



# Invisible Sun

*David Macinnis Gill*

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**Invisible Sun** David Macinnis Gill

Mars roars

Durango has lost his crew and his father, but he still has his second-in-command, Vienne, for now, anyway. And they have a mission: discover everything—absolutely everything—about the secret government project his father was desperate to cover up. Not to mention that Durango's determined to prove himself to Vienne even if he dies trying. As he races through flood and fire and across a violent and terrifying planet, there's a 97% chance he's going to die trying.

The chase is on.

## Invisible Sun Details

Date : Published March 27th 2012 by Greenwillow Books

ISBN : 9780062073327

Author : David Macinnis Gill

Format : Hardcover 384 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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# From Reader Review Invisible Sun for online ebook

## Cheri Williams says

More Durango--what else do you need to know?! Review to come...

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## Terry says

This one didn't grab me like its predecessor. I think the cover is a major fumble, as the intended audience probably won't want to be seen reading something that looks vaguely like Fabio-meets-Jersey Shore. There's clever dialogue and loads of action, but there is also a lot of unexplained bunkum. This reads like a Kung-Fu movie set on Mars with monks and quasi-supernatural powers and fight after fight. There's a major slow-down after the explosive opening, which I didn't think the story ever really recovered from. Macinnis Gill failed to world-build enough for me to care about what was going on - and there's a lot going on - and he again left way too many plot threads untied. I think fans of the first will be happy with "Invisible Sun" but it won't be winning many converts.

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## Whatchyareading says

Last September, I reviewed a book that I'd picked up based on what I thought was a striking cover that just happened to have a rec from Suzanne Collins. That book was Black Hole Sun by David Macinnis Gill. I loved Black Hole Sun. I loved that there was a male lead. I loved that it was a sci-fi book that felt like it was a western. I loved that the female lead could kick the male lead's ass. And I loved that it was going to have a sequel. Invisible Sun is that sequel, and I pretty much loved it too. I don't love the cover (or the re-release of the Black Hole Sun cover), but you have to look past that and get to the completely under appreciated gem that is this series. This review shall be as spoiler free as I can make it for Invisible Sun, but some spoilers for Black Hole Sun might sneak their way in.

I can't review this book without making comments about the writing in general, which is pretty much perfection for a sci-fi novel. This book and its predecessor have some of the snappiest, most entertaining dialogue I've read in a long time. It felt really organic, and was always pitch perfect for whatever the mood is in the background. I laughed out loud more than once, and I grinned through almost every scene with any hint of banter. The tone of the dialogue alone is enough to tell the reader what two characters mean to each other and the kind of relationship they have. It was a great way to show and not tell, and I think that's what made the characters work so well together and as individuals.

Oh, the characters. The best thing about these books for me is the fact that the characters are complete people. With sci-fi, it's easy to get bogged down in the cool world-building and the neat gadgets, but David Macinnis Gill has written two novels now where the neat stuff coexists with these great characters he has given us. The gadgets and gizmos are part of the story, yes, but they enhance the characters. We see the pieces the characters see and touch and use. And we see the way the cool science stuff is literally integrated with the characters. It's a great balance and it lets these books be action packed while keeping their soul.

First and foremost, there's Durango. I love him. I love that he's smart. I love that he knows when to ask for

help, knows when he's been beat, and also knows that there are things too important to give up on even when beaten. Durango had a great evolution between *Black Hole Sun* and *Invisible Sun*. I liked that we got to see him grow in his skills and maturity while still remaining a teenage boy who is confused about girls and what to do with his feelings for a certain girl in particular. What I really liked was how perfectly paced the exploration is of Durango's backstory. In *Black Hole Sun*, we got a big piece that let us know what motivates Durango to do what he does. Then, in *Invisible Sun*, we get to find out the smaller ways that this has not only affected him, but everyone around him. We get enough pieces to move the plot forward, but not so much that there's nothing to look forward to or so little that it feels like the author is hiding the ball.

I also really enjoyed the back story we got for Vienne. Vienne was one of my favorite parts of this first book because she was pretty unapologetically badass. She's the kind of girl who can do anything a boy can do, only better. And she doesn't try to hide how awesome she was from Durango because, well, she has a level of awesome that can't be hidden. In *Invisible Sun*, we get to find out where that strength and toughness came from. We also get to see that the strength and toughness is so amazing because it doesn't dominate the caring, loyal aspects of Vienne's personality.

