



2010

The Search for WondLa

Tessa McMillan

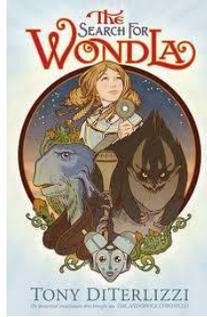
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McMillan, Tessa (2010) "The Search for WondLa," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 31 : Iss. 3 , Article 23.

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DiTerlizzi, Tony. *The Search for WondLa*. Illustrated by DiTerlizzi, Tony. Simon & Schuster, 2010. ISBN 9781442413030. \$17.99. 466 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading level: Young adult; Intermediate;

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Science fiction;

Subject: Science fiction; Human-alien encounters--Juvenile fiction; Identity--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Eva Nine has never seen the outside world. She has lived in the Sanctuary with Muthr—her caretaker robot—below ground. One day an alien huntsman, Besteel, destroys the Sanctuary in search of Eva. She escapes only to find animals and life forms she had never seen or heard of before. Eva is captured by Besteel, along with another creature, Rovender. With the help of a water bear, Otto, Eva and Rovender escape. Eva returns to her Sanctuary to retrieve Muthr. Eva's plan is to go to Solas, a city, to see if any humans still exist on this planet. But Eva is captured again by Besteel and taken to Queen Ojo of Solas to become part of her permanent museum exhibit. Eva escapes the museum and meets up with Muthr, Otto, and Rovender. They hear of a human archeological site in the Wastelands. They travel there to find clues to the human whereabouts. Besteel tracks them down but is killed. Muthr is destroyed while trying to save Eva. Rovender promises to protect Eva, but a spaceship lands nearby and a human boy exits to take Eva back to where the other humans are.

DiTerlizzi has created a very complex read that is beautifully written and gorgeously illustrated. But young readers be warned, this is a violent read. Many animals are killed and the details are explicit about their demise. The book has certain illustrations, when shown on a webcam, will become a 3D map of the story. Science fiction fans will enjoy this first book in a series.

Volume 31, no. 3 (January/February 2011)