

Heart of Iron

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Heart of Iron, a sci-fi retelling of Anastasia, is narrated from the perspectives of four characters in a distant solar system still adjusting to the repercussions of the Plague that had decimated their population 20 years prior. The story follows the rebellious orphan Ana and her family of outlaws and bandits as they try to find a way to fix their damaged robot friend Di. With the hope of her family, Ana hunts down the coordinates to a hidden skysailor ship that may contain a memory cube to stop Di's glitching. However, Ironblood Robb, on his own personal quest, buys the coordinates before them, and now royalty and rebels must work together to find the answers they're looking for.

I really enjoyed all of the different romances in this book, especially the main pairing Ana and Di. Ana has two moms and their relationship and family dynamic was also very sweet to read. Although this is a retelling of Anastasia, I appreciated how unique the story was, especially with the final plot twist. My only qualm is the lack of world-building. I wanted to learn more about the Ironbloods and upper class society, and hopefully there's more explanation in the next book in the series.

I would recommend this novel to high-school students or young adults who like science fiction in general, or readers who are looking to start their first sci-fi book. I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone younger than high school age because there is blood, violence, and death. On the other hand, this story also has great LGBT side characters, so I'd suggest this book to readers who like unconventional romances.

Recommended Titles:

Sorcery of Thorns by Margaret Rogerson

Crown of Feathers by Nicki Pau Preto

Shadow of the Fox by Julie Kagawa