

HULLMETAL GIRLS PDF, EPUB, EBOOK



Emily Skrutskie | 320 pages | 17 Jul 2018 | Random House USA Inc | 9781524770198 | English | New York, United States

Hullmetal Girls by Emily Skrutskie Review - Den of Geek

When her brother contracts a plague, she knows her janitor's salary isn't enough to fund his treatment. So she volunteers to become a Scela, a mechanically enhanced soldier sworn to protect and serve the governing body of the Fleet, the collective of starships they call home. If Aisha can survive the harrowing modifications and earn an elite place in the Scela ranks, she may be able to save her brother. Key Tanaka awakens in a Scela body with only hazy memories of her life before. She knows she's from the privileged end of the Fleet, but she has no recollection of why she chose to give up a life of luxury to become a hulking cyborg soldier. If she can make it through the training, she might have a shot at recovering her missing past. In a unit of new recruits vying for top placement, Aisha's and Key's paths collide, and the two must learn to work together--a tall

order for girls from opposite ends of the Fleet. But a rebellion is stirring, pitting those who yearn for independence from the Fleet against a government struggling to maintain unity.

With violence brewing and dark secrets surfacing, Aisha and Key find themselves questioning their loyalties. They will have to put aside their differences, though, if they want to keep humanity from tearing itself apart. Search books and authors. Hullmetal Girls Emily Skrutskie Buy from ... View all retailers.

Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Want to Read saving.... Want to Read Currently Reading Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Open Preview See a Problem? Details if other : Thanks for telling us about the problem. Return to Book Page. Preview — Hullmetal Girls by Emily Skrutskie. Aisha Un-Haad would do anything for her family. When her brother contracts a plague, she knows her janitor's salary isn't enough to fund his treatment. So she volunteers to become a Scela, a mechanically enhanced soldier sworn to protect and serve the governing body of the Fleet, the collective of starships they call home.

If Aisha can survive the harrowing modifications a Aisha Un-Haad would do anything for her family. If Aisha can survive the harrowing modifications and earn an elite place in the Scela ranks, she may be able to save her brother. Key Tanaka awakens in a Scela body with only hazy memories of her life before.

She knows she's from the privileged end of the Fleet, but she has no recollection of why she chose to give up a life of luxury to become a hulking cyborg soldier. If she can make it through the training, she might have a shot at recovering her missing past. In a unit of new recruits vying for top placement, Aisha's and Key's paths collide, and the two must learn to work together--a tall order for girls from opposite ends of the Fleet. But a rebellion is stirring, pitting those who yearn for independence from the Fleet against a government struggling to maintain unity.

With violence brewing and dark secrets surfacing, Aisha and Key find themselves questioning their loyalties. They will have to put aside their differences, though, if they want to keep humanity from tearing itself apart. Get A Copy. Hardcover , pages. More Details Original Title. Other Editions 3. Friend Reviews. To see what your friends thought of this book, please sign up. To ask other readers questions about Hullmetal Girls , please sign up.

I've seen this tagged as LGBT but what kind of specific representation does this book have? Emily One of the two POV characters identifies on the page as aroace. One prominent side character is a trans girl, and another is on-the-page pansexual. On ...more One of the two POV characters identifies on the page as aroace. One character can be read as questioning or uncertain, but only ever expresses romantic interest in other genders. Is this book a standalone or part of a series? See 2 questions about Hullmetal Girls.... Lists with This Book. Community Reviews. Showing Average rating 3. Rating details. Sort order. Start your review of Hullmetal Girls. Jan 27, Elle ellexamines rated it really liked it Shelves: zreads , yreleases , favorite-characters , favorite-friendships , 4-star , lgbtq , authors-of-color , sff-scifi-dystopias , elle-recs-list , gay-genre-fiction.

Hullmetal Girls follows Aisha, who sells her body to become a mechanical soldier for the chance to save her brother, and Key, a girl who wakes up in a mechanical body with no memory of how she got here - or whether she consented. As the two vie for a top spot with their squad of four, they become entangled in a vast rebellion on the ship, and are forced to question everything they know. This is a book that, first and foremost, plays off fear. I am also terrified of body horror. And of needles. I would argue this is more of a worldbuilding-focused story. And can we just talk about how cool the world is? Very Pacific-Rim with the mechanically-enhanced copilots and the friendship focus.