Durango and Vienne work well within the plot of this book. The way they are and the way they think and the things they do fit perfectly into the puzzle going on in the background. And really, I can't say a lot about it without spoiling the whole thing. But, let's just say this book has a wonderful beginning, an exciting middle, and a clutch your chest kind of ending. I can't express how much I appreciate that even though there is clearly more story to tell, *Invisible Sun* was its own complete piece of that story.

The one thing about this book I didn't love, and I felt this way in *Black Hole Sun*, is the "villain" point of view. It works in the sense that things are happening offscreen that the reader needs to know about, but it also had a tendency to pull me out of the intensity of the story. The buildup of tension in scenes is awesome in these books, but then I'd flip the page and I wouldn't be with Durango anymore and that would all sort of fizzle. We spend enough time with the bad guy point of view that I'd be intrigued, but not quite enough to hook me on his character. But then again, it might just be that I was so hooked on Durango and Vienne that I was impatient to get back to them.

Overall, the name of the game in *Invisible Sun* is balance: the balance of characters and plot, the balance of maturity and age appropriate behavior, and the balance between taking the easy way out and hoeing the tough row. *Invisible Sun* comes out on March 27, 2012 (thanks to NetGalley and the publisher, for letting me read this early!), so use the time until then wisely, go pick up *Black Hole Sun*, and buckle in for an awesome ride.

Reviewed at WhatchYAreading on February 9, 2012.

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### **Angela says**

A very enjoyable read. I was dubious about reading this as I had not read *Black Hole Sun*, the first book in this series, but the blurb said this could be read as a stand-alone companion to that so figured I would give it a go, and I am glad I did so.

Although it is possible to read this without having read *BHS*, I think it may have helped some of my understanding on the world-building and terminology used if I had done so. As such, it took me a while to get to grips with some of the content until about a third of the way through.

Although the book itself is well written there were a few things I did not understand straight away or felt I had to wait a long time to get an explanation. Here is a small list of things I did not understand straight away and I think this was down solely to not having read the first book:

**Mimi** – who is she? We are given this explanation 13% into the book:

*“You could have told her that you have the consciousness of another woman flash-cloned to your brain”.*

Before I saw this sentence (and highlighted it), I had no idea who Mimi actually was because there was no explanation for her or an introduction, leaving me confused as to why there seemed to be a three-way conversation happening but could not understand why Vienne was not responding directly to her. Once I found out who Mimi was though, it made a lot more sense but further questions arose, such as, ‘how did her consciousness become embedded onto Durango’s mind? Was she a real woman? If so, what has happened to her body?’ I am sure these events must have happened in the first book and that alone makes me want to read it so I can find out.

**Regulator(s)** – like Mimi, the role of the Regulators is eventually explained but going into this book blind made me wonder a lot more than necessary who they were and what they did.

**Dalit** – see ‘regulator(s)’. (Additional, ‘dalit’ is explained more fully 39% into the book).

**Orthocracy** – this history of Mars since humans started living there is explained in snippets throughout the book but ‘Orthocracy’ seemed to be a major event and I have no idea what it is. Again, I am hoping it is something that will be explained in the first book.

**Sturmnacht** – see ‘regulator(s)’ and ‘dalit’.

**Symbiarmor** – at first I had no idea what made this armour so special but it is explained and referenced throughout the book.

**Draeu** – these are only mentioned at and not really seen in this book. I am guessing they play quite a big part in the first book.

There were others but they become pretty obvious what they are/did fairly quickly after their initial introduction into this book so did not seem worth highlighting them here.

Other than these few things which I did not understand immediately, the book itself is great, I just feel like I missed too much from not having read *BHS* beforehand.

Now for a few things I loved about this book.

For the most part, this was extremely well written (I noticed towards the end there were more and more spelling mistakes cropping up, such as ‘explosiosn’ and ‘you’ instead of ‘your’, but other than that I did not notice anything else, and these mistakes would be fixed before the general release anyway).

The book is action-packed and the story moves along at a quick pace, but not too quick as to confuse the reader. I found the writing extremely witty and even found myself chuckling on more than one occasion. I also loved the use of Chinese instead of actually swearing in English, but then I am a massive *Firefly* so that would have appealed to me regardless. The amalgamation of Chinese philosophy with Martian laws and new way of life was extremely interesting as well and I loved the visits to the Tengu monastery.

