



Ghost Planet

Sharon Lynn Fisher

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A world in peril. A bond deeper than love.

Psychologist Elizabeth Cole prepared for the worst when she accepted a job on a newly discovered world - a world where every colonist is tethered to an alien who manifests in the form of a dead loved one. But she never expected she'd struggle with the requirement to shun these "ghosts." She never expected to be so attracted to the charming Irishman assigned as her supervisor. And she certainly never expected to discover she died in a transport crash en route to the planet.

Reincarnated as a ghost, Elizabeth is symbiotically linked to her supervisor, Murphy - creator of the Ghost Protocol, which forbids him to acknowledge or interact with her. Confused and alone - oppressed by her ghost status and tormented by forbidden love - Elizabeth works to unlock the secrets of her own existence.

But her quest for answers lands her in a tug-of-war between powerful interests, and she soon finds herself a pawn in the struggle for control of the planet...a struggle that could separate her forever from the man she loves.

Ghost Planet Details

Date : Published October 30th 2012 by Tor Science Fiction (first published October 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780765368973

Author : Sharon Lynn Fisher

Format : Mass Market Paperback 342 pages

Genre : Romance, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Science Fiction Romance

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From Reader Review Ghost Planet for online ebook

Felicia says

Again, I have a winner! Wow I've been on a streak lately. This is a really fun Sci-Fi romance that I was surprised by. Very cool setup and characters that I couldn't put down. I don't want to spoil the book, just start reading it without reading blurbs and the twist at the beginning will really hook you in!

You gotta not think TOO deep about the worldbuilding here, because then you'll wonder why EVERYONE didn't realize what's going on with this planet immediately, but whatever. The characters and setting pull you though, and I loved it!

Veronique says

3.5*

Scifi romance, where I preferred the scifi aspect to the romantic one. In all, however, an entertaining, easy read.

Gary Foss says

I'm going to start with a couple of non-spoilers.

Non-Spoiler #1: The premise of this book is that on a planet being colonized by humans, aliens are taking the form of the dead and "haunting" their human hosts. These aliens take look like near relatives, but also husbands or wives. The "ghosts" are near perfect physical copies of those people, including their memories and personalities. They are not "ghosts" in the supernatural sense; they have physical bodies. Their presence threatens the future of the colony due to the psychological damage that they have upon the colonists.

Non-Spoiler #2: The early portions of the story deal mostly with the Ghost Protocol, developed by the main love interest of the book and the Ghost Planet's leading psychologist/therapist, which is how the colonists deal with their dead relatives (usually) coming back to life. In effect, this protocol amounts to little more than a really strict silent treatment. They just ignore their ghosts. They act as if they don't exist at all. The ghosts weaken under this withering silence, and colonists go about their days with pale, shambling versions of their deceased loved ones following them around all the time.

The premise is interesting but becomes fascinating because the author clearly reflected on how such a situation would affect people, and she works that thinking into the book neatly and realistically. If you consider the premise for a moment it seems particularly unlikely. There are holes in the plot regarding the genesis of the alien/ghosts, and these holes are never plugged by Ms. Fisher in a meaningful way. However, her handling of the situation is emotionally naturalistic enough that I, for one, was willing to overlook some of the logical problems.

There's a nice shocker near the opening to this book that I will not reveal, but it forms the basis of the story, and is neatly done. I was surprised by it. It made me wonder how dramatically it would affect the overall plot, and the reader's ability to relate to the characters. What we wind up with is a not-so-timeless question:

can the resurrected alien manifestation of a dead human and a living human fall in love? They are "planet-crossed lovers" if you will.

Ms. Fisher's dialogue is crisp and natural. She writes her characters with personalities that are reflected in their vocabulary and the cadence of their speech. The main love interest, Murphy, has an Irish accent, and (unlike some authors) she actually backs that up by giving him dialogue that supports it.

"I love you, Murphy."

"*Do* you now."

