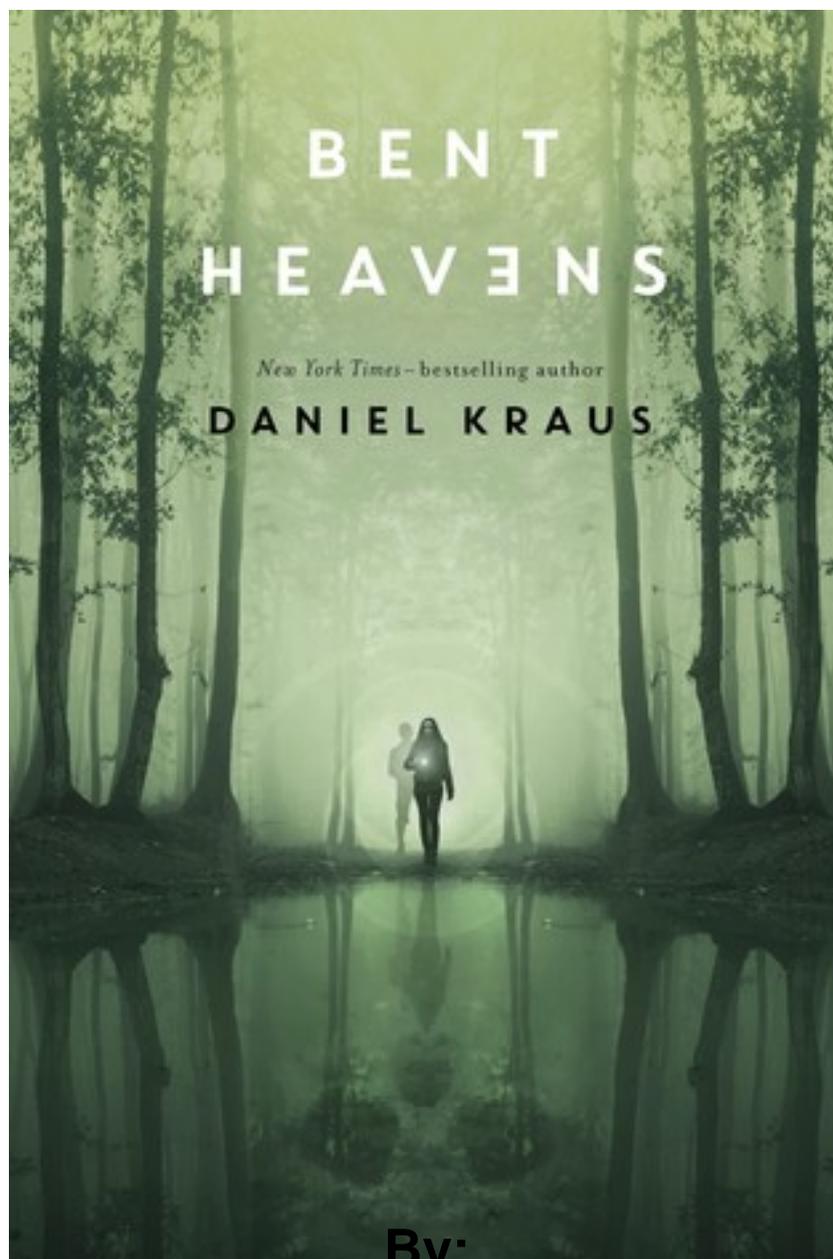


Bent Heavens Book PDF Download



By:
Daniel Kraus

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What people Say:

“Brithanie Faith”

I, too feel as though I've been abducted by aliens after reading this novel. I'm still not entirely sure what I just read, but it was pretty great nonetheless!

If you're looking to dip your toe into young adult sci-fi/horror then this might be the book for you! The horror aspects of this were pretty mild, but at times it was definitely unsettling.

Aliens- and conspiracies- and inner conflict aside, Bent Heavens also

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Aliens- and conspiracies- and inner conflict aside, Bent Heavens also touches on grief- and how people act when they're under a lot of pressure.

Kelly

This is going to blow a lot of readers' brains. It is part alien story, part story about conspiracy theories, part story about the power of the media, part story about growing up without much in rural Iowa, and part story about family. It's by turns heartening and heartbreaking, and it's a story featuring a main character who is unlikable and angry and violent...and also one full of compassion, discovering a moral compass, and wrestling with unbelievable grief and frustration, taking it out

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featuring a main character who is unlikable and angry and violent...and also one full of compassion, discovering a moral compass, and wrestling with unbelievable grief and frustration, taking it out through the only means she can.

Smart, complex, and exceptionally timely, Kraus's part-horror, part-science fiction, wholly human story is engaging, enraging, and an absolute winner. I'll be thinking about this book for a long time, and I can't wait to revisit it and see exactly how he wove everything together in such a compelling and savvy way.

Crowinator

I'm amending my star rating from 4 to 5 stars because I just cannot stop thinking about this book.

