

#BLUE

BOOK CRITIC BY JUSTINE PERRET, TS

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#Blue is a ficton novel written by Florence Hinckel and published by "Pocket Jeunesse" for the first time in January 2015. Florence Hinckel is a French writer, before devoting her life to writing she was a teacher. Today, she has written more than 40 books and novels for children and teenagers (but they are also addressed to the eldest). She varies the genres: humoristic, intimists, or engaged. She has a critical reflection on Artificial Intelligence and/or social networks as well as transhumanism. She criticises a dehumanizing society as in her novel #Blue which received many literary awards. Here's the 4th cover...

"Silas lives in a society where everything is done to live serenely. Every day, the Emotional Pain Eradication Cell erases painful memories. No more grief or depression, just a blue dot on the wrist as a sign of an avoided pain. On the Network, people share all their deeds and gestures, "watching" over each other. Silas is a great romantic: he prefers to keep for himself the intense moments of his relationship with the incandescent Astrid... But when his girlfriend is hit by a car, he is immediately taken away by EPEC agents.

To forget."



Why I recommend it

I really liked this book and I highly recommend it. I was inspired by the subject. I was a little disappointed at first because I expected something much deeper, complex and philosophical but it's a book for teenagers so it's simple and fast to read. It doesn't have to be more complicated because it poses all the essential things and brings all the reflection. This book mixes two essential things: the omnipresence of



technology in our lives and the importance of emotions. It's a futuristic/anticipation novel that fits perfectly with current life. The omnipresence of the «Network» in #Blue where everyone needs to connect, every day, from morning to evening, say everything he does and where everyone is being watched seems familiar (although this is exaggerated) and sounds like a warning. Indeed, when we see that today we live in a world increasingly governed by the virtual, not to mention the speed at which we are progressing, it's interesting to wonder. This book warns us against this technology: we must not let it takes us away from our «real friends» and our emotions. Indeed, this book makes think about the importance of emotions, of every emotions and therefore also of sadness, sorrow, and mourning. Life is not always simple, we can sometimes be unhappy but we must be unhappy because how can we be happy if we don't know sadness?

In conclusion it's a good novel wich makes us think on subjects as current as well as important.