



I am Traitor

Sif Sigmarsdóttir

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At the end of the world, who can you trust? The story of one teenager's fight against an extra-terrestrial invasion. For fans of Michael Grant, Suzanne Collins and Robert Muchamore

London has been targeted by extra-terrestrial life; large pipes fall from the sky, sucking teenagers up into a world that is entirely unimaginable.

Amy Sullivan surrenders in a quest to save the teenage population. But nobody can prepare her for what's on the other side of the pipes; a grim and gruelling dystopian world run a specialised government. In order to save the human race, she must literally fight the other species.

Then Amy meets Caesar, a boy who doesn't seem entirely normal.

Amy must decide what's more important - saving planet Earth, or following her heart - wherever it might lead.

This is the modern day War of the Worlds with romance

I am Traitor Details

Date : Published September 7th 2017 by Hodder Children's Books

ISBN : 9781444934472

Author : Sif Sigmarsdóttir

Format : Paperback 394 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult

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Gail says

The idea for this book was quite different to many alien abducting books you might have read with teenagers all over the world being abducted the purpose of which you find out as you read the book. Amy is one of the teenagers kidnapped but she is kidnapped intentionally with the idea that she can save her fellow teenagers and bring them back to Earth. The fourteen year old falls for Caesar one of the humanoids who agrees to help Amy, her friends and the other teenagers who have been abducted get back to Earth.

I did not start to get into the story until just before Amy got kidnapped. However, a lot of what was going on then was so unrealistic especially when you have only minutes to save the earth but decide that this is the moment you want a kiss. Surely when your life is under threat that would be the last thing you would be considering. As the main character, I found Amy quite irritating at times. Her immaturity and up and down emotions made it impossible to get to grips with the story at times. It just didn't seem plausible that it was Amy that had been selected to save earth.

The story has been left open for a follow up novel but the characters need to be more likeable to keep the readers interested.

Aimee says

I received a copy of I Am Traitor from Hachette New Zealand to review.

I was so excited to pick this up because I love stories with alien invasions. I don't know why. But there was just something about this story that I just didn't click with. I don't know if it was because I found some (or most) of the characters annoying or if the reason these aliens were abducting teens was just so disgusting and wrong or just all of it. I don't know. I just know that it was just okay.

So I think the biggest shock for me was the reasons these twisted aliens were taking teenagers and then just expecting them to be grateful. Like "we're giving you food, water and allowing you to live" but you just have to do this one thing for us. Which by the way was just too gross to even think about. But I guess that shouldn't be so shocking considering these freaks have no empathy or even any emotions. I didn't like them at all and just didn't care that their species were facing extinction. What a shame.

And then there were the human characters and they annoyed me during most of the book. But I did finish I Am Traitor because I wanted to know what happened to them all. Maybe with the exception of one. I would have left him with those aliens.

I think the ending was kind of left open for a sequel but I haven't looked into it to see if there will be one. Because to be honest I'm just not interested in reading it if there is another book. I guess this book just wasn't for me. I think the story was okay up until the motivations of the aliens was revealed and then I was just like no. But, like I said, I still finished the book because I wanted to know how it ended.

Magga Dora says

Reading I am traitor is a joy. The prose flows at a fast pace and takes you with it, in fact I read the book in a day, almost in one sitting (darned laundry). I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Georgi says

3.75??

SJ Reads says

This was decent? I'm giving it a 3.5 as I didn't get into it until the last 100 pages and overall I didn't feel like the situation was dire when I should have, but it was decent and left me with a lot of questions about humans and human emotions!

Atlas says

I was a traitor. I was a traitor to my country. I was a traitor to my people. I was a traitor to my planet

* *

2 / 5

I've never read anything quite like I Am Traitor, it's an imaginative book if nothing else. We have an alien invasion, teenagers being kidnapped, and a sense of foggy mystery that pervades the book so I never felt quite sure what was going on. Whilst interesting and keeps the reader on their toes, this also made it a very confusing and difficult read for me, not helped by the fact that several key elements of the book were not quite my thing.

