



The Star Thief

Lindsey Becker

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Honorine's life as a maid at the Vidalia mansion is rather dull, dusting treasures from faraway places and daydreaming in front of maps of the world. But everything changes when she catches two brutish sailors ransacking Lord Vidalia's study, and then follows a mysterious girl with wings out into the night....

Suddenly, Honorine is whisked into the middle of a battle between the crew of a spectacular steamship and a band of mythical constellations. The stars in the sky have come to life to defend themselves against those who want to harness their powers. Much to her surprise, Honorine is the crux of it all, the center of an epic clash between magic and science, the old ways and the new. But can this spirited young girl bring both sides of a larger-than-life fight together before they unleash an evil power even older than the stars?

The Star Thief Details

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Author : Lindsey Becker

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From Reader Review *The Star Thief* for online ebook

Kasey Giard says

I really enjoyed reading this book! The story world is very imaginative and different than anything else I'd read before. I loved the characters, especially Honorine, with her compassion and talent for mechanics. I liked that she protected and valued the people she cared about, even if she didn't trust them.

The plot kept me guessing and the unusual story world made for a lot of unexpected surprises. Everything came together for a satisfying ending that still left some room for the story to continue. In our minds if nowhere else.

If you're not quite ready for Percy Jackson yet or you're looking for something with the same kind of mythology-in-real-life feel, you definitely need to check out this book.

Note: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Mischenko says

To see this review and others please visit www.readrantrockandroll.com

The Star Thief by Lindsey Becker is a fantasy chapter book for middle grade ages but can be read by anyone who enjoys a good fantasy, including adults.

We loved all the characters, especially Honorine. The story moves fast and becomes an exciting adventure. The author is so imaginative to have created this story and the way she incorporated living constellations along with the detailed steamship makes it so fantastic and magical. This is a book I would've loved reading when I was in grade school.

We loved the few illustrations that were included, but wanted more.

Looking forward to more from this author.

4****

Thank you Netgalley for sharing a copy of *The Star Thief* with me.

Juli says

The Star Thief is a magical steampunk adventure for middle-grade readers!

Honorine is a maid in the house of Lady Vidalia. The household hasn't been the same since Lord Vidalia disappeared mysteriously. Honorine's life is a steady stream of dusting, cleaning and boring tasks, amid her dreams fueled by Lord Vidalia's dusty maps of the world, books and strange treasures. One night, Honorine

finds magical black feathers and fiery footprints leading through the house. Hearing strange voices coming from Lord Vidalia's study, she discovers sailors ransacking the room. Suddenly she finds herself whisked out of the house by a girl with wings into the middle of a battle between living constellations and the crew of a floating steamship. Honorine discovers she is much more than a maid, and constellations are more than stars in the sky.

This is such a fun middle-grade steampunk adventure! The characters are sparkling and the action is out of this world! It is just a fun, exciting read. The plot is creative, interesting and well-executed. The characters are engaging and have depth. Honorine finds herself torn between both sides in this epic battle. I loved her as a main character because she followed her heart and conscience, forming moral decisions based on her own inner compass. She did not make decisions based on battle lines, but by what was right. She is definitely a strong, independent female character even though still a child.

This book is age appropriate for middle-grade readers, but also enjoyable for adults to read. The plot is original and the quick pace keeps the action exciting.

I voluntarily read an Advance Readers Copy of this book from Little Brown Books via NetGalley. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Aelvana says

Honorine is a maid for the Vidalia Estate, but her life completely changes when she discovers intruders breaking into the house. One group has curious beings like a winged girl and a wolf whose body isn't the usual flesh and blood, and they want Honorine to join them. The other group, however, has Francis Vidalia, Honorine's childhood friend, and many new devices that fascinate her--and the two groups are bitter enemies. All she wants is to live happily with Francis and her long-lost family, but the only way to get there is by sacrificing everything else . . .

