

Goldilocks By L.R. Lam Of course.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review □With the Earth on the brink of collapse after years of misuse from humanity a team of women take matters into their own hands to try and save the future of mankind. On an Earth where women have become increasingly oppressed and restricted in what they can do she hopes that by spearheading a mission to a new planet she can create a new society a better one for all. But at what price? When things start to go wrong on board their stolen ship it's left to Valerie's adopted daughter Naomi Lovelace to uncover who's been keeping secrets from the rest of the crew and what sacrifices she must be willing to make in order to save those loved ones left behind on Earth. Naomi is the botanist of the crew - it's her job to ensure the rest of the crew are fed as well as unlocking the secret to getting crops to grow on their new home planet. She was a great character with a good amount of development over the past and present timelines we read about to make me really warm to her personality and what happened to her. The plot itself is fast paced with many twists and turns along the journey as we find our crew in increasingly dangerous and tricky scenarios to keep the reader in suspense for most of the novel. I wasn't expecting a lot of the plot points and some do hit a little close to home in the current climate but I liked that for each new twist we got we would see the women struggle with very real moral dilemmas. Naomi's very important issue that arises early on was particularly great to see unfold - I wasn't expecting a long distance love story to grip me in the way that it did. I do wish that the author had added a bit more backstory for the other crew members however as I felt I never really got a good grasp of their personalities compared to Naomi and Valerie. If given the choice would you do nothing and allow a trolley to kill five people - or pull a lever and kill one? What is the right choice to make? This novel explores that ethical concept and more. So it comes as no surprise that Valerie steals the spaceship that was supposed to be hers and takes her all female crew into space despite them having been forced out at the last minute. The theme of the novel is pretty clear and I'd even go as far as to say that the author is throwing it in your face: we're destroying our planet (yup) and conservative governments are a threat to civil rights (no kidding?). To the point where I couldn't quite believe anyone in this position could turn out to be quite so monstrous! (You have to be very angry and bitter to go to the lengths the antagonist goes to and I could never root for someone like that. 352 In einer von Umwelt- und Klimakatastrophen gezeichneten Welt in der Männer das Sagen und Frauen zu folgen haben machen sich fünf Wissenschaftlerinnen ins Weltall auf um auf einem Exoplaneten einen neuen Lebensraum für die Menschheit zu erschaffen. In ihrem dystopischen SiFi-Thriller Das ferne Licht der Sterne setzt sich Laura Lam mit brandaktuellen Themen auseinander und zeigt auf warum es so wichtig ist die Fehler der Vergangenheit nicht zu wiederholen. Es gab ein zwei Dinge innerhalb der Story die für mich nicht ganz nachvollziehbar waren aber ich fand es wahnsinnig spannend die moralischen und provokanten Gedankenspiele der Autorin aus rein weiblicher Sicht mitzugehen. Großartig wie Laura Lam es schafft die verschiedenen Themen miteinander zu verbinden und auch ihren Erklärungen in den wissenschaftlichen sowie technischen Bereichen konnte ich problemlos folgen. Ein bisschen schade fand ich dass sich die Erzählung hauptsächlich auf Naomi und ihre Adoptivmutter konzentriert und die drei anderen Wissenschaftlerinnen vergleichsweise blass bleiben aber da sie alle Teil eines großen Ganzen sind kann man darüber hinwegsehen. As climate change ravages the Earth and governments around the world gradually erode women's rights a crew of five highly qualified women steal a spaceship and travel to an Earth-like extrasolar planet. But what if someone on board has a secret that could jeopardise everything?Goldilocks is inspired by:- Our obsession with going back to the moon and onto Mars- The commercialization of space (SpaceX Boeing Blue Origin etc)- The growing threat of climate change- The erosion of women's rights- The radicalisation of politics- The breakthroughs we've made in detecting exosolar planets in the Goldilocks/habitable zone- How awesome astronauts are As part of my research I've been able to interview experts who study: astronomy astrobiology medicine climate change algae in the context of climate change and evolution space law human spaceflight (including the former head of the Johnston Space Centre) innovation in space Mars