"When we get home, Amy, I'm going to take you on a date. Like a proper date. I'm going to take you somewhere fancy. Somewhere posh. Like Nando's"

First off, our main character Amy Sullivan is fourteen years old, a little younger than I was expecting. Amy is obsessed by the fact that she hasn't had her first kiss (certainly not something I was concerned with at fourteen, or sixteen, or even eighteen...), I mean this is her go-to thought at any moment of danger, which became rather annoying. Other than this, Amy is an alright character but due to her age and interests I didn't find her particularly relatable. Other than kissing boys, or the lack thereof, Amy's chief concern is that Earth has been invaded by aliens and they are sucking teenagers up giant metal tubes to their spaceships.

This idea is really quite interesting and I wasn't at all sure where this would go and what it would involve! Unfortunately, the direction that it took wasn't really what I was hoping for: I Am Traitor focused on suspense, suspicion, and romance. It does get straight into the action, the aliens are already here, on Earth and taking teenagers, which is quite exciting, but Amy's narrative is very confusing, especially at the beginning. It alternates between the present and Amy's diary entries, but this isn't very clearly marked,

making for confused and difficult reading.

It's funny how quickly your eyes get used to the dark. But the spirit ... the spirit never gets used to being locked up

I'm not a massive fan of alien books anyway, but I found it hard to sink my teeth in *I Am Traitor* for a variety of reasons: the youth of the main cast, the romance element, the purposeful withholding of key information from the reader, and **the overwhelming focus on the ~power of love~**. Most of these reasons were merely down to personal preference and this might be a great book for an alien-loving younger reader, but as an adult I didn't not enjoy it.

My thanks to Netgalley, the publisher, and the author for an ARC of this book

Read this review and more on my blog: <https://atlasrisingbooks.wordpress.co...>

Zaide says

This was a hard one for me to review. I loved the idea behind the story, and anything pitched as 'a modern day War of the Worlds' piques my interest. Unfortunately the delivery of this fell flat.

I was quite surprised by how little actually happens in this story. The set up wasn't great either, the invasion of these aliens (or 'Visitors' as they're dubbed) isn't clearly explained and because of that I struggled to get into it initially as I didn't really understand what had happened so far.

The story is told in two styles. A first person narrative where the majority of the story is told, and diary entries from Amy. I think the idea is supposed to be that the diary entries are the present tense and the narrative is the past tense – perhaps to add tension, but it didn't work that well for me because the diary entries seemed to be set directly before the events of the next chapter. So Amy would write something like 'little did I know, everything was about to go wrong' and then the next chapter would be where it described the events where it all went wrong. So it just became a little annoying and took away the element of surprise for the story.

Character-wise I didn't like anyone very much. Amy is a typical 'mousy shy girl' with a 'beautiful popular best friend' and that really isn't the end of the cliches. She's also only fourteen, which really added to the immature feel of the book. Amy constantly worries about things like whether she'll be killed before she's ever been kissed (apparently the lack of kissing annoys her more than the thought of death) and of course she falls instantly in love with a boy after meeting him once.

Her best friend Matilda seemed to only be concerned with her appearance and boys. She was also very petty and childish. At one point, when Amy doesn't want to reveal her top-secret plan to her, Matilda tries to convince all their friends to completely ignore her. Because apparently the prospect of their impending deaths wasn't enough to put a lid on these childish behaviours.

The romance is forced and awkward. Amy honestly barely knows the guy and nor does she ever really get to know him, but why should minor things like that stand in the way of 'true love'.

There weren't really any shocking plot twists and generally I found the storyline pretty disappointing. If an alien race has masterminded a plan to invade earth, I don't expect them to be taken down by a group of fourteen year-olds armed with just an old laptop.

The ending also seemed pretty unresolved. They find a temporary solution to hold off the aliens but it's implied that in a few years they could return.

Overall I was just massively disappointed. Lacking in a lot of detail (some areas are described as being 'horrific' to Amy – and are even compared to Concentration camps at times – but then are barely described to the reader so I didn't feel her shock or horror at all), failing to effectively deliver on the alien invasion threat (very little was alienesque, it could've just been humans who'd kidnapped them and locked them onboard a ship. I didn't get that 'otherworldly race/culture' feeling at all), and immature and annoying characters.

It did have a really good base idea, and despite the lack of detail the writing wasn't bad. Perhaps this would be better suited to a slightly younger YA reader. I think I expected a lot more from something tagged as being similar to War of the Worlds, because this really wasn't anything like that at all.