This had some interesting ideas I wish went farther. The Mordant are star-creatures, linked to their constellations, and they have various influences and abilities related to those constellations. We meet several of them: Lux, Scorpio, Leo, and so on. Their powers are decidedly magical. On the other side we have Nautilus and his (steampunk) technology, who is capturing the Mordant for reasons unknown. Obvious logic would put Nautilus as the villain, but the Mordant's mysterious leader, known as the Mapmaker, doesn't exactly want what's best for humanity, just the Mordant. So we have a situation where both sides are neither good nor evil, but it's more nuanced.

I liked it well enough overall, but nothing about the characters or the story really stuck to me. The fact that both sides are somewhat villainous kind of irritated me by the end, because it means Honorine keeps waffling between them while she's trying to find a way for everything to resolve without wiping out one side. (And I can't say I think too highly of the scientists who are happy to enslave sentient beings simply because it makes them more productive.) But the Mordant are a lot of fun, and hopefully if there are future books

we'll see more of them. I rate this book Recommended.

See my reviews and more at <https://offtheshelfreviews.wordpress....>

Rebecca says

Honorine has grown up as a servant in Lord Vidalia's household, but what she really wants to do is invent machines. All plans are on hold, though, when the house is invaded by strange creatures and dangerous men, and Honorine must leave. From there, she is torn between the two opposing forces in the battle raging for the fate of the earth. Her best friend, Francis, has joined with the pirate Nautilus Olyphant, who is a master inventor with a ship full of marvels, some of which he's using to capture and imprison the "Mordant," which seem to be avatars of constellations (I never really understood that part). The enigmatic Mapmaker is a Mordant who opposes Nautilus, and doesn't care about collateral damage in his quest to rid the world of Nautilus and free the Mordant. Honorine doesn't know whom to trust, including Francis, so wavers back and forth. She wants the Mordant to be free, but doesn't want to kill everyone on the ship to do it.

This could have been great if I'd understood it better and if I'd liked Honorine better. It does have some cool ideas and descriptions, and lots of action. As it was, though, I kept picking it up and putting it down, for days at a time, because I didn't really understand the premise of it (I never really understood what the Mordant were, why Nautilus wanted them imprisoned, why everyone on the ship never questioned whether this was a good idea, etc., etc.), and because I never knew who I was supposed to be rooting for. Neither Nautilus nor the Mapmaker were trustworthy or pleasant, and maybe that would have been all right if Honorine had been more trustworthy herself. Her motives waffled as well, and she promised loyalty right and left and then abandoned those promises at the next waffling and made new promises, which she also abandoned later. Maybe that's believable, but it didn't make me like her. Maybe overall I just didn't get it. Not the right book for me.

Shoshana says

Enjoyable, with a few distinct quibbles:

After a few mysterious occurrences around the house where she is a maid, Honorine finds herself swept up into a fantasy-adventure, featuring constellations/creatures of myth come to life, and a man who appears bent on capturing them all.

As far as the fantasy element goes, "The Star Thief" is well-crafted: the use of constellations felt pretty original, and some of the settings (particularly the constellations' ship) were truly beautiful and imaginative.

The characters, however, weren't that compelling to me. Honorine is alright, and The Mapmaker (I think he was called?), a slightly sinister, morally gray constellation-guy was interesting. Beyond that though, no one felt particularly real.

My MAJOR problem, though, was how parentage/orphan status was used. I get that middle-grade is littered with orphans - that's fine. I even know some of why it's the case. Honorine is an orphan, and the question of her parents (who you find do still exist - so I guess she's not an orphan) and reuniting with them is a pretty

major thread of the story. However, Francis (her best friend) also has a missing father, who also proves less-missing... but this is not a big deal at all. To the point that (view spoiler)

In short, it felt that only Honorine's needs mattered, and she was the only fleshed out person, and everyone else existed to assist her or act as a foil (or even oppose her). Not into it.

Laurie says

Wow. I'd forgotten how fun and exciting middle grade fiction can be. The constellations come to life in this adventurous, dazzlingly imagined fantasy. There's so much to love here - starting with our budding engineer/inventor heroine, Honorine. There's a truly incredible ship made out of a forest (for this alone I want the movie), mythical monsters galore, a battle to save imprisoned constellations and a whole host of creatively-wrought constellation characters (Scorpio and Lux being my favorites). Most highly recommended.

