



## Cold Faith

*Shaune Lafferty Webb*

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## **Cold Faith** Shaune Lafferty Webb

A protracted volcanic winter has devastated Earth, leaving only isolated pockets of survivors. With food becoming scarcer and the air growing toxic, Rab sees just one chance for survival: a perilous journey north in search of a fabled city where ships were rumoured to have been launched, ferrying the people of Earth to a salvation planet. But Rab didn't count on being forced into taking the last three children from his dying village, or on coming across the hostile and sceptical Sunny living with her grandfather in comparative luxury among a large band of refugees in an underground sanctuary. When her grandfather begs to join Rab's party, Sunny, to Rab's dismay, insists on coming with them. Years ago, Sunny had been the lone survivor of a similar quest. The reason behind the failure of that quest is something Sunny has never revealed, not even to her grandfather. And Rab is now to discover why.

## **Cold Faith Details**

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Author : Shaune Lafferty Webb

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## From Reader Review Cold Faith for online ebook

### Ann says

I'm not a huge science fiction/fantasy fan but the post-apocalyptic theme is my favorite. This one is well written with a few twists and turns to keep you on track. Rab lives above ground and leaves the small village with three children before they starve. He discovers an underground settlement where he is joined by an old man, his granddaughter, and a pack horse. They are following an old tale of a place where ships leave with survivors. I'll look forward to book two and the continued journey.

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### Jemma says

There is something kind of exhilarating about diving into a book which you barely know anything about, and that certainly reflects my feelings when undertaking 'Cold Faith'. And as indicated in my 4.5/5 star rating I certainly felt it was a risk worth taking. If you are on the fence about reading this, let's hope my review nudges you in the right direction.

The overview of this story was what initially intrigued me; I have a huge weakness for anything remotely related to post-apocalyptic worlds and this fitted the bill perfectly. Picture the scene; earth has been twisted into an unrecognisable mess of a planet after an extended volcanic winter – cold has infected everything and a toxic fog means that even the stars are no longer visible.

Our protagonist, Rab, lives in a small dying village which can barely manage to sustain itself against depleting food stores and the harsh weather conditions. Knowing this, Rab plans to journey north in search of a rumour of salvation – a city which has ships to carry its passengers to an undamaged planet. What he hadn't planned for was the addition of the three remaining children of his village (Gift, Stitch and Fin), whom the village elder has thrust upon him to accompany him on his mission.

Along the way, they stumble across a huge underground complex where, unbeknownst to Rab and his village, other humans have lived against the perilous cold. This is where they meet Sunny, a mysterious and ruthless woman who knows more about the fabled city than she is willing to tell. With all the lies and secrecy surrounding the past, can Rab possibly find a way to secure a more concrete future?

I found the initial part of book very wordy and slightly overwhelming – there is little messing around as we are thrown straight into the midst of this ravaged world. However, the plot and the world itself are so creative and engrossing that this is wholly forgivable. It does take a while to get into any real action, but in all fairness it isn't an action book and it was packed full of anticipation and adventure from start to finish.

The details in the descriptions are extremely effective, you really experience the characters physical hardships against the unrelenting cold – it was amazing reading this in my armchair next to the fire. It was obvious that so much work and imagination had gone into this story, and as a result I would be very interested in reading more from Lafferty Webb. I was completely fascinated by the underground dwelling setting, it was immensely easy to picture and I have always really valued visual books like this.

The plot itself was slightly darker and edgier than I had anticipated, and this was an unexpected plus; death, treachery and lies are all interwoven brilliantly into the story. There was an eclectic mix of ugly and admirable characters; the interactions between them were believable and I was thoroughly convinced by the dynamics - the author has a firm grip on who her characters are. In particular, I loved the tenuous but

blossoming relationship between Rab and Gift, I found it to be truly heart-warming.

I won't say too much about the ending, except that it was simultaneously frustrating and brilliant. The final twist caught me by surprise, and I am already impatient for the next installment. 'Cold Faith' was a thoroughly enjoyable read, I was instantly tangled up in the world that Lafferty Webb had created and it was so refreshing to read something so new and innovative. A thumbs up from me, and I certainly do recommend reading this book.

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## **Brenda says**

4.5★s

Rab knew he had to leave his dying village to survive – finding the rumoured City where the ships were said to launch, taking survivors to another planet, was vital. But when Blaze informed him he had to take the three surviving children with him he argued they would all die. The desolation on the Earth's surface; the toxicity of the air and the scarceness of food were all against them. How could he look after three children? Fin was the eldest; his brother Stitch was the youngest then there was Gift. She was trusting and smart; Fin was surly and didn't want to leave the village while Stitch just followed along.

When they came across the extremely toxic river the fumes caused them to cough and have trouble breathing – but when Stitch spotted the ruined building in the distance and ran towards it with Fin following, Rab couldn't stop them. The resulting injury to Stitch meant Rab had to carry the boy; it was while they were searching for somewhere to rest that a stranger appeared. When Sunny led them to her underground home, Rab was astounded. For there was a large amount of people who were living in relative comfort in an underground labyrinth of tunnels and dwellings – the person in charge was Sunny's grandfather...