The italics there are hers not mine, and there's no question mark. Aside from little italicized notes, he says "shite" instead of "shit" and constantly refers to her using the moniker "love" as is the stereotype of Irish (and a few Brit) accents. Unfortunately for me, the text presentation of a brogue reads like Lucky Charms rather than Prince Charming, so I got more of a laugh out of it than anything else. But, hey, he's supposed to be "magically delicious!" so maybe that's not a bad thing.

I really enjoyed the first half or so of the book when the dynamics of the aliens showing up as resurrected dead relatives was being addressed at its most stark. Learning about the nature of ghosts from the perspective of ghosts, seeing how their existence would tweak society, the social etiquette that would spring up around such a system. That world building and analysis was very interesting.

Unfortunately, about a third of the way into the book the main love interest (Murphy, who—I remind you—is the developer and head administrator of the Ghost Protocol) (view spoiler) The story then turns away from the majority of psychological affects of the dead coming back to life on an alien world and turns into an exploration on how people might get along with their ghosts. Loving the simulacrum of your dead relatives is the theme. From there it degenerates into a rather smarmy love story with a requisite number of clichés and tropes. Snarky ex-boyfriends. Bitchy ex-girlfriends. Not one, not two, but THREE! love triangles. Elizabeth + Murphy + Ian. And then: Elizabeth + Murphy + Julia. And at last: Elizabeth + Murphy + Peter, the ex-boyfriend brought all the way from Earth for the romantic threesome hat trick! Whoo-hoo!

That got to be a bit much for me. The amount of lovey-dovey dialogue went past my saturation point as well, especially when it started to delve into territory that is... well, let's just say not the kind of things a man would say outside of the daydreams of a lady somewhere between her third glass of white wine and half a pint of Häagen-Dazs. This happens in little ways and in ways that are more frustrating. The main character gets complimented not once but twice about how good she looks in a particular color. Do readers really need that much vicarious validation? Worse is when the third romantic triangle occurs. An ex-boyfriend shows up out of the blue (literally out of the blue—he came from another planet...) and Murphy says, "You couldn't have foreseen this. I don't want you to say anything right now. I know you're going to need to work through it." Really? This is the kind of thing in books that makes me want to shout "Dude, put your balls on!" Somebody get a tranq gun filled with testosterone and shoot that girly-man in the neck with it!

The science in this science fiction novel is relatively cursory, but not mishandled. Interstellar travel isn't really addressed. Some computer and medical technology is presented, but most of that is taken as read. None of it stood out as incompatible with the story, however, so its absence wasn't problematic. Rather, the author gave us a few tidbits to remind us that we are dealing with a more advanced society. For example: "My gaze settled on a neat stack of antique books on the coffee table—*Phineas Finn*, *Paingod*, *Solaris*, and even a favorite of mine, *Watership Down*." That was cute. I like the "antique books" note just for fun, and it's nice when an author turns around and expresses good taste in literature.

Aside from the extent of the romance, the book is weak in the action sequences. The author does a good job with sex scenes, so I get the idea she has some sort of sense of... the vocabulary of kinesthetics, shall we say.

The action, however, was rather lackluster. Fight scenes read like high school girlfight hairpulling. There was a lot of “struggling over the gun” which felt to me like the way a female author thinks of fighting. Life and death struggle equates to something akin to two women fighting over the last expensive purse accidentally put in the bargain rack at Nordstrom.

Where I think the book goes off the rails is in its use of the Gaia Hypothesis. This concept isn't really presented in the book but is referenced on several occasions. The theory states, basically, that Earth itself is a living being. Things like the atmosphere, the oceans, the land and the life forms of the planet interact in ways analogous to the organs of an individual life form, reaching a sort of balance and interacting with each other. Essentially, what we view as aspects of nature are really components of a living being that is the planet itself. Sometimes this interaction and balance is presented as a sort of super-consciousness or supra-consciousness that regulates the “body” in ways to maintain itself in the same way a living creature's body regulates itself.