Very current-adult-scifi with the worldships. Very dystopia with the oppressive government and rebellion. Yet somehow, this feels like something very new; via a discussion of agency and a lack of tropey romance, it blends a mix of tropes into something that feels very original. There are two narrators: Aisha Un-Haad, a hijabi aroace girl trying to save her sister, and Key Tanaka, a Japanese girl with her memory wiped. Something I really like about this book is that Aisha and Tanaka are both angry, and the book does such a good job of humanizing and validating that anger. They are dealing with the loss of their autonomy, of their bodies, and with a classist system attempting to continue that takeaway.

The narrative around their realization of this is brilliant , and I found myself rooting so much for them both. Actually, can we just talk about Aisha? Her sister Malikah is one of my favorite characters, and her devotion to her and Amar is one of the best parts of the whole book. Hullmetal Girls is also a book primarily driven by friendship - there is no romance - and by the squad dynamic of the four scelas. Pravaa and Woojin each make for compelling leads - Pravaa is Indian, pansexual, and a trans girl, and Woojin is Korean. She gets the balance just right for me. The narrative is so interested in the agency of these characters, and in the loss they must experience, and in their struggle, at every moment, to wrest it back.

I liked it. But I also really wish the fact that the cast is Very Queer were like. I think the author was trying to make all the queer rep really incidental and then went too far in the Quest For Casual Queerness and just didn't talk about it past that? But overall? TW: needles, death in space, body horror and loss of bodily autonomy. Blog Goodreads Twitter Youtube View all comments. Mar 30, Cece ProblemsOfaBookNerd rated it really liked it Shelves: anticipated-of , lgbtqia , science-fiction , female-protag , read-in , my-books , split-pov , e-arcs. Hullmetal Girls is the weird, complex, sci-fi book about consent and reluctant friendship between girls I didn't know I was looking for. Aisha makes the choice for herself, a drastic decision that goes deeply against her religion, in order to get the government money her younger siblings need to survive life in the back of the fl Hullmetal Girls is the weird, complex, sci-fi book about consent and reluctant friendship between girls I didn't know I was looking for.

Aisha makes the choice for herself, a drastic decision that goes deeply against her religion, in order to get the government money her younger siblings need to survive life in the back of the fleet. Key doesn't know why she made the decision she did. She has memories of a life of privilege, a world where she wanted for nothing. But her memory is full of holes, and she can't piece together why a girl of her standing would ever decide to become a mechanical monster.

So much about this book is a discussion of consent, of bodily autonomy, of classism and the moral gray of an uprising. It's a deeply fascinating story, and one that can get horrifying fairly quickly if you have issues with body horror and loss of bodily autonomy - which I do! It's an alarming

subject matter! There were times when this was a hard read. Related to autonomy and lack of consent, I do want to say that there are a couple of characters who experience some sort of outing, or are forced to come out, under unideal circumstances.

Scela are often forced to share a brain space and all their thoughts. Due to this system, which the characters are forced into without warning or consent, we learn that one of the side characters is a trans girl. This also leads to a later scene in which Aisha is exposed to memories of characters having sex and, when she is deeply uncomfortable with this, comes out as aroace. At this time, another character comes out as pansexual as well. I, as a queer reviewer, felt that this scene very clearly established the through-line of lack of consent and autonomy that the main characters were faced with.

It was difficult, and wrong, and these characters should not have had to come out the way they did, which I feel is the point the scenes were making. Some ownvoices a-spec reviewers have also felt this, but many feel that these scenes were hurtful, so please be aware of that particular content going in. Ok, so back to the rest of the book. This features and enemies-to-best-friends female friendship that I would like to shout about to the heavens.