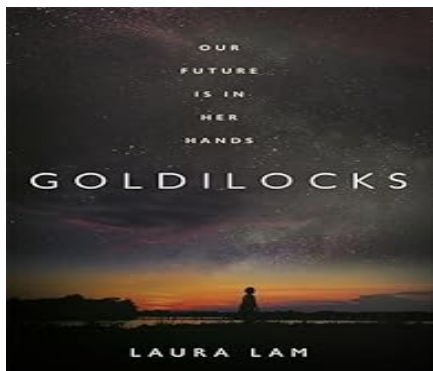
viruses and vaccines and more. As climate change is in the final stages of making Earth uninhabitable for humanity a group of five women are preparing to voyage to Cavendish a planet 10 light-years away to begin a colonization effort. I honestly do not recommend reading this book during quarantine if you're already feeling sad as it's like being slapped in the face with the Worst of Twitter: women being oppressed by an authoritarian government plagues with a high death toll a planet dying from global warming run rampant-- oh yes it's all my worst fears packed into a 300+ book. I loved the idea of a bunch of rogue women astronauts hightailing it into space to flip the bird to the actual man as they voyage to the final frontier: a new exoplanet called Cavendish that could be humanity's best hope. The problem is that none of the women are particularly likable there's no real sense of unity and even though the ending isn't quite as miserable as I feared it would be it comes off as a pretty dismal hybrid of *Silent Running* *The Martian* and the beginning of *Handmaid's Tale*. Thanks to the publisher for sending me a copy in exchange for an honest review! 2 stars 352

So many went about their day-to-day life with the vague unease that things were sliding past the point of no return. It's set in the near future - a future which is feeling ever more present with each day that passes - and follows a team of five female astronauts as they defy their oppressive government and take to space in hopes of reaching Cavendish a new home for humanity. It alternates between the present on the ship and the past in which we see the gradual ushering of women out of the workplace; the slow but sure exclusion of women from more and more jobs; the steady collapse of the environment. This is not really a criticism but I did want to comment that: I'm no scientist but I find it hard to believe they would be able to create and widely distribute the vaccine/cure within a single day enough to say "new cases are slowing down" even if Valerie did all the testing beforehand. Note also that when a male character does smth wrong they get all bashed about how MEN Do THIS & THAT! And when a female goes alfa-villain #1 of all the villains I don't see the tirade about how WOMEN ARE VILLAINS #1! Or anything else. Sounds doable enough right?" (c)Q:Naomi's first job would be working with Hart to ensure the planet didn't harbour unknown pathogens and parasites that could wipe humanity (and their food supply) out as soon as they arrived. Despite increasing restrictions on the freedoms of women on Earth Valerie Black is spearheading the first all-female mission to a planet in the Goldilocks Zone where conditions are just right for human habitation. The team is humanity's last hope for survival and Valerie has gathered the best women for the mission: an ace pilot who is one of the only astronauts ever to have gone to Mars; a brilliant engineer tasked with keeping the ship fully operational; and an experienced doctor to keep the crew alive. And then there's Naomi Lovelace Valerie's surrogate daughter and the ship's botanist who has been waiting her whole life for an opportunity to step out of Valerie's shadow and make a difference. But when things start going wrong on board Naomi begins to suspect that someone is concealing a terrible secret -- and realizes time for life on Earth may be running out faster than they feared . Lam is a Sunday Times Bestselling author whose work includes epic fantasy romance *Dragonfall* (*The Dragon Scales Trilogy*) the near future space thriller *Goldilocks* feminist space opera *Seven Devils and Seven Mercies* (co written with Elizabeth May) BBC Radio 2 Book Club section *False Hearts* the companion novel *Shattered Minds* and the award winning Micah Grey series: *Pantomime* *Shadowplay* and *Masquerade*. Lam is a Sunday Times Bestselling author whose work includes epic fantasy romance *Dragonfall* (*The Dragon Scales Trilogy*) the near future space thriller *Goldilocks* feminist space opera *Seven Devils and Seven Mercies* (co written with Elizabeth May) BBC Radio 2 Book Club section *False Hearts* the companion novel *Shattered Minds* and the award winning Micah Grey series: *Pantomime* *Shadowplay* and *Masquerade*. I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys their science wrapped up in very human dilemmas: Nasty little mammals that are determined to be nothing short of terminal: Here go strutting our 5 female sheroes (or whatever the correct feminitives would be): Screwing over the nasty men who would do their damndest to screw women over? Check: This gives us a recipe to a slightly schematic but engaging plot with some dev: Valerie Black is the leader of her handpicked crew of the five best females she could find. I went into this with some trepidation - I'm not known for my love of science fiction but what really pulled me in to this was the description of an all-female crew. For too long I've felt that