This concept features in the novel and, in fact, Ms. Fisher takes this view several steps further. The Gaia entity of the planet Ardagh 1 (“Ardagh” is Irish for “high field” and is the name of the planet's most significant settler/backer/investor) is actively involved in events. The literary term *Deus Ex Machina* applies to several plot points in the novel starting with the appearance of plantlife where none could normally grow. Things get increasingly cartoonish: earthquakes suddenly throw the bad guys off their feet, for example. The planet itself expressing its displeasure. Eventually, things go full *Swamp Thing*: a tree literally grows explosively through a building, and the planet suddenly gifts our leading lady with the means to quickly destroy the primary villain.

Now, I think the extent of this interaction was a bad idea. Do you ever seriously worry for the safety and goals of characters when they have the force of a planet-sized nature consciousness supporting them? I lost a lot of interest at this point. Rather than dealing with their own hopes and aspirations, they are puppets of a vast, godly consciousness. They just have to figure out how to ally themselves with it in order to succeed, and it lets them know what it wants with an unlikely telegram: a profusion of flowering plants.

At this point, I should note that this book is a first effort from the author. With that in mind, it's very strong. I would not have known it was her debut had I not looked her up. Her work reads like something written by someone who had already churned out several books. I generally would recommend this book to people inclined to read romantic drama, and I will give some thought to picking up something else by Ms. Fisher to see how her writing and career develops.

-y.a says

3.5-stars

The idea of a ghost linking to a human's memories and then materializing into a willing or unwilling *companion* for the human was kind of cool. Despite the impossibility of the concept, I was really drawn into the world the author set up and curious about the power struggle between characters. The second half of the book centered more on a formulaic love story but overall, this is a nice debut.

Jacqueline says

Science fiction romance the way it should be done. Complex and fully developed world building. Having each human settler be spontaneously bonded to an alien was good. Having that alien be the host of the

consciousness of a dead human who doesn't realize they are not still human was brilliant. The fact that the ghosts were copies of a settler's loved ones added depth and pathos particularly since in order to keep the settlers from mental breakdown, they were not supposed to interact at all with the ghosts. All of this affected the natural balance of the colonized planet as it had suddenly begun to terraform itself soon after the arrival of the first humans, making itself over into a new Earth.

The romance here was also very strong. Elizabeth has come to the ghost planet to work as psychologist. She meets up with her new boss only to discover that she had met him once in Ireland many years before. At the end of a nice afternoon together chatting and catching up and flirting, they realize that Elizabeth died on the trip to the planet and is actually a ghost who is now attached to Murphy who can no longer talk to her.

Elizabeth refuses to be a ghost and uses her brains and intellect to try to comprehend what has happened to her and the other ghosts. She cannot get more than a couple dozen yards from Murphy before she gets in pain so he is sucked into her research. He cannot stand to treat her like a ghost and they fall in love against all the rules creating trauma that eventually involves the whole planet.

Murphy is a wonderfully drawn kind and noble but charming Irishman. I loved the way he loved Elizabeth. He is a wonderful hero. All of the secondary characters were well drawn and fully realized.

I cannot wait for more from this author and hopefully more from Ghost Planet!

Aira says

[after she got captured and they fell hopelessly in love and made babies (literally) (hide spoiler)]

Nissanmama says

I haven't enjoyed a book this much in a long time. Sharon Lynn Fisher's Ghost Planet grabbed me into one of those book trances that leaves you unable to do laundry, sleep, or function in the real world until you finish. When forced to put the book down, you walk around in a book bubble thinking about the plot and how it might twist and turn until you can pick it up again. This is when you decide pancakes are awesome for dinner so you can go back to your comfy spot and slip back into the emotions of the book.

