



## Artemis

*Andy Weir*

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# Artemis

Andy Weir

**Artemis** Andy Weir

Jazz Bashara is a criminal.

Well, sort of. Life on Artemis, the first and only city on the moon, is tough if you're not a rich tourist or an eccentric billionaire. So smuggling in the occasional harmless bit of contraband barely counts, right? Not when you've got debts to pay and your job as a porter barely covers the rent.

Everything changes when Jazz sees the chance to commit the perfect crime, with a reward too lucrative to turn down. But pulling off the impossible is just the start of her problems, as she learns that she's stepped square into a conspiracy for control of Artemis itself—and that now, her only chance at survival lies in a gambit even riskier than the first.

## Artemis Details

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Author : Andy Weir

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## From Reader Review Artemis for online ebook

### Shaun Hutchinson says

This book is awful. It's not just awful, it's offensive and immature and badly written. I wasn't expecting a masterpiece, but I'd enjoyed The Martian and hoped the followup would be fun in a similar way. It wasn't. There was nothing fun about this book.

Let's start with Jazz: Jazz Bashara is a Saudi woman written the way a white guy who's never spoken to or met a single woman in his entire life would write her. She talks about her boobs and being naked and makes sexual innuendos about EVERYTHING. Seriously, there are 15 y/o boys who could have written this character with greater respect and far fewer sex jokes.

The slut shaming: How many times can people (including Jazz) mention that she has SO MUCH SEX? Some mention it as a means to shame her, Jazz mentions it to brag. It's just weird and gross and, honestly, only something a guy would write.

The gay jokes: Just because Weir wrote a gay character into the book doesn't mean he gets to demean that character. The only person who's probably mentioned as having more sex than Jazz is Dale. Because gay men are sluts, am I right? Get it? Because they have a lot of sex. Oh, and not only is the gay guy a slut, but he stole Jazz's boyfriend and slept with him while he and Jazz were still together. If I had my way I would ban Weir from ever writing about another gay character in any book for the rest of his life.

Then there's just lots of random messed up stuff. Like how one of Jazz's ex-boyfriends (who's 24) cheats on her with a 14 y/o girl, and Jazz blows it off by saying how the city on the moon doesn't have an age of consent because lots of people have different morals. WTF?!?!? There's also the odd subplot that goes nowhere about the reusable condom. LOTS of broad, offensive generalizations about other cultures.

And the plot isn't even good. It's a mess of highly unlikely stuff happening split by sex jokes and then more stuff happening that would never ever happen in real life (and not just because it's on the moon, but because (view spoiler)

I thought Armada, the followup to Ready Player One was bad, but this book is a crime against literature. Don't waste your time as I've wasted mine. Read something, anything other than this.

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### Emily (Books with Emily Fox) says

A new book from Andy Weir? Happening on the moon? A heist where the main character survives with her scientific knowledge?

COUNT ME IN!!

I was so excited for this book but I didn't end up loving nearly as much as The Martian.

Even though I liked the overall idea, I didn't like the characters and the constant jokes and insults felt incredibly forced.

The main character Jazz, a 26 years old woman, was talking and thinking like a cringy 15 years old boy. She mentions a few times her appearance and sexuality in an unnatural way. I don't understand why men authors struggle so hard to write female characters.

At one point, she stays the night at a friend's house and after showering she wears one of his shirts. He comes back and, him being awkward with women, simply stares at her not knowing what to say. She thinks to herself "I was pretty sexy I have to admit"... really?

Most characters had cringy moments like this and it ruined the book for me.

I'm still not sure how to review the ending so I'll have to sleep on it and come back for an update!

UPDATE: After thinking about it, I wanted to add that it was interesting to read about the heist with the scientific knowledge thrown in there but it wasn't enough to make this book a must-read. It didn't live up to my expectations!

UPDATE 2: The more I think about it the more disappointed and angry I am so I'm reducing it to 2 stars!

*I received an ARC from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

REVIEW: <https://youtu.be/TkxckLFcKYE?t=8m9s>

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## Emily May says

1 1/2 stars. I really wish I could say I liked this. A couple of years back, I gave in to the hype and read Weir's The Martian, and I have to say-- I loved it. The scary scenario of being stranded so far away from everything and everyone you know, the very high probability that Mark Watney wouldn't survive, his chirpy sense of humour that keeps him going... unfortunately, Artemis's plot is convoluted and less exciting. **And Jazz Bashara is SO ANNOYING.**

Look, I completely get why Mark Watney annoyed some readers and, given that Weir transplanted his personality and awkward sense of humour into Jazz, it might seem a bit contradictory to have a problem with her personality. But, you know, Mark's narration worked for me because I could imagine this man in the middle of space needing to stay peppy and chatty. His inner narrative is conversational because he is talking to himself - and the reader - to avoid losing all hope. With Jazz, it doesn't work so well.

