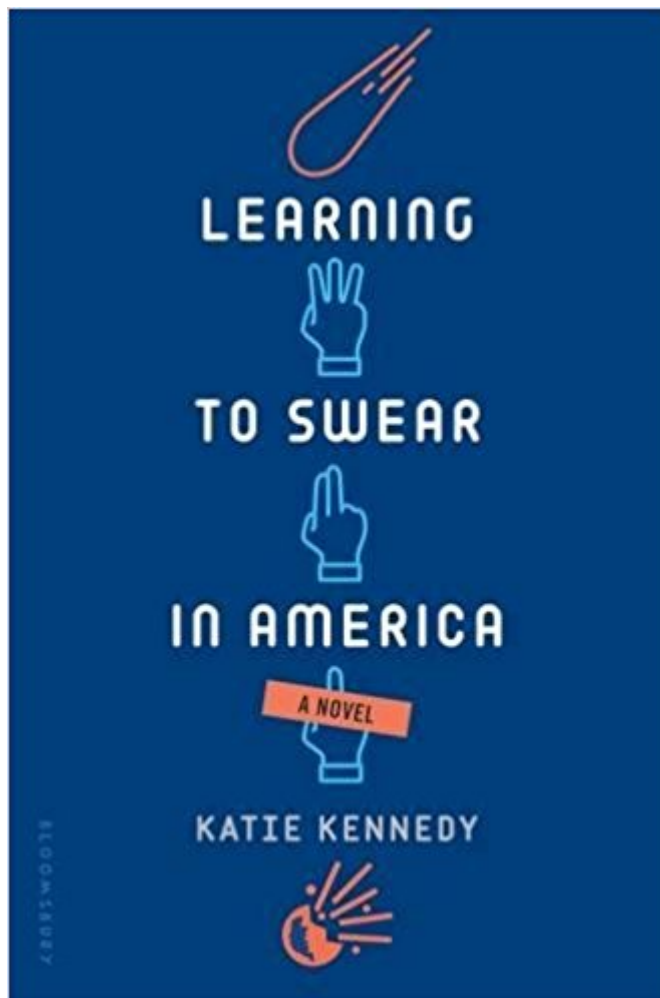


The book was found

Learning To Swear In America



Synopsis

A Summer/Fall 2016 Indies Introduce selection
An asteroid is hurtling toward Earth. A big, bad one. Maybe not kill-all-the-dinosaurs bad, but at least kill-everyone-in-California-and-wipe-out-Japan-with-a-tsunami bad. Yuri, a physicist prodigy from Russia, has been recruited to aid NASA as they calculate a plan to avoid disaster. The good news is Yuri knows how to stop the asteroid--his research in antimatter will probably win him a Nobel prize if there's ever another Nobel prize awarded. But the trouble is, even though NASA asked for his help, no one there will listen to him. He's seventeen, and they've been studying physics longer than he's been alive. Then he meets (pretty, wild, unpredictable) Dovie, who lives like a normal teenager, oblivious to the impending doom. Being with her, on the adventures she plans when he's not at NASA, Yuri catches a glimpse of what it means to save the world and live a life worth saving. Prepare to laugh, cry, cringe, and have your mind burst open with the questions of the universe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up
A unique take on end-of-the-world novels. Yuri is a 17-year-old physicist from Russia sent to California to help NASA stop an asteroid. Yuri faces struggle after struggle trying to cope in a new country and get an older physicist to listen to him. Then Yuri meets Dovie, a fun girl who marches to the beat of her own drum. The protagonist is then forced to learn how to cope in a world with girls and teenage problems (something he has never done before), all while trying to save the country. He must decide if escaping total disaster is something worth risking his life and

reputation for, or if he should just flee back to Russia. The book starts off slowly but then really dives into a roller-coaster ride of emotions and characters with the introduction of Dovie, and the enjoyable fast pace continues all the way to the unexpected conclusion. Kennedy has created wonderful characters who are quirky and endearing. VERDICT This work is thought provoking, heartwarming, and unforgettable and is recommended for readers who enjoy science-based fiction. A superb addition to any library collection serving teens. —Danielle Fabrizio, Swanton Public Library, VT --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"At turns sweet, funny, moving, and suspenseful, this is a book to devour. I fell in love with the endearing, maladjusted genius Yuri, and held my breath--fault of the all-too-real and terrifying threat steadily mounting throughout the story. A fantastic read!" - S.J. Kincaid, author of the Insigna trilogy and THE DIABOLIC "The science Kennedy weaves throughout the story is fascinating and accessible, and Yuri and Dovie's gentle romance is pitch-perfect. This novel is made to savor--readers will want to catch every nuance of Kennedy's multidimensional characters." - starred review, Publishers Weekly "The balance of wit, romance, danger, and one huge philosophical and ethical dilemma is brilliantly managed here. . . . A nail-biting climax with a cinematic aftermath and an even more nail-biting resolution round out this thoroughly entertaining sci-fi disaster, romance, action/adventure mashup." - starred review, BCCB "Katie Kennedy is an author to put at the top of your watch-for-and-read list!" - USA Today "An end-of-the-world romp that will prompt readers to think and to laugh." - Kirkus Reviews "An entertaining, genre-bending mix of quirky romance and realistic sci-fi, with some thought-provoking questions about adulthood thrown in for good measure." - Booklist "Will appeal to many types of readers. Its NASA setting and sarcastic lead echo *The Martian*, while its quirky, whip-smart characters and sweet romance will capture Green and Rowell fans. . . . Recommended for all collections." - VOYA "Katie Kennedy writes with incision, fire, and euphoria. Savor this one." - Christian Science Monitor