I love science fiction and have never felt that it should exclude romance. Relationships always drive a story whether it's between warring factions, governments, scientists, or star crossed lovers. Where would Star Wars be without Hans and Leia? Ghost Planet blends them seamlessly and this is a story where neither the science nor the romance takes a backseat to the other. They both hold their own in a way that as they interact, they each become more. The sum is greater than its parts. The science is also approachable for those of us who didn't major in molecular biology.

More than anything, this is a book about perspective. Like Gulliver's Travels everything seems crystal clear—until you have the advantage of seeing the situation from another position. The light from a new angle makes you question what you were sure you knew about these characters. Fisher does this beautifully as she takes your hand and leads you precisely where she wants you to go. And you go.

My insides did experience a little nigggle which I identified as echoes of Stephenie Meyer's The Host. Unquestionably it is a completely different premise, but in many ways, Fisher created what I wanted The

Host to be. It's a tighter read with better action...and sex. We get the intimacy both emotionally and physically. It's a more complete story.

I have only two real criticisms of this book. This first is that after a gripping first half, the pace slows slightly before picking up again for the climax. Meyer's book suffered the same flaw, but Fisher doesn't let it wallow for hundreds of pages. Perhaps the Ghost Planet's climax is better for it. The second criticism is the title. It's unfortunate because when I type it into search engines; I get over 1,300 references to other media including music, phantom planets, even the movie "Mission Impossible Ghost Protocol." This book is too unique for such an unremarkable name.

In the end there were some minor unanswered questions for me and I hope very much that Fisher will turn this into a series. I will read them. I will even pre-order them and that's saying a lot.

<http://www.twimom227.com/2012/10/revi...>

Luli says

You can find this review in English below.

Dnf @ 55%.

No sé muy bien qué me ha pasado con este libro. Hay un par de reseñas de amigas y gente a la que sigo que habla bien de esta historia, pero yo no he conseguido conectar desde la primera línea. Y ha ido de mal en peor.

Puesto que esto se puede leer en la sinopsis no es un spoiler, pero tal y como comenta Jill, todo podría haber sido más interesante si nos hubiesen dejado *ver* que Elizabeth era un fantasma por nosotros mismos. Así que cuando la historia comienza y tú sabes que ella es un fantasma pero nadie más se da cuenta, empiezan también mis problemas.

Hay demasiadas cosas sin explicación. Muchísimas preguntas importantes para entender la historia que no tienen respuesta y un montón de temas peliagudos, por decirlo suavemente, que se merecían un poco más de desarrollo, pero que al final sólo sirven para diferenciar malos y buenos (y muchas veces ni para eso).

En fin, voy a intentar referirme a los hechos. Y los hechos son que en la primera escena en la que aparece Elizabeth todos, absolutamente todos los personajes la toman por un ser humano. Es cuando pasa por un detector de fantasmas y éste pita cuando se dan cuenta de que es un fantasma. (Sin comentarios) Pero Elizabeth es capaz de hablar y reír, de relacionarse, de sentir, llorar y amar e incluso sangra cuando se hace daño. Y por supuesto interacciona con todos los seres que la rodean. Así que no he podido verla como un fantasma porque la única palabra que tenía era la de la autora, pero ni un solo hecho que lo respaldase. Y claro, está el asunto de que todos los *humanos* tienen que ignorar a los fantasmas. Poco creíble cuando dichos fantasmas suelen ser seres queridos ya fallecidos a los que no tiene sentido ignorar si puedes disfrutar de una segunda oportunidad, que es lo que la trama está brindando a los personajes. Todo se vuelve improbable e incómodo cuando lees sobre esposas que intentan rehacer su vida ante los ojos de sus *difuntos pero presentes* maridos. Como poco raro e incómodo.

Total, que los fantasmas son fantasmas porque lo dice la autora. Punto.

¿Qué pasa con los fantasmas que mueren?

¿Qué pasa con los humanos que vuelven a la Tierra?

