



## Over the Edge

*Gloria Skurzynski , Alane Ferguson*

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## **Over the Edge** Gloria Skurzynski , Alane Ferguson

When Dr. Olivia Landon receives this anonymous e-mail shortly after broadcasting her controversial plan to save the condors, everyone thinks it's a crank threat except Dr. Landon's daughter Ashley. She's sure it's the handiwork of Morgan Rogers, self-proclaimed anarchist and computer geek.

Suspensions mount when the death threat almost becomes a reality, and Morgan is the only witness. Is he innocent or guilty? Journey into the maze of Morgan's cyberworld and find out!

## **Over the Edge Details**

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Author : Gloria Skurzynski , Alane Ferguson

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## **From Reader Review Over the Edge for online ebook**

### **Grace says**

I thought it was really cool

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### **Jody says**

Another one of these National Park Mysteries...Grand Canyon, Condors, another foster kid, and another Indian Legend...

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### **Kay Carman says**

This is the second title in the Mysteries in our National Parks series I've read recently, this one set at the Grand Canyon. The previous one was set in Zion, and these are two parks my husband and I are going to visit in Oct. I had hoped that I'd get some park information couched in a good story, but these weren't what I was expecting. You do get some information, but it tends to be on one very specific aspect of the park; this one was on the plight of the condors.

The four-member Landon family are the main characters in each book. In the two I've read, they also have in tow one or two foster children who at first appear to be villainous, but are redeemed by the end. That makes me slightly uncomfortable. These kids are, however, members of a race, social or cultural group that is often stereotyped and/or misunderstood, so perhaps the author is trying to broaden our horizons in that regard as well as evoking the strong sense of place of the park.

At any rate, they're okay, but not what I expected.

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### **Emily says**

So I'm really into all things National Parks recently... and found this series in Boston. Nice and simple for kids, with good plot suspension. Also full of information (sometimes not so subtly)

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### **Thorn MotherIssues says**

Middle-grades fiction, features a foster family where the teen in emergency placement with them is a sullen hacker who's suspected of some cybercrimes. It's an easy read and the foster care subplot shouldn't end up too offensive to anyone, though some of the characterization is overbroad for my tastes. Apparently other books in the series include other emergency foster placements (though the scene where the social worker shows up at their house in the middle of the night with a teen in tow and then takes him out to the car so the family can decide whether to keep him was alarming, though I'm sure that's happened) and the father was

himself in care as a child, which is a nice touch.

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### **Cathy says**

This book about the Grand Canyon caused problems among our family when we visited earlier this year. The written description of someone being pushed over a cliff into the canyon was so vivid that when we were there, one of our kids bit a lip until it bled pretty badly in fear - but of course, no one pushed us over into the canyon. It should be noted that afterwards, the child was able to hike some of the rim top trails and the Bright Angel trail partway down into the canyon without being troubled by fear.

Having said that, I actually liked this book and so did the fearful child. Some of the conversation regarding the Morgan character was interesting - debating the reasoning as to if hunting for sport is OK, why isn't killing people OK? The answer that's left in the book is just that it isn't, without explaining why. I wish the book had gone further to explain why, so maybe that's a good conversation starter. Of course, my particular kids aren't fond of hunting at all, so maybe that's not as much of an issue with them.

Morgan's fascination with death was a little creepy.

Also, there was the more tame issue of respect for others and the responsible use of the internet. I liked the statement that Rex made, "A computer is like a thief that steals our children," and Morgan's response, "You don't have to give up one world to visit another."

I've only read two books in this series, this one and "Cliff Hanger" about Mesa Verde, but it seems like they follow a pattern. The Landon kids seem to be very impressionable and one of them takes on the negative qualities of the foster child that they have for a time in their family. In the backdrop of a mystery and a national park, these negative qualities are examined and reasons are found for continuing with more positive qualities. Although the two books I've read have Jack absorbing the values of the foster child, my little reader tells me that in another book of the series, it's Ashley.

I would definitely say that this is a worthwhile read, especially for children on the brink of exploring the internet, but that it should come with a warning that it can be frightening for some children, especially ones that might visit the Grand Canyon.

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### **Junessa says**

One of the better books in the series. Some cyberbullying and dark undercurrents so good for older kids.

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### **Madeline Henricksen says**

Over the Edge is book number seven in the "Mysteries in our National Parks" series. Jack and Ashley Landon are siblings in a family that temporarily houses foster children. Their family travels to our nation's many national parks and find mysteries waiting for them. In this book, the pair find themselves at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. Their mother, Dr. Landon, goes missing shortly after revealing her plan to save the condors. Morgan, the troublesome foster child they are currently housing, was the only witness to

her fall over the edge of the Grand Canyon and Ashley thinks that he just might have pushed her. Jack and Ashley have to get to the bottom of their mother's disappearance before it is too late.

I really like this series because it is set in places I would want to see someday AND features animals in every book. I also love a good mystery!

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**Taryn MacGee says**

Read this as a family on a road trip after we left the Grand Canyon so it was fun to know all the places she referenced!

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**Evan Schneider says**

Good book but there are better books in the series. I would recommend this book for young adults.

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**Lindy says**

Book 310

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**Susan Phelan says**

An enjoyable MG mystery.

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**Anna says**

We are going to Grand Canyon NP and I think it will be better than the book, but the book was also good.

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**B says**

Enjoyable for the nature descriptions of the Grand Canyon and condors plus a good mystery with the addition of the computer geek, Morgan, a teenager being fostered by the family.

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**Danielle says**

This mystery is better than the last book I read in this series, *The Hunted: A Mystery in Glacier National Park* mainly because the culprit isn't given away in the prologue. Also I think the character Ashley is straddling the line between hardheaded and potentially annoying. I think if she was in any other kind of book she would be a very scary and dangerous character.

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