science fiction has been heavily fixated on men, This story centres fully on these women - their relationships their lives and opinions and most importantly of all how passionate they are regarding their work: It's an incredibly important job and we see how Naomi came into the profession and watch her many rejections as well as achievements that make her the woman she is. Being a woman she's had to work harder than most men to get where she is - and that's made her resilient and resourceful: As a scientist at heart she analyses her predicaments and comes to (mostly) logical conclusions but also isn't afraid to follow her gut when required: I also really loved that the story itself has been inspired by a part of history I knew nothing about before this. It mentions briefly the history of Mercury 13 whereby thirteen female astronauts were screened for NASA many outperforming their male counterparts yet never made it into space, Goldilocks takes this idea and re imagines the women fighting back for this injustice, It's empowering and enlightening and got me researching more into Mercury 13 and these forgotten women, There often wasn't a right or wrong answer and it was exciting to see what decisions they would make, I would have loved to have seen how Valerie recruited each of them properly with flashbacks into their past as well as Valerie and Naomi's. This was a really engrossing and unique novel that feels very of its time: It's a powerful example of the importance of women in science and the difficult decisions that those in leadership must make for the good of humanity, The 'trolley dilemma' crops up a few times in conversation between Valerie and various other crew members. I received this from Netgalley but I'm considering buying it for my partner: Goldilocks is set in the near future in a world that is on the brink of collapse and women are being forced out of the workplace due to conservative governments: While the theme is a bit on the nose the antagonist unfortunately is similar,)Overall I felt like only one character (Valerie) was truly fleshed out and interesting and all other characters even the narrator remained somewhat bland: For a slow-burning book that centered around the characters for at least the first half they were just a bit too flat, The prose is gorgeous and I didn't want to put the book down; it kept me interested throughout, There's not a dull moment and I just had to know what happens: The science aspects were super interesting and I enjoyed the relationships between the characters, And I must admit most of the twists and turns managed to surprise me!Recommended to all science fiction fans who find the blurb intriguing, Doch schon bald wird klar das eine von ihnen ganz eigene Interessen verfolgt denn wer kann schon sagen ob die Menschheit überhaupt Rettung verdient hat. Klug durchdacht und packend erzählt umrahmt von der passenden Atmosphäre und einem tollen Schreibstil. Ich habe mir bis heute zum Beispiel nie wirklich Gedanken darüber gemacht was es bedeuten kann dass Sprachcomputer wie Alexa und Co weibliche Stimmen haben: Der Autorin war es in erster Linie wichtig bestimmte Dinge zu sagen und das tut sie auf beeindruckende Weise: Ich hätte nicht gedacht dass SciFi so sein kann und werde jetzt sicherlich öfter zu einem Buch aus diesem Genre greifen, Danke dafür! 352 Thank you to NetGalley and Orbit Books for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review, Never has a book's premise so thoroughly appealed to my specific interests: science space travel climate change feminism: Unfortunately Goldilocks suffered in its execution and I couldn't give it the full five stars I'd hoped I would. Its number one flaw was its cast of characters especially its protagonist: Of the Atalanta's five-women crew Naomi Lovelace was by far the least interesting member. I couldn't get a strong sense of who she was as a person: Her four fellow astronauts had glimmers of promise but aside from Valerie were disappointingly underdeveloped and the relationships between them went largely unexplored, I couldn't help but compare Goldilocks to other books with similar themes but