Especially because I feel like Aisha and Key were not written to be especially likable characters. Aisha is furious, bold, and unyielding in her protection and love of her siblings. She will make bad decisions and follow them through fueled by her one-sighted view of how the world should work. I think this makes her a fascinating character, but also one that challenges readers. Similarly, Key is very much a privileged main character surrounded by characters with no privilege and that is played up in the way she treats Aisha, Pravaa, and Woojin. She is also incredibly angry, and a lot of that rage is focused inwards on the holes in her memories and the ways they make her feel incomplete.

Because her anger is focused on what she feels she is lacking, as well as the people in her life who have led a much more complicated life, she is also a challenge for readers. But I feel like this book dealt with anger in such a particular, validating way that I also couldn't help but love both Key and Aisha. Besides the characters, Hullmetal Girls excels in its worldbuilding. I think it is pretty easy to see the author's love of sci-fi wound through the story, especially her love of films like Pacific Rim. I think the world does a great job of walking a line between that dour feel of an all-powerful regime and the fun of a world set across a group of spaceships. There are moments when it feels like the book allows itself to be more fun, to embrace the fact that its main characters are super soldiers in space. I really feel like that levity lent itself so well to the much tougher subject manner and some of the complex decisions both Aisha and Key were working through.

And speaking of worldbuilding, I know I just wrote a whole paragraph about some of the aspects of the mind-sharing technology in this world and what that leads to, but mind-sharing is a personal all time favorite trope of mine and I honestly screamed aloud when I realized how it was going to be incorporated. Characters who are constantly faced with that level of closeness, and how sharing one-another's every thought can shape relationships, is a fascinating concept to me that I think was used incredibly well throughout this entire book. Honestly, and I don't feel this is hard to gather, I adored this book. It had all the elements of a fast-paced sci-fi story I was looking for, it had excellent characters, worldbuilding, stakes, and an exploration of what one is willing to do for freedom that impressed me so deeply.

I loved every second of this book, and I can't wait to see how Emily Skrutskie continues to write worlds and stories that are all-consumingly fantastic. I am dying?? View all 4 comments. The trans character isouted without her consent: the Scela have this group-think capability with their exos where they can actually "read" one another's emotions and thoughts, and one of the narrators utilizes this to out Praava without any consent being given whatsoever. On top of the poor content, the author has taken to invading reviewers' private spaces by harassing them on social media, and more. It's been a bad look all around, and has sadly quite probably removed Emily Skrutskie's other works from my TBR. You can read more about that here, with screenshots and receipts attached. Between the problematic content and the fact that this book was already a 2. This is what a Scela is meant to be. A living weapon, a replacement for the ancient guns that blew holes in the hulls of ships we lost so long ago that their names are no longer taught.

The Scela are people who have been given a robotic exoskeleton to wear on their backs, which drills into their nervous systems and feeds commands and information to their brains. My favorite part of the book was learning about how the exos work, the surgeries required to become a Scela, and the features that came along with it, such as their group-think capabilities and the options for them to exert their willpowers and commands over them teammates or inferior colleagues. I thought this whole idea was super unique and would translate beautifully to the silver screen. Unfortunately, where Hullmetal Girls fell short for me was the characters themselves. I also felt like some of the characters—Aisha especially, in the second half—were making choices and displaying behaviors that felt very bizarre compared to their original personality constructs. I may not be a useful Scela yet. The plot itself is intriguing enough once you get a little ways in it does start off slow, but again, it lost me in the ending.

All in all, did I love this? Buddy read with one of my faves, Heather! You can find this review and more on my blog, or you can follow me on twitter, bookstagram, or facebook! View all 8 comments. This is my third book. The closer I look at it, the more I realize it's made of things that scare me. Physical things, like surgery and irrevocable body modification and sci-fi body horror. Abstract things, like being known too well, giving away too much of yourself, and being used. But it's also made of things I love: spaceships, jacked up cyborgs, angry girls, and machines with a little sass in them.

I hope it scares you, but you love it too. View 2 comments. Jul 09, Acqua rated it it was ok Shelves: predictable, dystopian, no-romance, q, qf, arc, ya, db, sci-fi. View all 7 comments. Aug 21, Claudio Arseneault added it Shelves: sf, lgbt, asexual, aromantic. The attention and care Hullmetal Girl gives to violation of consent and bodily autonomy and the way invasion of the mind and body can affect someone seems to vanish when it comes to the way queer identities are revealed.

