

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/adventure |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romance                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Horror                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonfiction                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical fiction         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                      |

Nyxia by Scott Reintgen is a book about just that, a mysterious, black, hyper-valuable substance obtained from mining efforts on a distant planet. But primarily, it revolves around a crew of ten teenagers enlisted by a rich corporation to mine the substance. These teenagers are rigorously trained in fierce competition against each other to prepare them for the dangers ahead, in which only the top eight make it. This book, while it begins slowly, ramps up to a breakneck pace and nail-biting action sequences.

That being said, it is still bad. The About the Author section mentions that the writer of the book attempted to appeal to the slack-offs in class, "he set out to write a novel for the front-row sleepers and back-row dreamers of his classrooms." The book's writing feels exactly like that. The world-building makes little to no sense; How would a megacorporation buy a strictly civilian space agency run by the government, for instance? The book has the opportunity to present a really interesting social dilemma as well; a bunch of fundamentally broken kids on a spaceship competing in a vicious competition where they must work together as well as fight against the other competitors. This story has the potential to be a wrestle for the teenagers to maintain their humanity despite their trauma. The book dips its toes into this water but never really dives in, instead constantly tip-toeing around the idea.

Should people read this book? I would say generally no. While the book has potential, it fails to deliver in many ways, including plot complexity, world-building, and pacing. The author, Scott Reintgen has talent as a writer, but this truly does feel like the debut novel it is. I originally picked this book up because the blurb on the back cover looked interesting, and because it was in the 'books we liked' (or something like that) shelf in the teens section. That being said, I do think there is an audience for this book. If you like action novels, you're not that into reading, and want a character to relate with, maybe give this a try. Overall, I would look for a different sci-fi novel instead of picking this one up.

By Oscar Y, 8th grade, enjoys reading fantasy, science fiction and nonfiction