

Title: Legend

Author: Marie Lu

Reviewed by: Ria Chhabra, 13

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Packed with action and suspense, Legend was a thrilling, adventure novel set in a dystopia of western United States. Part of a powerful family, June lives with her brother, Metias, in one of the wealthiest sectors in Los Angeles. As an extremely smart prodigy with unmatched observation skills, June attends a top university, training to become an elite military member. Day once shared a home with his mother and 2 brothers in a run-down poor sector, but now lives across the city as an expert criminal. Cunning and extremely agile, Day has evaded capture for years. But when Metias is murdered, Day is the main suspect and June swears to hunt him down and avenge her brother's death. The chase is more intense than ever as June tracks down Day! But as the two find themselves together, their following journey is even deadlier as they uncover secrets that would tear their country apart!

My favourite aspect of the book was the dual points of view for Day and June, written in first person. Throughout the book Lu carried out this writing style so well, beautifully capturing adventures through a criminal's eyes and a prodigy's. It made all the experiences more intense, exciting and captivating for the reader. Additionally, this style highlighted the lovely contrast between Day and June's backgrounds and created two complex, unique characters. As the book progressed more of their various skills and knowledge were revealed, while memories of their past were woven seamlessly into the storyline to enhance their current traits and beliefs.

In contrast to many other Young Adult books that tend to stretch out for over 450 pages, Legend's short length was extremely refreshing! In only 305 pages there was fast paced action that had me captivated from the beginning chapter all the way to the end. Although the setting was less developed and there was an extremely brief context of how this futuristic nation was formed, I really enjoyed this. There were none of the extra, flowery descriptions and details that take up space, instead there were only the characters' experiences and dialogue. Legend was an amazing, fast-paced thriller and I would highly recommend it for anyone 12+ who enjoys dystopian adventure with a touch of mystery.

Recommended Books:

Prodigy (Legend #2) by Marie Lu

The Maze Runner (The Maze Runner, #1) by James Dashner

Red Queen (Red Queen, #1) by Victoria Aveyard

Nemesis (Project Nemesis # 1) by Brendan Reichs