World-building was excellent and even though and I believe it would be even better had I read the first book it was still very well detailed. Character development was excellent as well, especially with the two main characters: Durango was a strong protagonist and although some of his actions were questionable (and sometimes he did get a bit whiney), he was very fun to read and the conversations between himself and Mimi were more often than not humorous and informative; Vienne seemed slightly two-dimensional but I think this adds to her air of mystery, and she does show real character development during the course of the book (view spoiler).

Secondary characters, such as Stain, Riki-Tiki and Ghannouj to name but a few, are all very interesting to read about and help add a bit more background and base, which I think helps ground this book so it is not TOO action-packed. The villain(s) are great as well. It is quite a rarity to read a good book with a good villain and this book offers two of them! Archibald played an effective villain but seemed bitter he was not the main villain and showed definite signs of mother issues. The main villain however, Mr Lyme, does not feature as much as Archibald in this book but it is obvious all the evil plans are his idea ultimately. Finding out who Mr Lyme is towards the end of the book leaves us on a quite a cliff-hanger and sets up the third book very nicely so I expect to see a lot more of him in the next instalment.

Overall an excellent book, strong characterisation's throughout and strong world-building. Highly recommended to those who like action-packed books and a decent villain or two. I feel like I've missed out on some background and plot developments for not having read the first book but I hope to rectify that shortly. It is possible to read and enjoy this book as a stand-alone as it is not really a sequel but I think reading them in order would definitely help with the world-building.

*An advance reader copy was kindly supplied by Netgalley.*

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## **Kate says**

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## **Lydia Wednesday says**

This was definitely one of the worst books I have read this year.

Let's start with the absolutely cliché mediocre white boy playing hero and consistently screwing everything up, which consequently gets people killed.

If you are a female in this book, either you are really old or you have a sexual abuse backstory, are drugged and tortured until you are a mindless killing machine who is referred to as a dog and not worth saving multiple times OR you are too pure for this world so you are killed due to the mediocre white boys incapability. Spoilers but I honestly don't care because the book was that awful.

Now, the author decided to inject some foreign curse words to, I dunno, inject some color into this story. Honestly, after looking up the phrases, it seems like he went online and looked up foreign curse words and just plugged in whichever ones sounded cool. In the instance of two Chinese curses that are spelled almost the same, one letter different in pinyin, the author flips them so the phrases they are used in don't make sense. There is one he misused so instead of saying "what the fuck?" as I assume he intended, instead he said, "what the your mother?" These are just two examples in a book riddled with these kinds of mistakes. There's some bastardizing of the Japanese Obon Festival in a way to move the romance plot that falls on it's face. Basically a white male author went and dabbled in other cultures but it's all so superficial in a way that is so very appropriative.

I unfortunately have to read the next book and I honestly do not have high hopes for it.

The world does not need any more stories about mediocre white boys playing hero while blithely paving a trail of violence and death for their companions, especially those who are female.

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## **Debbie I Heart YA Books says**

Invisible Sun is an action-packed roller coaster ride, with lots of humor and cute romance. I have been reading a lot of Young Adult novels written by men lately, and I'm loving the way they write. David Macinnis Gill's Black Hole Sun series is super fantastic. David Macinnis Gill had me holding on to my chair while reading this adventurous wild ride, and laughing all the way to the end. But I will say that David Macinnis Gill did put some tender, heartfelt moments into this story, and I found a few tears rolling down my cheeks. I loved the main character, Durango. He's like a Halo Master Chief/Indian Jones. Oh yeah, Durango is a wild ride and Vienne is the perfect girl to put a little fear in this macho guy. David Macinnis Gill also created an amazing storyline along with a incredible Dystopia world.

Durango and Vienne are disgraced Regulator Mercenary soldiers who are also known as Dalit. They do dirty, dangerous jobs for little pay. Durango is a mission to steal the data of project MUSE before Lyme, the notorious crime lord of Mars, can get his hands on it. But Durango has come to a crossroad in his life, and if he makes the wrong choice, he might not be able to live with consequences of his decision. And the person whose life will pay for the price of his pride.