Jolie says

When I saw the cover for this book on NetGalley, I thought it was cute. I mean, two kids sitting on the back of Pegasus in star constellation form? Adorable!! When I read the synopsis, I went "Hmm", would this be a book that my 9 and 11-year-old like?". So, I requested this book and I was thrilled when I got selected to review it.

What I liked that there was a bit of steampunk in the book. If you have followed this blog, you all know how much of a fan I am of steampunk. So I was thrilled when I saw that there were airships and other steampunk elements in the book. The bees were probably the coolest part of the book. They were all mechanical and acted like real bees. Except they didn't make honey, they tracked down the Mordant's and reported where they were to Captain Nautilus.

I loved the use of the constellations in *The Star Thief*. What a great way to get kids to look to the stars and track the constellations. I even got into it, googling the names of the various characters and seeing what constellations they were attached too. There were a lot that I wasn't aware of (not that I know a lot about constellations). Like I said, it was truly fascinating.

Honorine was a very spirited girl. She had been raised in the Vidalia (yes, like the onion...lol) household with her best friend, Francis, and worked there as a maid. She loved inventing and dedicated her free time to doing so. She was also very spunky and knew her own mind. So when the Mapmaker showed up to "save" her, she questioned him. And she questioned his motives during the entire book. She was a very smart girl.

I was a little shocked when it was revealed who Honorine's parents were. Actually, a little shocked wasn't the word for it. I did feel a disconnect when she actually met her parents. Maybe because they weren't like "Oh my baby girl, I have searched for you" and smothered her with kisses. Instead, her father wanted to use her for his own agenda and her mother, well, she wasn't very motherly....lol.

The end of the story was full of action and I liked how everyone had an HEA....including the bad guys.

How many stars will I give The Star Thief: 4

Why: This is a perfect story for any child between the ages of 8-12. The storyline is great and keeps your attention and the characters are likable. The drawings at the beginning of each chapter are beautiful and I can't wait to see them in paperback (I am pre-ordering for my son).

Will I reread: Yes

Will I recommend to family and friends: Yes

Age range: Child

Why: some very mild violence and one scene where Honorine is hurt that might upset some younger readers. Other than that, a perfect children's book.

****I chose to leave this review after reading an advance reader copy****

Emily says

Plucky snowflake Honorine constantly vacillates between helping the Mapmaker or Nautilus and I constantly vacillate between thinking this book is creative (the constellations/Mordants are cool!) or just too looooooong. It strives for suspense, but sort of just meanders around Honorine's plans for saving the world.

Kiersi says

It took me a while to get into the story, because so much is unclear at the outset—as it's unclear to our heroine, Honorine. But Becker unfolds a beautiful, epic, magical world as you get to know the people and constellations (Mordant) that populate it.

What I loved most was the shades of gray in this novel—neither Nautilus Olyphant nor the Mapmaker are really villains, but neither are they friends. They are looking out for themselves, and no one else. I really appreciated the care with which Becker filled out this conflict, where Honorine struggles so often to know what to do given that there's no real "bad guy," but neither is there a "good guy."

A fantastic novel for advanced middle-grade readers, as some of the more complex worldbuilding might be hard for some readers to follow. A bright star of a book.

Connor says

My Video Review:

<https://youtu.be/YS57VBPcBIE>

Heather says

I. did. not. like. this. book!

I cannot believe this book not only made it to publication but also into the OwlCrate, Jr!
I was so excited to read this book. I bought that crate and opened it and loved everything in it.
I waited for a few months just to build the suspense of what this book might be.
It was utterly disappointing.
I would have abandoned it, except that I paid \$30 for that crate and wasn't about to not read it!

The first couple of chapters are so good - you get into the book so quickly! What's going to happen?!
Then....blah....nothing happens! I guess some people would think things are happening, but I was bored out of my skull!!