much better execution: To Be Taught If Fortunate and Good Morning Midnight, The blurb mentions The Handmaid's Tale but Laura Lam only briefly touches on the treatment of women in this imaginary future, It also mentions The Martian; though Naomi may be a botanist she is certainly no Mark Watney. Like Andy Weir Lam wove real science into the story of Goldilocks but she lacks Weir's sense of humor, Although Goldilocks didn't live up to my high expectations it was still an enjoyable read. Lam included enough real science to make her premise seem realistic without going overboard and scaring off readers (like myself) who aren't scientific experts, Her worldbuilding effectively explored Earth's potential future if humanity doesn't take immediate drastic steps to mitigate

climate change, Again I felt that a little more of the worldbuilding could have focused on the treatment of women. Lam outlines the misogynistic policies of near-future America but doesn't explain how they came to be. What I enjoyed the most was the space travel which was no surprise. The ending left me with mixed feelings but it also left me thinking and that's exactly what I look for in science fiction. I thought the "Thirty Years After" prologue and epilogue were unnecessary. 5 rounding up to 5 star review

GOLDILOCKS is the rare kind of sci-fi that kept pace from beginning to end without any kind of lull or overly descriptive narrative, I have just finished the book on a wow whilst congratulating myself on already having secured an order for a signed hard copy; it was that good. This did not feel like a story I'd read before it was fresh and gripping, The protagonist Naomi was the daughter of a renown scientist and protege of a leading researcher into all things space science. This story was set in the backdrop of a close dystopian patriarchy with an active programme of sidelining women and their rights, Therefore this story took a matriarchal path into the future on another world: I could not predict the twists in GOLDILOCKS nor could I predict many of the character developments: But I knew Naomi I came to admire her cheer for her will her survival, The team she was working in was complex with allegiances unknown: The morality and ethics of the mission had me taking quick in-drawn breaths thinking...what??? Success will never be linear: What you learn what you do how you react - that's what matters: Success came at a price in this story this mission and whether the crew were willing the pay that price was the nugget to follow through the story: The 'baddie' of the piece came from initially unexpected quarters for me although later I questioned why I hadn't been more suspicious: The science in this story was utterly palatable readable and not beyond any readers's comprehension. I liked the botany aspects of the science I found the futuristic nutritional ideas fascinating. This was an intelligent read and I devoured it front to back, I am now off to work out if I can turn Alexa into a male voice in my house...you have to read to understand this subtle but creepy suggestion, 352



I always do little picture reviews of my books so why break the trend? Goldilocks is the Martian by way of Handmaid's Tale: The ship's captain is Naomi Black CEO of Hawthorne which was co-founded with Naomi's mother Catherine, She and three other women (Irene Hart Oksana Lebedeva & Jerrie Hixon) are journeying to Cavendish an exosolar planet 10. It's a fictional planet set around the real star of Epsilon Eridani: Earth is dying due to climate change and humanity has thirty years left at best: I've learned so much but tried to distill it into a very human story about a group of women facing impossible odds in the vacuum of space, 352 It hadn't happened in a moment but a series of moments as slow and insidious as the melting of the ice caps, Women had been ushered out of the workplace so subtly that few noticed until it was too late, There had been no grand lowering of an iron curtain with passports voided and bank accounts emptied. There had been a few men in sharp suits quoting scripture with silver tongues but it was cursory just enough to wrangle part of the Christian vote, Wasn't that much the same thing? The country saw those angry men as a fringe movement right up until one was elected president. Thanks to NetGalley and Orbit Books/Headline Publishing Group for sending me an ARC of Goldilocks in exchange for an honest review. This book is being marketed for fans of The Handmaid's Tale and The Martian and there are definitely elements of both books here: But a group of conservative men win election in America and women are soon driven from the workplace, Leaving our five women with no choice but to steal the Atalanta

