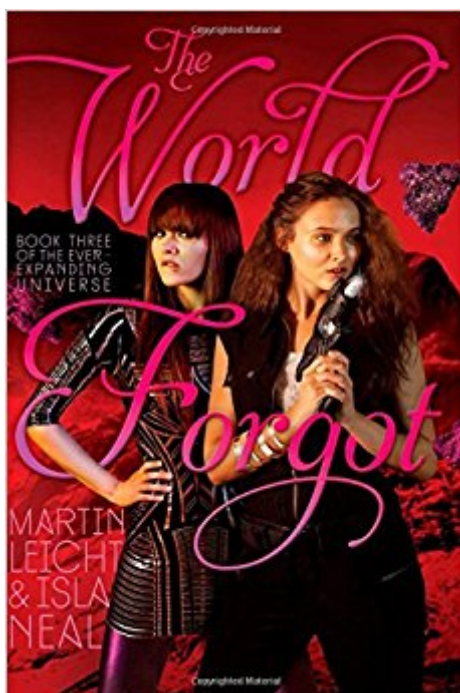


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The World Forgot (The Ever-Expanding Universe)



Synopsis

Who knew science fiction about unwed motherhood could be so very hysterical? In this hilarious, action-packed conclusion to The Ever-Expanding Universe trilogy, teen mom Elvie Nara is on a quest across the universe to save her daughter (and maybe stop an alien race war in the process). After dealing with killer whales, evil scientists, the return of her long-lost mother and, certainly not least of all, the challenges of breastfeeding, Elvie Nara has just about had it. And then the Jin’Kai (along with the aforementioned estranged mom) kidnap her baby. And before she knows it, another Jin’Kai attack puts her on the run again, but not before discovering that Olivia was implanted with a genetic tracking device. So along with Cole, Ducky, and her dad, Elvie goes back out into space to follow the signal. There she finds evil Dr. Marsden up to some evil tricks and realizes that Mars may hold the secret to defeating her enemies once and for all. So, off to Mars she goes. Because alien race war aside, Elvie really wants to be back with her daughter. For a kid she wasn’t even sure she wanted, Olivia has come to mean the world to Elvie and she’ll search the universe to be with her again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Juno meets aliens, sort of, in this wacky debut novel. Sixteen-year-old Elvie Nara’s wisecracking voice is the perfect vehicle for her description of encounters with threatening aliens. An extremely clever premise that is skillfully carried off by the authors. Lots of humor, snarky teen

comments, and earthy language abound. This reviewer cannot wait to see the next installment of Elvie™s alien encounters. Teens who like irreverent humor, as well as fans of science fiction, are going to enjoy spending time with Elvie and her friends. • --VOYA on Mothership • "This science-fiction comic romp set in a space-based school for pregnant teens hits the funny bone and adds in an alien conflict for good measure. Elvie narrates the adventure, wisecracking the whole time. Leicht and Neal keep the focus mostly on wacky comedy, but it's a creditable adventure as well. Fans of science fiction and zany comedy should both be satisfied. Pure fun. • --Kirkus on Mothership • "The fast-paced action, laugh-out-loud moments, and memorable characters [are] a whole lot of fun. • --Publishers Weekly on Mothership • "This action-packed first volume in the Ever-Expanding Universe series drips with sci-fi kitsch, including ray-gun-toting aliens and 1980s John Hughes nostalgia. There's something refreshing about these witty, cursing, sarcastic teen mothers in space, led by a sharp, knowledgeable, and vulnerable young heroine. • --Booklist on Mothership • "Authors Martin Leicht and Isla Neal balance Elvie™s significant decisions about the future of herself and her baby with plenty of action, humor and interesting characters. This futuristic romp will delight readers and leave them anxiously awaiting the next book in what promises to be a fun, thoughtful trilogy. • --BookPage on Mothership