The following has discussion of outing a trans character and of a seemingly sex-averse aroace her stomach turns at the mention of sex at least once that I clearly recall, and she seems generally put off by the character being forced to witness sex between others. It happens and the story immediately moves forward, which left me with the impression no one really thought of it as a forced outing. This is especially frustrating because

Praava talks about taking hormones not long after, and this could have served as the willing, casual coming out, making the first intrusion and chromosome stuff completely pointless. Honestly, no matter how you look at it, it was bad. Now for the forced witnessing of sexual intercourse... Below is the description of what is shared through the exosystem.

I think this contributes a lot to the feeling these events can be dismissed as minor, rather than being treated with the seriousness they deserve "[I was both told this scene was awful, and that it wasn't so bad. Well, for me it was awful when it clicked that Tanaka "clearing the images, the sensations, the sex" meant so did Aisha. Considering her stomach flips earlier in the story at the mention of someone flooding the exosystem with mention of sex Aisha comes out in the conversation immediately following this, stating that this kind of "problem" will not happen with her because she is aroace, and as this is the only time asexuality and aromanticism are mentioned clearly the other is an oblique reference that Key uses as an attack, so And that's pretty much it when it comes to queer rep.

It's not the focus--why, awesome! But the consequence of spending very little time mentioning queer identities or reflecting them through internal narration is that the instances it shows up have WAY more weight. So no, I wouldn't recommend this book for the representation in it. Chapters switched back and forth between the two voices. Even with their names signposted at the beginning of the chapters, I found myself losing track of whose perspective I was reading. Instead of gradually showing the world-building, information is doled out in a way that feels a bit too polished, a bit artificial. Sometimes, the exosystem functions conveniently, with characters sometimes struggling to hide their thoughts and other times switching in and out of the mind-meld comfortably.

More explanation of this might have been distracting, but combined with the prose — unexciting if technically varied — and the strangely muted pacing in the beginning, it took me out of the story even more without an explanation. The writing style is clean and punchy, but the use of first person dilutes rather than enhances it, smoothing out strong verbs and emotional insights into a lulling train of thought.

The voices drag instead of kicking the momentum into gear, even when the scenes themselves are dramatically satisfying. About halfway through, the stakes and drama rise and the story becomes more compelling. Action scenes are breathless, and both characters are allowed to fully feel and act on their justified anger. This novel is so very close to what I wanted it to be that to say otherwise is uncomfortable.

NPR Cookie Consent and Choices

If she can make it through the training, she might have a shot at recovering her missing past. In a unit of new recruits vying for top placement, Aisha's and Key's paths collide, and the two must learn to work together--a tall order for girls from opposite ends of the Fleet. But a rebellion is stirring, pitting those who yearn for independence from the Fleet against a government struggling to maintain unity. With violence brewing and dark secrets surfacing, Aisha and Key find themselves questioning their loyalties. They will have to put aside their differences, though, if they want to keep humanity from tearing itself apart. Search books and authors. Hullmetal Girls Emily Skrutskie Buy from.... View all retailers. Also by Emily Skrutskie. Related titles. The Danger Gang. George's Marvelous Medicine. Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake. Page Count: Publisher: Delacorte. No Comments Yet. More by Emily Skrutskie. More About This Book. Graphic fiction. Pub Date: Sept. Page Count: Publisher: Disney-Hyperion.

Review Posted Online: Aug. More by Serena Valentino. Pub Date: Nov. Review Posted Online: Oct. More In The Series. More by Brandon Sanderson. Please sign up to continue. Almost there! Reader Writer Industry Professional. And, unfortunately, we kind of get into trite YA territory rage against the evil government oh thank god our girl s is the ONE or in this case the TWO. I just wanted a little more. So, the mecha kicks butt. But it needed a little more of everything else. View 1 comment. Feb 21, Tara Sim rated it it was amazing. If you like badass girls, space adventures, gray morals, and huge mecha soldiers, this is the book for you.

