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Nyxia (The Nyxia Triad)



Synopsis

“A high-octane thriller . . . Nyxia grabs you from the first line and never lets go.” • Marie Lu, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Young Elites series Every life has a price in this sci-fi thriller that has the nonstop action of *The Maze Runner* and the high-stakes space setting of *Illuminae*. This is the first in a new three-book series called the Nyxia Triad that will take a group of broken teens to the far reaches of the universe and force them to decide what they’re willing to risk for a lifetime of fortune. Emmett Atwater isn’t just leaving Detroit; he’s leaving Earth. Why the Babel Corporation recruited him is a mystery, but the number of zeroes on their contract has him boarding their lightship and hoping to return to Earth with enough money to take care of his family. Forever. Before long, Emmett discovers that he is one of ten recruits, all of whom have troubled pasts and are a long way from home. Now each recruit must earn the right to travel down to the planet of Eden—a planet that Babel has kept hidden—where they will mine a substance called Nyxia that has quietly become the most valuable material in the universe. But Babel’s ship is full of secrets. And Emmett will face the ultimate choice: win the fortune at any cost, or find a way to fight that won’t forever compromise what it means to be human.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Fans of the 'Hunger Games' and the 'Maze Runner' series will enjoy this series opener."

“Both curious and suspicious at every turn, [Emmett] is an ideal narrator, and a sequel can come soon enough.” The Bulletin “Emmett’s self-deprecation, wit, and ability to see the good in others will keep readers riveted and eager for the next volume in this planned trilogy.” PW

Scott Reintgen has spent his career as a teacher of English and creative writing in diverse urban communities in North Carolina. The hardest lesson he learned was that inspiration isn’t equally accessible for everyone. So he set out to write a novel for the front-row sleepers and back-row dreamers of his classrooms. He hopes that his former students see themselves, vibrant and on the page, in characters like Emmett. You can follow him on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter at @Scott_Thought.

It took me a bit to get around to picking up this book and finally reading it. I had thought the description of the story sounded pretty good, but after it arrived it didn’t seem as engaging as I’d thought. Now after reading the first book of this planned trilogy, I’m sorry I left it set to the side for so long. Emmett is a teenager, chosen out of thousands of applicants by the Babel Corporation, to travel to another planet to help them obtain nyxia. Nyxia is an amazing substance that with a simple thought can be transformed into almost anything and do almost anything, including healing. Nyxia is worth an incredible fortune to Babel, and they are willing to share that wealth with Emmett and the other nine teens that were chosen to be a part of this mission. Trouble is, Emmett can’t remember even submitting an application. On the year-long space journey to Eden, the planet where nyxia is found, Emmett and the others engage in a training competition to see which of them will reap the incredible rewards Babel is offering. Emmett is driven to win for his family back home on Earth in Detroit, Michigan, but at what cost? Friendships are made, as are enemies, and it seems like everyone has secrets. Especially Babel - they seem to have more secrets than anybody. Some secrets are painful. Some secrets give an advantage. And sometimes, some secrets can change everything.***** Emmett’s story was fast paced from the very first page. The author doesn’t spend a lot of time setting up the story and the characters, but this isn’t a bad thing. As you read each page, Reintgen fills in these details. As Emmett learns more about his fellow competitors and Babel, you as the reader do. Sometimes this is frustrating, as I wanted to know the ‘why’ behind the reason a character did what they did or said what they said. Two of the characters, Isadora and Roathy, were complete mysteries. Even by the end of the book I knew almost nothing more about them than I did when they were first introduced in the story. This ISN’T a bad thing. The suspense of

