



Terra's World

Mitch Benn

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Terra , which Neil Gaiman said reminded him of Douglas Adams, Terry Pratchett and Roald Dahl, launched the novel writing career of stand-up comedian and BBC Radio 4 Now Show regular Mitch Benn.

Now Terra is a couple of years older and back on earth. She's in hiding. And in Terra's World we find out why. But none of this is known to Billy Dolphin. He's just annoyed that since Terra returned to Earth Science Fiction has died a death. How wrong could a teenage boy be?

Terra may be back on Earth but the powers of the universe are not finished with her. Her old home faces a terrible threat which possibly only Terra can overcome. Just what is the black planet? To find out first Terra must learn how to survive as there is an alien bounty hunter on her trail. And only Billy Dolphin to help her.

Terra's World Details

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From Reader Review Terra's World for online ebook

Blodeuedd Finland says

The fun continues, I do like sci-fi with humour in it. And in this one Terra is in hiding as someone is after her. And it's also the story of Billy who is sad cos ever since people found aliens are real, sci-fi has died. Cancelled shows, fewer books. It's a shame. But then Terra and Billy meet, and he gets that adventure he wants.

Told with a smile, this is a book that made me giggle. It's both real and silly fun at times. But it's also serious as things are not good on Terra's former home planet, it's really bad, and about to get worse. And who is after her?

I liked Terra, but Billy was almost more fun. He was the side-kick after all, the comic relief. The one who was only there cos of her. He was not really a hero but he could be.

Humour, science-fiction and danger on the horizon. A short fun book that you can read in a day.

Sean Randall says

The wit and humour was all still here, and whilst the awe and amazement of the first book would be practically impossible to recapture, this one was a very nice carry on. Very much enjoyed.

Charlie says

A teen book about other worlds and other races. Terra has to counter a tyrant who has learned to lie in a culture who normally do not. and a Dark planet which is threatening to wipe out a planet.

Second in a series. I have enjoyed both.

Morag says

I got this for Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed it. It's light, fast, easy to read and fun, and there's a wonderful sense of humour running through the whole novel. I can't wait for my goddaughters to be old enough to read this and the first one :)

Conrad Toft says

The book pootles along at its own happy pace and delivers what it says in the title. Listening was a good way to experience the book as Mitch Benn brings life to his own characters in the spoken version. Much as for the

first book in the series the end seems to come all of a sudden and is a bit disappointing.

Patrick says

Great little sci-fi comedy, in the tradition of Adams, Pratchett and Gaiman. Would make a great TV show too. Make sure you read the first in the series beforehand, as this is very much a continuation of the story rather than a stand-alone adventure. Looking forward to more.

Matthew Fleming says

Quirky and with likeable leads - and Gaiman is right, it IS like Douglas Adams - this is the sort of book I'd have loved as a teenager. The political allegory is a bit forced at times, but Benn has confidence in his story and it all pays off in a nice Doctor Who-style resolution. I'm glad they (whoever 'they' are) still write books like this!

Lee Halliday says

Another great adventure for Terra in the latest book by Mitch Benn. It's just as funny as her first outing and now she finds herself battling to save her home world from the mysterious black planet, as well as the even more mysterious Gfjk-Hhh. With both drama and humour for young and old, this is a very enjoyable story and highly recommended.

Ivan says

This is a fun science fiction story that appears to be designed for younger readers, perhaps middle to upper primary or a little higher. It is quite amusing in places and has a good story about an Earth girl that needs to save the planet she grew up on (not Earth, apparently this all happened in the previous book).

I have only given it three stars because it was a good read, but perhaps not a great one. Clever in places though and a pretty fun way to introduce a younger reader to science fiction.

Dan says

This continues the story of Terra, the human girl brought up on the planet Fnnr. Terra is living on Earth for the past two years but recently hasn't heard anything from the place she considers her home. On return to Fnnr, it seems things aren't as she left them. A tyrant has taken over the country. He has managed this because he has learnt the concept of lying thanks to Lbbp, Terra's adopted father. And to make things worse, a rogue planet is heading straight for Fnnr and will inevitably destroy it unless someone can do something.

I really liked this book, although it has lost some of the qualities of the original. There is much less humour;

most of it here comes from new character Billy Pilgrim, a human teenager who resents the decline in sci-fi thanks to Terra's arrival on Earth. Then out of nowhere he is thrust into a sci-fi adventure of his own. I wasn't really sure that his presence added much to the book beyond the humour. Everything he does could have really been done by Terra herself.

