



Stuck on Earth

By David Klass

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Ketchvar III's mission is simple: travel to Planet Earth, inhabit the body of an average teenager, and determine if the human race should be annihilated. And so Ketchvar—who, to human eyes, looks just like a common snail—crawls into the brain of one Tom Filber and attempts to do his analysis. At first glance, Tom appears to be the perfect specimen—fourteen years old, good health, above average intelligence. But it soon becomes apparent that Tom Filber may be a little *too* average—gawky, awkward, and utterly abhorred by his peers. An alien within an alien's skin, Ketchvar quickly finds himself wrapped up in the daily drama of teenage life—infuriating family members, raging bullies, and undeniably beautiful next-door neighbors. And the more entangled Ketchvar becomes, the harder it is to answer the question he was sent to Earth to resolve: Should the Sandovinians release the Gagnerian Death Ray and erase the human species for good? Or is it possible that Homo sapiens really are worth saving?

Wickedly wry and hysterically skewed, David Klass's take on teen life on our fabulously flawed Planet Earth is an engrossing look at true friends, truer enemies, and awkward alien first kisses.

Stuck on Earth is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-9-On a mission to evaluate Earth and determine whether or not its dominate species (Homo sapiens) will be allowed to continue or will be exterminated (quickly and painlessly, of course) so a more deserving race can have the planet, Ketchvar III, a snail-like superintelligent being inhabits the body of a 14-year-old boy so he can experience human existence up close and personal. Horrified by his host's dysfunctional family, incarceration in a mind-numbing environment (high school), and the bullying of other students, Ketchvar has nearly written off humans for good when he meets the girl next door. Humorous misunderstandings and poignant moments with his host's alcoholic father and bitter mother save this from being just another "people have ruined the planet; let's get rid of them and start over" book. Ketchvar's social gaffs and misconceptions provide some laugh-out-loud moments as do his internal dialogues with his reluctant host. Though no new ground is broken, *Stuck on Earth* will resonate with kids who feel like aliens in their own homes.-Jane Henriksen Baird, Anchorage Public Library, AK (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Before being vaporized by a Gagnerian Death Ray, humans (aka "the laughingstock of the universe") get a last chance to prove their worth when superintelligent alien Ketchvar III arrives for an evaluation. The size of a snail, Ketchvar crawls into the nose and inhabits the brain of 14-year-old Tom, a bullied nerd living in suburban New Jersey. In theory, this gives Ketchvar the opportunity to operate covertly, though his stiff new speech patterns have everyone thinking Tom's acting even weirder than normal ("Let us live in harmony, like the moss and the lichen," he implores his bratty sister). Between the shocking violence of the "voluntary daily incarceration" known as school and examinations into the "empty constructs" of war and love, Ketchvar reports to his mothership via e-mails with subject headings like "Old Hip-Hop Songs That Sucked." Klass even manages to work in an effective environmental message. There are no major surprises—the sweet "earth girl next door" wins Earth another chance—but that doesn't hamper this fast-moving and irascible comedy. Grades 6-9. --Daniel Kraus

Review

"A witty and penetrating satire of American life." *?The New York Times Book Review*

"Humorous misunderstandings and poignant moments with his host's alcoholic father and bitter mother save this from being just another 'people have ruined the planet; let's get rid of them and start over' book *Stuck on Earth* will resonate with kids who feel like aliens in their own homes." *?Starred, School Library Journal*

"Klass's (the Caretaker Trilogy) thoughtful, often wrenching book offers plenty to think about, from what's really going on in Tom's head to questions about human responsibility to the planet and each other." *?Starred, Publishers Weekly*

"Ketchvar's adventure will win fans." *?Kirkus Reviews*

"Touching, weird, relevant, and a great piece of storytelling, STUCK ON EARTH is a uber-quirky middle school favorite in the making." *?Richie Partington, Richie's Picks*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Vogt:

Here thing why this kind of Stuck on Earth are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all examining a book is good but it really depends in the content of computer which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Stuck on Earth giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no publication that similar with Stuck on Earth. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in park, café, or even in your method home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Stuck on Earth in e-book can be your alternative.

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Zola Campbell:

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