

Name or Reviewer Username or Anonymous: Anonymous

School: Valencia High

Grade: Senior

Book Title: Luminous

Book Author: Silvia Park

Rating (1-lowest to 5-highest): 3.9

Luminous by Silvia Park is a sci-fi book that focuses on social dilemmas at its core. The main characters of this novel are Jun, Ruijie, Yoyo and Morgan. Jun and Morgan are siblings who have not spoken in years, it takes the rediscovery of a long lost family member, Yoyo, to bring them back together. It takes place in a post-war, unified Korea in the near future, where robots live alongside humans. For the most part, these robots are used as servants and for human entertainment. Following the characters leads to several wild perspectives, every character seems to be fleshed out and well thought out, their relationships with one another feel very realistic to me.

Personally, the book had a lot going on for the majority of it. It featured three different perspectives from each of the main characters and was difficult to follow along at times. The themes were my favorite part, especially since the issues addressed seem to be relevant today, considering the surge in the usage of AI. Jun and Ruijie were my favorite characters, they sort of exemplified two different sides of the same coin. Both of them utilize robot parts to reinforce their bodies, Jun uses them for cosmetic reasons and Ruijie needs them to move efficiently due to her degenerative disease. The most surprising part of the book was Park's prose, it was clunky at times and descriptions often were nonsensical to me. Other times the book was vivid with fluid clarity and gave the setting a very immersive effect. It was not difficult to relate to several of the characters at once, after all, the main theme read as the meaning and significance of being human. Other notable themes in the book were family, relationships and mystery, all of which happened to tie all four main characters together.

The book would likely be a hit for big science fiction fans, especially ones with a high tolerance for graphic descriptions and mature themes.