There are two other characters that I fell in love with. One is Mini, who's an Artificial Intelligence, who's like a computer inside Durango's head. She's definitely the comic relief side kick, and had me laughing. There's nothing like having a sarcastic, smart mouthed woman in a guy's head to deflate his ego. Then there is Riki-Tiki, who's a six year old kick-butt, head strong little girl. She's a monk who thinks and acts like a twenty year old. Riki-Tiki's character gave me lots of laughs, but she's also the one that had me shedding the tears.

There was never a dull moment in Invisible Sun with its action-packed storyline, also with plenty of humor and romance. This is one I definitely recommend as a fantastic read.



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## **Skip says**

The second book involving Durango and Vienne, two rogue mercenaries, who defend those that need help. Vienne takes Durango to meet her "family," which turn out to be monks. They start off the rescue some farmers as Archibald and Mr. Lyme are burning towns and Vienne gets captured and tortured, forcing Durango to risk everything to rescue her. Was waffling between a 3 and 4, but went with the latter because of the excellent surprise ending. Kudos for that to DMG.

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## **Barbara ★ says**

Vienne takes Durango to meet her "family," and they get embroiled in a plot to overthrow the government. (They are trying to stop it not encourage it.) Vienne's family was crazy and provided some comic relief after tense situations. I thought both Durango and Vienne showed wonderful growth in this installment and acted as young people should act minus all the crazy angst. A very different feel to this one than the first book but I guess when you're on "sabbatical" you can expect to live it up a little. I thoroughly enjoyed this and will definitely be reading the conclusion.

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## **Ray ? Ray says**

O-M-Freaking!- G I am SOOO excited for this to come out!!! Black Hole Sun is my favorite book so this is going to be great!

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## **Ravenous Biblioworm says**

I had such high hopes for this book because I really enjoyed the first book. On the cover of Invisible Sun, it says it's the companion to Black Hole Sun when they should have used sequel. Do you need to have read the first book to understand this book? No. But if you read this one first, the things that happen in this book will make the first book senseless as this one does a few critical things to place it rigidly in book spot number 2.

If you've seen for my review on the first book you can see that the book has dropped a point in rating. I'll begin with the good stuff. The things I liked in the first book are still here. The action, the explosions, and the cool Mars colony space idea. I loved all of it. The story stayed true and consistent with what was given... Durango is still a dalit – a disgraced soldier reject and his second in command (of a team of 2.5 people) is still Vienne. The humorous and witty banter is still here and as well written as ever. This is one of the reasons why I enjoyed this book (and the previous one). The banter just feels natural to me and is very much enjoyable. Sometimes an authors tries too hard to be humorous and you can see through the humor... there are times that happens here, but for the most part and even during those less effective times, the witty statements felt true because they happen enough and they happen consistently, making it a personality of the characters rather than an author trying to make its reader laugh.

The plot seemed to stray a bit. It was laid out well. We get hints and foreshadows of what was bound to

happen, but even still the plot seemed to slow a bit in areas... like the noddle arm dancing practice or the bath with a pot scrubber. Sure, they revealed aspects of the Mistress and Master, but where the characters that count, where there should have been slow moments – there were none. Characters like Riki Tiki and Stain. Stain's part in the story seemed lacking... the build up wasn't built enough for his role in this book. Gill does well, creates the tension really well when Stain is about, raising Durango's hackles, but the overall force of Stain's character was a bit weak as he had a somewhat very important role in the story. Riki Tiki has a lot of show time in the book, but these moments were never intimate enough for the end results. Near the end, where I'm suppose to feel deeply for her, I instead just accepted the deal and moved on. There was no reaction from me (or maybe I'm just an emotionless bastard). These two characters had important roles in the story and yet their roles don't have the weight I felt they should have had in the book. The slow moments to get to know the characters better were bunched all into one area the first 2/4 of the book and nowhere else... having them interspersed would have been nice.

