



# The Keep of Ages

*Caragh M. O'Brien*

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The Grisly Valley horror-themed amusement park has been deserted since the nearby nuclear meltdown made it a contamination zone. But Rosie Sinclair is headed to Grisly anyway, following an elusive trail to rescue her kidnapped family. As she crosses the country, she dreads that Dean Berg is holding her family hostage and once again manipulating her every move to increase her fear, priming her for a final, lethal dream-mining procedure.

As she struggles to outmaneuver Berg, Rosie can't ignore the growing restlessness in the back of her own mind. The turmoil she feels is more than worry over Burnham's unnerving generosity, the camera in Linus's eye, or Thea's fragile health. Faced with unspeakable suffering and otherworldly beauty, Rosie must discover how to trust her mind, her friends, and reality itself.

## **The Keep of Ages Details**

Date : Published August 29th 2017 by Roaring Brook Press

ISBN : 9781596439429

Author : Caragh M. O'Brien

Format : Hardcover 385 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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## From Reader Review The Keep of Ages for online ebook

### Erin Arkin says

The Keep of Ages is the third, and final, installment of The Vault of Dreamers series by Caragh M. O'Brien and if you haven't read any books in this series, you may want to check out my earlier reviews and then of course, go dive into book one so you can see why I enjoyed this series so much. With that said, I will try to avoid spoilers for this third book but can't promise for books one and two so now you are warned.

As this book picks up, we are back with Rosie who has headed home to find that her mom, Larry, and Dubbs are gone and Rosie has no idea where they are – the only clue being a note that Dubbs left her to point her in the right direction. Rosie is still being hunted by Berg and this makes things dangerous. She has to be careful and knows she has very few people she can trust so as she heads out, she makes the decision to reach out to Burnham to ask for help.

We get a lot of the same characters in this book as we had in the previous books. Burnham, Thea, Berg, and Linus but we also get introduced to Lavinia Jacobs, the person who started The Forge Show and the person who is able to help Rosie get her family back. All of these characters have an impact on Rosie and help to keep the story on track. Thea is probably the most disconnected based on the fact that she is back home with her parents but through phone calls, we see that she is still very much linked to Rosie and even has some critical information for her.

Both Linus and Burnham have challenges they have to overcome due to Berg's plans for Rosie but both are willing to do whatever they need to in order to help her stay out of Berg's control and save her family. Of course, I have always been a fan of Linus and despite how the last book ended, was optimistic about the relationship between him and Rosie...I had concerns, no question but as we find out early on in this book, Linus is willing to do whatever he needs to in order to be there for Rosie and I love that about him.

As the story progresses, Rosie finds herself in some challenging situations and I have to say, Grisly Valley is a thing of nightmares – trust me, the name is appropriate. When Rosie is once again back under the control of Berg and his people, she realizes that she has to figure out how she is going to get herself (and Dubbs) out of their prison and I loved the twist here. It was slightly unexpected and ultimately added a little something to the rest of the story.

There is a science fiction feel to this series in that O'Brien builds the story around this idea that scientists can go digging around in someone's brain and mine memories or cameras can be installed into someone's eye...without them knowing about it. All of which makes me cringe and wonder what would a world like this really be like for people...especially with people like Berg in power.

There isn't much more I can say without giving anything away with this one. In the end, I thought O'Brien did a great job of closing out this series. I have a bad tendency to put off reading final books in a series because I either don't want it to end or I am worried I won't be happy with what happens. With that said, I knew that this was one I needed to read because I needed to find out what was going to happen. Things definitely weren't easy for Rosie but I thought the closure left things in a good place for her and all of the other characters.

Although I am sad to see the end of this series, I am happy I was able to finish it out and now I look forward to whatever Caragh O'Brien decides to write next because this series just solidified how much I enjoy her

books. They always have interesting and well-developed characters, a page-turning story, and of course, keep me engaged until the very end just wondering what is going to happen next. I can't ask for more than that and if those are things you typically look for too, consider checking this book/series out.

Thank you to the publisher for the review copy!

