



Darkness Between the Stars

J. Edward Neill

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3,000 years from today, Earth is unrecognizable.

Stark cities made of black towers and white houses dot the planet. Tiny robots and powerful dream-inducing software keep humanity entertained. Nearly everything is automated.

But on one rural farm, a lone family lives a remarkably old-world lifestyle.

They harvest wheat. They repair their machines by hand. They drive the only combustible engine car left on Earth.

At night, the family's youngest member watches the stars and dreams of one day flying between them.

And when he sees them begin to disappear, he knows what will happen...

The beginning of the end.

Darkness Between the Stars Details

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Author : J. Edward Neill

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From Reader Review Darkness Between the Stars for online ebook

Ann-Marie says

I don't read much science fiction horror on purpose, and I really hate it when what I thought was a hard core sf novel turns out to have zombies or vampires in it. But, "Darkness Between the Stars" just straddled that line between weird and creepy, crossing over into the creep zone enough to make me keep my lights on while I read it, but not enough to cause disbelief.

The premise, without throwing spoilers around is that something or someone is causing the stars to go dark one by one, and it is suspected to be a group of dissident space colonizers who left earth generations previous to the story opening.

Joff is one of a number of people who have been sent on, this far, unsuccessful missions to find them and destroy them before they reach out sun.

The truth is worse, and that's where the freshness comes in.

The book not badly written and held my interest fairly well. I would tend to give it 4 minus stars, but only because it is not my cup of tea.I

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review on Goodreads.

Katie says

The beginning was a bit slow and at times the plot lagged. It wasn't until the middle of the book that it picked up and everything began happening at a fast pace. There was so much lore and backstory that I wanted more of but didn't get. The universe was interesting and I wanted more of the action and mystery brought earlier into the story. There were sections that felt empty and to many things that were vague. Still, interesting plot and some of prose was very pretty.

Adora Myers says

I have to be honest - this book was much better than I expected. This is my first Edward Neill novel and I am very impressed. It grabbed my attention on the very first page and kept me deeply involved to the very end. There were action, adventure, excitement, extremely difficult life experiences; but the book was also perfectly suitable for tween and teen audiences. Several plot twists took the entire book to resolve and a few took me by surprise (always love those kinds of surprises!). It's an excellent novel. Well worth the read.

Kevin says

(3 1/2 - 3 3/4 Stars) I won this as a GoodReads Giveaway and I am very glad I did. I really didn't know what to expect going in to this book, other than I thought the description sounded interesting. I am happy to say this was interesting and fairly well written. I enjoyed the pace and flow of the story and how it started out a bit slow (but not ponderous), picked up speed in the middle act, then ramped up to a fairly intense third act.

Well done I thought. My only complaint and the reason for less than four stars, is that the protagonist is pretty flat. There is not much personality there and I found it difficult to really care about him. His AI companion, Callista, on the other hand had a great personality but seemed under used in the story. Overall though I did enjoy this and would easily recommend this for people in the mood for a light but engrossing sci-fi/horror mashup.

Kim Upchurch says

I received the Darkness Between the Stars by being a Goodreads Giveaways Winner. I don't think there was anything that I didn't like about this book! It was interesting and pulled you along throughout, I did not want to put it down and am really looking forward to #2. The way J. Edward Neill didn't just spill everything the second little pieces came to light, the twists and turns. Thank you so much for the adventure!!

James says

Received this book as a Goodreads giveaway.

From the summary I was really intrigued by this book. The setup i thought was done quite well. But the pace of the book was very quick. You follow Joff from being a child to an adult within a few chapters. Only getting snapshots into his life only when big changes are happening. This left Joff a little one dimentional for me and didn't help explain his motivations or actions to situations.

I won't go into the plot twist, only to say that I saw them coming and was not really surprised by what happened. Joff's reaction to these twists also didn't feel real as he switched on a dime without a whole lot of conflict.

I will say that as a concept this novel was interesting and there is something there. I am curious to see if this will become a series, and to see if it evolves.

Robert Defrank says

Once again Neill proves himself a master of atmospheric writing with this latest work, combining science fiction with a bent for horrific alien imagery. The novel borrows from Ender's Game and Halo with young Joff Armstrong, our protagonist. Why does his family insist on living in rural isolation, shunning this hi-tech Earth? Why is Joff being educated with both pragmatic skills and advance theoretical concepts? And when he looks into the night sky, why do more stars vanish into the darkness?

Neill's skill lies in creating an almost dreamlike atmosphere where the reader identifies intensely with the main character and his or her travails, even if some aspects of the worldbuilding are questionable upon later thought. While certain elements such as the decision to select and send Joff on this mission doesn't quite gel, the mystery and actions drives the story forward. The other feature is, of course, the marvelously grotesque alien monstrosities.

There are only two genuine flaws I can find in this book: first off, no constellations? In a book where the

main premise is some eldritch horror destroying the stars, not a single constellation is mentioned. Not a wounded Orion or gored Taurus. The second is the introduction of Callista, where the borrowing from Halo is a bit too overt.

I eagerly await some future installments in the war to keep the stars burning!

Eran says

While most of it is not very original, it is expertly done.

Action packed kind of sci-fi you usually find in films, running around shooting aliens and planets getting destroyed. Not really a profound reading, but fun with a good pace and an interesting universe.
