



The Furies' Bog (The Silent Gene, #1)

Deborah Jackson

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A bog may be Earth's undoing, but it will be a gift to Mars.

Digging up bog bodies and analyzing corpses are the last things archaeology graduate student Felicity Cratchett wants to do. And when unusual mummies are discovered in the subpolar region of Polar Bear Provincial Park, it's the last place she wants to go. But since her faculty advisor insists that she log more hours in fieldwork, she has little choice. In a remote bog with a small team of scientists, Felicity unearths the greatest secret of our time—a secret with ties to ancient Rome, roots in Botswana, and a link to the first people to exercise abstract thought. This revelation will challenge the conventional theory of human origins and human evolution.

Meanwhile, astronaut Lucas Wilson, a man tormented with a deep-seated anger, is terraforming Mars. He reluctantly descends to the Red Planet's surface with his fellow astronauts, preparing to direct their exploration. Mars, in its birth pangs, will challenge every step he takes, with gas explosions and raging rivers, with damaged fuel processors and limited oxygen supplies. In the midst of these disasters, Lucas must keep his companions from discovering a feat of genetic engineering that will transform Mars like nothing has in over a billion years. The double helix of this masterwork twists all the way back to Earth and Felicity's mummies. But if he fails, Lucas must decide whether to take up Mars's sword, or to cast the weapon into a bog.

The Furies' Bog (The Silent Gene, #1) Details

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Author : Deborah Jackson

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From Reader Review The Furies' Bog (The Silent Gene, #1) for online ebook

Jo says

Writing this review has me in two minds.

On the one hand, for me, this installment was overlong, with slow pacing and was at turns a bit preachy or overly technical.

And yet.

The basic story is a good one, and one that ultimately kept me coming back to this book. It is not, by any stretch of the imagination, a one sitting read, but the converging plot lines were really intriguing. The characters were colourful and well fleshed out.

There is a lot going on in this book. Ultimately, I'm glad I stuck with it.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

Stephan Morse says

The Furies Bog is an interesting piece, not specifically because of the tale being told but because it inspired me to go fact checking. To start with, the plotlines are two-fold — we have one crew back on Earth digging up remains of the past who eventually runs into another group essentially freeze drying DNA for an interstellar Noah's Ark which will go to Mars. The other group is busy trying to turn Mars into a place that Earth life can adapt to. Eventually it all ties together.

Neither storyline concept is easy to write. Hard science fiction often requires a lot more details and research than found in science fantasy. I found the apparent care put into fact checking to be the most impressive part. There are a lot of references in here where I couldn't separate fact from well-written fiction—which left me somewhere between highly impressed and mildly perplexed. The science seems amazingly sound and far less stretched for the sake of fiction than some novels can be. Even the space crew / Mars storyline felt well done.

Humor exists in an easy dry tone. At the end of many chapters were quips that left me laughing. Here's one from the Earth focused storyline—

He expected the muzzle of a gun to be jammed against his head. But instead a warm mug was pressed into his hands. "Coffee?" said Nsogwa.

There are several topics that come up in this book—mostly revolving around the environment and life on two planets. As a piece attempting to shed awareness it works well. They talk about the damage drilling can have, genetic tampering, attempting to harness lava plumes for energy, and even cloning rhinos to help them recover from extinction—all of which are valid concerns for the future.

Still, as a reader, I felt barely interested in The Furies Bog and struggled to turn the page for the first chunk.

The story itself only hit vaguely interesting on the meter and nearly had no attention until about a fourth of the way through when one of the characters almost gets eaten by a python. The Mars stuff felt very ‘matter of fact’ until it moved into the second half through what I found to be nearly comical treachery. Those seeking instantly high pace novels are likely to be disappointed. In general, this is a mystery focused on science and not an adventure or action tale.

In the end, the overall lack of draw for a huge portion of the book left me mildly disappointed but—as implied above—my impression of sheer author attention to detail is through the roof. Clearly a lot of background work was done. If you’re seeking a book addressing real environmental issues, challenges colonizing Mars with a high attention to detail for places, character names, and regional ecology; this is a good choice - but it is heavily focused on the science. For what it is, 4/5. It's not something I'll come back to but the effort was impressive.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

www.frustratedego.com

Hannah Charlesworth says

This really reminded me of the The Atlantis Gene series - and not because of similarities, but something really just made me think of that particular book when reading this. If you have read both of these books, then you will know what I mean. I'm really glad I got the chance to read this (thank you!) and it was totally different to what I expected.