Emily once again demonstrates her ability to craft an action-packed story that nonetheless wallops you right in the feels. Jul 24, Laura bbliphile rated it liked it Shelves: releases , diversity. It's probably more like 3. Full review to come. Feb 15, Andy rated it liked it Shelves: book-box-edition , mental-illness-ptsd , queer-rep-pansexual , queer-side-character , own , read , mental-illness-anxiety , queer-rep-ace , bookclub-read , queer-af. The theme was Asexual MC! This book takes place in the future. The human population has left Earth because the planet has been destroyed yikes. For years, they've been traveling in the Fleet which is under control by the General Body. Their army is made of Scela which are human-machine cyborgs.

Only the most desperate people undergo the potential surgery to become a Scela, the process is painful and results in the loss of some bodily February pick for the WickAndJaneBookClub on Instagram. Only the most desperate people undergo the potential surgery to become a Scela, the process is painful and results in the loss of some bodily autonomy. Aisha Un-Haad would do anything for her family and when her younger brother contracts the plague, she knows her only hope lies in becoming a Scela and the paycheck for Amar's treatment.

Key Tanaka is a perfectionist with big dreams about being the best, but when she wakes up as a Scela, she doesn't know how or why she decided to take the metal. Aisha and Key end up in the same squad, along with their two other squad mates: Praava and Woojin. I may have come into this with the wrong assumptions, but for me I thought this universe was queer-normative. I went into this knowing almost all the MCs were queer so the non-consensual outings read differently with that mind frame. I highly recommend reading Claudie's review to learn more about this. After reading this and a couple other reviews, I am lowering my rating from 4 to 3 stars. Besides the problematic outing, I really enjoyed this book.

I loved both Aisha and Key and how different their personalities were. I loved the exosystem part, it was just so dang cool! This was a fun dystopian space adventure. There were definitely times my emotional well being was stressed, but I really liked this. My favorite part was seeing the squad grow closer, especially Aisha and Key. At one point, I was hoping a QPR might develop between them but alas. Jul 03, Jessie Ageless Pages Reviews rated it it was ok Shelves: sci-fi , arc , all-surface-no-substance , netgalley-arc , le-sigh , horror-and-gore , antiheroes-do-it-better , blah-blah-blaahhhh , actiontastic , diversity-for-the-win. I am disappointed, though. This book has more than a few good ideas but the messy execution of them makes it hard to stick around, much less immerse myself in Key and Aisha's POVs. The worldbuilding is sink or swim, but without enough information provided and the POVs felt indistinguishable.

Feb 20, Stephanie rated it liked it. All of the characters hated each other for most of the book, and most of them were incompetent, which just made me frustrated no matter how justified their feelings were or what else was going on. Jul 12, Whitley Birks rated it liked it. I was most of the way through this book and stuck on why I was having so much trouble finishing it. Taken down from within. Aisha and her family concerns and Key with her identity crises were both beautifully wrought, and made for compelling stuff...while we were in their chapters.

The sci-fi aspects were really great, and the body horror stuff was just the right amounts, with lots of chilling descriptions of the turning-cyborg process. The characters all learning how to handle their new, enhanced bodies and coming to terms with both the good and the bad parts of it were interesting to read. But other than that, yes, cyborg goodness. So, yeah. Good characters and setting, but not a lot of follow through on the tension which made for a rather fragmented read. Jan 30, USOM rated it it was amazing. Disclaimer: I received this arc as a gift from a friend.

Hullmetal Girls was rich, thought provoking, and full of two fantastic protagonists. I loved that some describe this book as full of 'angry cyborg girls' because that to me sounds like my anthem. I want angry cyborg girls and Skrustskie delivers. So let's begin with the characters. First off, Key felt like this breath of cathartic fresh air and she remains this enigmatic puzzle until the end of the book. I was really expecting Aisha to be Disclaimer: I received this arc as a gift from a friend. I was really expecting Aisha to be my favorite. And she is the obvious choice for me not to mention she's aro ace!!!!!!