Si nunca se ha conseguido "deshacerse" de un fantasma por el método de la *ignoración*, ¿porqué continúan haciendo algo que no funciona?

¿Cómo es posible que científicos serios puedan llegar a la conclusión de que un ser que nace, crece, se reproduce y muere no sea un ser vivo?

Y sobre todo y lo más importante: ¿Por qué hay que ignorarlos? ¿Qué mal hacen? Sin la respuesta a esta pregunta la historia no tiene sentido para mí.

Un ejemplo de cómo tratan a estos seres es este:

”We tried addicting symbionts to strong narcotics, like heroin, to see if that would replace the need for the host” (aka el ser humano)”We succeeded in addicting them, but still failed to detach them. Several of them died from complications related to withdrawal. We tried surgical interference with the anomalous areas of the brain. We tried frontal lobe lobotomies. All surgical methods resulted in fatalities.”

1.- Esas técnicas **no** son ni futuristas ni tienen base científica. Es estúpido y cruel. Es más, lo único más arcaico que esas ideas sería lo de quemarlos en hogueras. No me cuadra en un universo tecnológicamente tan avanzado. Chirría.

2.-La única finalidad de esa explicación es mostrar cómo de malos son los malos.

3.- Los buenos que permiten que esto pase... ahí lo dejo.

Añade a esto que los malos hacen lo que quieren con total impunidad (sino cómo se explica que el director del proyecto pueda ser encarcelado y usado en los experimentos) y la escena en la que los protagonistas hacen el amor (view spoiler) y esto se ha convertido en un culebrón sin pies ni cabeza.

Estoy segura de que los malos perderán, los buenos ganarán y el buen doctor y la psicóloga más inestable del planeta tendrán su HEA. Pero el camino hasta ahí es de ciencia ficción. Y aunque lo es, ciencia ficción, claro, eso no implica que la lógica tenga que estar ausente.

Con todos estos agujeros no tienes una historia, tienes un colador.

Dnf @ 55%.

I'm not sure what happened to me with this book. There are a couple of reviews from friends and people that I follow who loved/liked this story, but I have not been able to connect with it from its first line. And it has gone from bad to worse.

Since this can be read in the blurb is not a spoiler, but as Jill says, everything could have been more interesting if we had been allowed to *see* that Elizabeth was a ghost by ourselves. So when the story begins and you already know that she is a ghost but nobody else notices, my problems begin too.

There are too many things without explanation. Many important questions to understand the story are left unanswered and a lot of tricky topics, to put it mildly, that deserved a little more development go without it and, in the end, they only serve to differentiate bad guys from good ones (and sometimes not even for that) .

In short, I will try to refer to the facts. And the facts are that in the first scene in which Elizabeth appears all, absolutely all the characters take her for a human being. It is when she goes through a *ghost scanner* and it *beeps* when they realize that she is a ghost. (No comment) But Elizabeth is able to talk and laugh, to relate, to feel, to cry and to love and even to bleed when she is hurt. And of course she interacts with all the beings that surround her. So I have not been able to see her as a ghost because the only word we had for that was

that of the author's, but not a single fact that supported it.

And of course, there is the matter that all human beings have to ignore ghosts. A bit unbelievable when said ghosts are often deceased loved ones that it makes no sense at all to ignore if you can enjoy a second chance with them, which is what the plot is providing the characters. Everything becomes unlikely and uncomfortable when you read about wives trying to rebuild their lives before the very eyes of their *deceased but present* husbands. At the very least is weird and uncomfortable.

To sum up it, ghosts are ghosts because the author says so. End of the story.

What happen with the ghosts that die?

What about the humans who return to Earth?

If you have never managed to "get rid of" a ghost by the method of *ignore them*, why would you continue to do something that does not work?

How is it possible that serious scientists can come to the conclusion that a being that is born, grows, reproduces and dies is not a living being?

And most importantly, why do they have to ignore them? What's wrong with acknowledging them? Without the answer to this question the story doesn't make sense to me.

