



The Darkest Dark

Chris Hadfield , Kate Fillion , Terry Fan (Illustrator) , Eric Fan (Illustrator)

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Inspired by the childhood of real-life astronaut Chris Hadfield and brought to life by Terry and Eric Fan's lush, evocative illustrations, *The Darkest Dark* will encourage readers to dream the impossible.

Chris loves rockets and planets and pretending he's a brave astronaut, exploring the universe. Only one problem--at night, Chris doesn't feel so brave. He's afraid of the dark.

But when he watches the groundbreaking moon landing on TV, he realizes that space is the darkest dark there is--and the dark is beautiful and exciting, especially when you have big dreams to keep you company.

The Darkest Dark Details

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Author : Chris Hadfield , Kate Fillion , Terry Fan (Illustrator) , Eric Fan (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Darkest Dark for online ebook

Matthew Bennett says

A fantastic book! The Darkest Dark does a great job capturing the liveliness of a child's imagination, be it through acting out their aspirations or reacting to their fears. That young Chris goes from fearing the dark to understanding it and therefore conquering his fear, allowing him to follow his dreams is a powerful message.

The artwork from the Fan brothers is exceptional, in particular the star fields and moonscape draws comparisons with Satoshi Kitamura's UFO Diary in that it evokes a sense of wonder of the vastness of space while maintaining an element of motion.

I really enjoyed the additional material included. The short summary by Chris on how he became an astronaut as well as pictures from his childhood through to space link the story to real life, giving a greater depth to the experience.

Highly recommended!

Austra says

My little treat. Par vistums?ko tumsu, kur? m?t briesm?gi briesmo?i, bet ar? dzimst lieli sap?i. Kosmiski lieli sap?i.

Kristi says

As if a book written by and featuring Chris Hadfield isn't great enough, his first kids book includes the family pet - a pug! LOVE. Shout out to the Fan brothers for killing it with the illustrations, as usual. Will be one of the first books I buy for my soon to be born niece!

Fiona Hill says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book about the Canadian Astronaut, Chris Hadfield's childhood. Chris always loved space and played make believe with his dog all day everyday. But, Chris could never sleep at night in fear of the dark and aliens. Until 1969, he watched Neil Armstrong step onto the moon. He was able to see the beauty of the dark night, his fear vanished and from that day onward he never gave up on his dream of becoming an astronaut himself! Teaching children to face their fears; to not fear the dark for it holds much wonder and beauty; and to never give up on their dreams.

Eleanor says

Really enjoyed reading this book, it beautifully captured the fascination we all have with space. The book deals with overcoming the very common fear of the dark. Being written by an astronaut gives the book a

weight that could not otherwise be achieved and creates the sense of being able to reach your dreams whatever the dream is.

Laura says

The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield caught my eye because of the Fan Brothers. Their distinctive artistic style jumps out at me. But I have to say, the words, dreams, and message are what I will remember the most from this story.

“For the first time, Chris could see the power and mystery and velvety black beauty of the dark.

And, he realized, you’re never really alone there.

Your dreams are always with you, just waiting.

Big dreams, about the kind of person you want to be.”

Young Chris is scared of the dark. The dark shifts, grabs, and scares him like nothing else. But Chris wants to be an astronaut. He wants to float with the stars in space—the darkest dark of them all. Can Chris conquer his fear and achieve his dreams? Jump on board and see.

The pictures are beautiful too—don’t get me wrong! The way the darkness comes to life with little creatures shifting around in the shadows brought the fear of the dark to the page in a whole new way and style. And the Pug! :) The dog floating around in the space helmet made me smile. But the words really dug in and made an impression on me.

A wonderful true story that will inspire readers of all ages to reach for the stars.

Check it out from your local Library.

Jon says

A beautiful little story about conquering your fears and reaching for the stars - literally.

Rebecca says

Astronaut Chris Hadfield (famous for his viral videos from the International Space Station) shares how he was afraid of the dark when he was little. This is a good book for talking about overcoming your fears and following your dreams (and the first moonwalk).

The illustrations by the Fan Brothers (The Night Gardener) are gorgeous -- graphite colored digitally in a style reminiscent of colorized photos. Most of them are nighttime double-page spreads, perfect for showing off the lush, dark shading, and moon, lights, and eyes that appear to really glow. That spread when the family walks next door, with the full moon shining through the leafy trees, and Chris's "aliens" (fears) lumbering in

the background? Your heart with thump if you've got Where the Wild Things Are illustrations burned into your brain.

