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17-year-old Philadelphia has been imprisoned most of her life because of her Christian beliefs. When her father is sent to Mars against his will to work on a mysterious science project and a benevolent official allows her to accompany him, Philadelphia knows she must keep her head down or be sent back to prison on Earth. But when she stumbles into the wrong hallway and accidentally learns too much, Philadelphia is faced with a question she doesn't want to answer: the choice between returning to Earth—or destroying it.

Red Rain Details

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Download and Read Free Online Red Rain Aubrey Hansen , Shaun MacAlpine (illustrator)

From Reader Review Red Rain for online ebook

Leah Good says

Summary

The pressure on Philadelphia, her father, and the other Christian's in their tiny compound is growing. In the government school for Christians, the children are offered an opportunity to be adopted into "normal" families. Philadelphia refuses. She is shocked when she returns home and told by her father she should have accepted. He's received word that his services are needed on Mars. The summons is not optional, and Philadelphia is not allowed to accompany him. Mars. The same place her brother went and never returned.

Review

I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I started this book, but it had me hooked from the very beginning. Sci-fi isn't usually my thing, but stories of persecuted Christians always intrigue and challenge me. So, persecuted Christians on Mars? Why not? When Christians talk about reclaiming the sci-fi genre from the largely amoral path it has taken, this is the type of book their talking about. Who knows. If more Christians pop up on Mars, I might become a regular reader of sci-fi. ;)

SammiLee says

Struggled to get through this and just could not make myself finish. Made it to about 70%. Littered with grammar errors and coupled with a plot that just did not make any sense, I grew weary of the underlying preachy Christian storyline. The heroine was portrayed as spineless and selfish, making it difficult to like her. Overall, this was just not my cup of tea. Do not recommend this at all.

Grace Morris says

This was so good, I mean wow! I haven't read a good Christian dystopian in a while. While always having access to a *Bible*, I haven't really comprehended what kind of panic it would be not to be able to just get up and grab one. What a scary thought! Though based from the book of *Revelation* in the *Bible*, it didn't seem like those many "end of the world according to *Revelation*" Christian vibes. Though I would have enjoyed this as a longer book, it did seem to tie off most of the loose ends. Can't wait to read the next one!

R S Sharkey says

The future belongs to the United, a worldwide movement to live in peace and community. But some refuse to join: uncompromising, religious fanatics who cling to the beliefs that would keep the world at war. Assimilated or removed, these Unaccepted cannot be allowed to contaminate the peace the United promises and are thus contained.

This future is where Philadelphia must choose to remain uncompromising or give in to what the world is saying. "*Take their offer while you still can. Take it and run!*" Sent to Mars with her father, Dr. Smyrna, Phil

is given another, dangerous, option: destroy the earth and all of the United with it.

It begins with such a simple desire. "*I just wanted to find my brother's Bible...*" in a world where the Bible is rejected literature and now no longer in existence. Philadelphia's brother, Ephesus, may have saved a copy, but he died in a spaceship explosion and Phili can't find the belongings she knows he left behind.

In *Red Rain*, we are given a front seat in Philadelphia's adventure to find answers. But with so many questions, it is amazing that this novella, only about 30,000 words in length, is capable of giving all the answers Phili seeks. Aubrey Hansen, the author of this SciFi tale, packs her book with suspense as we wander the winding halls of base 9.6.11 on the heels of Philadelphia.

Red Rain isn't one of those SciFi stories that's over the top fantastical, like *Star Wars*, but is so normal it feels like it could come true. I found Hansen's writing to be crisp and it quickly moved me through the story, offering just enough detail for me to step into Philadelphia's world. Everything was well contained within the story; an organized start for a newly published author.

Along with other fans, I would gladly enjoy a sequel to discover what happens to Philadelphia next. I'm also willing to be content that this is all of Phili's story. If you've already read *Red Rain*, you may be interested to know there is a well written fan-fiction-in-progress that starts right where the book left off. I'm sure fans will enjoy the return of Phili and company through the words of David J. Hartung (*look for his shorts: Crook Q and Philli*)

Curly Humility says

Government regulations said they had no choice. 17-year-old Philadelphia must stay on Earth in the care of complete strangers while her father is sent against his will to Mars. When a benevolent official allows her to accompany her father, Philadelphia knows she must keep her head down or be sent back to Earth. But when a search for her deceased brother's Bible leads her into a hallway that isn't supposed to exist, Philadelphia is faced with a question she doesn't want to answer – the choice between returning to Earth or destroying it.