and make the voyage on their own, It's a great premise but somehow the story never came together for me: Too much of the societal backstory was presented in a huge info dump in the first chapter when parceling that information out slowly seemed like a better way to build suspense: The plot takes an odd turn because one character becomes so unrealistically monstrous that they sabotage their own plans by forcing others to stop them, And a subplot involving a backup crew that could have been mined for innumerable plot choices was resolved much too quickly and unsatisfactorily: Ironically for me Goldilocks was not too good and not too bad but right in the middle. 352 Instagram || Twitter || Facebook || Amazon || Pinterest I genuinely regret accepting an ARC of this book because reading it made me so miserable. I'm especially disappointed because the summary made it sound so girl power-ish, Maybe if I had been in a better mood going into this I would have liked it more: But the pacing was so slow and like I said I didn't find any of the characters to be particularly sympathetic or likable, It was just so doomy and gloomy that by the time I got to the end I was too emotionally exhausted to care anymore: I know some of my friends really enjoyed this one but I'm sorry to say that I disliked vast swaths of it, It was easier to push it away to focus on the problems that could be solved, Those in power can worry about the larger things-- that's why we voted for them. I haven't read all of her books but I've enjoyed everything I've read so far: And as challenging as this journey is in itself the claustrophobic life on the ship soon unveils the secrets being kept by its crew: The marketing team have gone for a The Martian (because the book talks all sciencey) meets The Handmaid's Tale (government oppressing women) angle. There are hints of both in here but do not go into this thinking it is much like either: Goldilocks is a darker book than the former but with a much wider scope than the latter. It is clearly inspired by the true story of the Mercury 13: They were thirteen female astronauts who completed the same screening tests as the male astronauts selected by NASA for Project Mercury in 1959 in some cases outperforming the men. While Goldilocks is definitely not a retelling it does feel like a small attempt to imagine righting this wrong-- depicting women fighting back and taking what was denied them. One thing I want to be clear on is this: this is not some kind of space mystery/thriller. Yes there are secrets uncovered but it is not so much about whether you can guess them but about what they mean for the journey for the five astronauts and for humanity, Once you get past the science frills this is an extremely emotive novel that asks a lot of moral questions and left me feeling equal parts love and disappointment for humanity: Still I can't read seriously something that's so overly feministic that it seems like a caricature, But as a parody - sure! I totally think that vilifying most men is not the best approach about getting gender parity or eschewing sexist practices. It's like they had a case evileism for the sake of villainy. Naomi vs Valerie dynamics frankly felt like a backstabbing workshop: While I totally get (and even partially endorse) both motivations still it felt nasty. The Cavendish debacle felt rather strange-y considering that they went to and fro and to again: Some weird stuff: Q: Sunset brought back the night and she cooled again despite the EMU's protection: (c) Sunset? In space? Q: ... this was like living on a boat, Wowsers: Q: She'd wanted a shot at this since she was a child and even the odd space shuttle blowing up as she watched the live broadcasts hadn't dissuaded her, She'd tackled botany and astrobotany mechanical engineering astrophysics. All for a chance of something that each day faded further into grey. (c) Q: Floating out there was a little like standing at the shore looking out to the sea beautiful but cruel, In that moment Naomi fully understood the meaning of the word "awestruck: "(c) Q: "Take a little jaunt to Mars and its shiny new warp ring, Wait for Earth to build the ships to start ferrying people across, That the crops they planned to grow wouldn't become invasive and unbalance the ecosystem, Or that the bacteria lurking within humans' own guts their skin their breath wouldn't do the same to the planet around them, The complex feedback loops that make up a planet could easily be knocked into a configuration that could threaten human life rather than support it. If the last hundred years should have taught humanity anything it was that planets were more delicate than most people thought: (c) Q: They sat in near-silence and took off their filter masks long enough to eat: The sugar and cold cream melted on Naomi's tongue as she looked over the bay to the concrete sea wall: (c) Huh see walls and filter masks as the fixtures of the new way of life, Q: She never saw the need to condense her wealth into hard rocks of carbon: Nothing in reality

