

Title: *Skyhunter*  
Author: Marie Lu  
Genre: Sci-Fi

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Ethan T., 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: June 17, 2022**

The book *Skyhunter* by Marie Lu is about a girl, Talin, who is a striker for the nation of Mara. Mara is the last free nation in a world marred by war. The time period story is post-apocalyptic. The Karensa Federation is trying to take over Mara, and it is Talin's job as an elite fighter to stop this from occurring. Talin is an 18 year old striker, one of the highest ranking positions in Mara, but she is still considered an outcast because of her muteness. Strikers are the last line of defense for Mara. Talin is unable to speak, due to a poisonous gas bomb that she was hit with as a child. Talin has to use sign language instead which creates an ominous feel throughout the book. Talin is a resilient character, she struggles with many things, but she never complains she just keeps working hard. Red is another main character in the story, he is a prisoner of war, but Talin rescues him and he becomes her shield. Together they fight against the Karensa Federation. Red is half human half machine, built by the federation. He has 40 foot long wings and he is an elite fighter. He abandons his loyalty to the federation and joins Talin. The reason Talin lacked a shield was because her old shield, Corian, was infected by a ghost, forcing Talin to have to kill him herself. This deeply affected Talin, and is a common theme throughout the story. The reason why Red survived was because he connected himself to Talin. He is able to communicate with her, even though no one else can understand him. Just like how not many people can understand Talin. Towards the end of the book Talin and Red start to have feelings for each other, not long after the Federation breaks into the inner city, and captures Talin. The twist at the end is mind boggling, as Talin agrees to become a Skyhunter for the Premier, the leader of the Federation.

*Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for nonfiction) keep you interested?*

Yes the plot kept me interested, the story flowed easily, and Marie Lu, a great author was able to keep me engaged by revealing small details at a time, to keep me interested.

*Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The pace of the book varied greatly, some parts being too fast, some too slow, overall I thought the pace was fine and kept my attention captured.

*What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?*

I would say the grade levels this is appropriate for is seventh through twelfth.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

I would recommend this to a reader of science fiction, or a reader that loves action packed books. This book had a lot of action scenes that were very entertaining.

*What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

I think that if teens like books with only a small romantic presence this book would be perfect. Although Red and Talin may like each other in the end, the book is not romance heavy.

*5 stars: I'm really glad I read this book; it was awesome!*

I feel like this book was really great, the entire time we were inside of Talin's head, reading her every thought. Instead of her speaking we were given a direct pathway into her thoughts. The book itself had great language, and every detail was so well described. The book was also action packed and exciting, with unique fighting scenes due to Red's amazing abilities because of the modifications of the federation. I would definitely recommend this book to people who also liked *Legend*, by Marie Lu.