



The Aeschylus

David Barclay

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Two hundred and fifty oil workers mysteriously vanish from the offshore Aeschylus drilling platform without a trace. Production stops. Communications cease. The Valley Oil Corporation finds itself on the brink of disaster and prepares to send an investigative team deep into the south Atlantic.

Kate McCreedy, daughter of the late U.S. Vice President, is whisked into a secret board meeting shortly after inheriting a windfall of Valley Oil stock. Her father not only left her his fortune, however, but an envelope containing covert satellite images of The Aeschylus. Believing the images are linked to the developing crisis, she volunteers to join the team.

Upon arrival, they discover the platform is overgrown with a massive, tentacle-like fungus, and the missing workers are nowhere to be found. Kate delves deeper into the mystery, discovering a nearby island, an abandoned military base, and a secret dating back some eighty years. It's not long before she must make a choice: assist in a corporate cover-up, or destroy her family legacy with the truth.

The Aeschylus Details

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Fiction Vixens Blog says

This was my first time reading anything by David Barclay and I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed this great story. David Barclay has given us one heck of a story ,that will just suck you in and keep you there from start to finish ,and then will leave you wanting more from this author. Aeschylus is a spellbinding thriller that begins in world war 11,some scientists are kidnapped and are kept as prisoners on some ship.Their journey begins but none of them know when or why they were taking or where their going .But then the story begins in the present day where some kind of mystery has lead to the disappearance of all the men on an oil rig. Poor Kate McCreedy has just lost her poor father ,when her godfather has summon her, and to Kate's surprise fines out the she holds a large amount of stock in the oil company . So Kate decides to set out to fine out what has become of or what happened on the rig. But Kate makes one stop on the way to pick up some help, and that help is some members of the Black Shadows Mercenary group ,before head on to the rig,because she needed their help to solve what happen out there. The way the author has written this story is really amazing ,the way we travel back and forth in time , has we do we slowly unravel the mystery of the missing crew, and what might of caused them all to disappear .David Barclay has woven two mysteries from different periods of times into a thrilling compelling story,that will keep everyone on the edge of their chair ,this is the perfect science fiction thriller that will have you guessing at every twist or turns in this brilliant story. The character are many so be prepared to meet them, and don't worry it's easy to keep track of each one of them and their parts in the story .The author has written the perfect characters and the dialogue was so well done that it make this story flow smoothly throughout the whole story. I could tell you more but that would spoil the story for you .I highly recommend that you read this chilling story ,you won't be disappointed .

So, I Read This Book Today says

Thoughtful science fiction “What would an ocean be without a monster lurking in the dark? It would be like sleep without dreams.” ? Werner HerzogI believe there are monsters born in the world to human parents.... The face and body may be perfect, but if a twisted gene or a malformed egg can produce physical monsters, may not the same process produce a malformed soul?" John Steinbeck, East of Eden, 1952“Man is the cruelest animal.”? Friedrich NietzscheIt began in Stockholm, Sweden in 1938. Pearl Buck won the Nobel for Literature, on the same stage where Enrico Fermi received the Nobel for Physics for his work on the artificial radioactivity produced by neutrons, and for nuclear reactions brought about by slow neutrons. And outside the stage door, Max Feldt and his wife, Ada, are about to be murdered by Nazi Gestapo agents for the location of a single man. Dominik Kaminski.This is the beginning. But it is not the end.In the present, Kate McCreedy just lost her father, who happened to be the Vice President of the United States. Her father the VP, her brother the high powered Security Analyst who couldn't even find time to make it to his father's funeral and Kate the secretary. Well, an administrative assistant, but she did just get a promotion to media relations executive for Valley Oil, one of the four largest oil companies in the world. Her brother got the lion's share of their father's estate. The condo on Independence Avenue and summer home in Connecticut. The yacht and various other rich man's toys. Kate? The deed to her father's Mercedes. The family china and a few nick-knacks. She doesn't really care, she is happy with her life. But this too will change with far reaching and deadly effect. For when she is called to her godfather Godfried's home she learns two shocking facts. First, her father left her, privately and with no fanfare, all off his stock in VO stock with a 'bit' over \$32 million dollars in value. She is now the biggest oil shareholder in the country. Second? There is a