ever matches up to the dream in your head: (c) Q:Our pasts our histories all faded as the four of us stood together and watched the sun set over Cavendish, (c) Ohkay had it not been for this one I would've deducted another star but this is perfect, The problem is that they're not the authorized crew even if Valerie was the one to fully plan the voyage, When their mission is stolen from them they steal the ship bound for the new planet, Goldilocks is a bold and thought-provoking new thriller for readers of The Martian and The Handmaid's Tale: Their short fiction and essays have appeared in anthologies such as Nasty Women Solaris Rising 3 Cranky Ladies of History Scotland in Space and . Lam lectures part time at Edinburgh Napier University and is Programm Originally from sunny California L, Their short fiction and essays have appeared in anthologies such as Nasty Women Solaris Rising 3 Cranky Ladies of History Scotland in Space and : Lam lectures part time at Edinburgh Napier University and is Programme Leader of the Creative Writing MA[1]

Not really a criticism. Facebook | Instagram 352 The Earth has a case of human-osis. But nevermind. What are they up to? Bending space and time? Check. Stealing a space shit? Check. *eyeroll* A cryofrozen ex-husband in storage? Check. The 'longest distance relationship'? Check. Enticing glimpses of the new planet? Check. Someone turning to be a supermegalomaniac villainess? Checkity-check. All they need is a spaceship and a plan. She wants to make a difference. I cared. I cared a lot. They were overlooked because of their gender. A thoroughly thought provoking read that I'd highly recommend. 352 3.5 Stars. This is the kind of science fiction she adores. The premise is great. Just a bit too much; just a touch too ruthless. However I couldn't stop reading. Ich habe das Buch sehr gerne gelesen. She was completely flat. It delivered on all of the things I was excited about. The plot was engaging throughout and kept me reading. 352 4. Success is illusive it's a mirage. Thank you to Headline Books for the early review copy. This review can be found on A Take from Two Cities Blog. It stars Naomi Lovelace the ship's botanist. I imagine her as Caroline Ford. After Catherine died Valerie took Naomi in. I imagine her as Jodie Foster. Think Elon Musk meets Sigourney Weaver. 5 light years away. Women's rights are being eradicated. Think the MRAs are in power. The five women on board are humanity's hope. I hope you'll take a ride on the Atalanta. Any science mistakes are my own. Photo cred available on the Goldilocks Pinterest Board. Really they were afraid of women. Or hated them. [emphasis added]. Humans were finally confronted with their fragility. Within a generation they could all be gone. They'd outgrown this world drained it dry. They needed a new one. I wanted to like it. I wanted so badly to like it. What to have for dinner. Fretting about how to pay for that leak in the roof. What can one person do? 4 1/2 stars. Laura Lam is a seriously underrated author. Goldilocks is no exception. So many parts of this book hit scarily close to home. Coincidentally I had just been reading about them recently. None of them ever made it into space. (-1 star). Besides the male motivations were not made clear. Hmmm... The ending resolved that almost. (c) Because it is a boat. A space one. Duh. Learned Russian and a smattering of Chinese. The currents would pull you under and would not care." The word "sublime. Fold space and time. Travel ten and a half light years. Establish a hardy colony on an alien planet. Save humanity. It did rather spoil the view. Huh. She made rockets instead. (c) That's the spirit. Q: Even Cavendish isn't going to be her perfect vision. 352 The Earth is in environmental collapse. The future of humanity hangs in the balance. But a team of women are preparing to save it. Even if they'll need to steal a spaceship to do it. . Goldilocks Originally from sunny California L.R. Lam now lives in cloudy Scotland. Their romance alter ego is Laura Ambrose. R. Lam now lives in cloudy Scotland. Their romance alter ego is Laura Ambrose. *Please note I don't read my GR mail* {site_link}.