

Wildcard

Marie Lu

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Emika Chen had just witnessed her boyfriend, Hideo Tanaka, launch a program that took over humanity's free will. Now that she knows the truth about his NeuroLink algorithm, she can no longer stand by the one person she loves and respects. Determined to stop this nightmare scenario, she joins up with the Phoenix Riders. However, a bounty on her head may mean her only chance of survival lies with Zero and his band of Blackcoats. In this battle of freewill and order, Emika must struggle between love, conviction and an increasingly uncertain world.

This series as a whole raises excellent questions about the power of the tech industry and our right to privacy. This book goes even further to question what truly makes a person human. The romance in this book is arguably even better than the first one. It is one of my favourite relationships in YA literature. Emika and Hideo both love and care for each other, that is unquestionable, but they cannot support the other's actions. There is this amazing tension between caring for the other's well being and working against everything they stand for. Emika is a really powerful character because she can love a guy while still holding on to her values and beliefs. I think it makes for an awesome message and a great role model. The plot wasn't as good as the last one and the plot twists were rather predictable or at the very least, unsurprising. The ending was great, however. Lu ends it in this full circle style that is typical in her work and always hits all the right spots for me to swoon.

This book is probably best for 13 year old and up. There is some sexual content, some violence and a few swears. The book is probably best borrowed from the library because it isn't worth a reread. Its best qualities are in the ideas which do not require rereads. This book is a great sequel and will not disappoint anyone who loved the first book.

Recommendations:

- Snow Crash by Neal Stephenson
- Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
- Otherworld by Jason Segal and Kirsten Miller
- The Eye of Minds by James Dashner
- Neuromancer by William Gibson