



## Digger

Dig or Die!

by Deborah Cholette, Davide Ortu



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Children - Fantasy/Sci-Fi

240 Pages

Reviewed on 05/11/2026

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## Book Review

**Reviewed by Emma Megan for Readers' Favorite**

Digger: Dig or Die! by Deborah Cholette is a page-turning dystopian middle-grade novel. On an average sunny day, Nick and his younger sister Lily learn that a catastrophe is unfolding. There's a large crack in Earth's magnetosphere that causes its atmosphere to leak out into space. Thus, as breathable air is leaking into space quickly, everyone must find shelter at the lowest possible altitude to survive. Now that everyone on their street can't leave their house and must stay in their basements, Lily starts worrying about some of their neighbors who could be at risk, alone, or without food and water. Fortunately, she has an idea, and with the help of her friends, her brother and his digging skills, and his friends, she organizes a network to help those in need to survive, risking their lives in the process. Yet a selfish, aggressive neighbor severely compromises their mission.

Narrated by siblings Nick and Lily, likable protagonists who are not only courageous but also empathetic, skilled, and resourceful, Digger: Dig or Die! is a cleverly plotted survival story with amazing illustrations by Davide Ortu. Deborah Cholette delivers a very important climate change message in a simple yet impactful way. I appreciate the focus on themes of abandonment, survival, friendship, teamwork, gun violence, Earth-threatening disasters, and resilience, and on how even kids can make a difference in a critical situation. This book is for anyone who enjoys dystopian fiction, fast-paced adventures, or stories packed with action and danger, featuring teen heroes who fight incredible odds to survive and protect others, and meaningful themes/life lessons.