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Chase Garrety #1: The Lost Planet

Emilee Bell

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Book Review

Title: Chase Garrety #1: The Lost Planet

Author: Rachel Searles

Illustrator: Jason Chan

Reviewer: Emilee Bell

Publisher: Feiwel and Friends

Publication Year: 2014

ISBN: 9781250038791

Number of Pages: 372

Interest Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent



Review

Chase Garrety is literally dropped into the heart of the action in a galaxy connected by controversial political ties. As Chase deals with his amnesia and random powers, he must trust strangers to guide him in his journey to discover his past and find his mission. While unsettled by the conflict and lies that he encounters almost constantly, Chase chooses trust and honor, even when faced with death. Misunderstandings flush out both friend and foe, as well as a sister he can't even remember, and Chase discovers he has a major role to play in ending the corruption infiltrating the government.

The Lost Planet is an excellent start to an exciting series. Set in space, readers get to explore the universe from a human perspective. The author, Rachel Searles, balances action and world-building well. The reader will feel like they're accompanying Chase Garrety as he explores planets like Trucon and meets new species like the horrible Goxars, but there's plenty of action as Chase and his new friends flee across space and defend themselves from the enemy. There are plenty of twists and turns to keep readers on their toes, but sometimes it seems like the change happens too quickly (for example, the main enemy turns out to be a dear family friend right at the end of the book). The book is appropriate for middle-grade readers, but parents and educators should be warned that the more sensitive, younger readers might flinch at some violence and danger the characters face.