basically one long adrenaline rush of action, and that its 7-to-13-year-old ensign protagonists are written as both children and heroes. I have quibbles with some of the worldbuilding and plot developments, but this seems like a great book for younger readers, especially fans of Ender's Game.

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### **Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says**

Though marketed as a middle grade novel, do not let the age of the protagonists scare you away if you're an older reader. Krokos' sophomore novel is well-written and does not speak down to the audience. I loved Krokos' debut, False Memory, and he's hit it out of the park once again. The Planet Thieves is funny, full of adventure, and packed with delightful characters.

Novels for children and teens are full of absent parents and authority figures. This construct allows for young people to feel empowered, the weight of the world on their shoulders. Only these kids can save the day and all that. Well, Krokos does use this basic plot structure. At the beginning of The Planet Thieves, the SS Egypt is attacked by humanity's enemy, the Tremist. All of the adults on the ship but one are captured or killed, leaving the cadets, thirteen and under to save the day.

Krokos does a great job making this believable. Though the cadets are young, they are by no means out of their element entirely. They've already been in training for years, and have the skill sets they need to perform

the tasks they need to, though they may not be as good as the adults yet. Also, they don't come by anything too easily. They suffer injuries, frequently consider giving up and waiting for adults to handle everything, and are stressed rather than excited by the roles they find themselves in.

That said, the cadets really rise to the occasion. The one remaining adult on the Egypt is injured, so he names Mason captain, which ends up being a great choice. Mason isn't the most talented or brilliant of the trainees, but he's creative, something he'd ill-advisedly shown in his pranks. Rather than ever giving up, his mind is always churning for solutions, and most of his ideas turn out to be good ones, though some do go awry.

The characters are likable and exhibit complexities. For example, the friendships between these cadets are tentative, so they also have to work to trust one another implicitly while facing odds they never should have been left alone to face. The villains too are much more complex than in most books for younger readers. They're not left as monsters out to destroy for the fun of it, and I love when authors take the time to establish motivations and shades of grey in the actions of the antagonists.

Another aspect that makes this book a delight are all of the references. Science fiction nerds will likely pick out even more than I did, as I'm not nearly as well read as I would like to be. Most overt perhaps are references to Star Wars and Star Trek. However, though there are cute allusions, the overall story was fresh and original.

The ending leaves space open for more books in this world, and I, for one, would be excited to read more. I'd love to find out more about Mason and Merrin, especially. Dan Krokos' *The Planet Thieves* is a novel that lovers of science fiction will not want to miss, whatever their age!

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## **Brad Sells says**

I still don't entirely know how I feel about this book. While some parts really had me invested into the story, others had me dozing off. Did I enjoy *The Planet Thieves* wholly? Yes. Did I enjoy it at all times? Not exactly.

The biggest problem I had with *The Planet Thieves* was the main character - I never connected to Mason. He seemed to whiny and jokester-like for me to enjoy. Yes, being a jokester character does work in middle-grade fiction sometimes, but given the circumstances and the plot of *The Planet Thieves*, I don't think it worked so well. Right from the first page, I didn't like Mason. I was hoping he would develop and mature as the book went on, but... I just never liked him.

Luckily, the plot redeems *The Planet Thieves* (Mason just annoyed me). Very sci-fi action paced, and with an awesome twist - that's what I liked the absolute most about this book. It did have slow parts, but for the majority, it's hard to find a dull moment in *The Planet Thieves*. Dark and sinister as space itself, *The Planet Thieves* rocks!

Overall, *The Planet Thieves* has an awesome plot, but very obnoxious and annoying protagonist. So... maybe I half liked it, and half didn't? If you're looking for a new epic middle grade, I'd recommend *The Planet Thieves*!

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