

Packing for Mars

Mary Roach

Reviewed by: Enzo Takagi, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

This novel is not for children. It contains vulgar language and reference to sex. However, I would recommend this book for anyone who is mature enough to read it.

This piece of nonfiction scientific writing is full of humor and trivia. I was quite skeptical about this book at first, but after reading it, I loved Ms. Roach's form of writing and witty humor. The book is actually about the problems and some solutions about going on a trip to space. It talks about some things that most people do not think about as problems in space, such as the lack of sex or hygiene in space. Ms. Roach has done much research and touring of these facilities worldwide that relate to these topics of interest. Since these scientific books are very interesting to me, I absolutely loved this book.

Recommended Readings:

I would absolutely recommend buying this book as a gift, or borrowed from the library, because this book must be read. However, as stated previously, this book is not for children. Common sense should be used when deciding whether this book should be bought as a gift. In addition to this entertaining book, I recommend the other books written by the same author, *Stiff* and *Bonk*.

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Reviewed by: Leo Takagi, 15

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Packing for Mars is another wonderful novel written by Mary Roach. This novel is about Mary Roach's humorous journey to find what it actually is like trying to live in space. Throughout the novel, she visits many different facilities like NASA in many different places from Japan to Russia while talking to the many astronauts and cosmonauts who have experienced living in outer space. It's not as boring as you might think. The author adds commentary and jokes to everything she does, making the book seem like a stand up show on paper.

I would rate this novel a 8 out of 10 because it is pretty funny, but it is not as great as the other novels by Mary Roach like *Stiff* and *Gulp*. It was still entertaining and I would recommend this novel to anyone who has spare time but if you have a choice, pick other novels by Mary Roach. All in all, this novel is pretty good, but not as good as the other ones.

Recommended Reading:

Gulp *Stiff* *My Planet* (All by Mary Roach)