Within the first chapter I was impressed by the pace. During the second chapter I realized there was no way I was going to put it down soon, despite that fact the dishes were waiting. And had been waiting. I think I may have honestly told myself, "I'll just start this new book late at night and then I'll get to the dishes."

Quit laughing.

I put it down half-way through only because I'm attempting to break a habit of staying up past 10 o'clock, and it was 11. I finished the rest the next morning, made a gushing note about it on GoodReads, then went to those dishes.

Pacing contributes heavily to an un-put-downable factor, but pace alone does not keep me stuck within a book's pages. I must feel with the characters, be there inside their heads. Aubrey's ability to make even minor characters feel rounded and real. I was fully invested in the main character and her goals and problems.

And the story! I feel like giving much beyond the blurb will be a spoiler, but I found it unique and interesting. While some twists I predicted, many more I did not.

Currently, *Red Rain* is only the third self-published work I think was worth the read. (I'm noticing a pattern of self-pubbed novellas being of better quality than self-published novels.) Niche genre, niche length, well-edited. I didn't notice a single grammar or spelling error, when I normally catch a neat handful in the most well-edited self-published works. (Aubrey, I know you're reading this. How'd you do that?) As a unique trait, every couple chapters there are very beautiful illustrations of a character.

4/5 Stars

Aubrey Hansen says

Yes, I read my own book. Believe it or not, that is an extremely difficult thing to do. I think this is the first time I've read the book in its entirety, straight through, since I published it over a year ago.

I actually enjoyed it. Is that a good sign?

Anyway, I reread it because I'm preparing to write a sequel (and a related short story), and I need to get my character voice back. Come on, self, you can do this again. Just repeat after me: Minimalist. Min-i-mal-ist...

Sarah Grace Grzy says

[Philadelphia is the Faithful Church. She remained fai

Jason McIntire says

A tightly-written Christian dystopia; tells its story and ends when it should. You could read it in one two-hour shot and feel satisfied.

What I liked:

- Most dystopias seem to have a common theme: Resist! The plot centers around overthrowing the administration, and in the end the dystopia gets disdystopified. (Which word I just made up. Do you like it?) *Red Rain* is different, and I'm not going to tell you how. Read the book.
- Access to Scripture gets cut off as part of the story, and this was thought-provoking. It actually made me want to go read the Bible, which is always a good thing!
- *Red Rain* is overall a well-written, engaging story that kept me reading.

What I didn't like:

- Apart from the obvious connection with the main character and the Bible verse at the end, I never did figure out exactly why a bunch of people are named after the churches of Revelation.
- One annoying plausibility issue with the plot: (view spoiler)
- A major plot point could be seen coming a far off. (view spoiler)

I recommend *Red Rain* to all lovers of clean, inspiring Christian fiction.

Erika Mathews says

Excellent Christian foundation and themes, good POV from the main character, excellent conflict. I appreciated that the plot was complex - not just "good guys fight the bad guys." The ending was unique and refreshing. I never read dystopia or sci-fi, but I'm happy to recommend this book as the almost sole exception to that. Christian sci-fi and dystopian authors, take note. :)

Sarah says

Recommend for: All ages, mild sci-fi lovers, those looking for a short read, those wanting to support homeschool authors.

Can I be honest? I don't read a lot of Sci-Fi because I don't like most of it that is out there. I know, this is hard to believe coming from a science fiction writer, but it's true. Red Rain was a resounding exception. One day, while working on Homeschool Authors, I found out about Aubrey Hanson. When I stumbled on her website, I saw that there was a free audio book. One day while I was busy mindlessly entering data into the computer at work, I put on my head phones and started listening to the book. I was hooked from the first few sentences. In fact, I stayed up late when I got home (even though I had to get up early the next morning) to finish the book.

A week or so later I bought the Kindle book and thrust the Kindle at my twelve-year-old sister, telling her she would love this book (my twelve-year-old sister is one of the few people in the family that will sit and watch corny old sci-fi movies with me). She brought the Kindle back to me the next day declaring that the book had been too short. "It was such a good book! Why didn't you make it longer?"

What I loved about it:

First off; Grace Pennington, the girl who read the book, has an amazing voice. If I ever had an audio book done of my books, she would be the one I would choose to do it.

