



Leaning On Water

Joan June Chen

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A talented young cadea pilot.

A mysterious Bionic.

A dark past that threatens the future...

LIVINTHEA PARK has the Mark of Dresden mutation, only she doesn't know about it.

When a tragic accident exposes this hidden secret, her life as Galactic's top pilot quickly unravels. The Bionics barge in and stake their claim, whisking her away from her beloved home to the otherworldly Atlas Station I.

Though these mysterious Bionics look human, with nanobots coursing through their veins, they are anything but just plain human... especially the one with the steel grey eyes.

Commissioned since the turn of the millennium with guarding the Erlion System against a dark menace, the Bionics take Livi on a cosmic journey where wonders abound, mysteries unfold, and a heroine rises.

Leaning On Water Details

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KO says

I couldn't put this book down until I was done ... and then I immediately reread some of the parts I really liked. It is easy to read and I was always eager to see what happened next. The heroine was instantly likable, and I was rooting for her every step of the way. The backdrop for the story was very imaginative and clever. And the plot had lots of surprises to keep me going to the end. The only drawback is that this is book one; I hope it doesn't take too long for book two to come out. I need to see what happens next!

Michael says

Won this in a Goodreads giveaway.

It was a fantastic read, and an awesome sci-fi story with great characters and world building. I loved how well the pacing was too. The ending obviously means a sequel, and I hope it happens soon. I need to continue following Livi's journey.

Diana says

Although there are themes and ideas taken from other scifi stories, this book definitely kept my interest. I wanted to know what happened next. The twist toward the end was a bit predictable, but still good. I am looking forward to the next book.

Dylanco says

The author did a great job in building all of the characters and creating an amazing storyline. The book is fast paced and each page is filled with new suspense and action. The main characters, Livi and Triton make this book feel real, with relatable emotions. Set a millenium into the future, the world building is both creative and immersive. There was a bit of cliffhanger at the end, but overall I really enjoyed the book.

Susan Kennedy says

This was a fantastic book! The author does such a wondrous job of building the characters. The character development is outstanding. The story has a lot of depth with a lot of action and twists. I thoroughly enjoyed this one.

Livi is the main character and she is a strong, willful female protagonist. I really loved her from the start! I love her stubbornness. She is strong and bullheaded, but she also has a caring nature that shines through. She is extremely loyal to her friends and she would die for them there is no doubt.

Triton is the other main character in this book. At first I'm not sure what to think of him; I'm torn. As I get to know him I love who he is and what he is about. He is also strong and willful. He is just as loyal as her. They grew up so differently and it is that which shows how different they are. Yet, they are so alike in so many ways. I love both of these characters.

Then there are a slew of additional characters that are part of this story. And they all help to make the story great. The interactions, the personalities; they help to build this into something great.

And the action! There is so much action that I didn't want to stop reading. Different variations of flying, battles, different planets. There was so much going on all the time. It was definitely one of those that you really didn't want to put down, but you knew you had to get up in the morning and go to work :)

Definitely recommend.

Annie says

I loved this book. I think of myself as a serious reader, and I so enjoyed reading this book because it was a page-turner that also engaged my mind and imagination--a scifi book that's warm. The construction of the book was wonderful, managing to be tight as a drum and yet unforced. I agree with the other reviewers, it's a hard book to put down. If there's a second book, sign me up.

Elizabeth says

Way out there

Too much out there sci fi ideas... But surprisingly i enjoyed this book. At first it was hard to follow with all the unusual names, words and descriptions, but once you get used to it, the reading itself was easy & keeps you interested & wanting to know what happens. Pretty good book. I'm glad i read it.

Aimee says

This is a compulsively readable book by a supremely talented first time author. Once you start reading, it's hard to stop! The author has done a wonderful job creating a whole new world and populating it with interesting characters to root for. The plot moves fast and is filled with humor and a little romantic intrigue, too. My only complaint is that the second book is not available. Read it! You won't regret it!

Taylor says

“Some of us are born to be scientists, and others born to be teachers, filonials, musicians, doctors, engineers, pilots, astrophysicists, elematicians, botanists. But all of us, no matter who we are, are also born to be dreamers.”

I loved this book *so, so* much! I am honestly having a hard time figuring out how to begin this review, so I guess I will just start with this and go from there:

One of the first words that come to mind when I think of this book is *wonder*. This story has deepened my awe of the extraordinary marvels of the universe. It has reminded of all of things I dreamed of as a child and still dream of today, from my longing for flight to my wondering of what exists far beyond where we can see to my yearning for the stars. And I suppose that is one reason this book touched my heart: it spoke to the dreamer inside of me.

“But the constellation is so close now that it is more than the distant specks in the night sky from my childhood gazing, but rather titans of the void bursting with fire and power. I can hardly breath. This is beyond my imagination.”

Chen has created such a fascinating and imaginative world from the technology to her inhabited worlds. I wanted to see everything, from each of the unusual creatures to the ships to the Gateways (a.k.a. wormholes). There were times where her descriptions were breath-taking:

“I never knew sound could shine. But the fairlot’s notes are clear, glistening; sparkling fairy dust sprinkled between the rustling of leaves, along the braying of an ancient, unyielding wind.”

One of my few complaints would be that I wish they were described even more because I had trouble picturing some of it (and I wanted to see it all)! Also, there is a glossary at the end, which is something I wish I had known about before I finished the book because there were so many terms that I struggled to keep them all straight.

I do not really want to go into much detail in regard to the plot, especially beyond what the synopsis describes, because there are so many major plot twists—many of which I did not see coming. I felt like I was always on the edge of my seat, waiting to see what happened next. With that in mind, though this story did fill me with wonder, it struck painful chords in my heart as well. It serves as a warning and a reminder of humanity's capacity for both light and darkness.