Even though Jazz is a woman in her twenties and Arab, she is basically Mark Watney. You can tell Weir really struggled to adapt his writing style in order to write from the perspective of that most alien of all species - THE WOMAN. Jazz has the sense of humour of a twelve-year-old boy. Her constant quips feel forced and unnecessary. Some of the comments she makes about her sex life and body are just... not funny. She's the local lunar tramp, which is, apparently, so hilarious. But her whole narrative is just plain awkward.

*I turned my head inside the helmet, bit a nipple (try not to get excited), and sucked some water out.*

\*\*\*

*“Billy, I’ve swallowed better-tasting stuff that came out of people.”*

And what grown woman responds like this:

*“What’s in there, anyway?”*

*“Porn, mostly. Starring your mom.”*

The real problem for me, though, was that I could not get invested in this **half-assed heist plot**. I was bored out of my mind with the random talk of gangsters, smuggling, some scientific sabotage blah blah and - oh my god - **the welding**. Mark Watney talked science to explain how he was going to survive and feed himself on Mars; Jazz talks science to explain the mechanics of welding. I couldn't understand why we were supposed to give a damn about this heist, or the whole conspiracy that develops out of it. Who cares whether Jazz earns herself some slugs (lunar currency)? Who cares if that guy who I didn't give a shit about dies?

Weir takes some minor steps toward making the setting interesting, but then does nothing with it. This lunar colony is run by Kenyans, which is intriguing, but the culture is unmistakably American, and he never expands upon why or how Kenyans came to be controlling space travel. It is like a throwaway fun fact without context or explanation. The main story is also broken up with Jazz's letters to a Kenyan pen pal, starting when she is nine years old, but this never really goes anywhere and feels kind of pointless.

Also, the author chooses to have a Muslim (non-practicing) narrator, which could lead to important representation, but it's hard not to cringe when he addresses his narrative to a solely white, non-Muslim audience:

*“Okay, you can stop pretending you know what a niqab is. It’s a traditional Islamic headwear that covers the lower face.”*

And then goes on to show Jazz using said niqab as a disguise while carrying out criminal activity. She pleasantly declares:

*“Great way to wear a mask without arousing suspicion.”*

Yikes.

It's just a very messy book overall, with a narrator that tries to be Mark Watney and fails, and a plot that tries to be compelling but isn't. Where the science added thrills and realism in The Martian, here it bogs the story down with boring detail. Weir should stick to survival stories with male narrators.

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**Hannah Greendale says**

Click here to watch a video review of this book on my channel, *From Beginning to Bookend*.

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A chemistry-centric heist/mystery/action-adventure that hinges on its roguish protagonist.

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### **Bradley says**

This book was great.

I admit to worrying that he wouldn't be able to keep up the quality from *The Martian*, and this is definitely a very different kind of tale from that, being half a heist novel but otherwise just a great adventure, but he pulls it off. Better than pulling it off, even. I love his characters and the feel of the moon city, Artemis, is vital and detailed.

But you know what the best part is?

I was thoroughly entertained during the entire read. The pacing is great, the reveals believable, the twists unexpected, and the action, delightful. I really couldn't ask for more when it comes to fun science fiction.

The moon is a great place to have an adventure. There's always the threat of being deported to Earth, the expensive living arrangements, and the law if you're a smuggler, which Jazz is, but there's always suit and engineering and environmental problems to worry about, too. And never forget greed and cupidity and the need to balance being a good person against a ton of intrigue. That's what we've got going on, here, and it's a real treat every step of the way.

No spoilers, but I can easily say that I had a great time reading it from the first to the last page. Nothing could have pleased me more. The read is solid as hell.

Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC!

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### **Matthew says**

When *Artemis* first came out I started seeing lots of one and two star reviews. Not wanting to spoil the book, I didn't read them very in depth. But, the star situation had me concerned as I was looking forward to this book as I enjoyed *The Martian* very much. Was I in for a big letdown?

Lucky for me, the book was a 4 star experience!

Thoughts on why others rated it so low - these are just guesses, I may be totally wrong:

**It is not *The Martian*** - sometimes when people are a huge fan of a book they are hoping for a same experience with the next book. While it had shades of *The Martian* with the space science and the sarcastic humor, it is not *The Martian*. For me, this was not a problem.

**It is a comedy** - this is a funny/silly book. Sarcastic, cynical, innuendo filled humor is rampant. If you are not a fan of borderline inappropriate jokes or cheesy puns, this is not the book for you. I liked it and thought it was hilarious!

**Science/Technology** - After The Martian, I think it would be expected, but this book has a lot of science/engineering and maybe that detracted too much from the story for some. It did not bother me.