problem at the Aeschylus Platform, the two-point-two billion dollar engineering marvel deep in the southern Atlantic Ocean. Communications are down. The platform is damaged. It is a disaster and there are no answers. The company is sending in Black Shadow the second largest mercenary group in the U.S., with orders to find out what happened to the platform, and to the two hundred and thirty-eight missing workers. Someone from media relations has to be onsite, to record what happened for the board, as well as helping restrain the fiscal panic inherent in any disaster of this magnitude. Kate won't put anyone else in danger especially when her godfather presents her with photos of the disaster, and indicates that her father knew before his death something was wrong, and wanted her to handle the issue herself. She can't let her father down, can she? What starts out as an information gathering and rescue mission soon becomes more, much more, as the story moves back and forth through time from the kidnapping of Dominik and his family by Gestapo agents and their enslavement on a tiny island in the South Atlantic, to the modern day as Kate, nine members of a Black Shadow team, with Mason Brubaker, ex-military and now full time killer consultant/troubleshooter-for-hire in the lead. AJ Trenton, Security Chief on the build for Aeschylus, disgraced and fired from the project for questioning the higher-ups about possible problems that the company was ignoring, but still the most knowledgeable of VO's personnel, and his buddy Dutch who AJ won't travel without round out the group. Get in. Save the personnel. Get out. Or at least that is what Kate plans. But Robert Burns said it best: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley." And gang aft a-gley, in this case, is an understatement. For what they find on their arrival is more terrifying, stranger and more deadly, than anyone, even the members of a hard-ass private military corporation like Black Shadow, have ever faced. For the platform isn't just damaged it is overrun. Overrun by what can only be described as black tentacles growing up from the ocean floor, covering and infesting everything it touches. And when the members of the group are attacked, they find that it is not only the platform that is infested. The Aeschylus is a fast paced novel of the lengths beings - whether corporation or government or even a single man - will go to control the unknown in a single-minded pursuit of glory, power and money - and a brutally practical look at politics and corporate manipulation on a massive scale. It is also something much more - a warning, a threat, about the things we do to hide the most horrific of atrocities. And finally, it is about the things that are hidden still, the dark places and things of the world, and about the folly of human hubris. "Ancient societies had anthropomorphic gods: a huge pantheon expanding into centuries of dynastic drama; fathers and sons, martyred heroes, star-crossed lovers, the deaths of kings stories that taught us the danger of hubris and the primacy of humility." - Tom Hiddleston Eighty years ago, the Nazi's absolute certainty that they could manipulate everything within their purview, turn it to the "glory" of Germany, of Hitler and the Nazi party, opened a door. A door that remained open, though its denizen slept. Now, it is awake. And the world will never be the same. There are many things to admire about David Barclay's novel. It is powerful on many levels, from the twisted brutalities of people who would, without the pressure of the Nazi regime, have been perfectly ordinary human beings to the cold, calculating viciousness of those who are willing to do whatever is asked simply for the money. Do it and move on, never to think about it again. Political intrigue and corporate rapaciousness are handled with a deft hand, but the thriller aspects kept me turning pages nearly faster than I could read, to find out what happened next. Scientifically and historically, Barclay also did his homework, making a fiction work blend seamlessly into historical happenings with both a scientific and science fiction bent that speaks to the devastation of the Earth by the unlearned and unwary. I recommend it. I received this book from the publisher in exchange for a realistic review. All thoughts are my own.

Ken McKinley says

The Aeschylus is a tight sci-fi thriller from David Barclay that alternates storylines back and forth between a 1938 Nazi regime on a remote island near Antarctica and present day. The Aeschylus is a one-of-a-kind oil platform installed near the remote island and owned by a company called Valley Oil. Kate is the daughter of

a US Vice President who suddenly dies and leaves her controlling interest in Valley Oil. Plunged into a world she wasn't prepared for, she finds herself joining an expedition to the oil platform with a group of Blackwater-type mercenaries to find out what has happened to cause all communications to go down and 250 oil rig workers to disappear. When they get there, they find the rig damaged and a slimy black vines coming out of the ocean and overtaking the platform. Where is everyone? What is this mysterious foliage coming out of the ocean and overtaking the rig? And what does a remote island controlled by the Nazis in 1938 have to do with everything?

Outside of the controlling interests in the oil company falling in lead character Kate's lap and then simply jumping on a plane with soldiers for hire to go to a rig that she knows very little about or has any expertise to offer in the mission, that's really my only bitch for what is actually a very entertaining read. The silly start aside, The Aeschylus combines a great Nazi mission, an Alien-feeling desolate thriller, and some HP Lovecraft-inspired crazy weed of unknown origin. There were even parts of the story that had a Robert McCammon feel to the delivery. If it sounds like fun, you'd be right. And anyone that knows me, understands that I hold McCammon in the utmost highest reverence. I truly enjoyed the book and it only needed a little tightening to be a true 5-star romp. A very promising effort from what I hope is the first of many offerings from Barclay.