An example of how they treat these beings is this:

"We tried addicting symbionts to strong narcotics, like heroin, to see if that would replace the need for the host" (aka the human)"We succeeded in addicting them, but still failed to detach them. Several of them died from complications related to withdrawal. We tried surgical interference with the anomalous areas of the brain. We tried frontal lobe lobotomies. All surgical methods resulted in fatalities."

1.- These techniques are **not** futuristic or scientific. They are stupid and cruel. What's more, the only thing more archaic than those ideas would be to burn them in bonfires. It does not fit in a so advanced technologically universe. It seems suspicious.

2.-The only purpose of this explanation is to show how super- bad the bad guys are.

3.- The good guys that allow this to happen ... I leave it there.

Add to this that the bad guys do what they want with total impunity (if not how can be explained that the head of the researchers can be imprisoned and used in the very experiments) and the scene in which the protagonists make love (view spoiler) and this has become a soap opera without rhyme or reason.

I'm sure the bad guys will be defeated, the good guys will win and the good doctor and the most unstable psychologist on the planet will have their HEA. But the way to this end is beyond science fiction. And although it is, science fiction that's it, that does not imply that logic has to be absent.

With all these holes on the plot this looks more like a colander than a story.

Jane Stewart says

3 ½ stars. The first half was very good. The second half went in directions that weren't as good, but still enjoyable.

I really liked the sci-fi ideas. I just wish the author went into more of the sci-fi and did less of the good-guy-bad-guy-stuff. I wanted more explanation and interaction with the plants, the planet, the environment, and some history about the alien forces and substance. That was fascinating. I also liked the sci-fi concept of ghosts. People die and come back as ghosts. But they eat, speak, have sex, and think like they used to.

There are three story threads:

1. The interaction between humans and ghosts. The law tells humans to shun the ghosts and not talk to them.
2. Good guys are trying to survive and stop the bad guys. This part was typical suspense and danger.
3. There is romance which I liked.

A few things bothered me:

1. What happened to Murphy's first ghost? And other ghosts in similar situations?
2. Someone killed him/herself. I wanted a fuller understanding of why.
3. Good guys plan an attack on the bad guys. I don't think they had a good enough reason for doing what they did. But I'm probably being too picky on that one.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 1st person Elizabeth. Story length: 342 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words. Sexual language: mild plus the f-word a couple times. Number of sex scenes: about 6. Setting: future on the planet Ardagh 1. Copyright: 2012. Genre: sci-fi romantic suspense.

Catherine Spangler says

This was a great SF romance with an original, intricate plot and well developed characters. The story takes place on Ardagh 1, a planet that seems to have a mind of its own and one on which a "ghost" appears for every human colonist who moves to the planet. Each ghost attaches to a colonist, and is always a clone of someone from the past life of that colonist, either as a friend or family member. But the catch is that the clone is someone who is dead. The ghost and human can never get very far from one another. Because these ghosts are considered aliens, their initial appearance on Ardagh 1 caused panic and fear among the colonists, resulting in a need for counseling, a return to Earth for some, and even some suicides. This resulted in a strict Ghost Protocol, developed by Dr. Grayson Murphy. Elizabeth Cole is working on her psychology doctorate and moves to Ardagh 1 to learn about the ghost phenomena and to help counsel the colonists. She and Dr. Murphy experience an immediate attraction. From this point on, the story takes an astonishing turn that sucks you in, and then the action adventure and continuing twists and turns won't let you go; until the ending with yet more stunning twists. Through it all, Elizabeth and Murphy's relationship is a poignant reminder that love can indeed overcome tremendous odds, and is the greatest healer of all. A brilliant, well written book!

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

3.5/5; 4 stars; B+

I thought this was a very good debut book by this author. Ghost Planet is, in my opinion, more of a romantic adventure than a sci-fi novel but it still fits both genres. I really enjoyed the concept behind the world building. I do wish the author had directed a bit more words towards the nature of the planet. It appears to be sentient and symbiotic but more exploration of that would have been interesting to me.

