

Public Abstract

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But In the Night We Are All the Same

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But In the Night We Are All the Same, a critical dystopian novel, examines power, gender, and desire in a futuristic society where the ruling class (the Those That) uses mind-control technology to control a compliant population of factory workers. Through technological devices, called noodles and stroodles, these rulers compel workers to buy the products they see advertised and to engage in violent, sexual, and degrading acts for the rulers' amusement. Additionally, the people are kept endlessly alive by hospital machines, a technology that cures every illness and prolongs life. The protagonist, Lemon, slowly begins to resist the system, learning to question her own desires, to control her own actions, and to develop self-identity. Lemon's partner and love interest Astrix, once a member of the Those That, has had his memory erased and must struggle to find out his identity and to come to terms with who he is once he remembers his past. Lemon and Astrix help each other to resist and to determine their identities. Like other modern dystopian novels, this one focuses on an individual's struggle to resist the society and ends with a hopeful conclusion that shows that a better society can exist in the future. Additionally, this novel uses a female protagonist to illustrate the ways in which a person can be oppressed in both gender-specific and non-gender-specific ways. It also illustrates the power structures that lie beneath social systems, and examines how people's desires can be manipulated into a form of social control.