Incus says

'Loving the alien'

This started off really well. A modern reworking of War of the Worlds, with main character Amy, a geeky 14 year old, her brother, well drawn parents and airhead friend Matilda. It is set in Docklands modern day and the teenage concerns and actions seem plausible (although I really can't judge), including her concerns about lack of boyfriends and never having been kissed. The dystopian anarchy is well drawn (looted supermarkets, patrolling soldiers, power cuts, lack of government information). Her friends are awful and unlikeable though and their characters barely developed. Which makes her reactions to later events ring like a cracked bell

Unfortunately for me the book falls apart badly after 150 pages when Amy is whisked up to the Alien spaceship on her mission for the resistance. Why would she not ask what she is carrying and why & how is it supposed to save humankind from the invaders? and so on. The description of 'the camp' (and the other sites is pedestrian, confusing and trite. And the aliens (or some of them) turn out to look like - and in fact are exactly like - teenage humans, with the same banter, slang, sensibilities including heart searching obsessions about love and sex. This is an astonishing failure of imagination. Honestly if you're going to have aliens at least make them alien not humans from a different planet. One has dreamy dimples, and autumnal smile and Amy is of course falls in lurve with him. This relationship now becomes the main focus of the book - it feels forced and absurd as they have only just met. The earnest heart to heart discussions between them and the explanations of why the aliens are here are just ridiculous.

In a SciFi book I also really expect some half credible science, but we don't get it here. The plot is utterly illogical and riddled with inconsistencies

I can't bear to discuss the battles and the great escape plan. Even in the middle of a massive shoot out, Amy has time to angst over how it is all her fault, the morality of fighting back and how she really wants that kiss with the alien. Groan

So sadly a massive disappointment.

Christine Spoors says

This book was such a fun read. It follows a teenager called Amy when Londson is invaded by aliens. The story is told through a combination of diary entries and normal chapters, and I liked the mix. I thought the main character Amy was very endearing, so I really enjoyed reading from her POV.

For a while, the reader is left guessing what has happened with the alien invasion, and I really liked that suspense. I think I actually enjoyed the first 200 pages of this book more than the last. Although the plot was exciting at the end, I felt like it went in circles a little and could have been condensed. It was still a very fun read and the ending was very satisfying.

I gave this book a 3 stars because there were a few things I didn't like. Perhaps because this book is really for a teen audience I noticed quite a lot of stereotypes throughout, which I may not have noticed when I was younger. Throughout this alien invasion they reference the holocaust and that made me a little uncomfortable. I know it's good to remind people about what happened, but it felt a little insensitive comparing it to an alien invasion. I also wasn't a fan of the way the author wrote the alien "language", I think that could have been missed out.

Thank you to *Hodder* for sending me a copy to review! I was really excited to read this after seeing that Sif Sigmarsdóttir is a very famous children's author in Iceland.

Ryan Buckby says

I enjoyed this book but I'm left slightly confused and I felt that way through the entire book and I don't know why I was feeling like it but I just was.

I like alien invasion stories I find them so interesting and there is so much you could play around with these types of stories. However I was left confused throughout my reading of this book and I think it was the fact of how the book was set out, Diary entry's and normal book setting but I couldn't for the life of me tell which one was the present and which was the past or were both just in the present and the main character was just writing in a diary for those main events? It might just be me being dumb but that's how I felt.

I liked some of the characters and some did annoy me a little bit but all and all the characters had good stories and were very well written.

The ending was a huge open ended ending for this book like I feel like it could have a sequel if it wanted to so I will be interested to see if it does get a second book.

Alyssa Grace says

"Living isn't just breathing. Living is experiencing, enjoying, having fun just for the hell of it. You shouldn't just live life, you should feel life. You should feel all its different dimensions; you should feel happiness, sadness, elation, grief. Love."

I am Traitor is a novel with surprisingly (in the best possible way) profound things to say for a 14-year-old protagonist who starts out obsessed with getting her first kiss. First impressions can be deceptive, and the book starts out mundane, even banal, but gradually crescendoes into a full-fledged story with **impeccable plotting** and **emotional depth**. Yes, there are clichés, tropes, stock characters and what have you, which will probably bother experienced readers of sci-fi more than they did me, but for a YA novel billed as a "modern day War of the Worlds with romance," it offers enough twists on the traditional to satisfy even picky readers.

For those who worry that this is another half-baked premise manufactured solely for the main characters to kiss--don't. While we're flying blind, so to speak, for about the first half of the novel (there's little explanation as to *what in the world is going on* until then), the world-building works well when it finally emerges.