**It is a caper** - in addition to the heavy science/engineering, there is also a fairly complex espionage/political intrigue element to the story line. Figuring out what exactly is happening and why is a bit difficult. For me, this was one part I can sort of agree seemed not quite as tightly woven as the rest of the book.

So, I liked it! Since other people I kind of expected to like this didn't, I am not quite sure who to recommend it to. But, if Weir keeps writing, I will keep coming back for more!

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### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

**Yay for my book winning 2017 GR award ?**

This book freaking rocks!!

No, seriously. The book does have science in it but it's not too bad. This is mostly about Jazz who has lived on the moon since she was 6 and now she's in her 20's. Her dad lives on the moon too but they had a falling out and she makes it on her own by doing. . . things.

I love the character of Jazz. She's funny and does crazy things but never anything to hurt any one.

**AND SHE LIVES ON THE MOON!**

Jazz doesn't live in the good part of town. Yes, the city on the moon is called Artemis and they have their rich side and poor side. It's just too awesome to read about.

Jazz does some odd jobs as a porter but she also brings in contraband and no it's nothing bad.

She has a cool friend she emails from Earth, his name is Kelvin. I love their talks.

Rich people come to the moon every year to spend their holiday. They stay in the fancy hotels and spend tons of money in the shops. Regular folk save up their money so they can come for a once in a life time stay.

But, life on the moon isn't all that it's cracked up to be. There just has to be some evil mobness going on. There are life and death situations and Jazz is put on the spot to save the whole city.

That's all I'm saying, you need to read it for yourself. If you loved The Martian (which I did) you will love this book. At least I think you will, I did because IT'S THE MOON! THEY ARE LIVING ON THE MOON!

And I have to mention some of the people I loved in the book:

Svoboda

Dale

Lene  
Kelvin  
Bob  
Jazz dad

and some randoms =)

\*I would like to thank Netgalley and the publisher for a copy of this book\*

MY BLOG: [Melissa Martin's Reading List](#)

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### **Raeleen Lemay says**

I HAVE SUCH MIXED FEELINGS.

The first half of this book was very fun, and the plot was interesting and all that. The only thing that bugged me was the writing style, which I suppose is similar to *The Martian*, but I felt it was a better fit with that story, and with *Artemis* it just felt forced. Other than that though, I was loving it! This book could have easily been 4 or 5 stars from me.

Then, around the halfway point, the book sort of lost me. The overall plot for this story is Jazz performing a heist, and I was expecting it to take the whole book, but the main part of the heist itself finishes around the middle of the book. Of course, there is plenty of backlash and more conflict that arises, but it wasn't what I was expecting, which could be partly the reason for me not enjoying the book as much.

All in all, I'm glad I read this, and I'm now anxiously awaiting Andy Weir's next book! I just hope whatever he writes next is from a male perspective because although I appreciate his effort, Jazz's voice just sounded like Mark Watney pretending to be a woman.

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### **Larry H says**

I'm between 3 and 3.5 stars here.

Although it has been a few years since Andy Weir published *The Martian*, he hasn't been missing from the literary world, thanks to his sharing a number of free super-short stories with the reading public. ( *Annie's Day* remains my favorite of the bunch.) Even so, I was anxious for him to come out with a new novel.

Artemis is the first city on the moon. While wealthy tourists get to experience the city's luxuries, for the ordinary citizens living there, it's almost like any other city—the struggles between the haves and have-nots, corruption, violence, crime, the usual. (Almost like any other city except for the gravity, and the fact that everything is encased in bubble-type structures to keep the extreme radiation and space dust out.)

Jazz Bashara is a low-level porter on Artemis. She longs for a better life but doesn't have the motivation to do anything more than what she does, even though she has the brains and the talent for much more. Instead, she ekes out a living as a criminal, smuggling in contraband from Earth for anyone willing to pay her. She

doesn't care that it's wrong; in fact, she's more than a little proud to be gaming the system.

One day, one of Jazz's wealthy regular customers offers her a part in a scheme that seems almost too good to be true, but her part of the spoils would be enough to give her the type of life she has always dreamed of. Of course, what *seems* too good to be true usually is, and it isn't long before Jazz realizes she's in the middle of something much bigger than a get-rich-quick scheme—there's corruption, and people are willing to go to any lengths to protect what they believe is theirs. Jazz is going to need more than just her street smarts if she's going to survive this.

Jazz is a pretty fascinating character. She's pretty tough, smart, wily, and not embarrassed about her sexuality or her general laziness. She knows she could achieve more, but for the most part, she isn't motivated to do so through legal channels. I love the fact that Weir created a multi-cultural cast of characters without batting an eye—Jazz is a Saudi Arabian Muslim (albeit non-practicing), and there are characters from different races, religions, cultures, and sexual orientations that don't adhere to stereotypes.