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Mogsy (MMOGC)

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum

For so long, I've been on the lookout for a YA horror that truly terrifies me, and I think I've found it. That's not to say author Daniel Kraus doesn't make a few plays toward YA traditions in *Bent Heavens*, but after reading it, I certainly feel as though I've been through a hellish, insanity-inducing nightmare and barely made it back with my mind intact.

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Our story stars Liv Fleming, whose father Lee went missing more than two years ago, shortly after he started becoming mentally unstable and claiming that he had been a victim of alien abduction. The resulting paranoia had led Lee to take his daughter and her childhood friend Doug out into the woods to set traps for the aliens, which never ended up snaring anything more interesting than the odd squirrel. Still, even with her dad gone now, Liv continues to go out with Doug to the woods each day to check on the traps, partly out of tradition and partly out of hope. Even though what Lee had claimed about his abduction seemed impossible, neither do the teens want to believe that the man, whom they had both loved and respected, had been completely out of his head.

But then one day, just when Liv was about to give up hope and take down the traps once and for all, she and Doug find a strange, monstrous-looking creature caught in one of them. With shock and horror, they realize Lee had been right, which now puts his disappearance in a whole new light. Desperate to find out what had become of her father, Liv reluctantly goes along with Doug's plan to keep the alien a secret while they figure out how to communicate with it and force it reveal Lee's whereabouts.

Much of this occurs in the first half of the book, where the content remains quite tame. It's what happens later on—as the story descends into dark, uncomfortable and disturbing territory—that makes *Bent Heavens* such a chilling, skin-crawling read. The beauty in it, too, is that there is not just a single dimension to this terror. It's difficult to describe without giving away too much of the plot, but I will say the reason why I thought this novel was so effective is because of the combination of graphic detail and an atmosphere of unease. Kraus doesn't pull any punches, and many of the ideas in here are meant to make you squirm, or like you've just taken a sucker punch to the gut. One-part body horror, one-part psychological thriller, this novel is designed to explore the darkness of human nature and the lengths we go to justify certain choices.

Bent Heavens is a "mature" YA horror in that sense, one I would hesitate to recommend to everyone, let alone every teen, because there are moments that get too "real" for comfort despite the story's speculative fiction undertones. So be aware, this book is not for the faint of heart, and if you do not want to read about themes related to pain, cruelty and torture, I would stay far away.

Personally speaking, though, the darkness was what I loved about this book, the bold way it was written, knowing the complex emotions it would stir up and not caring. In fact, in some ways I wish this had been a purely adult novel, so we could have dispensed with certain YA conventions such as the exaggerated, high-school-style affectations in the dialogue or over-embellished prose. Liv herself is pumped full of adolescent angst, and she's also involved in a lot of petty school-related drama that ultimately served little purpose. Furthermore, there was a pitiful attempt to shoehorn in a romance when the story really didn't need one. Bruno's presence seemed entirely unnecessary, and by the end of the book you realize he was just there as a tool to further plot development. Worse was how underdeveloped his character was, and rarely do Liv's thoughts of him go beyond ogling his good looks. There's meaningful diversity and then there's token representation, and unfortunately, Bruno's shallow portrayal makes it feel like the latter.

Tracy Robinson

YES!!! What a great read.

Family. Sacrifice. Suffering. Conspiracy. All of these things craft the main threads throughout Bent Heavens. This book was my first experience reading Kraus work. Prior to this I had only watched The Shape of Water, a collaboration with Guillermo del Toro that was also released as a novel. I even have two more Kraus books waiting in the wings, and after reading this one, I will be digging in sooner rather than later.

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As the synopsis notes, we follow the MC, Liv, as she traverses a personal and public hellscape that would challenge even the toughest adult. I just love her. She is flawed and a mess and beautiful all

at once. I work with teenagers on a daily basis and Kraus just really nails the high school environment and pressures. All from the perspective of a female. It's impressive.

I'm a fairly fast reader. Some of that is due to just who I am and some is due to necessity. I, like so many of us, have a busy, crazy life full of lots of things that demand my attention. All of which takes away time from reading a book. This book is one that even when I was away from it (against my will), I thought of it. I needed to know what happened. Two days ago, I finished this while sitting in the grocery store parking lot. I needed to read the last 50 pages and everything else could wait. Even food.

I see many readers who don't normally read or enjoy YA (hey " I don't read much YA at all) mentioning they'd like to expand out a bit. This book may have a teenage protagonist and some teenage issues, but this is very much an adult fiction book. Emotional and physical trauma exist within these pages in a tug-of-war that left me reeling. It's because I was so invested in the characters that I found myself flipping these pages, desperate to know what would happen. This book made me laugh, cringe, and cry: that's a winner for me.

TLDR? A relatively small cast of characters, in a small, nowhere lowan city, experience otherworldly and very real traumatic experiences throughout the book. A blistering pace combined with conspiracy, revenge, love, and heartbreak combine to create a binge-worthy read for readers of YA and adult horror/sci-fi fiction. Add this one to your TBR " I need to discuss!