“...until one day the humans forgot how to take care of it, and the land which once grew the most beautiful flowers, now only grew dust.”

This book has so many things I love, including that fact that our main character is a pilot, exploration of other worlds, and fascinating technologies. I absolutely adored Livi. Though she can be impulsive, her heart is true and she is filled with an amazing strength. And while she is exceptionally talented, she still has struggles and fears. Regardless of her circumstances, however, she blazes onward. It was a joy to watch her throughout the novel, and I cannot wait to see where she and her friends head next.

As her mentor told her at one point:

“Suffice it to say that your understanding of the world is going to change more than even your wildest dreams.”

(Note: I received this book in a Goodreads giveaway, which I was super excited about because I have never won one of their giveaways before—and the book was awesome! Anyway, all opinions are my own.)

Greedy Chickadee says

I thought this book was amazing! It had me completely absorbed throughout. There is a lot of action and the book keeps moving forward. What I like best about the book is that I can relate to the main character Livinthea Park. She is strong, creative, interesting, and solved many problems while thinking outside the box.

Not only is this book sci-fi, but there is also a touch of romance. Personally, I am rooting for Keenon.

Can't wait for the next book!

Karla says

I admit, while the opening was very engaging, I had a moment's trepidation when I realized this book featured a strong female lead with two possible love interests in a quasi-dystopian future... but the plot kept moving and the world-building continued to evolve so I quickly forgot any thoughts of a Hunger Games knock-off. Quick paced, does a great job of showing the world it exists in rather than telling you about it, and creates enough stakes to get invested in the characters -- will be back for the (I'm guessing) sequel.

Amanda Hagerty says

Fantastic read

I want to start off by saying I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway. In return for honest review. Now I will start off by saying that when I first starting reading this book I wasn't to interested into this book. It being my first science fiction read. I wanted to give this book a second chance and I am glad I did. This is a quick read and a lot of action. Livi a young woman who is amazing pilot. Who happens to be the one the mark of dresden. Which means that Livi must leave her home and become a Bionic. Livi then learns who these Book is are. And we are taken to learn and the world is amazing at times I felt like I was watching a movie instead of reading at times. If you like science fiction and space books. I highly recommend this book. I nice way end 2018.

Celeste says

Boring love triangle where the heroine only has 2 clear choices to burden her heart? Check. Dependent female who gains her identity only by choosing one of them? Ch...not so fast. At least Livi asserts herself early on by breaking away from the prospect of a marriage with her best friend to pursue her own dreams, and that encourages the boy to do that as well. And when presented with a chance to be near-immortal, it's made clear that a Bionic can have many identities and careers in their long lives.

I wish it were more highlighted that they can also choose different romantic companions too, without it completely redefining their roles in society, but alas, if you choose to be Bionic you must also choose a Bionic partner, and no-one talks about what happens when Fairrose Bionic gets tired of Quadblast Bionic refusing to maintain the domestic Bot or Quadblast Bionic gets sick of Fairrose Bionic always sending him on Mission Impossible alone and he just wants to stay home and raise Baby Bionics.

Well wait, there is casual mention that Bionics can't make babies of their own, and that segues into another plot point of suggesting Why Livi Is Crucial To Their Survival. So I am predicting Bionic Civil War when Quadblast and every other male Bionic want to get with Livi to see if they can make babies, setting Livi against all the other female Bionics. Yay, more YA where the heroine/romantic lead is Not Like Other Girls. But still. This is a well-told story, fast paced and engrossing, with a strong and intelligent female lead. The inclusion of some less-than-inventive colloquialisms is unfortunately what jarred me out of the narrative but at least there was an attempt to be creative. (Sorry, who the hellas has time to say infinite black holes or burning black holes in a time of crisis? Over and over again?) The idea of the Earth's people having to flee to the stars and turn some of their number into near-immortal cyborgs is a great one, though, and I look forward to a sequel.

Wyvernoflight says

If you like strong female characters, cool science fiction, and lots of action, you will enjoy this book . Some plots and characters are reminiscent of other storylines, but there are enough unique features to keep it clever and entertaining.

Read Ng says

This was a GoodReads giveaway.

I thought it bad when Star Wars goofed and used the term "parsec" in place of a unit of time. At least one followup novel explained it away as more of an ever changing maze between two stars that was difficult to generate the shortest distance for the "Kessel Run". But this author's use of the term parsec really makes no sense. Okay, Chen is trying to use different terms in this universe, but she is still using parsec as a distance measure, so she should have invented an entirely new word, not attempted to re-invent an existing distance measure. (And later the use of farthing, also as a distance measure.) In my mind, it demonstrates a lack of care in the writing and more importantly for me, a huge distraction. (And her use of "parsec" is not explained away in the glossary of terms at the end of the book.)

This is not a hard science fiction book. Aside from the use of distance, I found this story to be well done. Quick paced. A clean ending, but still a bit of a cliff hanger in that it is obviously part one of a series. There are some dangling threads that obviously are left to be tied up in following books. But Chen gave this one her all. A mostly complete tale which, if I find continues into more books, I will continue to read.

This was an ebook version. I don't warm up to ebooks that same as a paper edition. But I do think I like short and quick chapters in ebooks. I think it helps me get around the feeling in a lack of progress as I read a story. Physical books, I can track my bookmark. Ebooks leave me with a progress bar, but that just doesn't feel the same. Perhaps that is part of my dislike of ebooks?

Have a GoodReads.