And while the relationship *is* rather too instalovish for my tastes, there's enough depth to it to keep things believable. More importantly, the novel's plot is strong enough to overcome any holes where the romance is concerned. Basically, *I am Traitor* is no *Matched*, even though it deals with many of the same themes. The way it handles those themes is more in alignment with *The Giver*, although *I am Traitor* is far more action-heavy.

There are echoes of *The Diary of a Young Girl* everywhere, and it's clear that Anne Frank's story influenced Amy Sullivan's journey on a significant level, down to short excerpts from Amy's fictional diary at the end of every chapter. I wasn't sold on the stylistic choice to begin with, especially as the excerpts created some narrative confusion due to being chronologically ahead of the chapters, but I've come to appreciate their indispensable value to the story. They are unconventional, sometimes confusing, sometimes painful or annoying or sad to read--just like the candid, private thoughts of a 14-year-old thrust into a fight way over her head.

And guys, *the ending*. I'm so happy that this book is a stand-alone, at least for now (I'm not saying a sequel could never work, but I'd have very high expectations for one). It's not easy to write an ending as **gutsy** and **introspective** as the one we get here, and trust me, it's worth it. A little cheesy, but *worth it all the way*, you get me?

YA dystopia may be over-saturated by this point, where all new releases must write something amazingly innovative or risk being panned as stale, but *I am Traitor* proves--convincingly--that the genre is far from dead. I hope that this author writes more speculative fiction, as she definitely has a gift for realistic world-building, and I definitely look forward to whatever she may come up with.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for providing a review copy of this book!

Zarina says

Review first published on my blog: <http://www.pagetostagereviews.com/201...>

There are a lot of books about looming alien invasions and while they can be good if done well, they have been done SO much already. *I Am Traitor* while also dealing with the alien invasion concept arrives smack-down in the middle of the action, which is a much more exciting concept. Aliens are here, they're taking teenagers from across the globe and they seem to know exactly how many teenagers live in each home so they can pick them off one by one...

Amy's brother Andrew was already taken, but she wasn't because the aliens mistakenly took her friend Matilda instead who was staying with them. This gives Amy the chance to find the Resistance and team up with them so when she does get taken by the Visitors she has a plan to fight back and help save humanity. But when she too is taken on board of one of the alien ships and she's about to execute her plans, nothing is quite like she thought it was. There is a Resistance among the Visitors too - but which side is telling the truth? And can Amy even save humanity or is it too late?

I Am Traitor was consistently exciting and surprising, beyond the alien invasion concept it was wholly unique and with a very fascinating cast of characters, from kick-ass teens to traitors. I don't tend to read much sci-fi but if all alien novels are as original and well-written as this one I'll have to dip my toes into the genre much more.

Alyson says

I wanted to enjoy this book. I've like all the Icelandic writers I've read. I like teenage fiction. But this story of alien abduction just didn't ring true for me and I'm not completely sure why.

There were many instances when there was too much 'tell' of things that were important to the plot — things that seemed to need to be explained to the reader before we could grasp the next thing the characters were doing. This made the story clunky to read.

The raft of characters were also a raft of rather predictable characters — the school bullies, the 'nerd' friend, the 'blond' friend, the gorgeous hulk, the traitor and the comedian.

Having said this I did read to the end as I wanted to know what happened, but when the events came they came thick and fast with various twists and turns in the final couple of chapters that actually quite took your breath away and didn't let you fully engage what was happening.

Sadly wouldn't really recommend.

Eleanor says

Aliens have made contact with Earth, and are stealing teenagers through giant metal tubes that descend from their spaceships. After Amy Sullivan's older brother and best friends are taken, she volunteers to deliver a message to someone on the inside, in the hope that this will save everyone. But this requires her to allow herself to be stolen away as well.

My reading experience, and therefore this review, has been affected by the fact that I am currently completely obsessed with the tv show *Torchwood*, which is a spin off of *Doctor Who*. The fact that this book is about an alien invasion and is specifically set in *Canary Wharf* (the base of the ill-fated *Torchwood One*) should have made this a perfect read for me right now! Unfortunately, the plot of this book has many similarities to *Torchwood*: *Children of Earth*, which is the show's third season, to the point where direct comparisons are unavoidable. The phrase '*children of Earth*' is even used within the novel. In my opinion, that season of *Torchwood* is simultaneously one of the best pieces of television I've seen, and one of the most horrifying. When considering which executed the premise better, *Torchwood* is undeniably the winner.