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### **Suzanne says**

I had a love, hate relationship with this series from the start. I love the plot and premise but I find Rosie to be annoying. She is a bit unlikeable and also whiny. However, the plot and premise of the trilogy really helps the reader to continue on past her. This is the final book of the trilogy based on dream mining and adds a couple really intriguing characters that end up playing a good size role in get the finale underway. However, I found the ending "surgery" to be very unbelievable. Are we meant to believe she knew what she was doing out of sheer will? I did not like that part but overall it was a decent conclusion to the trilogy.

My quick and simple overall: good but not as great as I hope for but was still an entertaining trilogy.

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### **Shannon (It Starts At Midnight) says**

You can find the full review and all the fancy and/or randomness that accompanies it at [It Starts at Midnight](#)

3.5\*

I liked *The Vault of Dreamers* , loved *The Rule of Mirrors* , and quite enjoyed *The Keep of Ages* . In all, it was a strong series that I'm glad to have read. I still feel like the second book was the strongest in the series, but I liked the way this one wrapped up the series.

The tone for this book was quite dark, both atmospherically and psychologically, and it worked out *very* well. I think that the stakes were adequately high for a final novel in a series, and I appreciated that. The author did a fabulous job of making the settings come to life and feel authentically eerie. While most of the characters, especially Rosie, were fleshed out very well, there were a few I'd have liked to see a bit more of, but that was a minor issue.

My one gripe with this series is that the technology seemed all over the place. One minute there was dream mining, and the next people were talking on tablets and Facebook. I mean, maybe I'm wrong, but I highly doubt our grandkids will be using Facebook 60 years from now. Call me a skeptic. I also wasn't wholly convinced of some of the things toward the end of the book, it seemed a bit farfetched. (Sorry, vagueness required!) But while I may have not believed the steps it took to get there, I did enjoy the end of the story itself.

Bottom Line: While the end of the series wasn't a complete home run, it definitely provided a satisfying conclusion and plenty of action and atmosphere!

Copy provided for review

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**Kim Kelly says**

I want it. When specifically does it come out? Really though, this is an amazing series :)

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**Lisa says**

The Keep of Ages is the third book in this series, and it was just as engrossing as the first two. Rosie is determined to bring down Sandy Berg, but she's thwarted by him at every turn. As we learned in the second book, he is able to spy on her seemingly everywhere. Now her parents and sister are missing, presumed by Rosie to have been taken by Berg, but where? How will Rosie find her parents and Dubbs, and stop Berg, short of murder?

This book is a satisfying conclusion to the Vault of Dreamers series.

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**Michelle says**

full review to come

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**jessica says**

well, i guess i feel accomplished? this was an easy read in the sense that i was able to finish it in nearly one sitting, but the book itself was a little disjointed. there was just so much faffing about going on. honestly, everything necessary could have been condensed down to 10 pages. not a very solid ending to a series, in my opinion, but im glad i saw it through.

*3 stars*

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**Lisa Mandina says**

Full review to come on Lisa Loves Literature soon.

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**Kat says**

\*\*\*\*\*CONTAINS SPOILERS\*\*\*\*\*

DO NOT READ

The keep of ages is truly amazing. I've read the entire trilogy as it came out. This is the last installment sadly but it was so good all together. I was scared that Thea was good to die when she went into a coma. And the new characters like Areself and Leviana( I can't spell so dont judge) are very important to the end of the book. The chemistry between Linus and Rosie was good but I wanted a little bit more between them. When Burnham came it to the picture at first the tensions was strong.

In the beginning it starts slow and picks up quickly. The middle of book progresses a little slower than the start. However, the toward the end of the book is just pure heart racing thrill. Caragh M. O'Brien is an amazing writer. I love the The Vault of Dreamers trilogy and I haven't finished the birth marked trilogy but look forward to it.

This is great read and lifelong favorite. I really hope that there's another trilogy. Most definitely read.

5/5 stars

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### **Cosmé di Angelo says**

The book caused me more stress than I was expecting. I'm not sure I've ever been that stressed... or scared.

I LOVE Rosie so much! She's one of my favorite characters ever. I feel like every time I had a thought about something she would say it.

There's still unanswered questions so I wish the series wouldn't have ended. I hope she writes something more in this universe even if it isn't exactly about Rosie.

Well, I've got to go start reading the series again!