Until I read *Artemis*, I somehow forgot how science-heavy *The Martian* was. But while all that science seemed to work in *The Martian* it seemed to weigh this book down a bit. (And no, it wasn't the gravity.) Weir has created quite a world, and certainly the descriptions helped paint the scene, but I felt at times the lengthy scientific diatribes pulled the plot off course.

The other thing that frustrated me about the book is the fact that Jazz speaks and thinks like a teenage boy. Even though you're rooting for her, after a while her lack of maturity started to grate on me.

Those criticisms notwithstanding, Weir knows how to tell a story. Even though I thought the caper (and that's the best word to describe the scheme Jazz finds herself in) was a little silly, I couldn't stop reading *Artemis*. It's a fun and interesting book, and you have to wonder how close to reality Weir's vision of life on the moon will come, if it ever becomes a reality.

NetGalley and Crown Publishing provided me an advance copy of the book in exchange for an unbiased review. Thanks for making this available!

See all of my reviews at <http://itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com>

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### Will Byrnes says

**Artemis** - image from BusinessInsider.com

Jasmine (Jazz) Bashara has a problem. She is 26 and close to being homeless, which is illegal where she lives. Back on Earth she would have had a lot of company, but living in Artemis, the moon's only city, population two thousand, laying low is a bit tougher. She used to live with her father, but is too embarrassed to go back, having had a tiny accident in his workplace, smoking weed there with a pal, and...ummm...pretty much burning it down. Oopsy. She sleeps in a tiny space fondly referred to as a *coffin*, gets by working as a porter, despite her exceptional brain, and aspires to getting her EVA license, which would allow her to make real money, escorting tourists and doing other outside jobs. Too bad she kinda blew her road test.

**Andy Weir** - image from Wired

Good thing, though, that she has a fallback, a steady entrepreneurial gig. She moonlights as a smuggler. A steady client of her off-book import biz, a tech billionaire sort, has a plan for taking over a local enterprise. All it requires is for someone to do some unapproved EVA work and blow some things up. The million slugs (local currency – maybe she should be called a *sluggler*. Ok, maybe not) he offers makes it worth the very considerable risk of moving from her low orbit criminal activity to the much higher orbit of actual felon. But what was that mysterious box she spotted at his place, labeled ZAFO? Unfortunately, all does not go as planned, and now some very scary darkside people are doing their best to put her in a state of permanent eclipse.

I see **Brianna Hildebrand** as Jazz

*Artemis* is a very exciting action-adventure sci-fi tale, with a dose of mystery tossed in. Weir made some effort to hone his character-building skills and it shows.

**“I worked hard to make a deeper character than Mark Watney...Jazz is more nuanced. She’s flawed. She makes bad decisions. She’s incredibly intelligent, but she’s always looking for the shortcut.”** - from the EW interview

That's one small step for an author, one giant leap for reading enjoyment. Jazz is fun and relatable, well, relatable enough that we care whether or not she is given a close encounter with an unlivable atmosphere. You might have to suspend your moral perspectives though, as Jazz is what she is, a criminal. Her wise-cracking sense of humor is very appealing, as it was for Mark Watney in *The Martian*. Each chapter ends with an exchange of messages, from many years before, between Jazz and an Earth-based friend. These also give us reasons to care about her.

I see **Penny Johnson Jerald** as Administrator Fidelis Ngugi - image from Hollywood Reporter

As with *The Martian*, Andy Weir is very interested in showing us space tech, and explaining the relevant science. Unlike the case with his uber hit, he manages to stop himself from loading us up with too much. A bit of corny humor around an experimental reusable condom did not work.

I kept seeing **Oded Fehr** as Jazz's father, Ammar Bashara – image from TV Guide

He looks at the economy and sociology of the moon society as well, including crime, currency, and political organization. This is where his Arthur C. Clarke, hard-science inclinations, meet up with Asimovian social examination, and a Heinleinian feel for dialogue, while stopping well short of the sort of deeper politico-sociological considerations of, say, Ursula Leguin. What he has succeeded in writing is a fast-moving, engaging, fun book that will slip you a little intel about actual moon-base science and planning while keeping you thoroughly entertained.

**Kristofer Hivju**, with, perhaps, a bit of a beard trim, could be a wonderful Trond

Review posted – 12/29/2017

=====EXTRA STUFF

Links to the author's personal, Twitter and FB pages.

10/4/2017 - On the production of aluminum  
A nifty wiki - Life on Artemis

Rosario Dawson reads a bit of *Artemis*

A small interview bit from Entertainment Weekly

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### **The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?Misericordia? ?????? ✨\*♥? says**

Overall a decent read even though I had some issues with the book (listed below).

