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Magonia #2: Aerie

Aylea Stephens

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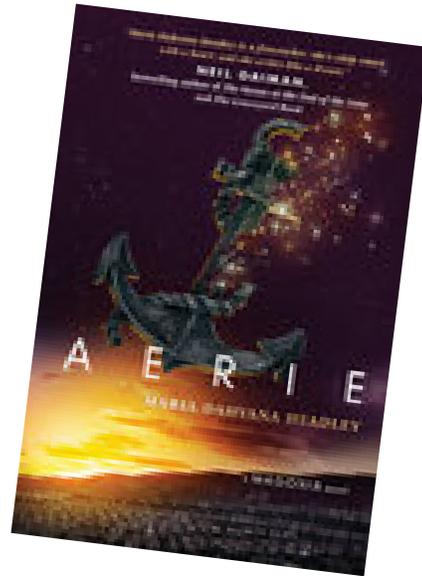
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Book Review

Title: Magonia #2: Aerie
Author: Maria Dahvana Headley
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens
Publisher: HarperCollins
Publication Year: 2016
ISBN: 9780062320551
Number of Pages: 320
Interest Level: Young Adult
Rating: Significant Shortcomings



Review

Aza Ray is on earth living a normal life for the first time. Her boyfriend, Jason, and her family are happy to have her back, but part of Aza still wants to be involved in the amazing invisible world of Magonia in the sky. When Jason's worry about protecting Aza causes him to accidentally give the enemy exactly what they need to control Aza, she becomes a fugitive in Magonia and needs to find a way to stop her mother's terrible plan. She searches the world for a legendary weapon called the Flock that can help her find her place between Magonia and earth and save the lives of her friends and family.

Aerie is a strange fantasy that relies on usual tropes, but tries to create a unique angle with the world in the sky and the singing abilities of Magonians. Aza is a savior with special abilities and is the chosen one to save the world. In spite of the things that could be exciting, most of the book is about Aza singing a song only she can sing and feels things deeply enough to impact her song. The world and characters had a lot to give, but it focuses too much on a main character who is only interesting because she has intense emotions and is no longer dying. The beginning of the book moves very slowly, and the relationship drama becomes laughable at parts of the story. The world has interesting elements, but they often aren't explained enough and become confusing instead of intriguing. Aerie does a decent job bringing the story to a close, but the overall book is not an exciting read and has too many weaknesses to let the stronger points succeed.