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### **Sara (A Gingerly Review) says**

MY FEELS!! Oh my feels! This was one roller coaster of a ride and I admit that I'm sorry Rosie's story is over. This was an amazing finish to a wonderful trilogy. I cannot wait to read what Caragh writes out next!

Full review can be found here: <https://aginglerlyreview.wordpress.com...>

I have been waiting on pins and needles for the third and final installment in The Vault of Dreamers trilogy. It was a heck of a wait and I was not patient about it. Just as I expected, O'Brien knocked it out of the park.

Short recap: Rosie Sinclair is still running and fighting for her life against Dean Berg, who wants to mine her for her dreams. Dean Berg has upped the stakes by involving Rosie's family and those she loves the most. Will Rosie finally be able to expose Dean Berg for the horrors he has put her through and the rest of the kids in the Vault of Dreamers?

This was such a wild ride that I devoured the book in no time. Rosie's character was brilliant, as always. She was constantly growing, developing, and surviving. I found myself wishing I could be as resourceful and brave as her. She went through some pretty extreme circumstances to save those she loved, even if it mean

hurting herself. She was not alone, she had her dear friends Linus and Burnham. The romance was still there between Rosie and Linus, and still awkward around Burnham. The new character introduced was Lavinia Jacobs. She was a strange bird, I'll admit, but she fit perfect into the story. She knew Dean Berg before he became the current evil person everyone is trying to run from. She worked at the Forge School before Berg so she knew what the school was supposed to be, not what it currently was.

The world building O'Brien put into The Keep of Ages was amazing! I felt like I was on the cliffs next to the beach and in the amusement park watching that fantastic dragon. I really loved the setting so much as it made the story feel realistic and believable. This was such a quick paced, action packed, non-stop story that it was over before I knew it. I found myself sad to say goodbye to Rosie and her friends. I really enjoyed watching Rosie's character really grow and develop over the course of the trilogy. I know, that sounds crazy but when you enjoy a series as much as I enjoyed this one, you'll know what I mean. I felt connected to Rosie because I was with her for her journey.

I am trying so hard not to give away any spoilers in this review so forgive me for being so vague. Just know this – this book was everything I was hoping it would be. O'Brien did an outstanding job of wrapping up the series and giving us the ending we deserved. I hope you will give this a chance, you won't be disappointed.

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### **Selena Yukino (The Lioness: hear me roar) says**

Rating: 4.3 stars

Wow. I have to say, plot-wise, this trilogy was amazing. I've never read anything quite like it and had a lot of fun reading it. But, it could've been a whole lot better with a more mature MC and no romance. Then I might have considered rating it a lot higher.

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### **Caragh says**

I'm so happy to have a cover!

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### **Alyssa says**

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*

The Keep of Ages by Caragh O'Brien  
Book Three of The Vault of Dreamers series  
Publisher: Roaring Brook Press  
Publication Date: August 29, 2017  
Rating: 4 stars  
Source: ARC sent by the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads):

In the fast-paced, high-stakes conclusion to Caragh M. O'Brien's Vault of Dreamers trilogy, Rosie travels to

a derelict theme park to shut down dream mining once and for all.

Driven by fear when Dean Berg kidnaps her family, Rosie Sinclair strikes out across the country to rescue them. When an elusive trail leads her to Grisly Valley, the contaminated ruin of a horror theme park, Rosie has to consider that Berg may once again be manipulating her every move to make her fearful, priming her for a final, lethal dream mining procedure. As Rosie struggles to outmaneuver Berg, she unearths the ultimate vault of dreamers and the hint of a consciousness more powerful and dangerous than any she's imagined before. Faced with unspeakable suffering and otherworldly beauty, Rosie must discover how to trust her mind, her friends, and reality itself.

Propulsive and deeply speculative, *The Keep of Ages* concludes the *Vault of Dreamers* trilogy with stirring possibilities for what it means to be alive.

What I Liked:

This trilogy is hands-down one of the most bizarre and interesting series I've ever read. It's a futuristic science fiction thriller trilogy with an odd premise that people will either love or hate. I didn't love *The Vault of Dreamers*, but I really enjoyed *The Rule of Mirrors* and *The Keep of Ages*. This conclusion novel was intense, exciting, and nail-biting, and I couldn't get enough.