The book follows two storylines. The first storyline follows Felicity Cratchett who is currently an archaeology grad student who is now being sent to inspect bog bodies that have been found in the Polar Bear Provincial Park. Once she arrives and inspects the bodies, there are some strange anomalies; one of the bodies could belong to a recently missing girl, whilst the others have possible roman artefacts. Whilst their revelations could lead to some fundamental thoughts on human evolution, one of the teams brothers, Lucas Wilson, is on a terraforming mission to Mars. The mission includes using plants and algae to expel oxygen into the atmosphere and the secrets deep within a cave which also hold supplies. As Lucas carries on with his mission and the things he finds, there are numerous links with Felicity's findings and the overall survival of the future.

So, let's start with the good points of this book. I enjoyed finding out about the bodies that Felicity is sent to work on. I would even say that was my favourite part of the book. The second storyline involving Mars does seem quite out there and doesn't feel like it fits within the overall book until it suddenly does. The writing is really great too, definitely on par with many established writers out there. I found that the writing was quite fast paced too. There is quite a bit of description which is usually not as a fast, but I don't think it puts you off. I don't think I had any favourite characters as such or any characters that I didn't particularly like. Well, I didn't particularly like Felicity's faculty advisor for some reason! She just gave me that impression for some reason. I really enjoyed the science that went on here and that's why I found the similarities (not literally) between this and The Atlantis Gene series - I enjoy a bit of science and what could be next, origins, survival etc.

My only reason for any negative aspects for this book is that it is quite a longish read. It's definitely not something you can read and finish in a sitting, or even two or three for that matter. I read this over quite a

few weeks as I found it was quite heavy to keep at it for anymore about 70-100 pages at a time. I think that the book needed this to an extent as it would just be a complete mess without all the science and slow pacing here and there.

Also a note on Jackson, the theorising behind this book is quite interesting. Jackson did take online course at MIT and has been critiqued by an aerospace engineer - I find this utterly amazing that she has taken so much time and effort into this work. It has definitely paid off!

Overall, I did enjoy this and I think many science-fiction/mystery readers will enjoy it too. It is definitely a solid piece and will hopefully pick up!

Happy reading :)

☆?☆Raeleigh☆?☆ says

Solid book. Full review to come.

Salla (Books Told Me So) says

Wasn't my favourite. Too many distracting features and elements to feel like a complete work - except for the last fifty pages. Those were unbelievably great.

<https://bookstoldmeso.blogspot.com/20...>

Nissanmama says

The description of Deborah Jackson's The Furies' Bog will draw in any regular sci-fi reader. It promises a lot. Jackson spreads her tale across multiple locations worldwide and even space, incorporating genetics, archeology, and secret agents. The Furies' Bog was thought-provoking. It was well-written. Parts of it were definitely engaging, but sadly, you could say all of those things about a textbook on a subject in which you were interested.

Jackson has definitely done her homework—literally. According to her end notes, she studied science journals and went back to school at MIT to take classes with this book specifically in mind. You have to be in awe of someone that dedicated to writing a scientifically plausible story. It's a relatively long story, however, coming in at over 500 hundred pages. Long books are not unusual in the sci-fi world, but The Furies' Bog is not a page-turner despite a fair amount of action. It wants to be an exciting sci-fi thriller, well-grounded in current genetic science, but never achieves real momentum, getting—if you'll excuse the expression—“bogged down” in the science. She even includes an entire thesis paper within the body of the story. (In the electronic version, you can click a link to skip over this.) In the first of two appendices, which is not wholly unusual for the science fiction genre, she includes the entire DNA sequence of the LIPE gene referenced in her thesis stating, “I wanted to emphasize how a small mutation in this entire length could alter the function, or trigger the dysfunction, of a protein and upset the balance in our bodies, or even entirely alter

the way our bodies work. These mutations can lead to cancer or other diseases, or set us on a new evolutionary path.” I don’t know that that actually adds anything or even emphasis to her story. Before the link to skip it, Jackson offers this disclaimer: This document contains a variety of technical terms that may be confusing to the average reader. Feel free to skip over it, if you find it tedious. To me, it felt a little condescending. I’m not exactly sure who she intended as her primary audience.

