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The Ghost In The Doll (Fox Meridian Book 6)



Synopsis

Fox has undergone a pretty big change in her life. For one thing, her batteries need charging each night, but her confidence has taken a hit too. When you're questioning the choices you've made, a good way to start is at the beginning. Fox returns to Topeka where people are dying due to faulty implanted organs. Meanwhile, Yuriko Fukui has been looking into a potential case of corporate espionage concerning one of MarTech's subsidiaries, BioTek Microtechnologies. Someone has beaten them to market with the world's first bioroid, an artificially manufactured, biological entity. The "Ghost Dolls" are strange beings: beautiful women with plastic skin and far beyond the technology their manufacturers are thought to possess. Yuriko quickly finds herself at odds with her brother, the leader of the most powerful yakuza organisation in Japan. When Fox joins Yuriko on the case, they soon uncover the truth behind the Ghost Dolls, and it's something far more horrific than the selling of corporate secrets.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Follows the end of the last book with Fox dealing with the fact that she is a computer program in an artificial body. Some good discussion of the ethical ramifications of digital people. The book has two cases; one is about organ harvesting in her home town and the other with industrial espionage in

Japan. This book is quick paced and has enough action to hold the attention. Its greatest problem is the whole thing is superficial emotionally. None of the characters go beyond the basics. One comes away with the feeling that something is missing.

I think this will be the last book I buy in this series. The author is starting to get a bit preachy about his gender politics, and appears to have made the leap from "The bad guys are men" to "Men are the bad guys". Was starting to worry in the last volume when he used a "violent masculinist group" as a threat. This time around, despite being in a futuristic egalitarian society with widespread use of cybernetics, his bad guys all seem to have somehow developed cartoonish misogynistic attitudes of "Nah, there's no way a girl could beat me!". And let's not forget that he specifically took the time to explicitly inform his audience that the latest gang committing atrocities had no female members. The double standard when it comes to his treatment of extra-marital affairs is a bit on the nose, too.

Fox is back on Earth after having her mind turned into an Informorph and a robotic frame. She's spends a little time in introspection trying to decide how her new circumstances affect her sense of self before launching herself into solving crimes. Overall, it's a decent read: fun, a little action, and poses some interesting moral dilemmas concerning artificial life (not just AIs) and their future in society and the legal code. My biggest beef with the book is more an issue I have with the author: the male characters are weak and reek hyper-feminists view of men. The male characters are either a sex toy, a piggy bank, or a bad guy, and a moronic bad guy at that. It's getting really, really old. The other problem is Fox is now a near carbon copy of Aneka Jensen: organic intelligence shoved into an artificial body, carries a hand cannon, and goes after bad guys with little effort since her artificial body can take remarkable amounts of damage.

I like the entire series. In fact, I like everything Niall has written so far. That being said, the is one recurring word that is jarring like fingernails on a blackboard. Perhaps Niall is unaware that "rhoids" is American slang for hemorrhoids. That gives the word "bioroids" too close an association with an uncomfortable anal condition in my mind. Maybe I'm a lightyear off base but there it is. I'd find the addition of a single letter to have, "biodroid" would eliminate that association. Nonetheless, I am very entertained by all your books, Niall!

This one is complicated but not. On one level, you have Fox and her difficulties. On another, you have people who will do ANYTHING to make money. Much like some in today's world will do

ANYTHING to win at whatever they do, no matter the cost to anyone around them. Rules and ethics are meaningless when money or power is involved. UNLESS of course, you bump into Fox's ethics. THEN it is REALLY gonna HURT. My major problem with this book has nothing to do with the book itself. I can see FAR too many people in the real world doing EXACTLY what was put in the book, for whatever reasons. And Kit is now a proper high rank kitsune. YAY!

Interesting ideas, but clearly ridiculous interpersonal relationships and dialogue--frankly unbelievable. For example: main characters and all witnesses puke at the horrifying truth of the primary plot point, but let the author of the atrocity live/go relatively unpunished? (All the more astonishing in light of the main character, early in the book, killing 15 organ harvesters in 5 minutes-12ish with a grenade.) The fetishized women(dolls, asian porn stars, MILF mom, sexy anime character, sexually available robots everywhere), lesbian/android/on the job sex doesn't count as cheating in a relationship, a mother/daughter sexy dress competition, tassels of intimidation throughout, superior making sexual overtures to new hire because 'we are friends' --the sort of stupid aging male writing that killed the later works of much better writers like Heinlein.

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