Kathleen says

Whoop! An unqualified "good read" from start to finish! Engrossing science fiction and sexy-sweet romance. Thanks to Cristina, Jill, and Laura for promoting this book to me. Paying it forward.

I read so many romances that are only feebly embedded in science fiction, fantasy, or suspense. Not so here. The scientific theory added up. It was coherent and credible (enough). Because the author revealed Elizabeth's thought processes -- it's all told in her POV -- I predicted how the planet was working, yet still I was interested in Gaia Theory and planet-wide symbiotic relationships. It may not be deep enough for a true sci-fi fan, because the science was (ahem) interrupted by lots of kissing and canoodling. However, within the romance realm, the world building in *Ghost Planet* stands above many others I've read, like *The Key* or possibly *Ghost Hunter*, or maybe even *Gabriel's Ghost*. (But some questions were left hanging. And whatever became of Maeve?).

Dr. Murphy Graham. An Irish charmer. He can roll me over in miraculous clover any day. Or lay me down in that lovely lavender. Plus, he cooks! Such a love.

Doctoral candidate Elizabeth Rose Cole. An overachiever. What do they say? Peggy Sue to the rescue? But not annoying. She's cool.

Great secondary characters. People changed across the story, enabled in part by reincarnation and in part by new information. Characters are not flat and one dimensional. The villains were not immediately obvious. Some plot twists. Some character twists. Yet credible twists.

There is some humor, too. Not a lot, but a few chuckles.

See my status updates for more thoughts, quotes, etc.

Adult Content: Lots of kissing and petting, with about 4 sex scenes, mostly fading to black after the foreplay. Cussing (F-bombs, etc). Religious profanity (excessive). Murder and bloody violence, but nothing gory or grisly. No demeaning terms for female anatomy. No typos noticed.

Veronica Belmont says

"5 stars!" You exclaim. "For a Vaginal Fantasy pick!?"

Yes, and let me tell you why! *Ghost Planet* surprised me in a big way. I've read quite a bit of science fiction in my day, and this particular premise seemed very new and inventive to me. In fact, I feel like this book could have continued on to a more flesh-out series, since there's so much more we can learn about the planet and how it works.

Elizabeth, the female lead, is something of a Mary Sue. She's beautiful, intelligent, and can fight her way out of a pickle if she needs to. However, I found myself relating to the character. There was a lot of common sense thinking in her situation, which (unfortunately) we don't always see in the VF picks.

So yes, 5-stars for a really enjoyable book with an interesting premise (and some decent sexytimes). Plus, I very much enjoyed hearing Murphy's Irish accent in my mind :)

Susana says

An original and addictive story

4,5 stars

—Ardagh 1, more commonly referred to as “the ghost planet” by people on Earth. Inexplicable things happened here. The planet itself was a study in the impossible.

Well, i've just finished reading this story, and i have a big stupid smile on my face! :)

This story strongest point?

The originality of it.

The story takes places in Ardagh 1, a Planet which is basically similiar to Earth, but not suffering the signs of advanced pollution. There, it has been established a Global Recovery Pact and the planet is thriving.

All would be perfect, if not for one *small detail*. For every single person (colonists) that arrives on Ardagh, a ghost/alien of his/her past will appear : a dead wife, a lost husband, someone who made such an impression on you, that hasn't been forgotten...that kind of thing.

To preserve people's sanity, a protocol has been established "The Ghost protocol". This means that the ghosts (who are very much corporeal, but who share a bond with the colonists) must be ignored at all cost. Its like they aren't even there, a shadow who must follow the other person, like a dog on a leash, or he/she will suffer a great amount of pain.

But what if Ardagh, is made of more than earth and water. What if, the planet is sentient?

What if he recognizes, what one needs, and helps providing it?

