

The Wishing Shelf Book Awards

23rd August 2023

TITLE: Minimum Safe Distance

AUTHOR: X HoYen

Star Rating: 5

CATCHY QUOTE

‘A stylishly written ‘first contact’ novel with a strong cast of ‘very different’ characters. Highly recommended!’ The Wishing Shelf

REVIEW

I must say, I very much enjoyed this first contact novel from the pen of the rather intriguingly named X HoYen. Being a bit of a nerd, I love technology-based books; I recently enjoyed *The Martian* which is written by a software engineer. I see the author of this novel has a background in aerospace engineering – trust me, you can tell! Complicated, yes; in fact, I had to work hard to keep up in the opening chapters – but I still loved every word of it. X HoYen is not only a talented author, but he also has a lot to say. The result is a thought-provoking, techno-novel that’s so highly unpredictable, it’ll keep you awake at night!

In many ways, although I loved the plot – the ‘SelfMade’ being particularly original – it was the writing style that grabbed me. I just got the feeling that X HoYen really wanted his readers to ‘get it’. So, for example, when there’s a character with a difficult to pronounce name, the author’s determined that the reader will pronounce it right: *Laurence’s mother, Geneviève Levesque*

(pronounced the Quebecois way, zhuhn-ev-YEHV lev-AH-EEK).

This author is not a lazy writer, and I loved that.

So, who's this novel for? Well, if you in any way enjoyed the film, Independence Day, Resurgence, which is possibly the worst sci-fi film ever made, this novel is NOT for you. But if you enjoy thought-provoking sci-fi, i.e. you're a Star Trek fan and not Star Wars, then you'll find this book a blast. And if you enjoy books written by authors who go the extra mile to get it right, then you'll find this novel utterly engrossing.

All in all, it's a bit of a gem.

A 'Wishing Shelf' Book Review

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