Major spoilers for both *I Am Traitor* and *Torchwood*: *Children of Earth* below, because when I say 'completely obsessed' I am not remotely kidding.

(view spoiler)

I didn't really like the main character, Amy, or her friend, Matilda. Amy seemed more concerned with her own love life than the fact that the world appeared to be ending around her. When considering that she may potentially die without ever having been kissed, the dying part was not the thing that bothered her the most. Also, she's a moron. If you're caught somewhere you're not supposed to be by guards, and the person you're with immediately acts as if they're arresting you, then it's clearly a cover. There are multiple chapters where she's convinced she's been betrayed, and she was so shocked when she found out that she hadn't been. How genre blind can you get, seriously? Matilda was quite often a bad friend, at one point trying to convince their group to ignore Amy because she had done something that Matilda wasn't 100% happy with. There wasn't enough of most of the other characters to have anything much to actually dislike.

There is a forced unnecessary hetero relationship brewing throughout this novel. I doubt much more needs to be said on that topic. It's there. It would have been better if it hadn't been.

This novel's main gimmick is that between every chapter there is an entry from Amy's diary from a few chapters forward in the plot. However, this fails for two reasons. Firstly, the main narration is also in first person and past tense, which means that the diary entries would have to really distinguish themselves in order to be believable. This leads onto the second problem, that being that they do not. Aside from the font change, the diary chapters read exactly the same as the normal chapters do. This is especially noticeable when Amy apparently transcribes dialogue and actions happening around her perfectly. I don't know anyone who is a fast enough writer or detail oriented enough to put that much effort into their diaries. The weakness of the diary chapters was a huge letdown, because I usually really like unconventional methods of storytelling.

If the phrase 'politically correct' shows up in narration, you're probably doing something wrong. In this instance, it was used to describe a minor character that *'in a less politically correct era [would be] described as fat.'* I don't have the energy right now to go into detail about the issues I have with this, but I have issues with this.

The novel could be very confusing. Often a question would be asked, and there would be pages of dialogue following it, and the protagonist would act as if she had been given the answer when she hadn't. I was constantly having to go back and reread passages because I thought I must have missed something, but I never had. There was also an astonishing lack of description of major areas, such as the 'Camp'. When Amy enters it for the first time, she goes off on a tangent about concentration camps, never really getting to the point, and the 'Camp' that she's in is clearly nowhere near as bad as those were. The Holocaust is referenced pretty often actually. One or two references would have been fine, and could have worked well, but I think Sigmarsdóttir overdid it a little.

While this book has enough problems that I was never going to love it, I definitely would have liked it a lot more if I hadn't already seen Torchwood. If you like sci-fi (or if you've read this book and are curious to see

a slightly different take on an extremely similar premise) then I highly recommend that you watch it.

Kirsti says

God, I liked this but it just had so many problems with everything that in the end that colored the whole experience for me. I'll try to work out exactly where it all went wrong for me.

It started off well, with SOMETHING from out of space is terrorizing humankind, stealing teenagers. Despite the curfews, abductions etc, power comes on occasionally just so our bored heroine can connect with different people and further the plot. The first couple hundred pages she hasn't even been taken herself yet, she's just doing random recaps and floating around the story line. Then we finally got to the aliens and it was still confusing as all hell and there was no information. It took far too long for there to be any reason for this book to even exist, and as a reader that is frustrating.

Also random 'connections' between characters and just far too many coincidences to make this believable. All your information is eventually dumped on you all at once and things that should matter and just explained away in a sentence. Convenient.

The characters just aren't likeable. I know they are meant to be average teenagers, but I would punch Matilda in the face within five minutes of meeting her. Amy just goes 'that's Matilda' without ever explaining any growth in her character. Oh and someone should totally just stab Caesar. Yep, went there. (Love Mean Girls)

So it was poorly paced, the characters grated and the whole thing was just too convenient. But for some odd reason I still liked parts of it. I liked the straight up death and fight scenes. I liked the aliens, and I sought of understood their motivation. I liked the no happy ending. Maybe it suffered in translation, maybe it was just me. Still worth a shot at reading, just not my favorite read recently.