I screamed when I saw this. Both of our protagonists are rich, detailed, and they felt so genuine. The world building here is phenomenal. But what proved to me that Hullmetal Girls was the book for me was the cyborg aspect. They have these Scela which are like these alien embodiment. It has a will and it sort of mends to the body. It's supposed to be this symbiotic process, because if it's not, then the human can die. But this had all sorts of delicious I know that's a weird word to use consequences and challenges for the book. Are they still human? And what parts of their agency do they retain? I can't get over the book. There's too much that I love. Oct 07, A rated it it was ok Shelves: am-i-missing-something , aces , queer-as-in-fuck-you. My friends, this book let.

Aroace protagonist in a book about cyborgs? This is my niche. Unfortunately Hullmetal Girls didn't really deliver. The characters felt one dimensional very clear motivations but not much beyond that ; the plot wasn't well structured; and the descriptions fell flat. The descriptions. I could never wrap my mind around what the cyborgs actually looked like. And at one point, I realized a character who hadn't been fully described, who I'd been My friends, this book let. And at one point, I realized a character who hadn't been fully described, who I'd been imagining as a dude in his 40s or 50s, was actually a teenager. I won't speak beyond my own identities, but the representation felt I can't quite put my finger on it.

It was refreshing to see an aroace character explicitly call herself aroace but, as other reviewers have pointed out, it's basically forgotten after that. Other identities are treated similarly. Is the book trying to play the representation casual? But it did feel a bit like tokenism to me. That is not informing this review. All in all, this was a big bummer to slog through--especially after I had been looking forward to it for so long. Sep 07, Faith Erin Hicks rated it liked it. I really loved the worldbuilding. Unfortunately the characters, villains and their motivations were super thin, never quite living up to the promise of the setting. Jul 09, Arys rated it it was amazing Shelves: ya-reads , sci-fi-fantasy. Set years after a fleet of ships leaves the Solar System in search of a new planet where humanity can survive, things have settled into tiers based on how close a ship is to the front of the fleet. A terrorist group, Fractionists, aims to take power in order to break up the fleet rather than keep it consolidated.

The General Assembly's troops and enforcers, Scela, are made up of cyborg warriors. Those who have volunteer to risk their lives to see if they can join with an exo. Told from two different POV's of people who have decided to take that chance. Aisha Un-Hand has made the choice to become Scela in order to help her family. Her pay goes to medical care for her brother and to keep her sister from having to work a dangerous job. Key Tanaka cannot remember why she decided to take the exo. Her memories are disjointed or non-existent. Each is from opposite ends of the fleet and brings an opposing and complex perspective. As they and two other Scela recruits they are joined with go through training and assignments we find that things are even more complex than they seem between the General Assembly and the Fractionists and as Aisha and Key learn more and speculate it creates an added complexity to a story with an innovative setting and interesting dynamics.

Overall I enjoyed Hullmetal Girls by Emily Skrutskie both for some of the Sci-Fi themes, familiar and unfamiliar blended together, as well as for the layers of the story we are given as the characters learn more about their new and past selves and the underbelly of the Fleet. This was a very detailed book which gives us both social dynamics and technical futurism.

I voluntarily reviewed an advance review copy of this book I received for free from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my open and honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Read out the first chapter of Hullmetal Girls here! We're tools. Things to be wielded with force. The book gripped me with its first words, providing just enough of a primer of the world, the customs, and I had high hopes for this Battlestar Galactica mashup with cyborgs Read out the first chapter of Hullmetal Girls here! The book gripped me with its first words, providing just enough of a primer of the world, the customs, and I had high hopes for this Battlestar Galactica mashup with cyborgs and a militaristic dystopian future. Unfortunately, this book fell short for me and didn't live up to my hopes.

It's been three hundred and one years since humanity left the solar system and took to space in search of a new planet to call home. They live in a fleet of ships that are all under Commander Vel's command and searching for a home together. Due to rising tensions from the Fractionists that want to see the fleet split up into smaller groups to search, Vel has requested a large recruitment drive for people to volunteer to become Scela, cyborgs in the General Body that are the military force of the fleet.