~ I received this ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.~

4.5 out of 5 stars

You can also follow my reviews at the following links:

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<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/5...>

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/A2J1...>

TWITTER - @KenMcKinley5

Jennifer says

This book was thoroughly enjoyable. The premise was good. There was plenty of intrigue and action. There was a dual story line from present day and 1939. It was interesting how the stories paralleled and contrasted. If you are a fan of techno-thrillers, you will enjoy this one as well.

Cheryl says

"A bad luck day"

The Aeschylus is a multi-billion dollar offshore oil drilling platform located in the southern Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Argentina. All of a sudden, all 250+ workers from the platform have vanished, the platform is damaged, and Valley Oil, the owner of the platform wants to know what has happened.

Black Shadow, a mercenary group, is hired to do just that. And Kate McCreedy, the Vice President's (of the United States) daughter and someone with an interest in Valley Oil is going along too.

This horror thriller alternated chapters between 1938-39 and present day - and I liked both storylines.

PLENTY of action, alien? fungal lifeforms, Nazis, blood and guts, good guys, very bad guys, intrigue, deception - all are thrown together, stirred and a super tale comes out of the mix.

I enjoyed strong female protagonist Kate and other side characters too. Author Barclay has a very real talent in having his characters come alive on the pages of his story.

And I loved the location. I don't know what it is about deep sea drilling operations but I like horror and adventure stories based on them.

I kept visualizing this story as an action movie. I would go to watch this on the big screen.

NOTE: I received this book from 9 Swords publishing group through Net Galley in exchange for my honest review.

Hannah says

The Aeschylus was a really interesting science fiction novel and honestly not at all what I was expecting. It was so full of adventure that I had a hard time putting it down. It is extremely well written, though slightly confusing at first since there are so many characters. I really enjoyed it.

Valley Oil owns a one of a kind oil rig near a remote island off the coast of Antarctica. When they lose communication and the satellite shows no movement they send a highly specialized team to check it out. When they arrive they find all 250 workers missing and black plant like tentacles growing onto the rig. This book jumps back and forth from present day to 1938 when a Nazi regime is making camp on that same remote island and studying the plant that seems to be taking over. What is this plant and where have all the people disappeared to?

I really thought this book was good. The time jumping and all the characters names were really confusing until the book started to get into character development, then it was easier to follow. This book was very creative and I enjoyed it a lot.

Rowan MacBean says

I received THE AESCHYLUS as an ARC through NetGalley.com.

When the Vice President of the United States dies, his daughter Kate McCreedy inherits his shares in the Valley Oil Corporation, as well as his place on its board of directors. Unfortunately, Valley Oil is having a bit of a problem--two hundred and fifty of their workers have disappeared without a trace from its biggest drilling platform, the Aeschylus. The board decides to hire a private security company to go and find out what the problem is, and Kate, who also works in Valley Oil's public relations department, goes along to try to find a way to spin this tragedy so the company doesn't lose face in the public eye. What she discovers is a weird tale worthy of Lovecraft, which stretches back to before World War II, and a corporate cover-up that could cost even more lives than it already has.

THE AESCHYLUS splits its narrative between "present day" and the late 1930s. Personally, I found the past story much more interesting, and I liked the characters a lot more, but while skimming other reviews, I noticed a lot of people saying they thought the 1930s stuff just slowed down the better part of the book, so your mileage may vary. While I agree that the action in the present day setting moved faster, it would have made a novella with a lot of unanswered questions if the story from the past had been left out. Also, I found the slower-moving plot of the 30s to be more suspenseful; the most horrifying moments in the book (including a couple that made me nearly gag) are set in that era.

While having the ability to think critically and ask questions will help, and while there are some distressing moments, THE AESCHYLUS is the sort of book that would typically be beach reading for me. ...Though I think I'd actually advise against reading this near any oceans, since it takes place in the middle of one, and is genuinely scary at parts. A long train or plane journey would be ideal for reading this; deep thought isn't strictly required, but it grabs your attention and makes hours pass like minutes.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I picked The Aeschylus to read because I thought it would be a book right up my alley. It wasn't. But by sheer persistence and skimming through pages now and then did I manage to get through the book.

