



The Lesson

Cadwell Turnbull

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THE LESSON explores the nature of belief, the impact of colonialism, and asks how far are we willing to go for progress? Breaking ground as one of the first science fiction novels set in the Virgin Islands, THE LESSON is not only a thought-provoking literary work, delving deeply into allegorical themes of colonialism, but also vividly draws the community of Charlotte Amalie, wherefrom the author hails.

An alien ship rests over Water Island. For five years the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands have lived with the Ynaa, a race of super-advanced aliens on a research mission they will not fully disclose. They are benevolent in many ways but meet any act of aggression with disproportional wrath. This has led to a strained relationship between the Ynaa and the local Virgin Islanders and a peace that cannot last. A year after the death of a young boy at the hands of an Ynaa, three families find themselves at the center of the inevitable conflict, witness and victim to events that will touch everyone and teach a terrible lesson.

The Lesson Details

Date : Expected publication: June 18th 2019 by Blackstone Publishing

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Author : Cadwell Turnbull

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From Reader Review The Lesson for online ebook

Brittany Holcomb says

I received this book as an e-ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Here are my thoughts.

Almost the first half of the book is a little slow, consisting of family drama and character building. Unfortunately, I didn't feel all that connected to the characters the author built after the story jumps 5 years into the future. But perhaps that's the intended purpose, as all of the characters have experienced a life changing event. The story gets much more interesting as we begin to learn about the invaders and see the anger and animosity building. I thought Mera was fascinating and it was incredible to read about her past as a slave and the things she experienced. Her experiences were so heartbreakingly real and it helps you understand why she is so much more human than the other Ynaa. This story is sort of an example of colonization that is going wrong. It was devastating near the end and I wanted to know what happened to Mera and Derrick. I loved Lee and I hope she heals more every day.

It's a short but interesting read and I would recommend it to anyone who likes stories with aliens, as well as stories with interesting characters.

Emma Osborne says

I adore this book - it deals with such big questions, and yet feels so intimate. The family dynamics are rich and complex, and the Ynaa are fascinating in their similarities and differences to humans.

A must-read.

(Disclosure: Cadwell and I studied together at Clarion West)

Gail (The Knight Reader) says

I absolutely LOVED this book!

I was so thrilled that *The Lesson* was set in the Caribbean I immediately reached out to the Publishers and author to review it in advance of its June 2019 release. I was so happy that I did!

The Lesson is set in the U.S. Virgin Islands and is a story that unfolds around different islanders who live amicably among The Ynaa, Earth's newest visitors who just happen to be alien lifeforms. The story also follows one of the alien leaders, Mera, on her mission to bridge the gap between humans and Ynaa, as an intermediate of sorts. Unsurprisingly, there are challenges that must be overcome on both sides and this makes for an engrossing story.

Don't let the word "Alien" fool you. This book is so much more than Sci-Fi, I am at a loss for words. The story flows, the characters are developed, and everything just fits together so nicely I just felt entranced. I joke that I wanted to skip work to finish it but the truth is *The Lesson* was an addictive and fluid read, I

almost tried.

I must give credit to Turnbull for setting this story in the Caribbean. I almost feel like the Caribbean setting was designed for this story. Turnbull did not steer away from our accents, slang, history or culture and in turn I think it helped him to create *The Lesson*. I am wishing for a sequel but as a standalone, it is superb (and this is coming from a person who isn't the biggest fan of Sci-Fi). I encourage everyone to grab this book come June 2019!

As stated previously, I received an e-ARC via Blackstone Publishing for an honest review. Many thanks to the Publisher and author for the same.

Danielle Colburn says

3.5 stars!

Read if you're looking for...
sci fi, but not TOO sci fi ✓
multiple pov ✓
representation! main characters who are people of color & honest talk about colonialism ✓

Find my full review at daniellecolburn.com/thelesson!

Janelle says

A fantastic book about aliens! With compelling characters, an underlying sense of dread, social commentary, and mystery! I sincerely hope there is a sequel.

Lelia Nebeker says

A speculative alien invasion novel set in the Virgin Islands--and it has a large contingent of female characters who actually do things! I know that sounds like a low bar, but I really did admire the dynamic characters Turnbull created. The story is well paced, and I loved how the aliens (who inhabit humanoid bodies) were incorporated into society, or rather, how they affect society. Honestly, this book was right up my alley, and will definitely be recommending it to everyone upon its release. Add it to your TBR now!

Jypsy says

I wasn't sure what to expect from *The Lesson*. Alien invasion I suppose? Regardless, I was lost from the beginning. I couldn't relate to the characters or the plot. Unfortunately, this story fell flat for me. Thanks to NetGalley for an arc in for an arc in exchange for an honest review.

Sylvain Neuvel says

Cadwell Turnbull paints a stunningly intricate portrait of humanity, capturing hopes and dreams, flaws and failings with remarkable depth and texture. *The Lesson* is a blast to read and a meaningful exploration of the bearing of colonialism and the perils of human ambition.
