

**Title:** *Alone Out Here*  
**Author:** Riley Redgate  
**Genre:** Action & Adventure, Fiction/ Fantasy

Reviewer: Sahil G., 9th Grade

Date reviewed: 6/1/2023

The novel *Alone Out Here* is an emotional joyride written by Riley Redgate. The story begins when the protagonist Leigh Chen is faced with a tough decision of saving a few people, or risking everything to save everyone else. They begin in the year 2072, where a natural disaster will destroy the Earth's atmosphere. Only a few families have boarded the *Lazarus*, a rocket ship that will blast off into space, but the director would like to take off without the rest. Leigh has the opportunity to stop them, but she eventually passes out from the pressure and they take off into space. When she awakens the director is dead, and she must now lead the small number of passengers to their final destination of a new home planet. While on the ship, she meets Francisco, Anis, and Sergei. These three become close with Leigh, and she trusts them enough to start training the other travelers into having jobs on the ship to maintain stable living conditions. All the crewmates are given jobs and trained in ways to keep the *Lazarus* in stable and healthy condition. Eventually, as stress builds up in between all the crewmates, someone starts to turn on the others and hurt them for personal gain such as rations. This creates much anxiety in the group, and emotions are high. The crew gets close to finding out the two who were stealing from others, but this leads to the death of another crewmate, Irina, as an accident. This mentally damaged Sergei. Leigh learns that a crewmate named Caro is responsible for the stealing, but she has an accomplice. She vows to hide Caro because she feels bad for her. Leigh hides this secret from everyone but Anis, who has developed an emotional relationship with Leigh. A few weeks later, the ship is now getting close to the destination, the *HERMES*, they all just have to hold out for one month, but they still have not caught their traitors. In the final two weeks before arriving at the destination, the entire crew is on edge, waiting to capture Caro, but then Anis outs himself as being the accomplice and is now hiding aboard the *Lazarus* for the final 48 hours. Leigh still loves Anis and cares about Caro, so she now becomes a traitor as well to protect those two. In the last 24 hours, major fights break out between the trio of Caro, Anis, and Leigh, and the rest of the crew. After a while of running and hiding, the three escape to *Hermes* and are finally safe.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

I was interested multiple times at different points of the story. For example, when Leigh found out who the traitor was, my interest peaked again, but the book started to slow down after that.

*Was the pace of the book too slow, too fast, or just right?*

I feel like the book was too slow because it dragged on some scenes for too long. I felt that there was no need to extend things such as looking for the traitor across multiple chapters. Some things would be better if it was kept to fewer chapters, and less details.

*What grade level is this book appropriate for?*

This book is appropriate for high schoolers, starting at 9th grade. I think this book contains some graphic scenes, death, and it has some profanity in it. The emotions/feelings in this book are high, so a more mature audience is required.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

I would recommend this book to the type of reader that wants to know every little detail and how every character feels about a certain situation. For example, something as little as an argument over which person should do which job aboard the ship.

*Other helpful information for teens*

I would tell the readers to brace themselves for aggressive and strong feelings, and for some readers, emotional and sexual scenes are too much for them so I would prepare them for that.

I would rate this book *3 stars*. This book was interesting with its many plot twists and crazy parts such as how Leigh became a traitor, how some members died and how everybody was on edge. There was way too much unnecessary information, which really spread apart the important parts of the book. This read became tough because it was hard to sit through pointless things such as every character commenting on something little. I did like how it was not that far out of the realm of realism. This could be very possible in the future, so it was cool to read since it wasn't something completely impossible.

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Nitya M., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 19, 2024

*Alone Out Here* is a scientific fiction book made by Riley Redgate that is a book about the outcome of a post-apocalyptic future world. In the story the year is 2072. The plot starts out explaining that a gigantic volcano will erupt and that threatens to destroy earth completely. The world's last hope lies in the hands of a group of teenagers who are in "The Lazarus" which is a prototype spaceship which is meant to be used when the world is going to end. When the eruption of the volcano occurs, the teens think they might not make it like the rest of humans but luckily their prototype Lazarus saves them from destruction. The group of teens led by Eli, who is also the pilot's daughter, must make their way through the vast emptiness of the earth to find a new place that they can make a home and start populating. The Lazarus is the only hope of the continuation of humanity as it contains a collection of human history including wars and everything that has ever happened on earth, frozen animal DNA which can be used to bring back animals that are needed for survival, and 53 people that are terrified. Tensions continue to rise on the Lazarus as people fear the pressures of isolation and the fight for survival with the fragile peace and minimal privacy on the ship. A girl named Leigh Chen is put into a role that she could never imagine and fights with the weight of responsibility. She is given the goals of the ship's missions and with this role she must fight for humanity. *Alone Out Here* is a thrilling story of survival, leadership, and about the human spirit and the fight to stay alive in this cruel world. Through the very low odds of survival the teens must live and bring back humans.

***Did the plot keep me interested?***

It was quite interesting.

***Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just, right?***

The pace was fast but manageable at the same time.

***What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?***

This book should be appropriate for grades 6 and up because the vocabulary might cause some trouble, but it is not too difficult to grasp, and the story is great.

***What type of reader would you recommend this book to?***

I would recommend this book to a new reader because this story is easy to understand and very easy to read, which is good for beginners. It also keeps the attention of people who don't like to read.

***What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?***

It would be important to note that almost all readers will like this book as it is easy to pick up.

***Rating:*** I give this book **5 stars** because it kept my attention throughout the whole story, and it was a fabulous read.