First, Honorine is a stupid name. Nautilus is a name of a ship, not of a man! Is this steampunk or not. The author seems to have ties to steampunk aesthetics but doesn't use it in the best way possible.

Second, I don't care at all about any of the characters except the Mapmaker, who I'm not supposed to care about! He is fascinating. I want to see those eyes. Robert Knepper would make a great Mapmaker in a movie.

Third, the ship Carina is somewhat interesting, except you can tell the author really wants this book turned into a movie by the exaggerated descriptions given to everything.

Fourth, the constellations might have been a good choice for characters IF they were well known constellations and if kids knew what a constellation is! There isn't really a description, and you're expected to know who they are. I'm an adult, and I'd never heard of some of these constellations with huge names. But I didn't care enough to look them up.

Fifth, who is the audience for this book? It's way too hard for middle grade, too boring for adults, and for YA it has too many big words and TOO MANY WORDS in total!! So many words!!!! This book would have been better if written in half the number of pages.

Sixth, the ship Gaslight was so amazing sounding, yet I felt cheated out of the experience to explore it. I felt it was the best part of the book, aside from the Mapmaker, and it wasn't fleshed out.

Seventh, who cares about the characters? They aren't fleshed out. They don't act like you think they should. Spoiler or I'd tell you more.

I was so bored out of my gourd by this book that I decided to use it for speedreading practice. I basically read as fast as I could, reading mostly the first sentence of each paragraph, and I had NO problem following the story line. I have never been able to skip parts of paragraphs in my reading before.

I really wanted to like this book. The cover is gorgeous. The Gaslight is an amazing steampunk ship. But, alas, it's just not good.

(BTW...if you read the first sentence of each of my 'paragraphs', you can see what I mean!)

Oh, and how confusing that Mordant and Ballua or whatever are both singular AND plural?!!! I teach 5th graders and I know they wouldn't get that!

Rachel says

Great book, interesting story, captivating!

Josephine (biblioseph) says

“Young parlor maid Honorine and her friend Francis find themselves in the middle of an epic feud between a crew of scientific sailors and the magical constellations come to life.”

First off, I'm pretty sure the front cover is depicting the boy, Francis, incorrectly as white, since his mother is described as brown skinned, even though his father is white. So I think Francis is bi-racial and he appears white on the cover. I'm sure this was an honest mistake, but I hope a future edition of the book corrects this.

This book was awesome. I loved the details that Lindsey Becker poured into the house in which Francis lives and works, even the rooms that she spent little on-page time in, such as her attic bedroom. Which is more workshop than children's room. The ships themselves, the Carina and the Gaslight are such amazing feats of creation, reminding you in little ways of how vast they are and how interesting the world in which all of this occurs is.

The conceit of living constellations was fascinating. They're highly intelligent creatures who have constellations and are more like 'muses' of ancient greece, inspiring humans who come near them.

And there is a deliciously epic feud as described, I don't want to go into too much detail, but there is a conflict within Honorine when she meets these two factions, being led to believe that both sides are right, and both sides have good reason to distrust the other. But I was still wholly unprepared for the ending. I'll admit it, I teared up at the very end. And I'm fairly certain I'll reread this book.

Cheryl says

I picked up this book from a local LFL, released by bookcrosser here in CC. It was their first release!

Good book. Lots to love about it, like the fact that the hero(ine) works so hard to make sure a truce is reached and everyone lives, there are no 'bad guys' that need to be killed, for example. Some problems, like the fact that constellations aren't a thing, and my inner scientist cried BS through the whole book. I also had trouble staying engaged, I didn't *feel* the characters.

It's a long book, but it's actually fairly concise, as it covers the ground most MG fantasies would cover in a trilogy. I could have used more humor, too: not the coarse wise-cracking sort of thing in the Percy Jackson stories, but something more than a series of thrilling adventures interspersed with world-building and

learning about the complexities of the adult characters' motivations and characters.

I do recommend it to fans of MG adventure fantasy. I just feel that I, personally, cannot quite say I liked it enough to give it four stars.