The blurb sounded really fascinating. Two hundred and fifty oil workers that have disappeared from the offshore Aeschylus drilling platform without a trace? I thought that finally would have a page-turner. Ha! I just couldn't get into the story. I thought that after a while everything would finally come together I wouldn't be able to stop reading it, but instead I had to force myself reading it. "Just five more percent Magdalena you can do it, the book is soon over."

I think one of the problems with the book, for me at least was that the characters never really made an impression with me. Can't say that I disliked them, they were just not memorable. I didn't feel like I got to know Kate and the others. They were very flat and uninteresting. Like the Nazis, I could never remember who was who.

No, this book just didn't work for me. I ended up at least finish the book, but not even the more paranormal aspect of the book, the explanation for what was going on at the platform made me like the book. Well it made the book a tiny bit more interesting to read, but that's all.

I received this copy from the publisher through Edelweiss in return for an honest review! Thank you!

Mark King says

Adventure done right!

I am a huge fan of adventure novels and have read many since I was a kid. As I've gotten older, I have found myself being much more demanding - I need a good story to go with the action. I have stopped reading several books that were, well, dumb. Those books (many by very well known authors) were like reading a giant cliché. The reactions of the people just weren't real.

I am very happy to say that 'The Aeschylus' is an adventure novel with a good story and real people. Without giving away any spoilers, the story follows two situations, one in the modern day and one in the early 40's. This duality of story telling required the author to develop many characters - which he did well. Each account is very interesting on their own, and together they make for a wonderful read!

This is Mr. Barclay's first novel and it shows that we have a lot to look forward to from him in the future!

Jessica Bronder says

Kate McCredy's father, the vice principal of the USA, has recently died. Besides being the vice-president, he was also a board member of Valley Oil, the same company she works for. With his passing, he has willed his stocks to Kate. But something has happened to the Aeschylus platform. Two hundred and fifty men have disappeared, the platform has been destroyed, and a strange black growth is all over. Kate flies in with a former security manager and a Black Shadow group to figure out what happened.

At the same time we follow along with two scientists and ones two daughters as they are captured by Nazi's. There is an island with a strange black growth that they want them to figure out how to control it. But there has to be more to the demand than just the black growth. With the top scientists in several fields at the island, it is clear that the Nazi's have something bigger planned.

This is an interesting story told from two time frames. Clearly something in 1938 that the Nazi's did relates to the present day damage to the Aeschylus oil platform. Katie might come from an influential family but she is determined to make her own way in the world. When she learns of her inheritance in Village Oil and decides that she should go on the scouting mission to figure out the big picture.

There is more to the story of the Aeschylus when they find a survivor and learn that the damage did not take 24 hours but much longer. There are also several other groups involved and it becomes clear that someone wants to cover up the whole incident.

Then there is the story with the Nazi's. Something is clearly happening and they want to use it as a weapon. This story progresses along with the Aeschylus and seem to be linked. Reading this was almost like watching a horror movie. You know that something bad was going to happen but you were curious at the progression of the story.

Over all this is not a bad story. It seemed to take it's time to build up steam. Because of that I admit that I had a hard time sticking with the story. But once everything got rolling then it was easier to keep reading the book. It was well worth sticking with it just for the conclusion. I will definitely be keeping my eyes open for

other books from David Barclay.

I received The Aeschylus from Candid Book Reviews for free. This has in no way influenced my opinion of this book.

Carolyn Injoy says

The Aeschylus by David Barclay I received a free kindle copy of The Aeschylus by David Barclay published by Nine Swords from NetGalley in exchange for a fair review.

This page turning suspense-filled thriller received four stars & a strong recommendation to read it. This book did not fit easily into a single genre. It included political ambitions, multi-billion dollar company infrastructure, Black Shadow mercenaries, horror, suspense, drama, human relations, a lot of manipulation, & even science fiction. I liked the book except for the Epilogue which, in my opinion, veered into the unbelievable. The latter is what cost it one star.

The characters were well developed. I liked that Kate was a strong woman even though she sometimes spoke before she thought. She seemed to need to prove to her father's memory that she was worthy of receiving stock shares that made her a majority holder for Valley Oil.

The Aeschylus is a drilling platform off the coast of Argentina. The communication was shut down without explanation. Satellite images indicate that the 238 member crew has disappeared.

The book has a story line that varies between 1938 & present day. Dominick Kaminski is removed by Nazi soldier from his home. He takes his two girls but there is no room on the ship for his wife & she is sent to a prison. I was disappointed in the direction the Lt. Harald's character took.