Rab knew he needed to leave the underground dwelling and continue on with his quest to find the launch pad; but with Stitch unable to travel and Fin determined to stay with him it would be just himself and Gift. But suddenly Sunny's grandfather wanted to join the trek – and then the surly and continually angry Sunny decided she would accompany them as well. Would Sunny lead them to the City or was everything she had told them just lies? And why did she want to lead the way if she was convinced there was no such place?

I really enjoyed *Cold Faith* by Aussie author Shaune Lafferty Webb. A blend of fantasy, dystopian and young adult I found it a quick, easy read; the characters are well fleshed out making it easy to get to know them. Sunny's character was gritty and sometimes cruel; while Gift was a sweet, sensible and extremely astute child. Rab, as the main character, appeared to have the weight of the world on his shoulders. I have no hesitation in recommending *Cold Faith* highly and am keen to read the second book in the series.

With thanks to NetGalley and Hague Publishing for my copy to read and review.

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## **Selena says**

Cold Faith is full of twists and turns. I was sucked in and couldn't put it down until finished. I really hope

there is a sequel. I especially like the surprises before Rab turns back and was on the edge of my seat by the end of the book. This can't be the end.

Oh, slow down....

Rab takes off from his village to look for something better for his people. He is forced to take three children with him, Fin and his little brother Stitch and Gift. He'd rather have gone alone but Blaze, who had given him the children, reminded him that the village was dying and he may be the only chance any of the children have of making it.

The trip is full of danger. Little food, less wood for heat, and brown snow and freezing weather are some of the dangers they face. Stitch is too young to walk the long distances and Rab is forced to carry him for much of their journey. Stitch is hurt in an accident, suddenly there is a woman, who against her better judgement, offers to help Stitch but tells everyone else they can only stay in her village until he is better.

A lot of action up to this point, but it only gets better from here!

If a reader is looking for a book with an apocalyptic feel, twists, turns, danger, the struggle between life and death- this is the book to read. As previously noted, I really hope there is a sequel. I have to know what happens to those left behind! Definitely five stars!

I was given the opportunity to read Cold Faith by Shaune Lafferty Webb- by NetGalley.

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### **Toni Boughton says**

I enjoyed this book very much. It hit a lot of the right notes for me in terms of description, character development, world-building - and the twist at the end was great! Another point in Cold Faith's favor - no romance shoe-horned in! And, to be honest, the (almost) hopeless ending is a personal favorite of mine. Not every story needs to end with rainbows and unicorns.

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### **Stephanie says**

\*I received an ecopy of this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review\*

I have no idea what I expected when I started this book, but by the end I knew it was not as good as I wanted it to be. I was interested in the idea of this story, a ruined earth and it's last survivors struggling to make it, but I was never really drawn in. This book was not all bad, I was shocked by the ending it took me by surprise and that is always a bonus in my world, I really liked Gift she was smart and sensible and I would have read the whole book from her point of view, speaking of characters that was my big problem with this book Rab was okay and he grew on me slowly, but Sunny and Finn annoyed me so much that I stopped reading a couple times, I guess I sort of understand why they were the way they were but I would not have put up with their shit, now that's just my personal opinion and there were other good things about this book but I don't want to spoil anything, I just felt the need to explain why I could not give this book 4 or more stars.

This may not have been my favorite book but I know it has fans and there will be more to come.

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## Hew says

Loving Shaune's style. I have read one other of her books (Busstop On A Strange Loop) and have Balanced in an Angel's Eye in my bookshelf waiting. I am looking forward to the sequel to Cold Faith. It's hard to say much on this story but it's a dystopian depressing future with some interesting insights and characters. Thank you Shaune :)

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## Shaune Webb says

Reviewer: Debra Found, DnSMedia (<http://www.dnsmedia.co.uk/reviews/vie...>)

Set on a post apocalyptic earth where the world is shrouded in a volcanic winter, Rab sets out from his dying village. He is forced to take along 3 of the remaining 4 children. The world is bleak and cold and their only food appears to be a form of mushrooms. They meet up with Sunny and enter a city of warmth and food of which they could only have dreamt. All is not what it seems, however.....

This book had me gripped from the beginning. It was one of those books that I just had to read one more chapter, and then one more! Looking back this quite surprises me really as not a great deal happened at the beginning - or indeed anywhere in the book! There are no "James Bond" type moments where the pace of the book picks up and gets exciting with lots of action. It just kept flowing along but kept me riveted all the way.