The good and the ugly: We start at 0!

+ 1 star for the light-hearted banter

- 1 star for stupid sex ennuendos, promiscuity bashing or whatever

+ 1 star for the world-building

+ 1 star for the readability

+ 1 star for the clear cut style

- 1 star for this gal's stupidity and total immaturity

+ 1 star for the science present (there was some of it, not all good, but some)

+ 1 star for the fact that we have got no loooong multipaged star drive building lectures (which often plagues the sci-fi)

+ 1 star for our heroes not giving lectures to each other on everyday to them things and rather referring to the reader with explanations

- 1 star for overall plot logic lacking in places, some things sounding especially harebrained

+ 1 star for economics considerations

- 1 star for nationalistic overgeneralizations, some pretty brutal (in my touchy view)

+ 1 star for getting some Russian/Ukrainian names right.

- 1 star for lame security considerations

Overall 4 stars. And here go my complimentary rants:

Me is getting ANGRY! It drives me mad, when my writers do stupid things in their worldbuilding, ones EASILY avoidable!

Somehow, our misguided author decided that if people populate the Moon, they will freaking jump around on it due to gravity 6 times lower than on Earth! Just look at that:

1. Q: When you can't get off the ground in the moon's gravity, you are seriously out of it. (c)

2. Q: The pickup request was for a package approximately one hundred kilograms. No problem for me. I can lift twice that without breaking a sweat. Not many Earth gals can say that! Sure, they have six times the gravity to deal with, but that's their problem. (c)

3. Q: Trond vaulted over the back of the couch (not as exciting as it sounds—remember the gravity here). (c)

4. Q: Stairwells in the core are just like stairwells on Earth—short little twenty-one-centimeter-high steps. It makes the tourists more comfortable. In areas that don't get tourists, stairs are each a half meter high. That's lunar gravity for you. Anyway, I hopped up the tourist stairs until I reached ground level. (c)

5. On Earth, Lene was confined to a wheelchair, but on the moon, she could easily move around on crutches. (c)

That is a stupid idea. In order to be able to get that benefit from that gravity and not just become weaker from weaker daily exertions, all people will have to do a lot (a freaking lot) of really heavy lifting (spread for all muscle groups), all the freaking time! Otherwise, their musculature will become used to the background tasks intensity, which is going to be 6 times lower in 1/6 g. So, we don't get a population that happily lugs around 100 Earth kg packages. Instead, we would get population panting with 24 Moon kg packages, equivalent to 4 Earth kg packages.

Additionally, they would probably develop some additional phenotypic unfortunate features, such as lower density of bones (which would render it problematic for them to go to Earth) and higher height.

Besides, a person who has lived on the Moon since she was 6, would probably be hard-pressed to be comparing the Moon and Earth gravities all the time. She would have been long since gotten used to Moon and gotten weaker over there with time.

The author acknowledges this stuff but only for just a bit: Q: You can't gestate a baby in lunar gravity—it leads to birth defects. And you can't raise a baby here, anyway. It's terrible for bone and muscle development. When I moved here I was six years old—that was the minimum age for residency back then. Since then they've bumped it up to twelve. Should I be worried? (c)

And a bit more: Q: And if I got caught I'd get exiled to Earth. I probably couldn't stand up on Earth, let alone live there. I'd been in lunar gravity since I was six. (c) If so, why all the hype about Moon grav? It wouldn't have been felt.

Q:

That's how justice works around here. We don't have jails or fines. If you commit a serious crime, we exile you to Earth. For everything else, there's Rudy. (c)

Q:

Artemis doesn't have a fire department. We have volunteers. But smoke and fire are so deadly here the volunteers have to know how to breathe with air tanks. So all EVA masters and EVA trainees are automatically volunteers. Yes, there's an irony there.

...

The fire brigade, well trained, got on it immediately.

...

Artemis does not fuck around with fire safety. (c) **Ok, this made me smile a bit. No, you don't have a fire department and still you get to tell you don't fuck with fire safety.**

Q:

... Svoboda ... reached absently for his coffee. His hand passed three beakers of deadly acid before he grabbed the mug and took a sip. I swear that idiot's going to kill himself someday. (c) **He probably is also considered as not fucking with work safety.**

Q:

And you could get any drink you wanted, as long as it was beer. (c)

Q:

That meant it was a secret. Now I really wanted to know what it was. Turns out I'm a nosy little shit. (c)

Q:

"After each use, you turn the condom inside-out and put it in this cylinder.."

"Ew."

"Then you turn on the cleaner. There's a liquid cleanse cycle and then a high temperature bake for ten minutes. After that it's sterile and ready to use again..."

"Oh God, no."

"You should probably rinse it off first.."