The plot is what makes this book so enjoyable. Two wonderful sci-fi ideas. What the rogue planet actually is is something of a spoiler but all I will say is that it is a unique and fantastic idea. The real stroke of genius is the Fnrr dictator who has come to power thanks to the concept of lying, brought to him indirectly from humanity. It makes perfect sense that a society without lies would believe everything one liar said. There's an excellent exploration into lying and once again despite being almost entirely set on an alien planet, this book is all about humanity.

I do fear that having two major plot points mixed things up a little. It felt like Benn had the idea for one but couldn't quite come up with a full story with it so threw in another plot too. It's perhaps of the case of the ideas being a little better than the execution.

It has its faults and isn't quite as wonderful as the original book but I thought this was a worthy sequel which continued the story well.

Rachael says

[Terra's almost finished her destiny. -almost!! (hide spoiler)]

Stefan Grieve says

An enjoyable successor to Terra, this is a sequel that is more original and thrilling than the first.

Although with its more frantic pace and exciting plotlines it sacrifices some of the original's humour and silly absurdist tone. It is still funny and I chuckled a few times while reading, but the humour is more based on character reactions than a humorous plot. Indeed this plot is more serious with a planet of death and a false prophet, rather than the gentle growing up in an alien world plot of Terra (apart from the war that seemed to come out of nowhere in the last fifth of the book)

The new character of Billy Dolphin is a great addition to the plot who adds an awkward sincerity and knowingness of the sci-fi genre to the book.

There are also interesting messages about the concepts of lies and perfection within.

All in all, a worthy sequel to the original.

Patrick Carroll says

A good sequel, better paced than his first book and clearly "there is a series in this"! Some of the shmoos lack subtlety but it is a generally entertaining fantasy book and quite a quick read, characters are well written and consistent from book to book. I particularly liked Billy.

Jo says

I loved this so much. A great sequel, allowing the characters and their relationships to develop further. It's a very human book, with humour and sadness juxtaposed. The author manages to use the humour incredibly well, not taking away from the excitement of the story. I also loved the introduction of the new character, Billy Dolphin. So funny and relatable.

I cannot recommend this series enough.

Mark says

Originally published at SFFWorld.

Terra's World (Terra #2) is Mitch Benn's follow up to his hugely enjoyable debut, Terra. Still focusing on the titular character of Terra, Terra's World ups the stakes while still keeping everything that made the first novel so special.

A couple of years have passed since Terra returned to Earth to live with her biological parents, but all is not as peaceful as she'd have hoped. With attempts on her life, the Bradbury family have gone into hiding, changing names and moving from place to place when the need arises. That is until another alien assassin is sent her way, but this time she's ready and gets the upper hand – and a spaceship.

After receiving no communication from Lbbp, the alien who raised her as his own, in over a year, Terra now has the means to return to Fnrr. However, events on Fnrr have taken a change for the worse, and with Terra's arrival the situation becomes even graver. An ancient and deadly legend – the Black Planet – is now on course for Fnrr, stories of which tell of how it leaves planets dead in its wake. Now Terra, Billy and her friends must work together before Fnrr becomes another victim...

I read the first book in this series, Terra, earlier this year and I loved it. It had this feeling about it that just made me smile. Mitch Benn has great prose, and his storytelling skills are superb. Not only that, but Terra was a fun story, and one with so much heart. So picking up Terra's World was a no-brainer the moment I knew it was due out.

Much like its predecessor, Terra's World is an easy read, but this time it's pitched at a slightly older audience than the first – certainly the opening chapters suggest this. From there on out it really ups the ante, raising the stakes for all involved, but doing so with really interesting characters and such a great story.

The events taking place on Fnrr are a direct result of Terra's influence on the planet, so seeing how it's dealt with, and how Terra herself manages the situation, is really what this book is about. Of course, there isn't just the one problem facing Fnrr, and this allows Benn to expand the story and look beyond planetary constraints. It all works very well, with plenty of action and adventure, as well as moments of serious contemplation. Terra's World has a little bit of everything.

It's really difficult to put into words how much fun Terra's World is. Neil Gaiman said that Terra reminded him of Douglas Adams, Terry Pratchett and Roald Dahl – a combination I happily and whole-heartedly agree with. While aimed at a younger crowd, Terra's World is still a highly enjoyable novel, and this is a series

that I would recommend without hesitation. Great stuff – and I'll be eagerly awaiting the next instalment!
