

**Nyxia**

**Scott Reintgen**

**Reviewed by: Ritika Chhabra, 13**

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

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When Emmet Atwater is offered the opportunity of a lifetime, he doesn't hesitate to take it up. No matter that it means leaving behind his parents in lonely Detroit, or heading out into space with a billion dollar company, Babel Corporations. All he has to do is win a spot on an exclusive team, and he receives a lifetime guarantee of financial and medical support for his dying mother. But it doesn't take long to realize that the 9 other competitors share something in common with him- they are all desperate and will do anything to claim the remaining positions. When the rigorous training begins to border on the side of deadly, Emmet has to choose between compromising his morals or digging deeper into the mysteries of Babel Corporations.

I loved this book, because of the straightforward, action filled plot and clearly described characters. The story really felt direct and streamlined, as it did not carry loads of unnecessary information or context. Areas such as flashbacks, setting descriptions and character appearances were described to a lesser extent, allowing the reader to look at the bigger picture and observe the more interesting details. I also loved that the team of characters was so diverse and different, each originating from different areas of the world, but interacting in a way that felt natural and seamless. They each experienced plenty of character development, and were forced to grapple with difficult topics, like the boundaries between "rich and wrong." Lastly, I liked that the book was logical and understandable, something that can be difficult to find in sci-fi novels.

One area of the book that could have been improved was the romantic side story. This aspect felt underdeveloped and rushed, and was at odds with the more gradual plot progression. I also thought that the characters were not described with enough depth or layering. For example, one of the 10 contestants is consistently explained as "humorous" or "heavy", without any other additional information or facts. The story could have been enriched much further with greater character development, as this would add colour and interest to interactions and relationships. Overall, this story was good, but better suited to those who like action vs. emotional depth. It would be best for ages 10+, as it is a light and easy read.

**Recommended Titles:**

Aurora Rising by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

Lifelike by Jay Kristoff

Scythe by Neal Shusterman

Supernova by Marissa Meyer

Obsidio by Jay Kristoff