



Aqua

Tracy Korn

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12 years to prepare for one chance to succeed...

Being afraid of failure is normal, but no one fears success except eighteen-year-old Jazwyn Ripley, who has worked her entire life for a chance to become more than the scant apprenticeships in the Seaboard North stacks can offer. It's all too clear that at the bottom, there's nowhere to go but down. Only the best can begin career training at Gaia Sur, the elite academy on the ocean floor, but when Jazz begins receiving cryptic messages from past Gaia cadets originating from within the earth's core, she and her friends discover that the road to everything they've ever wanted now leads somewhere they never intended to go.

Fast-paced, character-driven, and full of plot twists you'll never see coming, take a deep breath and dive into AQUA, the first book in The Elements series.

Aqua Details

Date : Published January 23rd 2018 by Snowy Wings Publishing (first published August 15th 2015)

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Author : Tracy Korn

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Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Fantasy

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From Reader Review Aqua for online ebook

Kathleen Mowrey says

I met Tracy at Indiana ComicCon where we talked and I bought the book. She's now a friend on facebook and it's pretty awesome. For me, it seemed like the pacing was a bit off. Some parts moved along quickly and others really slowly, but seeing as it's the first book in a series, that makes sense. Taking time to introduce characters, describe places and set a foundation for more books isn't always easy. Overall the story is amazing and I can't wait to read Terra! Friendships, teamwork, science and more help make this a wonderfully interesting story.

K.M. Herkes says

Thumbnail: a solid, engagingly-written entry into the YA dystopian arena, well worth a look.

Aqua has the feel of the best Heinlein juveniles, where personal courage, teamwork, and science win the day. It has interesting scientific and societal underpinnings, and action-driven plot, and a cast of likable and hatable characters. I would recommend it to anyone looking for a fresh new SF voice or a series that promotes a positive outlook towards science and problem-solving the way to a better future.

The descriptions are sharp, the world is intriguing, the protagonist is relatable, and the supporting cast fall into easily-recognized archetypes without hitting any big red stereotype buttons. Formatting concerns and some discomfort with the premises prevent me giving it four stars. I enjoyed the character interplay enough for 3.5 stars, which would round up to 4, but presentation affects my enjoyment. The format had some issues, and as the plot advanced, the science got a little murky for me.

I read Aqua soon after the ebook was released on Amazon, so there's hope the formatting issues have already been addressed, but I can only review what I saw. And the scientific development issues aren't going to bug most people as much as they did me. In books I prefer either full hard explanation or hand-wavy acceptance, and this one fell in the gap between.

There are lots of explanations, and certain technologies are critical to plot, but..well. To avoid throwing spoilers in the mix, I'll say only that some advances were so far ahead of others that it felt like the implications either not considered, or not explained away enough to help me dismiss them. That might seem minor, but it jars me out of the narrative when I can immediately see applications for something that would totally change the society that came up with it.

Entertainment mileage will likely vary based on reader tolerance for (1) formatting oddities like random changes in line spacing and paragraph structure and (2) cinematic presentation of science in their science fiction. Last but not least: cliffhanger alert.

In summation: I liked Aqua, I can recommend it to certain audiences (and I will grab the next one because I'm hooked) but it didn't fully satisfy me as much as I think future books by the writer will.

Lisa P says

The premise of this book is fascinating. There are characters you are immediately drawn to and others you enjoy because they annoy the others. The nanites concept reminds me of something similar in Hugh Howey's "Wool" series which offer a level of tech creepiness on its own. I'm inclined to rate this a 3.5 due to some formatting issues, which honestly don't detract from the story it's just noticeable. However, there's a catch phrase that is somewhat overdone after a while. This series has potential.

Lynn Clark says

This book was really hard to get into, but once I did I couldn't put it down. The tech and the possibilities were pretty amazing and other things that I don't want to spoil them. There is a typical love triangle that does intrigue me but I'm not sure if I'm going to continue on. I'd read it for sure..

Chris says

I met Ms. Korn at a convention where she gave me an introduction to the book and characters. I normally do not read books focused on late teens but I was pleasantly surprised when I read this book. The characters were described in great detail and after reading the book I really feel and I know them personally. Ms. Korn did a great job mixing teenage pressures and science fiction. I did however find it hard to follow the slang but I blame that on my age. I love how much detail she uses to explain the surroundings. It really made me feel I was there with the characters. There were a couple things that felt like they were forced which is why I did not give it 5 stars. I think this book is actually 4.5 stars but amazon will not let me put that. Over all, I think this is an excellent read and I highly recommend it.

Staci says

As we all plan so carefully for the future...

Goals and dreams motivating each step of the way. Yet shouldn't we be asking towards what really? Is it our dreams? Have we just be following the corporate plan? What will be found upon achieving the big ticket? As in this story one never really knows. More importantly what didn't we see on the path?

Kim Shank says

Fast paced, interesting read

Loved the world building and the characters. Fast paced plot held my attention. Ended on a cliffhanger, though, so the story felt almost incomplete