Includes "About Chris Hadfield" and "A Message from Chris," with photos.

Lola says

This is a wonderfully-illustrated picture book about a young boy who wishes more than anything to become an astronaut.

Unfortunately, he is afraid of the dark!

Will he ever overcome his fear in order to be able to achieve his dream?

I love how this book tells its readers to DREAM BIG, because you might just get what you want, if you work hard enough and believe strongly enough.

Without dreams, life is pretty boring.

And it's inspired by Chris Hadfield's childhood, so knowing the Chris in this book really achieved his dream in real life makes it even more special.

There are some boys out there who will love to get this as a Christmas gift. That is, if kids don't dream of getting a cell phone at the age of six nowadays.

Claire Holloway says

This is a very good book with lots of cross-curricular links for the children to explore. This book is about the astronaut Chris Hadfield; including his childhood dreams of becoming an astronaut and what inspired him to be an astronaut (the moon landing). This book has plenty of potential for children to engage in drama activities (such as tableaux, thought tracking, improvisation, writing in role and creating soundscapes) which children will enjoy participating in and using drama has a positive impact on children's writing and support them to generate ideas (Dalby and Burton, 2013; Branscombe, 2015; Lee et al., 2017), in addition to creating context and purpose for writing (Baldwin and Fleming, 2003; Cremin et al., 2006)- therefore this is a good book to start using dramatic enquiry. Furthermore, this book can be used to learn more about science - gravity, space and force. On the whole, this book was a really enjoyable read and shows children that 'dreams can come true', as Chris' childhood dreams of becoming an astronaut were achieved.

Mark says

I loved Hadfield's memoir, An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth, from a few years ago. A couple of my book pals mentioned that he did a children's picture book, based on his childhood in Ontario, I knew I had to give it a try. It is a delight and the illustrations are beautiful.

Monica Wilcox says

Every year I donate books to a elementary school library. This book was my favorite out of the 32 books in my 2017 selection. An astronaut who is afraid of the dark? Now that's a concept most kids can relate too. This is a great book for parents who have kids who have trouble sleeping. When we overcome our fears, no matter what they are, we set ourselves free.

Sarah Smith says

Loved this book! The fact it is written from a real-life astronaut makes it all the more exciting for the children and is very inspirational for children when thinking about their own dreams. The illustrations also really bring the book to life

Alice Ludlow says

I was introduced to this book in one of my English teaching seminars and loved it. Written by astronaut Chris Hadfield (famous for covering David Bowie's Space Oddity on the ISS), it is based around his childhood dreams of being an astronaut. The story provides a beautiful, innocent account of the common childhood fear of being scared or the dark and what can be found hiding within it. The illustrations provide a further depth to how broad a child's imagination can be, with hidden aliens scattered throughout.

In terms of my teaching, I was inspired about where this would fit into a wide variety of areas of the curriculum, including science, PHSE and history. Furthermore, I believe that as this is based upon a real astronaut's account it may help some more reluctant readers to be drawn into the world of books and how they fit into the real world around us.

Lisa (Remarkablylisa) says

MY RATING: 4.5/5 STARS

I received a copy from Penguin Random House Canada and Tundra Books in exchange for a honest review.

First off, I am a huge fan of Chris Hadfield. I fell in love with him when I read his memoir, *An Astronaut Guide to Life on Earth*. He was just such a fascinating person from his humble beginnings, his dreams of being an astronaut right from when he was a child to his older adult years.

The *Darkest Dark* follows the story of a younger version of Chris. He's around six years old and every summer, he spends time at the cottage with his family. Chris enjoys spending his hours day dreaming of travelling to outer space with his pug, Albert. Together they zoom off in their make believe spaceships made out of the bathtub or stay up reading everything about space in bed. But things are changing. He's growing older now and his parents are trying to push him to be more independent. The first mission? Sleeping in his own bed. Chris is horrified at the thought because he's secretly very scared of the dark. In the dark, his wildest imaginations of creepy aliens come alive. When one of the biggest events in history happen, Chris

slowly realizes that in order for him to be an astronaut he would have to conquer his biggest fear.

I found this book to be so wonderfully written! I really enjoyed the simplicity of the story until the end when Chris kind of dipped deeper into more philosophical and his poetic side. The story definitely left a lasting impression on me and I hope adults pick up this book to cherish it with their hearts as well.

MY RECOMMENDATION

I loved everything about this book and although the style of illustrations weren't appealing to everyone, they still had amazing details that left my eyes scanning the pages back and forth way after I finished reading. Pick it up for your favourite space explorer!
