

Reading report «House between night and day» by Ørjan Nordhus Karlsson

Ørjan Nordhus Karlsson – Huset mellom natt og dag

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341 pages

«House between night and day» («Huset mellom natt og dag») is a thriller and a 'scifi-noir' novel that takes place in a dystopian world in the year 2106. This is part 1 of a series of 3.

How is the level?

Writing style: High level, clear and purposeful. Lots of sense of detail and plot development. Written in the third person.

Content: A smart story with a lot of futuristic technology and humanity. Escapism of quality.

Story building

The story slowly builds and we learn the characters and the locations one by one. Gradually all the storylines are intertwined and many surprising twists come. Karlsson continues to add new elements, making it interesting until the last page. The book has an open end.

Which elements?

The book contains many familiar elements of science fiction books I think. Lots of technology, lots of explosions, many short conversations. And a large number of cliffhangers that make you want to read quickly. Karlsson enjoys the visualization of brutal combat situations, as it does not lack details about explosions and disintegrating body parts. Every

now and then he adds a poetic invasion as well. The human character of the protagonist and his helpers never gets out of sight.

What do you feel when you read the book?

I want to know how it goes further and want it to end well with the main characters. A sense of energy, satisfaction and curiosity.

Expectation vs result

I had little expectations because this is not a genre that I usually read. But I was very pleasantly surprised. Karlsson knows an interesting world in which he combines a human universe with futuristic elements. And Karlsson writes well. Dialogues, clear sketches of the various locations and people, often became very cinematic, as if I was watching a good action movie. There is a lot of blood and there are fierce explosions, but there are also human undertones in the story that is never lost sight of. Initially, it is not always easy to see which function the character has, but it will always be clear later, Karlsson knows the story well by keeping it subtly clear how things are related. Otherwise, it would be easy to get lost in this world. It is also very fun that new things continue to happen until the end and I am impressed with the number of stories Karlsson brings together without ending in chaos, although many things remain unclear because the story goes on in the next book «Backside of the Mirror». The descriptions of futuristic elements are never forced upon, though, of course, a large portion of "suspension or disbelief" is required for a book like this. A surprisingly positive reading experience.

Audience:

This is a book for lovers of action thrillers with a human touch above all and science fiction, dystopian future scenarios. I found it surprising how the various elements came together well in the story and had to think of the District 9 film regularly because of the combination of high-quality technology and realistic elements from the contemporary world. A human futuristic story. The detailed display of combat scenes (lots of blood, many details) might be quite strong for some readers.

Synopsis:

In this story, Marko Eldfell is hunted for by The Masks who want to lock him up or eliminate him because of his superhuman powers. Marko can activate so-called bio-apps which makes him physically more than a

normal human being. The bio-apps (human body's own chemistry like adrenalin, dopamine, serotonin) can be activated on demand and were given to him when he worked as an elite soldier for a secret group inside the NATO. This secret army was not approved by the authorities so the project failed. The Masks are tracking down the few soldiers who still have these bio-apps, and eliminate them one by one.

Marko comes into contact with several dubious characters and mysterious phenomena in the story. And although he does not really know any other reality, he'd rather live a quiet life in one of the enclaves and raise a little girl he finds in a trash can with very special eyes.

Because in the rest of the world the situation is not the best. The story mainly occurs in Tirana and New Berlin in this book; in «Backside of the mirror» it will also move to Norway and other countries.

Different groups (mafiosi, The Masks, Darkwell Corporation's armed forces, the mysterious Thalia from another dimension, the vinklers, the transhumans) all have their own agenda and fight against each other. Marko always knows how to escape from very difficult situations (by brutal fighting, or crashing helicopters, to mention some), not only because of his bio-apps and sobriety, but also because there's something about him. Even before Chapter 1 begins, we hear that the «fire carrier» is coming. At one point in the busy story it becomes clear that Marko may be this mysterious «fire carrier», but we do not get to know anything about it and he does not realize himself at all.