"Stop!" I said. "Why would anyone want something like this?

...

Hey, I could even give Svoboda's condom a trial run. Why not?" (c) **OMG. What's it with used stuff for sex and cleaning and popular authors? Is it the crisis? (Remember that used butt plugs cleaning discussion in 50 Shades of whatever #3? This one reads really close to that one!)**

Q:

Billy, I've swallowed better-tasting stuff that came out of people. (c) **Yeah, it's definitely the crisis. On the Moon, of all places.**

Q:

"I can make a profit by selling these kits for three thousand slugs each."

"Condoms only cost fifty slugs. Why would anyone buy this?"

...

"Do the math," he said. "Normal condoms cost way too much. ... But my product will last through two hundred uses, minimum. That's ten thousand slugs of savings." (c) **Yeah, DO the math. 50 slugs x 200 uses = 10 000 slugs saved. But if the contraption costs 3 000 slugs. So it's only the happy creator, who would save 10 000 slugs, the rest would save 10 000 - 3 000 = 7 000 slugs.**

Q:

Irina opened the door and frowned at me like I'd just pissed in her borscht. (c) **This is stupid perception. Russians don't smile all the time, that doesn't mean they are glum.**

Q:

His daughter Lene sat next to him. (c) **I've a feeling Lene is a misspelled Lena. Writers should be licensed to use Russian/Ukrainian names only after proper research. Martin 'Svoboda' ('Freedom' from Russian & Ukrainian) was used as a name of one of the heroes. Well, at least it wasn't misspelled or something. The author got some names right and earned a major kudo for that from me.**

Q:

I knew what I had to do—I just didn't like it. I'd have to blow the remaining two at the same time.

Please don't quote that last sentence out of context. (c) **Uh-huh.**

Q:

Her Swahili-accented English rolled so smoothly off her tongue I wanted to adopt her as my grandma right then and there. (c)

Q:

"I hear you failed your EVA exam."

I groaned. "Does everyone in town know about that? Do you all meet up and talk about me when I'm not around or something?" (c)

**And the plan-hatching is plain annoying! It went like this:** Q:

"Okay," I said. "I see where this is going...."

...

I don't want to put people out of their jobs."

...

"Okay, but I don't know anything about harvesters."

...

"Say, Trond, why is your company assembling harvesters?"

...

"So it's my problem to find a weakness in these things? I'm not an engineer."

...

"Okay, but what happens if I get caught?"

...

"Why me? What makes you think I can even pull this off?"

"Jazz, I'm a businessman," he said. "My whole job is exploiting underutilized resources. And you are a massively underutilized resource."

...

“You could have been anything. Didn’t want to be a welder? No problem. You could have been a scientist. An engineer. A politician. A business leader. Anything. But you’re a porter.”

...

You’re really smart and you want money. ...**(c) Oh, really. L is for Logic.**

Q:

I pulled a chair toward me, spun it around, and straddled it.

...

“Do women know how sexy they look when they sit like that?”

“Of course.” **(c)**

Q:

But no idiot-proofing can overcome a determined idiot. There’s a flaw in the system. **(c)**

Q:

And like all good plans, it required a crazy Ukrainian guy. **(c) Reads very... nationalistic and gloating? Especially considering that Ukrainians what, every 6? 10? years take apart the Kreschatik cobblestones and go on burning tyres and having general massive public fights to get a yet another of their misguided revolutions with view to have yet other thieves installed in the Rada and wherever. Which just illustrates the depth of planning... not. I do realise how stupid that must look to the world but I still will break your nose for bashing the Ukraine! like them, so that phrase is a major deal breaker for me.**

Q:

the tracks never had to deal with the warping effects of weather **(c) So not true. The temperature changes between 150 C and -200 C (or something like that) might be warping worse than weather.**

Q:

About fifteen guys. They beat the shit out of him. He wouldn’t talk about it afterward, but I knew what it was about. It’s a thing people do here. It’s called a “morals brigade.”

...

And I knew he had other girls.

But I didn’t know he was screwing a fourteen-year-old.

We’ve got people from all over Earth here. Different cultures have very different sexual morals, so Artemis doesn’t have age-of-consent rules at all. As long as it’s not forced, it’s not rape. And the girl was consenting. But we’re not savages here. **(c) Seriously, WTF? I don’t think any more contradictions might have fit in here.**

Q:

I don’t know exactly how the conversation went, but I assume it was something like this:

Sanchez controllers: “Hey! Why are you fucking with our harvester?!”

EVA masters: “We’re not.”

Sanchez: “Well, someone is.”