Be denying the ghost connection, the planet stability has been put at risk, and everything will have to change.

Elizabeth Cole has just arrived at Ardagh, hoping for a new challenge in her career. As a psychologist, she intends to study the bond between the two entities. In fact she is fascinated by the alien/ghosts.

However, everything will change when she finds out, that (view spoiler) when one adds up the connection that she now has with her "would be" supervisor, problems are bound to arise.

Grayson Murphy, is the lead psychologist, who created the "The Ghost Protocol". He did it, with the utmost desire of helping colonists deal with the appearance of talking/living "ghosts" of their pasts.

But everything will change, when Elizabeth appears, disrupting everything he had assumed as being correct.

Who has the right, of saying that something isn't human, that he or she isn't intituled to feelings and to treated with respect? Just because one doesn't understand it?

The characters were pretty well developed. The idea of a sentient planet was amazing, as was the main characters intense connection...

There's nothing better for me to read, than an interesting story....

Well, if it was some sort of romance, so much the better!

And this one sure provides on both accounts. :)

I guess i would have liked it more, if from a certain point, the story hadn't felt so much *romance oriented* (view spoiler)

Using an expression that i read in a Nora Roberts book, there were times when these two behaved a little like (view spoiler) I'm not complaining (well, just a little...because sometimes it just felt too much), i just think that the story really didn't it. It was strong as sci-fi story,(it could have been stronger) it didn't needed to enter full paranormal romance. lol :)

In fact i wouldn't have minded if their relationship had taken a little longer to develop itself, and a stronger explanation on why they were paired, would have been nice....

But all considered, it was really an interesting story, with likeable characters, and i'll be sure to read more books from this author.

Jill says

4.5 stars

Debut

Elizabeth Cole is dead. She just doesn't realise it. Yet. Until she's presented with incontrovertible proof. Her dead body.

En route to Ardagh 1, the *Ghost Planet*, the transport on which Elizabeth Cole is travelling goes down during a storm killing all on board. A psychologist, Elizabeth was heading for a residency at a counselling centre on Ardagh and hoping to spend time studying the ghosts, the alien lifeform indigenous to the planet.

Each human who comes to live on Ardagh 1, has a ghost or alien that 'attaches' itself to the new arrival, in the form of the body of a deceased person they have had a connection to in life. This little quirk of Ardagh obviously tends to freak the humans out. As a consequence, the Ghost Protocol was adopted prohibiting any interaction between the colonists and the original inhabitants. The theory goes that if you ignore the alien ghosts long enough, they'll cease to bother you.

Grayson Murphy, the lead psychologist on the Ghost Planet introduced the Ghost Protocol. Murphy was to work as Elizabeth's supervisor. But when Murphy's ghost disappears and is replaced by Elizabeth, Murphy struggles to enforce his own rules.

Wow! This is a great story. Imaginative, creative, convincing. It is layered and complex with twists and turns. Yet the plot is easy to follow. The first third is riveting and the story does slow down somewhat when certain issues are resolved. But the story remains entertaining, and the pace picks up again leading to the book's conclusion.

Told from Elizabeth's point-of-view, we feel her initial confusion and disbelief. The ghosts are desperate for communication and intimacy with their humans. Unlike most of the other ghosts she encounters though, Elizabeth refuses to back down from the challenge of being both dead and alien.

I don't want to say too much more about the plot. To do so would give away too much that the reader should discover for themselves and enjoy. I'm a little disappointed that the blurb actually gave away that Elizabeth was dead. *That* should have been discovered by the reader. The blurb could/should have been written differently to allow the reader that little surprise.

This story is inventive and rare. New titles for science fiction romances are few and far between. Original, intelligent and cleverly-written sci-fi romances are like hen's teeth.

If you enjoy sci-fi romance, put *Ghost Planet* on your to-read list. Highly recommended.

Steam: 2.5

ARC courtesy of Tor Books via NetGalley