Who knew science fiction about unwed motherhood could be so very hysterical? (Kirkus, on *A Stranger Thing*) "Elvie™s snarky voice and wise-cracking humor are the perfect complement to the inventive, fast-paced action scenes, which include an attack by human hybrids, more battles with the other aliens, a coordinated pursuit by killer whales, and so much more. The non-stop suspense and the cliffhanger ending will have readers on the edge of their seats and left impatiently waiting for the final installment of Elvie's adventures. The irreverent humor and earthy language make this work of science fiction a comic treat for older teens." (VOYA, on *A Stranger Thing*)

Martin Leicht decided at the age of three that he wanted to spend his life spinning stories, and he went on to receive his MA from the Goldberg Department of Dramatic Writing at NYU. He lives in New York City, though his heart will always be in Philadelphia. Martin Leicht and Isla Neal are the authors of The Ever Expanding Universe trilogy, which includes *Mothership*, *A Stranger Thing*, and *The World Forgot*. Isla Neal grew up in a small mountain town in Southern California and earned her MFA in Creative Writing for Children and Teens at the New School in New York City, where she currently lives and works. Isla Neal and Martin Leicht are the authors of The Ever Expanding Universe trilogy, which includes *Mothership*, *A Stranger Thing*, and *The World Forgot*.

As the final part of the Ever Expanding Universe series, *The World Forgot* is a joyous read. Whereas *Mothership* flipped back and forth from the present to the past, and *A Stranger Thing* was like a speeding train, building up speed/plot and then finally going full tilt, *The World Forgot* picks up the pieces of *A Stranger Thing* and molds them into a coherent, fast-paced story that leaves no question unanswered. We see the emotional end to Elvie Nara's tale and it is one most people can easily relate to. At two points this novel delivers two major blows to the plot, wrenching your heart away only to restore it and provide you with the necessary closure. Personally, for the whole series, it would have been nice to have more vivid character physical descriptions. We get tidbits here and there but nothing major. In *The World Forgot*, we learn that Elvie is part Japanese, as evidenced by her eyes, something not mentioned in the other two books. Beyond descriptions of Cole Archer (the deuteragonist), we are only given a few descriptions for other major characters, like Ducky and Mr. Nara. This fun sci-fi series does not disappoint and manages to suck the reader in. All three books have a part that is so suspenseful you almost have to walk away from the book because it is too much to read, yet it draws you in. All three books have great humor and accurate imagery, especially with regards to the evolving subject matter. My finally nitpick has to do with a few established characters not returning. It would have been nice to see two in particular reappear, especially when they were teased to the reader. Though beyond that, I have nothing else to say, these are just wonderful books and I will gleefully reread them when I can.

I read the other book in the series and really enjoyed it. That made me want this part of the series. After reading it, I have to say it was not worth the money or time. I do not recommend it.

Typical of middle books. Not as good or exciting as the first of the series.

only thing i can say is i want more great end to a great series. Now its time to begin harassing author for a sequel.

Aliens, human-alien hybrids, clones, and babies? Maybe Elvie Nara isn't living the traditional sci-fi adventure, what, with being a teen mom and all, but she's still travelling Earth in hi-tech ships and battling aliens bent on taking over her home planet, she just has to deal with her infant daughter along the way. It helps that Elvie and her team—which includes one full-blooded alien, one part alien, one best friend, and one eccentric father—has a wide repertoire of sarcasm under their belts. Thus, the seriousness of being a mother to a little girl is

made into a fun, adventurous comedy. The world itself is light and fluffy, despite the heavy action scenes that make sure no scene is dull. Everything just rolls from one punch to the next. However, this heavy action in such a short-length package does have its drawbacks. One being that the answers to all the science-y questions are a little convoluted or vague at times. Elvie and her gang of misfit toys may understand the jumps in logic, but the average reader may have a hard time understanding the reasoning. The light-hearted writing also detracts a little bit from the seriousness of the situation and could impact a reader's connection to the main characters and their decisions. It's just hard to get to know a character when he or she is being sarcastic all the time. This doesn't impede the fun behind the story though, because this trilogy is a lot of fun. Good jokes abound and goofy characters await. So, for those interested in a book that brings the smiles, you don't have to look very far. Just start with the first book, Mothership, and work your way down to this one. The giggles this series provides are out of this world. 3/5 stars*Note: I borrowed a copy of this book to review via the Book Review Board of Missouri.

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