Learning to Swear in America by Katie Kennedy 5 out of 5 gnomes This book made me smile so much, even though it's about a possible world ending event. The characters are just so strong and likable. Plus with a title like this, aren't you at least a tiny bit curious about what it's all about. It might just be the end of the world as we know it if an asteroid hits the Earth. That's where Yuri becomes part of the story at 17 he's a prodigy from Russia who knows all about physics. The whole culture clash and how young he is leads to some very interesting situations. Dovie and her brother Lennon are

also quite the dynamic duo. Their dynamic is where a lot of the funny happens and then when you throw Yuri into the mix that's when real hilarity ensues. It's not all humor though there are plenty of other emotional moments mixed in but not any that bog down the story. All the other emotional beats just give the story more depth. My favorite part had to be Yuri's day spent at a high school. As you read you can just picture this all playing out as a movie or TV show. Oh, when Yuri finally does learn to swear it's pretty entertaining. Plus the intense ending will leave you wanting to know what happens in the future for these characters.

A huge asteroid is hurtling toward Earth, and scientists from all over the world have been called to NASA to calculate a way to save the planet. Yuri, a seventeen-year-old physicist from Russia, has possibly the most brilliant mind of those who've been assembled. He knows how to stop the asteroid using his research in antimatter, but the older physicists would rather dismiss him than listen. When Yuri meets Dovie, a janitor's daughter whose world is filled with bright colors, his teenage hormones kick in. The question is: Will Yuri have time to fall in love and rescue Earth before we're all blown to bits? This exciting, fast-moving young adult novel will keep readers turning pages. Yuri's take on America provides the laughs, Dovie provides humor and romance, and the growing danger provides suspense. A novel for teens and adults who love science--or don't--and know a great story when they read one. Highly recommended.

Katie Kennedy's *LEARNING TO SWEAR IN AMERICA* is young adult science fiction that old folks, like me, can enjoy just as much as the youngsters. Full disclosure, I was a critique partner with Katie, so I saw this tale early on. Of course, all that really means is that I got to fall in love with this novel before most people got to see it. This is the story of Yuri, a Russian physics prodigy who comes to America to help NASA deal with an asteroid that is hurtling toward Earth. Not only does he have to contend with the Government and the jealousies of older scientists, but he also has his own teenage awkwardness to cause him grief. It isn't easy when he finds himself going from the sheltered existence of a Russian prodigy to the chaos of American youth culture. He finds American allies in Dovie, an odd-ball in her own right, and Lennon, her wheelchair-bound brother. Yuri is lacking in social confidence but doesn't give up trying. Dovie is a definite social outsider, but without the doom-and-gloom attitude so often associated with such a character. Her brother is a snarky wise-guy, but is admirable in not letting his handicap hold him back. The three together are a team you can't help but root for, especially near the

end where things get really sticky. It is so refreshing to see the action carried by these three rather than stereotypically beautiful and athletic heroes. After such a great debut, I'm looking forward to see what Katie does next. Note: review and book giveaway 1st posted on: [...]

"High school is boredom punctuated by humiliation." So says Yuri Strelnikov, the delightful protagonist of this charming book. *LEARNING TO SWEAR IN AMERICA* is both a science fiction page turner and a love story that features two irresistible main characters, plus a python, a prom, and a bat-mobile wheelchair. What's not to like? Ms. Kennedy has done her research and chosen just the right details to make this story come alive. It's difficult enough to write a story from the point of view of the opposite sex. But it's even more impressive that the main character is also a seventeen-year-old Russian who happens to be a mathematical prodigy. The author has accomplished all this with skill and panache. Five stars.

upper grades - mild sexual talk, mild swearing
third person POV
no AR test but just published
standalone contemporary / realistic / science based (but nothing a reader would struggle with)
A giant asteroid is heading to earth, specifically Los Angeles. Yuri Strelnikov is 17 and already a PhD in physics getting ready to publish his ground-breaking work on antimatter, which he is sure will earn him the Nobel prize. He is recruited by NASA's JPL to work on a team trying to deflect / destroy the asteroid. As the youngest person by far no one trusts his theories to work in this case, which he finds extremely frustrating because according to his calculations they are the only solution that will work. Yuri meets Dovie, also 17, when she tries to sneak donuts from the conference room while waiting for her dad (a janitor). The story centers on Yuri being a "fish out of water," as a Russian in America, as the only teen expert in the group at NASA, as one of only 2 non-Americans with the experts, as someone who only took math and science classes way ahead of his age level so he never experienced "normal" school and childhood. Yuri and Dovie and her family are endearing. There are hilarious scenes when she sneaks him into her high school. Even the adults at JPL are understandable, worried adult scientists with a different perspective from Yuri. The ending is bittersweet, even though (of course) the asteroid is deflected and the world is saved. I really enjoyed this. I would like to be friends with Dovie and Yuri.

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