Vienne. I liked her. Recently, I've been hearing about kick-a\$\$ girls in YA. Most girls, I feel that are supposedly kick-buttom aren't. Yes, maybe for girl readers, but to a guy... they're not. Kinda like when a girl think something is cute... to a guy it's absolutely hideous. So when girl's thinks a girl is kick butt usually it means, the girl is a little aggressive than normal and cute. To a guy that's not kick a\$\$\$. So what makes a chick kick ass for a guy? Well, for one she has to be hot, which Vienne is... she has to know how to fight, which Vienne does very well (I bet she can totally pulverize Durango, which he would agree)... and she has a set of convictions and belief she follows and sticks too rigidly. That last one is key. This is what makes her tough, makes her bad a\$\$, makes her a must have for guys... all those wanna be kick butt girls in those other YA novels they lack this code of behavior rule. They pretend to have it and then a guy comes along and they become noddle face and limbs. Or they are just violent without this last part (\*ahem\* Throne of Glass) and then they become wannabes. Vienne has rules. She does not falter for love. She thinks things throughly – well maybe she shoots stuff first and then thinks afterwards – but she at least contemplates at one point what could and wouldn't have happened. She doesn't let her emotions get in the way and when she cracks, when the emotions surfaces, you understand her, but then she closes up so damn fast you blink not sure it even happens... but it did and you know she's not all boot in your arse hole because you saw but her reactions and response to you seeing her vulnerable is rough and hardcore, you know you shouldn't ever bring it up because she can and most definitely either will shoot you, break your arm, nose, or face, and kick your butt till it's redder than the Martian planet.

So with that all said, that's Vienne in the first book and here in the second... only in this second one things take a turn and she becomes something completely different. Yes, I understand why, but I don't believe it. The change in her was too abrupt, too sudden, and thus I couldn't believe it. Maybe it's because I like her too much... but the scenes showing or alluding to these changes are too cheesy and too weak to make that believable. Which brings me too our villain in this book. Archibald is a man who is the shadow of everyone he knows. He's an heir to a legacy and rich kid like Durango, but lives in shadows Durango's excellence (when Durango still had the social pride) and merits. Archie also lived in the shadow of his mother's accomplishment... He's the guy who gets compared to everyone else and people would say why he couldn't be more like the person he is compared to. Sure, that can make any angry and evil, but Archie's evilness is too silly to be taken seriously. It's like he's the evil character from a Disney movie inserted into the Transformer movies. It does not match. So I couldn't take him seriously. As hence, I couldn't take what happen to Vienne seriously. There's a connection I promise, I refuse to spoil it.

The romance in this book shows its face. Initially, it was well done. We got glimpses from both characters involved. Enough so to raise an interest, but again what was done to Vienne kind of shatters the romance, turning the romance into wallowed self-pity.... though understandable via the circumstances, not 100% believable.

There's also a surprise twist at the end, which I didn't expect, but made me piped my interest enough to maybe get the next book.

Overall, the explosions and pacing of the story flowed majorly fast and quick. But the character development took a turn down and for the secondary characters they weren't done well enough or evenly. This book is tons of fun, and feeds the guy in me, but lacks the polish sheen like the first.

Verdict: Library check out. If there's a young man needing to read something, I would recommend this book/series. I bought this book. I don't regret as it's fits my personality on what I enjoy to read for fun.

Visit my book review blog at <http://ravenousbiblioworm.wordpress.com>

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### **Cindy says**

read during summer uk trip.  
full of twists and non stop action.  
loved getting to know both vienne and  
durango more--they are even better (together)  
than before.

gill never fails to surprise me with  
his prose and storytelling.

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### **Stacy says**

What a carking good read!!

I'm not sure why I didn't write a real review of this book, but believe me when I say this is a great, and terrific followup to Black Hole Sun.

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### **Chris says**

For readers who liked BLACK HOLE SUN, this is a welcome sequel. Durango and Vienne continue their fight against the evil power-brokers on Mars, their romantic relationship matures, and the story is packed with all kinds of carking action and surprises.

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### **Caressa says**

The first novel in this series, Black Hole Sun, was s tightly written scifi action novel, so I was looking forward to the sequel, Invisible Sun. Boy, was I disappointed. This second novel read like an after school anime, complete with cartoony shaolin monks, clunky "romance" scenes, and an overly giggly girl named Riki-Tiki. Yeah. After the exasperated Durango was dubbed "Noodle Arms" by the male monk teaching him

how to dance, I vomitted in my mouth a little. What happened to the battle hardened warriors with awesome tech? I can handle wise cracking squad members, but not monks behaving like drunk Jackie Chan. The action & suspense that propelled me through Black Hole Sun was completely absent in the first third of Invisible Sun. I couldn't bear to watch Durango make a fool of himself any longer than that. And I won't be picking up the next installation either.

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