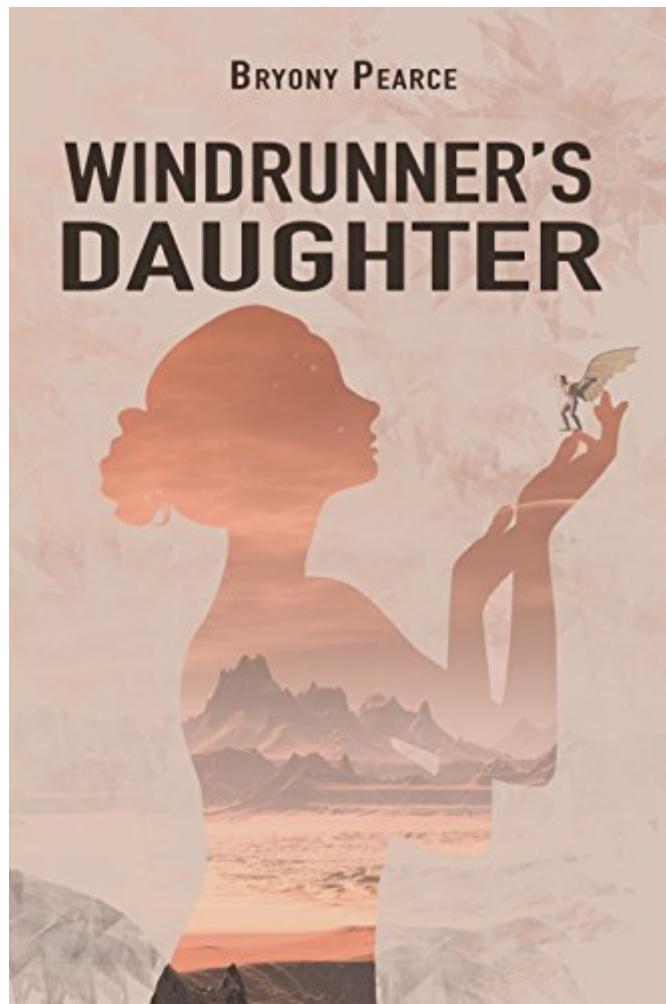


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Windrunner's Daughter



Synopsis

A sabotaged colonization attempt leaves the last humans in the universe stranded on Mars. Braving a half-terraformed atmosphere, terrifying indigenous species, and a colony government that is openly hostile, a young girl named Wren must defy tradition to save her mother and perhaps, every human left. It is forbidden for women to steal the wings that allow a select group of runners to carry messages and goods between colonies. It is forbidden to cross the wastes with a sand storm on the horizon and it is certainly forbidden to share the secrets of the windrunners with those who spend their entire lives in the biospheres. But what choice does she have? Windrunner's Daughter is a science-fiction young adult novel of 320 pages.

Book Information

File Size: 893 KB

Print Length: 320 pages

Publisher: Xist Publishing; 1 edition (February 2, 2016)

Publication Date: February 2, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01ANW3AOW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #567,083 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #82 in Books > Teens > Romance > Clean & Wholesome #143 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Space Opera #500 in Books > Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Science Fiction, Fantasy & Scary Stories > Science Fiction > Dystopian

Customer Reviews

It was hard to get into this book at first but it finally got better. It was interesting and different. I would try another book from this author.

An interesting concept that lost something in the telling

Was a decent book- a little dramatic, but a fun plot

Earth is dead and has left the last of the humans stranded on Mars in colonies. For the most part they are divided between the grounders and the runners. The runners think that they are somewhat better than the grounders because they are the only ones who can or are allowed to take messages and supplies from colony to colony and without the runners the grounder would be or have nothing they would all starve or die without food or medication when they are sick. The runners fly from colony to colony to trade or buy the food, medicine or whatever else it is they made need for their colonies. It is against the law for a grounder or girl to be a runner. But when the head runner and his sons are away from home for long period of time and his wife becomes then his daughter Wren is left to take care of her mother alone. She needs to find her father and get help for her mother so she knows the only choice she has is to take her brother's training wings and go in search of her father and her brothers. She knows the consequences of her actions if she is caught but what other choice does she have but to go looking for them. Right before she is going to walk out the door to with her brother's wings to go in search of her father and brothers she is caught by a grounder. They argue over the fact that it is against the law for her to fly but Wren won't listen to him her mother is dying. Wren races out to the runner's platform before he can stop her and just as just leaps off the end of the platform she turns and sees that he has stolen a pair of wings and is following her. There isn't much she can do about it now beside she is breaking the law herself. Wren has never flown before but she has listened to her father's entire lessons when he was teaching her brother's so she knows what to do. Besides even if it is against the law that doesn't mean she can't fly too just because she is a girl. Wren may only be a fifteen year old girl but she is more mature than most adults and she has heart bigger than all of Mars. Wren would give her own life to save anyone that she cares about. After spending a lot of time together while on their search for her family Wren and Raw begin to see that just because society has taught them that runners and grounders are different they begin to see that they are wrong. When they start to reveal their true selves to each other then their eyes are open to the truth. Windrunner's Daughter is a wonderful story it will make you laugh it will make you cry but most of all; hopefully it will open your eyes and heart to the wonderful message that the author is trying to teach us. Windrunner's Daughter will stay with you long after you have closed the book. If you have not read it then I would like to suggest that you

do.

I must confess, this started a little bit slowly for my taste (I like to be dragged through a book and deposited, breathless, at the end), but stick with it. The speed was a factor of the complexity of the world we're introduced to as an entire planet with society similar but not quite the same as our own. And once the action starts it's oh my! The flying sequences were fabulous, real pulse-raising stuff. And I loved how the characters of Wren and Raw progressed during their tumultuous journey. The plotting was excellent, all tied together so that everything had to work out as it did. The sexist definition of which roles could be undertaken by men and women, and the adherence to religion were an excellent source of conflict although I had to suspend disbelief that they were so integral to life (surely a space colony would contain the brightest, most open minds) or maybe I'm just optimistic like that. I wasn't entirely convinced by the introduction of Orel. We were told he was attractive, but I didn't feel that to be the case and certainly not enough to overcome his being arrogant and untrustworthy. I liked Raw so much more as clearly no oil painting, but he was gorgeous! And I loved the ending. Wren's relationship with her father was truly touching, and I loved the changes promised for the future. I'm guessing there'll be more as and I hope there are!

I really enjoyed reading an advance copy of this book. Bryony Pearce has created memorable characters in a setting I haven't read before-- a half-terraformed Mars. The world was incredibly well thought out and the main character is the kind of girl you can't help but cheer for. I don't read a ton of YA but I felt like this book would work well for both teens and adults, but while there was a romance, I wouldn't have a problem giving this to a younger advanced reader. I would love to read more science fiction like this!

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