



2010

### Black Hole Sun

Debbie Barr

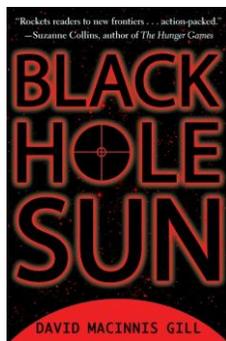
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Gill, David Macinnis. *Black Hole Sun*. Greenwillow, 2010. ISBN 9780061673054. \$16.99. 352 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction; Science Fiction;

Subject: Mars (Planet)--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Durango is a mercenary on colonized Mars, but after a plague swept through Earth things have gone sour on the red planet. With a CEO father who raised him to someday rule the planet, Durango once stood out. Now Durango is just an average Regulator looking for work. He finds it when some miners, the lowest of the social classes, come looking for protection from the Draeu, fearsome humanoid cannibals. He gets together a team and heads out, only to find some snags in the mission. The Draeu are after a nameless treasure from the miners. Eventually the Draeu are defeated, and the strange treasure--fearsome bug-like creatures that were once used in war--are released from the mines, leaving ends loose for a second book.

*Black Hole Sun* has a great cast of characters to accompany the sarcastic Durango including his right-hand girl Vienne, and a snarky A.I. named Mimi. Although the book starts out strong with lots of action and a great voice, things slow once they reach the mines. The plot Gill has created is exciting, with a fallen government and a colonized Mars. However, the world wasn't explained quite as well as it could have been, leading to some confusion that causes the reader to almost miss some key revelations in the plot, such as the miner's treasure. Overall, *Black Hole Sun* is a nice addition to the YA market with a fresh male voice and a world readers will find interesting.

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