Probably most significant to me, because the action of *The Furies’ Bog* is stretched across multiple locations, Jackson has main characters in each of those places. This meant we didn’t spend enough time with any of them to really become invested in any single character or relationship. Rather, it is a single conspiracy that tenuously holds all the pieces, characters, and locations together. The problem is that while the science will spark at least the curiosity of any routine sci-fi reader, I didn’t feel the conspiracy, lasting across centuries of history, was worthy of the drama Jackson was trying to create. More than one of her characters even said something to that effect in the last quarter of the story, “The world is changing, Hondo. It’s becoming more tolerant of differences.” She basically invalidates her own premise.

None of my criticisms are enough to really downgrade my opinion of the book until, what I consider, to be an epic flaw slapped me in the face. Despite the length of the book, it ends very abruptly. There’s no payoff for the reader. It’s not even a real cliff hanger. It feels like it was just too long and so the author found a stopping place and put a period there. Unapologetic to the reader, in the author’s notes Jackson states, “As you can tell, the story isn’t finished. But neither is our endless quest for understanding our own path in evolution...and our continuing need for exploration.” Even books in a series must have their own sense of conclusion.

If you’ve got the science itch and are going to dive into this one, get the electronic version. It’s totally affordable under \$5, but the paperback, because of its length is over \$20.

My Rating: C, Finished It – Liked some, didn’t like some

Read this and other reviews at That’s What I’m Talking About: <http://twimom227.com/2016/12/review-t...>

Dianne says

Two different tales playing out on two different worlds, connected by history, science and the greatest secret ever kept from mankind. **THE FURIES’ BOG** by Deborah Jackson is a well-written, extremely detailed tale of the connection between Earth and Mars, humanity and the mysteries of life locked away in seemingly unrelated places.

Felicity Cratchett hadn’t asked to be in on one of the most incredible finds in the history of man, but she was as she discovers mummies that will link the subpolar regions of a Canadian park to ancient Rome and even Botswana. Have we always misunderstood the evolution of man? Where did we come from? Are these bogs remnants of the primordial soup we hear of or are they the missing link to the truth of life?

Millions of miles away, three astronauts are on Mars, nursing it’s “terraforming” stage. Life is being cultivated. The atmosphere of Mars is still too toxic to support life, but now transplanted algae and plants are being grown, sending their expelled oxygen into the air. Buried deep within a cave are survival supplies, and so much more. Lucas Wilson knows the secrets this hidden lair holds and he is about to share it with his unsuspecting companions. But what will the consequences be?

What Felicity has found and what Lucas knows provides the direct connection between the eons of the past and survival for the future. Genetics will play the starring role and the surprises are the advancements made. Is the world ready to know the truth? Or will Mars become the evolutionary miracle of the ages?

Deborah Jackson has created the true science fiction lover's dream. No little green men, no three-fingered aliens devouring all that lives on Earth. Instead, there is a fictional scientific take that addresses the eternal questions of the galaxy and if we are truly alone! Are we the copycats or the original lifeforms? Would the birth of Mars as a viable planet mean the death of Earth? Ms. Jackson has done an amazing job at presenting her tale, fleshing it out with human frailties, mysteries and relationships. If you even have one ounce of an interest in science fiction-type reading, this is a wonderful way to exercise that interest!

I received this copy from Deborah Jackson in exchange for my honest review.

Series: The Silent Gene - Book 1

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Genre: Science Fiction

Print Length: 498 pages

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Luisa says

I won a copy of this book in exchange for a fair review. It took me longer than normal to finish this book, and it wasn't because it was a bad read. This book has a lot of meat to it especially around science and genetics, which I found took me a while to grasp as they were a vital element to the story. The story itself is very plausible which makes this book even more interesting to read. Overall the book was well written and entertaining. This book nicely sets up a second book in which one actually would love to read, as I would love to know more about the characters and the next step on their journey. Yes I would recommend this book.

Justin Cooney says

A great book for readers of all ages, I highly recommend it.

This book is a suspenseful sci-fi mystery that will keep you guessing. The plot pulls you in and will keep you reading 'just one more page'.

The action of the book takes place in Canada's North and on planet Mars. As you might guess, both areas are being researched and exploited by Mega business - Canada's North for diamonds and Mars as a source for food and minerals. These events take place sometime in the near future; it's the reader who will find out when.

Deborah Jackson is an eloquent writer and her book is a pleasure to read. I look forward to reading more of her work in the future!