Link to purchase:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00Q...>

Violet says

The Aeschylus is a spellbinding thriller that starts out in World War II. Scientists have been kidnapped by the Nazi's and held prisoners on a ship. Their hellish journey begins, not knowing why they have been taken or where they are being sent. The story continues in present time where mysterious events have led to the disappearance of the entire oil rig crew. Kate McCreedy has just lost her father and being summoned by her godfather finds out she now holds a vast amount of stock in the oil company. Kate sets out to discover what has happened on the rig. Kate stops on the way to oil rig to pick up members of the Black Shadow mercenary group to help her solve the mystery.

The writer takes us back and forth in time slowly unraveling the mystery of the crew's disappearance and what has caused them to disappear. The clever writing of David Barclay is like blending two mysteries from different time periods into an intriguing, science fiction thriller that will keep you glued to the pages and eager to find out more; as the story unfolds you will be taken on twist and turns you didn't see coming. Characters and dialogue are well written and believable. I would highly recommend you place this book on your must read list. I look forward to reading future books by this author.

Becky says

The book was okay at best. It reminded me a lot of the movie Deep Rising but with an oil platform rather than a cruise ship. The Aeschylus is the name of the oil platform and surprisingly isn't really the main setting of the book. The Carrion would've been a better book name or Carrion Island or New Swabia (or whatever the island was named by the Nazis.)

It was like the author had two stories he wanted to write about the same subject but just in two different timelines, so he wrote them both to make the word quota for a novel. Only the timelines didn't mesh that well. He should've stuck with 1939 or Present Day, not both. Also the Prologue made no sense, I almost reread the prologue trying to figure out what significance it played on the rest of the novel.

The good part is the book is full of action. It is written like a horror movie is filmed, probably because like most authors (including me) I spend more time dreaming of my book as a movie than actually writing the book. I kept thinking The Aeschylus could very easily be turned into a screenplay.

Brenda Ayala says

The Aeschylus is a marvelous monster story! It alternates back and forth between present day and 1939, when the Nazi party is in full swing. If this book and Captain America and Indiana Jones are to be believed, the Nazi party had access to all kinds of supernatural things that they were attempting to harness.

To start with, all we know is that suddenly more than 200 people disappeared off an oil rig, and a group is going to investigate. We aren't sure exactly what happened to them right away, supposedly (but as the reader, i read the blurb already and knew sort of what to expect).

The great thing is that this is such a unique twist to the humanoid zombie thing, and there's enough science-ness to make it seem pretty realistic. There's full blown conversations between different scientific specialists, which definitely made it seem like the author did his research and didn't just pull the solution to the story out of nowhere.

But the nitty gritty is the actual THING. Which I can't really explain too much without going into too much detail. Sort of annoying. But the thing that caused the disappearance of so many people is downright brutal. They turn into blackened, misshapen humanoids who have a kind of hive mentality; they stop at nothing to preserve the tentacles.

It was just such great execution. The bad guys are despicable, the good guys are admirable, the THING is creepy and crawling and utterly disturbing. I couldn't help but think how awesome of a movie this would make if someone only made the budget to do so. I would go see it!!!

Except the girl. She's a bit of a weenie. She could barely carry 80 pounds without toppling over.

Krystal Stubbs says

This book is an absolute thriller, exciting until the end. It is a combination of before and after views.

The book starts out with the Nazis kidnapping scientists in 1938. The Nazis bring them to an island in the hopes of them helping with a ... situation that they have.

The next chapter you are in present time in Virginia. Kate McCreedy is the Vice Presidents daughter. He has just passed on and has just found out he left her all his stock in Valley Oil, he was the largest shareholder in the country. Still reeling from the shock that she has inherited a fortune, she receives satellite photos of the Aeschylus Platform and finds out that all oil production has stopped and the over 200 employees had just vanished.

Valley Oil has decided to send a mercenary group, Black Shadow, to investigate, and Kate volunteers to tag along to get to the bottom of the situation and find the missing employees. Once on the Aeschylus things start to unravel. They find black tentacles, which they believe to be fungus, growing up the platform. During their investigation they also find an island, with what looks like an abandoned military base, also over-run with the same black tentacles. This island happens to be the same island the scientists were taken to in 1938, but no trace of the Valley Oil employees.....

What exactly are these tentacles and where did the Valley Oil employees disappear to? How is all this tied in with the Nazis scientists?
