



Starley's Rust

J.B. Dutton , John B. Dutton

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Six months ago, Kari Marriner's life was torn apart. Now turned 17, she's looking for answers in her rural Wisconsin hometown. But just as the Embodied seemed to have vanished, there's a new, more terrifying visitor from the Dark Universe.

Back in Manhattan, a charismatic English artist named Starley convinces Kari he can find her missing mother if she flies to Paris with him. He also shares an incredible secret from the dawn of mankind. But Starley is not who he seems. Before she knows it, Kari finds herself standing in front of the Mona Lisa with him, yelling out, "He's got a bomb!"

And that's when things go totally insane. The Rebel Embodied's henchman, Cilic, returns to Earth on a deadly mission. The body of Kari's treacherous friend Aranara is washed up on the banks of the Hudson. But is she really dead? In the Paris catacombs, Kari and Starley are hunted by a nightmarish mythical creature that's all too real.

A family mystery, an exiled race, freakish beasts, jealousy, love... and death. Kari has to face them all in this fast-paced fantasy thriller.

Starley's Rust is the spellbinding second novel in JB Dutton's EMBODIED trilogy. The first installment, Silent Symmetry, was published in 2013 and reached the #1 spot on Amazon's free Kindle ebook Futuristic & Sci-Fi Romance chart.

Starley's Rust Details

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Author : J.B. Dutton , John B. Dutton

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From Reader Review Starley's Rust for online ebook

Teresa says

** E-Arc provided by NetGalley **

Paul Little says

This is a very fun sequel to read and I got through it very quickly because I wanted to know what happened next. In one sense a sequel in a trilogy is a little bit confined, or at least the reader's expectations will be to be left hanging at a crucial moment in the plot but without any major changes. Starley's Rust is no inbetweener, there is real development to the story in this book that is both fascinating and unexpected.

It is well aimed at the target audience and appropriately written. Kari develops nicely as a character and we see her spread her wings in adventures that become international. The new challenges that Kari encounters are imaginative and frightening but her inner drive and anger remain as an endearing quality.

The first in the series had, to me at least, a greater paranormal feel to it even though the sequel has the quite spectacular mythical beast it does have the urban fantasy feel to it and in that sense we are taken on a splendid journey of discovery with Kari and the cast of the Embodied Trilogy towards what I hungrily anticipate to be a tremendous conclusion in the final chapter.

This is a splendid read very nicely developing this very fine trilogy.

Nikki Bennett says

This is the second book in the Embodied Trilogy, so in order for it to make any sense, you have to read the first one, and trust me, that's a really good read. The second book is as well; it's fast-paced, keeps the attention, has a great, suspenseful plot that ties in well with the first book but spins everything off in a different direction, and pulls in a lot of cool mythology while at the same time getting a great "alien" vibe in.

Character development is great--we continue to follow the struggles Kari has to deal with as she searches desperately for the mother that everyone else insists is dead, and the new character, Starley, is great. Quirky, mysterious, funny and sad, he brings a great dimension to the story.

Some parts of the books have great suspense, while some deal with issues all young adults can relate to: the fickleness and confusion of love, the need to break the rules and do something extraordinary, the sadness and desperation of losing a loved one. It's never preachy though, and always fun. There are some spots in the book that weren't as polished as the rest, but this is a solid second novel in the series. It manages to answer questions left over from the first novel, while leaving us wondering what will happen next.

Calm Your Pits says

DNF - unable to read before the download link was taken away

Heather Burns-Schmidtke says

A refreshing change of pace for YA genre, a story that expects you to use your brain and think things through instead of easy fluff. Matters of time and space, an "other" race from a different dimension, exciting stuff!! This story still has the usual relationship quandaries but its not the exaggerated angst that comes through in a lot of stories.

I really enjoyed the angle of the plot and the mystery and unexpected twists keep you reading. I will be highly recommending that this series be added to our library system and encourage you to read it as well. This was read as an early edition through netgalley.com

Kate Policani says

Kari has just lost her mother to trans-dimensional beings called the Embodied, some of whom planned to use Mom to prove that humanity could be symmetrical and therefore worthy to be spared from annihilation. The human world still has no idea any of that exists, and while they consider Kari an orphan, she is convinced that her mother is not dead. But how can Kari get her mom back? Noon, an Embodied and a friend, is gone and Cruz, her human boyfriend, just wants to go back to regular life, wants her to "get past it". But a poster for an art show leads Kari to a magnetic and fascinating artist named Starley who has a fantastic connection to the Embodied. Should she trust the quirky Englishman? Can Starley help Kari find her mother, or will he just use her for his own plans?

This second book of the trilogy is definitely a second book. Situations become weirder, but Kari doesn't save the world yet. It has been a while since I read the first book, so I felt a little disoriented at first. JB summarizes the previous action well, but not so much that it interferes with the story.

I enjoyed the plucky, persevering nature of Kari. She is a character that shows a lot of loyalty and careful thought about those around her. She also stays true to herself. I felt like she became a little more crass in this second book, and I didn't love it. The cute exclamations from book 1 turned into full-on swearing sometimes, and while it makes her seem more hardcore, it also makes her somewhat less likable for me. I also felt like her repeated requests to Starley to explain what he said made her seem less intelligent. I had to remind myself that she probably had trouble with his accent, which distracted me from what they said.

New creatures and more information about the Embodied added a lot of interest to this second book. I liked discovering the answers to the mysteries. Starley and his interesting back story gave the plot some sparkle. The sudden, spontaneous changes of scenery provide a jet-setting element to the story, complete with some famous landmarks. Cilic's strange and ominous activities add some creepiness and foreboding to the plans of the unsuspecting heroes.

Unfortunately, some editing issues got in the way of the star rating for this book. I wanted to give it more, because the story was fun, whimsical, and owned the strangeness of the situations with a lot of flair. I look forward to reading the final book in the trilogy!

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review: STARLEY'S RUST [THE EMBODIED TRILOGY BOOK 2] by J. B. Dutton

I really recommend this series (be sure to commence with Book 1 so you don't miss out), which is engrossing and so imaginative. It's a YA series, but I believe older readers can enjoy it just as much.

Following the truly earth-shattering events of her stay in Manhattan, young Kari Marriner, now orphaned, returns to her home city of Lancaster, Wisconsin, determined to forge on. I've seldom read a heroine more intrepid. Of course, forging on is so much more difficult when you have to deal with grief, universe-destroying aliens, universe-preserving aliens, and being a stranger in your home town.