Hullmetal Girls is told in the alternating perspectives of new Scela recruits Aisha Un-Haad and Key Tanaka, but there are also two secondary characters that are part of their "unit". Woojin Lin and Praava. We are present for the painful operation of her taking the metal. She is from the backend of the fleet, the poorer areas, and has chosen this to help her siblings. By her mannerisms and drive, she deduces that she is from the front of the fleet, privileged in ways that mean she wouldn't need to choose this life. Is she a true believer? The characters all took to the metal for different reasons; however, we learn that Key doesn't remember those reasons or anything from her life before. While there were hints to the political situation and the potential conspiracies, for me they were mired down by the Scela conversion and training.

I don't read a lot of science fiction with cyborgs so this may be something typical of the genre that isn't to my personal preferences. I like a dual-POV story, especially with characters like Aisha and Key that obviously are from different situations and backgrounds; however, at times their inner monologues were very repetitive, adding to the feelings I had that the book was drawn out longer than necessary. I also found the character motivations a little blurred at times, shifting without reason as it suited the narrative. There are a number of occasions where Aisha or Key's position on a subject made a complete switch with hardly any convincing or acknowledgement that they had changed their mind. There are many elements explored in this tale: religion Ledic versus I assume atheism, as the Ledic disdain was clear but there was not contrast opinion or explanation of why it fell out of favor; utilitarianism greater good and gray morality; class systems and prejudices based on where in the fleet you were born.

This book has a diverse cast of characters, and there are characters which identify as aroace and pansexual; however, it is important to note the sexuality discussion was all of two sentences. This is an ambitious tale of power, loyalty, and family set in space. I personally found the cyborg aspects the conversion and training to be the least compelling and wish that part of the story had been a bit shorter. *Hullmetal Girls* has a lot of elements being explored - religion, class systems, utilitarianism - but for me those components were overshadowed by the Scela narrative and left me wanting more. At its core, this is a story about the extent the government and its opposers will go for "the greater good," and how people get swept up into something they didn't sign up for. Blog Twitter Pinterest Jul 14, Vicky Again added it. I'm probably going to have to sleep on this decision, but the best way I can describe my feelings is this is an adult science-fiction plot shoved into the young adult format and I have a lot of thoughts about this.

There were so many political machinations going on that this felt adult sci-fi. If you've ever read adult sci-fi, you know there's usually a lot of "bigger picture" stuff going on rather than just focusing on the characters. It's oftentimes more detached, third person, alternating, and just has a wider, more intricate plot and less focus on the characters. That's almost exactly how it was for *Hullmetal Girls* --the big, overarching plot was well-plotted and intricate --I had no idea who to trust and my loyalties kept wavering between the Fractionists the rebel group and the General Body the government.

But, it was written in a very YA style. There were two points of view in first person and there was an obvious non-romantic bond between the characters that really grew. There was a lot of focus on saving family more of a YA trope than an adult one and their backstories made it feel like Skrutskie picked these characters to make this book more YA. I guess what fell flat for me was just how the adult and YA aspects of this novel melded together into what's supposed to be a YA book. I love YA, but I feel like this book's concept would have had way more success in the adult SF sphere vs. For it to appeal better to the general YA community, I feel like this needed to have gone more in depth with the characters and really dig into their personal feelings and desires. There needed to be at least a hundred more pages of personal thought and introspection to get that character growth that would really help the reader connect more with the narrators rather than the plot.

I feel like we ended up getting a little of each YA and adult--some introspection, but not enough for us to really relate to the characters, and a lot of political machinations. This book is almost ahead of its time in the way it's trying to bridge the gap between YA and adult, and although I commend this, I feel terrible that it's not getting the love it deserves because I don't think we were prepared for something so badass and gritty. A big part of this is just how YA isn't really used to this type of body horror. It's another thing to deal with cybernetic enhancements that actively make people stronger, faster, bolder while also tampering with their humanity and agency. You read adult SF, and things like sentient artificial intelligence and even romance with sentient AIs are normal. If you read this in an adult SF headspace, it'd feel pretty normal too.

But for YA, the idea of cybernetic enhancement and losing part of your agency is very unfamiliar based on the history of YA sci-fi, and one of the reasons why I couldn't enjoy this as much as I wanted to was because I felt like we didn't get that background and introduction to how to deal with losing your agency in this way and what happens when characters bodies are tampered with to such a great extent.