Colin Garrow says

Unearthing bog bodies is not an experience archaeology student Felicity enjoys, but lacking fieldwork practice, she has no choice. Then, when she discovers a corpse that could change the theory of human evolution, things start to get dangerous. Meanwhile on Mars, astronaut Lucas has plenty to occupy his time – while directing colleagues in an operation to terraform the planet, he must also prevent them discovering the real reason for his presence there.

Deborah Jackson has written a giant of a book, in more ways than one – crammed with interesting factual information to back up the plotlines, it occasionally felt a little too ‘heavy’ for what it is. The author even gives the reader a choice on one particular section, saying we can skip it if we like. I did skip it and didn’t feel I’d missed anything important, which might point to it not needing to be there at all.

The scope and background material in the story reminded me a little of Jurassic Park, creating a feeling of being in the presence of an author who really knows what she’s talking about. Nevertheless, while I couldn’t help wonder if the novel might appeal more to science graduates than mere sci-fi fans, Jackson has certainly done her homework in creating a believable and thought-provoking tale.

It’s a long read for sure and I’d have enjoyed it more if I could have finished it in a few days, rather than a few weeks, however, it’s also a fascinating and clever plot with plenty to get your literary and scientific teeth into. One to watch.

Kim says

This book was amazing! Deborah Jackson spent five years writing and researching this book, as well as went back to college to learn more about genetics. She went Back. To. School. That is some real dedication, and it completely shows in her writing.

Furies’ Bog is a fast paced Science Fiction Thriller combined with a Historical Mystery. A combination of Michael Crichton, Steve Berry, and Dan Brown, three authors I enjoy very much.

There are basically three story lines, including one on Mars, that intertwine and come together at the end perfectly. At first, I wouldn’t say I was confused with the Mars story, I just kept trying to figure out how it was going to coincide with the other two. I kept thinking the people on Mars were going to actually be what came of the people on Earth. Or maybe, they put the bog people on our planet, but I was completely wrong in the direction that Jackson took the story.

Jackson gives the reader so much scientific and historical information about bog people, other cultures here

on earth, and about Mars. But she doesn't in a way that isn't dry and makes for very interesting reading. Jackson knows how to write a Thriller, since I found myself try to read faster and faster to see what would happen next. After you finish reading this review, you need to buy a copy of this book.

Abby Pechin says

LOVED this thriller! Very interesting subject matter for people who like adventures and mysteries. It definitely kept me guessing and I can't wait for the next one to be released! Well done!

Danielle Urban says

The Furies' Bog by Deborah Jackson is truly a unique read. It combines the wildlife study and a mission into one great read. The story started out something like that of the Call of the Wild and then transformed into a whole different universe. Here, readers will find genetic engineering, human evolution, and a deadly mission. Deborah Jackson created a book that intrigues readers minds. Like the boneless mummies found in the bog. A bog that may be the earth's undoing. Sensitive material and an unwanted investigation dragged me further into this engaging tale. I enjoyed following Felicity and Baruti as the plot unfolded. These characters held my interest all the way to the end. The Furies' Bog is science fiction fantasy novel that I would recommend to readers everywhere. I give it a four star rating due to the slow opening in the beginning. I really had to tell myself to keep turning the pages. Once I got past that, it was like the book took off for me. I enjoyed Deborah Jackson's writing and look forward to reading the next adventure.

J C Steel says

An African biologist studying polar bears, a geologist, and an archeology graduate student exhume a group of bog bodies from a peat bog in the far North of Canada, and inadvertently unearth the keys to a 70,000 year old mystery - a mystery with threads reaching into the heart of current events to entangle not one planet, but two. Whether or not Felicity, Baruti, and Felicity's arch-rival in the archaeology department, Frank, will be able to pull all those threads together without ending up in a bog themselves is an entirely different question.

The Furies' Bog is a complex, twisty science-fiction thriller, encompassing a staggering scope of history and enough science to give the story a solid foundation. Deborah Jackson's characters show the same level of detail and depth as the storyline, their past histories and interactions strengthening the plot at every turn, and despite the number of different viewpoints used to tell the story, the author handles it well enough that the pieces weave neatly together into a compelling whole. If I had to voice any criticism, I'd say that in places, pages of densely scientific text made me start skimming, but overall I'd recommend this book to anyone who enjoys sci-fi or thrillers - it's a well-written, excellently paced read.

Sharon says

Outstanding sci-fi novel. Story shifts between Mars and Earth. Archeology. Space Aliens. Just an excellent novel.

this was a goodreads giveaway