not knowing what drives them, even on the very last page, left me intrigued. Are they just other teens like Emmett? Are they spies for another company? Are they Babel plants? Why do they feel the need to win so badly? I have so many questions in my head now that won't be answered for who knows how many months. Emmett as a character is quite relatable and it was easy to form a picture of him in my head. He loves his parents and understands what they've been through to try to provide him with a better life. Though Emmett isn't the best kid in the world, he's not the worst either. He wants to succeed to help give his family a better life. He wants to break the family history of almost-successes that ended with that person failing to grab the proverbial brass ring. Sometimes he came across as a real jerk, but a few pages later I would be silently cheering him on. He, like the other characters, have had rough childhoods. Though that seems to be a common denominator as to why they were chosen by Babel, as I read I picked up on the impression that there's so much more to it. Reintgen also takes the time to describe the fact that his characters are from all over the globe, giving them shared sorrows and hopes to allow them to come together without making race or ethnic origin the only driving point of the story. The author uses a character's preconceived notions about others to help create tension between some of the characters and as a way to give the reader a peek into some of the thoughts and customs of other cultures. One in particular is between Emmett and Bilal, and it was enjoyable to see how the relationship between them unfolded. It was the same with Emmett and Kaya. There were also a couple of stereotypes that didn't need to be there, like African Americans belonging to a gang, or Asians being driven to success regardless of the cost to themselves or anyone around them. But as I continued to read, I saw how the author allowed his characters to knock down these same stereotypes and learn. - Best for ages middle school and above- Definite sci fi feel- Little to no swearing- Lots of violence - people get hurt, people die, they fight physically and verbally- A little romance, but no graphic sex scenes- Ends on a absolute cliffhanger

This is the story of a group of teenagers from various backgrounds and nationalities who get 'randomly' selected by huge corporation Babel Company to fly to the planet of Eden. On the trip there they will be trained to mine a mineral-like substance called Nyxia from the planet that is being guarded by alien creatures who call Eden home. Supposedly these aliens really like kids but will fight adults for the nyxia. So what a great idea! Let's teach teenagers about how to survive on the planet and how to manipulate the Nyxia. Unfortunately they have to turn it into a competition so only 8 of the 10 teenagers will actually make it to Eden. These kids are taught how to fight and how to steer ships through waterways. They are taught how to mine the nyxia and how to change the nyxia

into anything they need- a shield, a weapon, a big rubber hand. Whatever they can imagine with their mind, they can create with nyxia. Of course things aren't as they appear and it's pretty quickly apparent that Babel Company is not being upfront with these kids. They don't seem to care if the kids are injured or even near death. They are harboring big secrets on the spacecraft to Eden. I'm so trying not to say too much and give the plot away. I liked this book well enough for a four star review. However it wasn't perfect. There was one thing that just really started making the book drag for me when it shouldn't have. The book had a fairly unique plot, and extremely unique characters including a main character I really liked. However, the first 2/3 of the book is scene after scene of the teenagers competing for their chance to be in the top 8 and go to Eden. They did the same courses over and over. The same fight battles. It became very repetitive. Yes sometimes someone pulled off something different and unique during a challenge but for the most part it was far too monotonous. I can say that I look forward to the second novel being free from this trap. Hopefully, we can see them put some of their training into practice.

When they say 'high octane thriller', they aren't kidding! This book really grabs from the first and doesn't stop. As this isn't set to release for a bit, I'll avoid spoilers. The story begins with Emmet, a young black kid straight out of Detroit, who's been offered a spot on a space voyage to Eden, which will not only be an adventure, but will also help his family monetarily. Something they desperately need. Here begins the competition of a lifetime, with 10 kids being given the chance to compete for a spot to Eden, a journey which will take a year in space and change all of them. Mostly anyway. It certainly shows them who they really are, and I adored that. Emmet himself is pretty morally grey, yet he's trying to be a 'good' person, like his parents raised him to be. His struggle is so very human, and real. Which doesn't often happen in YA now, but here Emmet is forced to really look at himself in the mirror. And forced to look at others as well- he may never have been privileged (this is no fallen prince story) but he will learn some of life's harshest lessons in just a year. And he really learns. The action here doesn't stop, with plots, intrigue, and schemes, Reintgen really brings a fascinating world to life. Though not so different from our own, life aboard Babel's spaceship is a little treacherous, and though I guessed some plot twists, I certainly didn't guess others. I already need the second and third books, and this was an ARC for me! And of course, ends on a cliffhanger. This truly is a fast paced, sci-fi adventure, with fantastic characters, scheming corporations, and at its heart, human struggle. I adored it, and believe most people will as well.

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