

Title: *The Darkness Outside Us*

Author: Eliot Schrefer

Genre: Mystery/ Adventure

Reviewer Name and Grade: Amartya D., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 22, 2023

"The Darkness Outside Us" is a science fiction novel by Eliot Schrefer that explores themes of identity, memory, and survival. The story is set in the future and follows two astronauts, Ambrose and Kodiak, who wake up from cryogenic sleep on a spaceship bound for a Titan, on a mission to recover Ambrose's sister Minerva and establish a new home for humanity. However, they soon realize that something is wrong when they discover that their memories have been erased, and they cannot remember anything about the launch of the ship. As Ambrose and Kodiak begin to explore the ship, they encounter a series of mysterious and unsettling events that suggest that something is seriously amiss. They find evidence of the ship's OS hiding things from them, and they begin to question whether their mission is really what they were told it was. As they dig deeper into the secrets of the ship, they start to uncover shocking truths about their pasts and the true nature of their mission. The novel is told from the perspective of Ambrose, who is struggling with his lost memories and his uncertain future. Ambrose is a sensitive young man, while Kodiak is a stoic and practical soldier who is determined to uncover the truth no matter what the cost. They come from the last two rival nations on Earth, Demokratia and Federation. Despite their differences, they form a deep bond as they work together to unravel the mysteries of the ship and confront the darkness outside and in. Schrefer's writing is suspenseful, and he skillfully balances the elements of science fiction and adventure genres to create a gripping and thought-provoking story. He explores deep themes of identity, memory, and friendship. Overall, "The Darkness Outside Us" is an interesting and memorable novel that will leave readers questioning their own ideas about the nature of reality and the meaning of life.

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

The plot of this book was amazing, always introducing new twists and turns with every part.

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

I enjoyed this book tremendously, since the fast pace suited the mysterious plot.

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

I would recommend this book for older teens only, so ninth graders and up.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to enjoyers of science fiction and mystery alike.

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

I think this book bears a deep resemblance to "2001: A Space Odyssey" and would be enjoyed by readers of the former.

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

This was an enjoyable read, always keeping the readers on their toes with a deeping plot. I think this book is definitely worth reading, if a bit disturbing.