I will try not to spoil anything from this novel, but there will probably be plenty of spoilers from the first two books. Unavoidable, unfortunately!

Rosie is on the run, trying to go home to find her family before Sandy Berg does. But Berg finds them first, and kidnaps them. Rosie has no one and no idea where to look. Lucky clues lead her to Grisly Valley Theme Park, an old amusement park that was closed years ago. At Grisly, Rosie finds her sister - in a hidden vault of dreamers. Rescuing Dubbs comes with consequences, and Rosie must find her parents. It is up to her to find her parents, take down Berg, and free her consciousness from a strange voice in her head.

From the start, this book was filled with nonstop action. Rosie is on the run constantly, never stopping once she realizes that her family has been kidnapped by Berg. This book never had a dull moment. The abandoned theme park setting was very creepy and definitely a good setting for the vault of dreamers. I got chills, when Rosie first went into Grisly! So creepy.

The dream mining concept of the series is very much a large part of this book's plot, even if Rosie and Berg barely communicate. Rosie is terrified that her family is being mined. She herself gets caught in the vault and gets mined. The dream mining is creepy and takes on a very strange aspect in this story, about which I won't say too much.

Rosie is an easy character to follow and like. She is impulsive and quick to take action, so it's no surprise that she leaps into a trap, trying to get to her family. Sometimes Rosie's decision-making made me roll my eyes, because she is so impulsive and doesn't always think things through. But it's one of her better qualities too - she doesn't think, she just does. She stops at nothing to get her family back, which is very admirable.

I'm so glad Linus plays a big role in this book. He is present from about a third of the book and onward. I adore Linus - he is so sweet and very smart. Burnham was also part of this story but not in a love-triangle-y type of way. Lavinia, a new character, is critical to the story. She is the mentor archetype, and I liked her a lot.



In terms of the romance, Linus and Rosie are cute together. At first they are a bit tentative, because Rosie is worried about the camera that was in Linus's eye (installed without his permission). But that is taken care of by the time she sees him next, and they hash things out. I like them together. Linus is so sweet and calm, compared to Rosie who is jumpy and impulsive. In many ways, Linus is too good for her. But I like them together. There were a few short, swoon-worthy scenes between them.

The main conflict of the book is finding Ma and Larry (Rosie's mother and stepfather), and being free of Berg. I won't spoil anything about the climax and the ending but let's just say that this book has a surprising plot to it, and the ending involves aspects that you wouldn't see coming. The ending is really good and most characters get a nice ending. I liked the ending.

Overall, I liked the book It was an excellent conclusion and a good read.

What I Did Not Like:

Honestly I thought Burnham was a waste of space and he didn't even need to be present in this story. He is one of those secondary characters who is more annoying than anything else.

I also kind of wanted an epilogue! Like, six months from the end of this book. Readers of this book will now why I specified that time frame.

These are little things that didn't really detract from the story as a whole though!

Would I Recommend It:

I highly recommend the series in general if you're looking for futuristic science fiction to read! The series has a slow start, and it's definitely creepy and strange at times. Mining dreams is done without consent so there is that. But I was intrigued and fascinated by this series. This conclusion novel is definitely worth the read if you've read the previous book(s)!

Rating:

4 stars. I am so glad I stuck it out, with this series! It's a strange, interesting series that makes you want to look over your shoulder and check for cameras everywhere. I'm curious about what O'Brien will write about next!

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## **Shelley says**

\*Source\* Publisher

\*Genre\* Young Adult, Science Fiction

\*Rating\* 3.5

\*My Thoughts\*

The Keep of Ages is the third and final installment in author Carah M. O'Brien's The Vault of Dreamers trilogy. As the story picks up, Rosie Sinclair returns home for the first time in 6 months to find her family missing. Rosie knows that her fight against Dean Berg won't truly end until she can find a way to stop him

once and for all. Even if that means traveling to the ends of the world. Rosie wanted to expose Berg's manipulation of dreamers but was caught and spent time stuck in what's been called a vault of dreamers. For months, she was kept asleep while having her dreams mined.

\*Full Review Posted @ Gizmos Reviews\*

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

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