EVA masters: “We’ll go kick their ass. Not because we care about you, but because we want to continue our stranglehold monopoly on EVAs. Also, we’re a bunch of assholes.”**(c)**

Q:

It’s one of the stupidest things I’ve ever done. And that’s a field of intense competition.**(c)**

Q:

What are they going to do? Kill me harder?**(c)**

Q:

Dad shook his hand. “One of those ‘friends with benefits’?”

“Ugh.” I rolled my eyes. “I don’t do that, Dad. This may shock you, but I haven’t had sex with anyone in this whole room.”

“Well, it’s a small room.”**(c)**

Q:

I have a plan."

"A plan?" He looked concerned. "Your plans are...uh...should I hide somewhere?"(c)

Q:

I didn't want to spend any more time inside the mind of an economist. It was dark and disturbing.(c)

Q:

Difficult times, my friend, but there is a path. There must be. We will find it. (c)

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## **j e w e l s [Books Bejeweled] says**

Apologies in advance. You're not gonna like what I have to say.

*This is not the review I was expecting to write, but this is not the book I was expecting to read.*

Andy Weir has successfully taken the one element I didn't like in THE MARTIAN and expanded on that until ARTEMIS is almost a chore to read. Major disappointment.

Remember our hero, Mark, in The Martian? His jokey, sarcastic personality started to grate on my nerves towards the end of the book. It's like he never quit with the relentless joking. Staring death in the face? Make a joke. Starving to death? Play some funny music. Ok, we get it! Mark is all about the comic relief. Why does it have to be so overdone and heavy-handed? I still enjoyed the book for all the old-school science fiction fun.

HOWEVER, after cutting Weir some slack for his forced characterizations in The Martian, I am not so ready to do the same with Artemis.

Guess what? Jazz, our female protagonist in Artemis, has almost the exact same personality as Mark from The Martian. Uggggggghhhh. And that goofy, insulting character is even more annoying in a grown woman. Is that sexist? I hope not. I don't mean it to be.

Oh, and by the way, Jazz is the town tramp (with a heart of gold) because of her reputation for sleeping with so many guys. Hysterical.

The book starts out very fun to read. I really enjoyed reading how the city of Artemis came to be established on the moon. I loved reading about the actualities of lunar living with 1/6 of the gravity. I liked learning about the moon's surface, dust and atmosphere. There just wasn't enough of the moon facts for me.

*Also, I'm beginning to question Andy Weir's imagination for the future. The moon inhabitants walk around and do all their business transactions on small computers that they carry. They pay for items and surf the internet and make calls on these "gizmos" as they are called. FASCINATING STUFF right here.*

**What there is plenty of:**

**Welding. Yes, welding. More than I ever want to know about welding.**

**Stupid middle-school humor that the very smart adults all seem to love.**

**Forced, unnatural dialogue.**

**Convoluted, crazy plot that never really makes sense.**

**Integral characters that are unexplained, because of one-note superficial writing.**

After the first third of the book, I had to push through to finish it. Especially the middle part with all the welding. Take my advice and skim skim skim through the welding. The very end ramps up with some excitement, but not enough to make up for the rest. Sad.

I would have liked more moonwalking, less welding. More thinking, less insulting. More imagination, less joking. More sci-fi, less lame comedy.

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## Kemper says

*I received a free advance copy of this for review from NetGalley.*

M-O-O-N. That spells Andy Weir's new novel. (OK, if you haven't read Stephen King's *The Stand* that joke won't make sense to you, but rather than think that's a failure of my review I'm going to say that it's your own fault for not having read *The Stand*. Serves you right.)

It's the near future, and there's a city on the moon called Artemis. Jazz Bashara is a young woman who has grown up there, and knowing the place like the back of her hand makes it easier for her to hustle a living legally by being a porter who hauls stuff around. Illegally, she makes money on the side with a smuggling business. If she could get her EVA certification she could make a lot more by showing tourists the sights outside, but a hardware problem makes her fail the test as well as nearly killing her. So when a rich guy offers her a huge payday to perform a dangerous act of sabotage on a business rival Jazz takes the gig. Things don't go quite as planned and soon Jazz is in danger of being deported back to Earth or murdered, and she isn't sure which one would be worse.

Just to get this out of the way: No, it isn't as good as *The Martian*. But it's still a pretty fun read and got a lot of the stuff I liked about that one so no shame there.

Weir has built up a lot of detail about life on the moon from the nuts-and-bolts stuff science stuff as well as how the Artemis society functions. One detail I particularly liked is that the moon citizens trade in 'slugs' which stands for 'soft landed grams' which is a weight based credit system to have things shipped from Earth.

We've also got another likeable lead character in Jazz just as we did with Mark Watney in *The Martian*. Jazz is a borderline criminal, not an astronaut, but like Mark she's got a can-do attitude mixed with a fun way of explaining all the technical stuff to the reader. She's also got a similar smart-ass nature, and that could have gone wrong because snarky leads can turn into annoying joke machines if not done well. Yet Weir never lets it get away from him and keeps it funny.

