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Dare Mighty Things

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Book Review

Dare Mighty Things

Author

Heather Kaczynski

Illustrator

Reviewer

Lisa Packard

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Intermediate, Young
Adult

Pages

371

Year

2017

Publisher

Harper Teen

ISBN

9780062479860

Cassandra is only too willing to join the elite of the elite, competing for a chance to go into space. It's what she has dreamed of her whole life. During the competition, she makes new friends and allies, something that she has never had before. By the end of the competition, she is ranked number two, which is devastating, but Luka, rank number one, still believes in her and wants her to keep pushing herself beyond her limits. A couple of weeks before the launch, Luka opts out, leaving Cassandra as the number one going to space. The space crew travel for almost a year in space to a new planet that could offer new life to humans. There's just one catch: Luka is actually an alien from that planet asking for help and refuge that could put human existence at risk. But Cassandra is willing to do anything, as long as she gets to see Luka again.

This story is both riveting and life changing. It refers to true historical events involving NASA and almost feels like the movie Apollo 13, with unknown factors and danger around every turn. The character of Cassandra is very well written. She is the youngest of the candidates chosen, but she has amazing drive and dedication to everything. This would be a good read for anyone that loves space or just going off on adventures to the great unknown. The story is well written and keeps the reader turning pages, except at the end. Everything happens so fast with Luka being an alien and there being another alien race that could kill all of humanity, but just ends with Cassandra realizing she needed to work hard to save everyone. It is a very abrupt ending and hopefully there's a sequel in line to tie up some loose ends. Otherwise, it is a very intriguing story showing the triumph of overcoming fears and concerns. This is not a story to pass up.

*Contains mild language and mild sexual content.