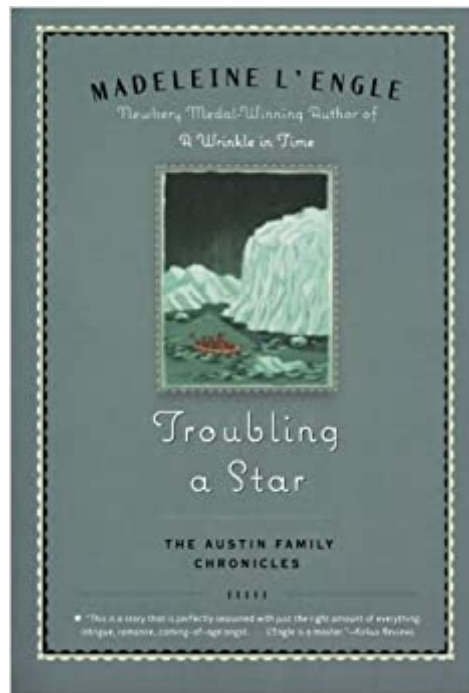




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# Troubling A Star: The Austin Family Chronicles, Book 5



## Synopsis

The Austins have settled back into their beloved home in the country after more than a year away. Though they had all missed the predictability and security of life in Thornhill, Vicky Austin is discovering that slipping back into her old life isn't easy. She's been changed by life in New York City and her travels around the country while her old friends seem to have stayed the same. So Vicky finds herself spending time with a new friend, Serena Eddington—the great-aunt of a boy Vicky met over the summer. Aunt Serena gives Vicky an incredible birthday gift—a month-long trip to Antarctica. It's the opportunity of a lifetime. But Vicky is nervous. She's never been away from her family before. Once she sets off though, she finds that's the least of her worries. She receives threatening letters. She's surrounded by suspicious characters. Vicky no longer knows who to trust. And she may not make it home alive.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850L (What's this?)

Series: Austin Family (Book 5)

Paperback: 336 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 031237934X

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 92 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #98,353 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #74 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical #167 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural

Age Range: 12 - 16 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Vicky Austin, the poetry-writing heroine of four of the Newbery Medalist's previous novels, finds herself caught in a web of political intrigue in this exotic, multilayered thriller. The high school junior is overjoyed when given the opportunity to travel to Antarctica to visit good friend Adam Eddington (introduced in *A Ring of Endless Light*), a college student majoring in marine biology. Her

enthusiasm wanes only slightly after she receives mysterious notes warning her to stay home. When she embarks on her journey, danger indeed seems to lurk around every corner--in one tense scene atop a pyramid, she is nearly pushed to her death. Her traveling companions, a colorful lot, include Otto, prince of Zlatovica; Esteban, a tour guide; and various eccentrics; as the voyage continues, their odd behavior intensifies Vicky's suspicions. Interspersed with flash-forwards of Vicky stranded on an iceberg, the intricate story line mounts in suspense. L'Engle, writing for a sophisticated audience, contrasts the purity of a frozen paradise with the burning greed of humans, and her stunning descriptions of the Antarctic waters and their inhabitants transmit a strong ecological message. Good overcomes evil in the end, but enough loose threads remain to suggest further adventures for the intrepid Vicky and Adam. Ages 12-up. 50,000 first printing. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Grade 6 Up-In this fourth book about the Austin family, Vicky is almost 16. Adam Eddington, her budding love interest in *A Ring of Endless Light* (Dell, 1981), is headed for a marine-biology internship in Antarctica. His wealthy great-aunt is so taken with Vicky that she gives the young woman a trip there for her birthday. However, politics and international wheeling and dealing quickly turn the opportunity of a lifetime into a fight for survival as Vicky becomes a pawn in the struggles that surround her. Readers know that trouble is in store from the onset, as each chapter begins with an italicized paragraph of her terrified musings while she waits to be rescued from the iceberg upon which she is stranded. Most of the intrigue is centered on the tiny South American country of Vespugia, which will be familiar to readers of *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* (Farrar, 1978). There is no fantasy here, though-only human foibles such as greed and waste as the environmentalists who want to protect this continent and the various interest groups, who prefer to use it for personal gain, squabble. The narrative is interspersed with the poetry Vicky often uses to express her feelings, and with lively descriptions of the wildlife and habitats of Antarctica. The mystery itself is fairly transparent, even predictable. Those YAs who are accustomed to more contemporary realism in their novels may find the Austins, with their wholesome, intellectual lifestyle and their thoughtful, well-connected friends, as close to fantasy as one can get while remaining on Earth. Hopefully, though, they'll be able to suspend their disbelief long enough to enjoy Vicky's adventure. Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

I have this book in both hard cover and kindle version. I have read and reread these books ever since I have been a young girl.

Excellent young adult reading

Although the first book in this series was published in 1960, this one was published over 30 years later. The historical references to the Falklands War and the collapse of the Soviet Union implied that while Vicky's family might still have a 60's mindset, she was having modern adventure.

As an adult I have enjoyed L'Engle's books for both young adults and for her books about her own life. "Troubling a Star" is the most recent I've read and hope it will bring more readers to all of her fiction and non-fiction. She makes us think, no matter at what age we become engaged with her variety of titles.

Above and beyond expectations. Keep up the good Work!

I enjoyed this book very much. It is written for middle school youth and is a combination teen-age love story and political intrigue and deception.

I loved the book!!!!!! I have read all of the ones before it and loved all of them! Good job Madeline L'engle!

This book was great for my daughter... She said that she really enjoyed reading this book and wishes that there was another

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