So why not as good as his first book? While it's great that Weir made his main character a young woman who is a lapsed Muslim he didn't exactly do anything with those traits. Jazz could have easily been a young male of any religion so it seems like an easy nod to diversity rather than incorporating anything that might have deepened her. Also, while this one has Jazz getting into plenty of predicaments it lacks the tension that *The Martian* had its best. Granted, one is a survival story and one is more of a sci-fi thriller so it's comparing apples to giraffes to some extent, but I just never felt like Jazz was in any real danger whereas I legitimately didn't know if Watney would make it off Mars.

Still, it's got the same kind of enthusiastic attitude of his first book, and it's nice to read about smart people

doing smart things. This isn't great literature, but Weir has an entertaining style. He's also great at blending science, story, and humor into a nice little sci-fi stew.

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### **Paromjit says**

I never read The Martian but am aware that it is a hugely popular book and movie. I don't read much science fiction but I loved Artemis. Weir goes into a lot of depth and detail in his world building of a city on the moon that has adopted Kenyan time, with its 5 bubbles named after famous astronauts with their own distinct identities and linked by tunnels. What made this book such a great read for me is the complex character of 26 year old Jazz Bashara, a woman that breaks every stereotype of a Muslim Saudi Arabian female. She works as a lowly porter with a sideline in earning extra slugs (currency) from smuggling goods for her customers. She is intelligent, sassy, witty, knows how to hold a grudge and is funny. She has the street smarts to be so much more than a porter, but she is drawn to testing herself outside the conventional boundaries of society and sidestepping the expectations others have for her, particularly her father. For her, the thrill is in the challenge and the smuggling allows her to supplement her meager earnings as a porter which allows only for her to reside in a 'coffin', where she can sleep, but otherwise has to share communal facilities with others.

The wealthy Trond Lanvik is looking to acquire Sanchez Aluminium through underhand means and offers Jazz a million slugs to sabotage the company. Jazz is immediately drawn to the proposal because she wants somewhere better to live and more. She comes up with a plan that she is only partially successful in executing. It soon hits her that she has taken on more than she can chew as she comes to discover two murders and realises she is the killer's next target. This means she has to go underground and move amongst the shadows whilst she tries to understand what is going on and escape being killed. To her horror, she finds herself entangled with the Brazilian mob, and has to foil the looming threats to the community of Artemis. So armed with her outlandish and borderline crazy (lunatic?) ideas, and the help of those closest to her, Jazz finds herself in toxic and dangerous territory where the lives of all on Artemis is at stake.

Weir draws up a great supporting cast for Jazz in this tense and suspenseful lunar thriller. There is Jewish Evo guide Dale, gay and desperate to get back in Jazz's good books after a personal betrayal. Jazz and her father have a complicated relationship, which given her rebellious streak, is no surprise, but Weir subtly reveals the depth of their connection and love for each other, despite all that stands between them. Ukrainian Martin Svoboda, a technical whizz, is socially awkward but his commitment to Jazz left me hoping that their relationship would become something more. This is a fantastic read, and I hope Andy Weir has plans to revive Jazz as a character in the future. Many thanks to Random House Ebury for an ARC.

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### **Lola says**

Seems to me that Andy Weir rushed to write this book.

Oh man, what a disappointment. And an even bigger disappointment that it won the science fiction category of the Goodreads Choice Awards. (Just because the author is popular.)

To be honest, I didn't even realize Jazz Bashara was a woman until specific pronouns were used. That certainly did not take long, but even after I made that realization, I couldn't shake the feeling that Jazz's personality matched that of a man more.

But that's probably because I've read other works by this author, works that included a male hero, and their voices sound really, really similar. Is it just me, though?

What awful writing. I can't believe this is the same author who wrote THE MARTIAN. It's like Andy Weir wrote everything that came to his mind, without even processing the information. Maybe if he'd done that, he would have realized that some of the things he wrote were truly, astonishingly offensive.

Some are going to say that he's "keeping it real". You know, "telling it like it is", but all he's doing is perpetrating stereotypes and racist ways of thinking, like him implying that a niqab is a mask that raises suspicion.\* It's just so wrong for him to say that.

I needed this book to be more serious and considerate of other nationalities and cultures and actually have a female character I could connect with, but I disliked Jazz profusely.

Goodbye, book. Do not take care. DNF.

\* Jazz said, "Great way to wear a mask without arousing suspicion" (on page 74) and I thought she was being sarcastic, because of her personality and lack of "It's a" before the word "great". That was my first thought. Perhaps I'm wrong - it's very much possible - but the writing confused me at times.

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