There are many strong characters in this book which the author has put real effort into making very 3 dimensional. Rab makes the best of being lumped with 3 children and shoulders the unwanted responsibility. His relationship with Gift, a young girl aged around 5-10 is very different to that with the surly and argumentative Fin. Rab is a cautious and solid man. Gift, on the other hand, is quick and clever. She becomes a go-between placating the tempestuous relationships between Rab and Fin & later Rab and Sunny. I foresee great things for Gift in the future. Sunny on the other hand is very irritating and would argue black was white just for the sake of it! These different personalities and their interaction are what gripped me from the beginning.

The plot itself is not unlike other post-apocalyptic type books. There is a general trend in this sort of book of seeking a better place & travelling throughout these barren landscapes. This is, however, better written than a vast number of these. The author doesn't spend long periods of text explaining what has happened and how people have survived, we gain this knowledge by the descriptions of the people and places. The lack of sun and the endless diet of "shrooms" tells the reader a great deal about the environment and the way people lived without the need to explain it in detail. When Rab & his group arrive in the village/town that Sunny lives we learn more as they learn about the environment. The shared knowledge and traditions that the two unconnected places have tells the reader much more than would a full explanation. The author uses her vocabulary carefully putting much into few words.

This is very definitely the start of a series. There are several unexplained events which are left open at the end of the book ready for the next one. I enjoyed it very much and shall be keeping an eye out for the next in the series - hopefully it won't be long!

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## **Alas Amazon says**

Post apocalyptic books nearly always draw me in, but this one even more so because the setting is the far future after an event. I enjoy reading about what happens after the canned food runs out. Also, as a retired middle/high school teacher, I am always on the lookout for books I believe students of this age would like to read. Still have contacts in the world of education, and this book is one I will definitely recommend for high school students.

The characters in this book are very strongly written. The setting and storyline is bleak, And unlike other I've come across in my many years of reading. There is social commentary, but without preaching. There is a great twist at the end which is very intriguing...cannot wait to read the next in the series.t

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## **Melissa says**

Wow..love this book. I loved being able to connect easily with the characters and the storyline was a ride. Can't wait to read more by this author.

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review via Netgalley.

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## **Janis Hill says**

I would like to thank Hague Publishing for an ARC of this book for an open and honest review.

This was a very interesting story where I went from liking it to not liking it, and back again throughout.

Set in a dystopian surrounding that brought to mind other young adult genre books like Taronga by Victor Kelleher and even, at times, the Obernewtyn Chronicles by Isobelle Carmody it caught my attention quickly. However I then found it a rather slow paced book and I kept wondering if and when it would get to the point.

Though, I must say when it did get to the point... wow! Plot twist to die for! All my grumpy feelings for the book flew out the window and I couldn't wait to see where this series would take me.

To touch on the negatives though, I found the characters hard to connect with and confusing at times as they seemed to chop and change their personalities. However, I do feel this might have been down to me... as I don't read as much Young Adult as I used to and I really do feel these minor flaws wouldn't be noticed by someone who does read YA all the time.

Would I recommend this book? Actually I would. I really didn't think I was going to and I really was concerned I'd not have anything to nice say... but the ending just brought it all together and was well worth reading all the way through. So my advice is – it's a little slow, but stick with it and go 'wow!'

Would I continue to read this series as it's published? For now, YES! That was one major hook at the end and when you look at it as a continuing story, the initial slow pace is worth it. I do hope the pace speeds up a

little in the next book, but again this could be me and my preference. Speeding it up might just ruin the effect.

If you're looking for an interesting new YA story from an Australian author – read this.

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### **Melissa says**

I received this book from Netgally in exchange for an honest review.

I have always loved zombie apocalypse novels, but I finally got around to reading *The Stand* by Stephen King and I'm now trying to get my hands on as many post-apocalyptic novels as I can. There's just something about the end of the world as we know it that is terrifying. Unsure of how you're going to survive, where you're going to go, if the people that you meet are friendly or not. There's just so many possibilities.

*Cold Faith* is very well written. The characters are strong, the storyline is bleak and dark. I was hooked from the first page. I just had to know what was going to happen next. I love books like that. I can't wait for the next one!

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### **Sharon says**

I was given an electronic copy by Hague Publishing and NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

*Cold Faith* by Shaune Lafferty Webb is the first book in the *Safe Harbour Chronicles*. Rab is taking a journey up north for survival's sake, but he did not count on being forced to take three children with him. After they escape their dying village, they make the acquaintance of Sunny and her Grandfather. The travelers soon realize that life away from their village is not what they had expected.

This book is more about the journey than the destination. The bleakness of the landscape and the dire situation in which Rab and the children find themselves helps to set the scene. This dystopian novel is merely a set up for more books in the series, since the slow pace helps to build the suspense for future novels. The plot meanders along and, with the exception of a big twist near the end, does not really go anywhere. The biggest negative to *Cold Faith* is the fact that I could not connect with the characters. Although their survival is at stake, I really just could not feel any emotions coming from the main characters. The unfamiliar landscape, both indoors and outside, should have sparked Rab and the children, but they never had the "kid in a candy store" reaction. I am curious to see if book 2 helps the series to come together, so I will be reading more by this author in the future.

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