The suspense was excellent and made me frustrated when the downloader didn't buffer fast enough to keep up. I loved the faith displayed in this book. Without giving anything away, in the end they make a decision that goes against what many Christians would have chosen. It is the hard, much less traveled road of doing what is right, even if sets you back personally. I applaud Aubrey for the courage she showed in her writing. One of the best things about this book is you felt you were in a real place. You could see the place where Philadelphia lived. You good feel the cold, hard walls of the star base. It all seemed so real, so believable.

What I didn't like:

Does too-short and wish-there-was-more count?

I encourage you to listen to it for yourself and then, if you like it, show your support and buy the book.

Morgan says

My sisters and I listened to Red Rain together, and enjoyed it from beginning to end. Christian science fiction is really hard to find, and Red Rain is exactly that. Christianity, and persecution for it, is central to the plot, and there is space travel and a colony on Mars as well. Despite most of the story happening on Mars, the settings are fairly simple, which allows the reader (or listener) to focus on the story itself. The story is well told, and very intriguing. Philadelphia is a great protagonist, and I really like her. I grew attached to all the good characters, but Philadelphia most of all. Something I thought was really cool was how some of the characters' names came from the cities mentioned in Revelation, the ones Revelation was originally sent to. It was fun to find the characters whose names came from the Bible: Philadelphia, Ephesus, Dr. Smyrna, Mr. Sardis and Cea (from Laodicea). I do wish there was more to the story, but I saw something about Aubrey working on a sequel, so perhaps there will be. I can't recommend this book enough. But don't take my word for it. Read it for yourself. You won't regret it.

E.F.B. says

Listened to the free audiobook found on the author's website.

I was not expecting to finish this in one day! I also wasn't expecting to like it quite so much. Long story short, I'm not generally a dystopian fan and it was mainly the facts that the audio was free, it was short, and there were some rave reviews from my GR friends, that got me to even think about reading (listening) to it.

Well, I had a lot of car-riding to do today, one chapter led to another, and I finished it! It actually took until chapter 3, I believe, when our main character left Earth and went to Mars to hook me, but once it did, I was content to just sit and listen until it was done. While I am still not a converted dystopian fan, I did very much enjoy this story, the characters, and the overall writing style. There were things that really surprised me and had me itching to know what would come next. But I think my favorite thing about the whole story were the warm, strong, relationship the main character had with her family, particularly her father. That's something I love to see in books and would like to see far more often, especially since YA fiction so frequently has the parents being uninvolved, uncaring, incompetent, or dead.

Conclusion: I really liked it. Not enough to make me run and grab another dystopian book, but it surprised me with how much it grabbed me, and I think that shows how talented this author is.

Content advisory: None that I recall. But I'll echo another reviewer that this would probably be better for older readers (12+) given the esoteric content that would go over younger children's heads.

Main Worldviews: Christian.

C.B. Cook says

Wow! This was really good. I've never been a big fan of space books, but this one caught me by surprise! The characters were really intriguing and nicely developed, and the setting was really interesting. The best part of this book was the plot. Very intriguing, and it kept me guessing the whole time. Not to mention the way everything worked out was sooo good. I'm now eagerly awaiting the sequel!

Oh, and the author has a really great author website, too! You should check it out here:
<http://jointheunaccepted.com/>.

Tarissa says

I love *Red Rain*! It has a Christian sci-fi plot, and I rather thought it was well-done -- and exciting.

In this futuristic setting, the government is taking away Christians' rights. Our heroine Philadelphia has been moved to a regulated school, and then is offered the chance to live in another family's home -- if she gives up her religion. She fights these advances at her Christian beliefs, with her father by her side, even as he himself fights his own similar battles. Then, after a digital virus attacks everyone's devices and wipes out the Bible, authentic scripture is scarce on Earth..... and on Mars too, as Philadelphia soon finds out.

Overall, the plot can be a scary predicament to think about. Christians being sent away to concentration camps? God's Word stricken from our hands? It's unthinkable. But I believe this is something good to think about -- something that sets you to thinking. **How far would you go to keep the faith and run the race as true as you can?**

Homeschoolers will rejoice to find this book that involves a homeschool girl (until the government cuts out that possibility) who is on a mission to bring back the Bible. Christians too will enjoy how this story makes one feel like standing up for your beliefs and fighting for truth.

A fun and exciting book!

R.A. says

[And no, I couldn't keep track of all the doors' letters and numbers! :D (hide spoiler)]