A lot of the terms felt unfamiliar to me, and it could be because these terms are a norm in adult SF, or just because Skrutskie didn't introduce it in a way that I could understand. For me, it was kind of like I was being thrust headfirst into a very new and different type of science fiction that I'm not entirely used to. It didn't feel like a space opera--wasn't melodramatic enough and was far too cuning. So I guess we could call this not enough exposition, leaving the reader confused.

Hullmetal Girls by Emily Skrutskie

However, those characters are exactly why reading this book was slow for me. Chapters switched back and forth between the two voices. Even with their names signposted at the beginning of the chapters, I found myself losing track of whose perspective I was reading. Instead of gradually showing the world-building, information is doled out in a way that feels a bit too polished, a bit artificial. Sometimes, the ecosystem functions conveniently, with characters sometimes struggling to hide their thoughts and other times switching in and out of the mind-meld comfortably. More explanation of this might have been distracting, but combined with the prose — unexciting if technically varied — and the strangely muted pacing in the beginning, it took me out of the story even more without an explanation.

The writing style is clean and punchy, but the use of first person dilutes rather than enhances it, smoothing out strong verbs and emotional insights into a lulling train of thought. The voices drag instead of kicking the momentum into gear, even when the scenes themselves are dramatically satisfying. About halfway through, the stakes and drama rise and the story becomes more compelling. Action scenes are breathless, and both characters are allowed to fully feel and act on their justified anger. The Weight of Zero. Karen Fortunati. Shades of Earth. Kelley Armstrong. Half Life. Lillian Clark. Scott Sigler. A Line in the Dark. A Million Suns. The Dead-Tossed Waves. The Dark Side of Nowhere. Neal Shusterman. Niall Leonard. The Dark and Hollow Places. Survive the Night. Danielle Vega. Eve of Man. Giovanna Fletcher and Tom Fletcher. Wink Poppy Midnight. April Genevieve Tucholke. Battle Lines.

It Will End Like This. Jillian Blake. Elizabeth Richards. The History of Jane Doe. Michael Belanger. I know that the idea of sharing your innermost thoughts is horrifying and I know that is what Skrutskie was going for but at the same time I felt this was a little too invasive. For instance: one of the characters is outed as being transgender involuntarily because of this link. She thought of herself as better than her squad mates just because of

her status in the caste system.

Praava is also transgender, Aisha is aroace, and Woojin is pansexual. And there is an odd relationship that Key develops with someone that just felt.... I was super ready to love this: angry cyborg girls, space, queer characters?! Sign me up! I have basically read this book before. See also: An Unkindness of Ghosts. The thing about space books is I love them so much, but my standards are also v v v v high as a result. I liked the initial premise of this book a whole lot - but felt really let down in the delivery unfortunately. First up, if you were here for queer characters, I was super ready to love this: angry cyborg girls, space, queer characters?! Ok, there is also a trans character, but this is also v v v background. Queer content? And the bummer about that is that the characters are so similar or are at least now in their lives are having such similar experiences that they were seriously indistinguishable sometimes.

I had to literally check the chapter name to remember whose POV we were in this time. I want something new! And the thing is, the two antagonists were so Like, I guess the banality of evil, etc etc etc but =====. Also extremely President Snow and Alma Coin, like down to the wire. Even some of the plot points of their evil, just. So much. Did I mention that the spaceships they are on function like districts from HG? There were so many events of convenience that just felt lazy. Again, wanted to love it, I really did. This did not influence my review in any way. Jun 07, Lindsay rated it really liked it Shelves: science-fiction , tbr-challenge. On board a fleet of starships which house the remnants of humanity in a never-ending search for an inhabitable planet, a totalitarian society enforces its will by use of cyborg creatures called Scela.

Aisha Un-Haad is responsible for her sister and sick brother and faces the reality that the only way to get the money needed to treat her brother and keep her sister safe is to volunteer for the horrific transformation into a Scela. From the other end of the fleet and a privileged background Key Ta On board a fleet of starships which house the remnants of humanity in a never-ending search for an inhabitable planet, a totalitarian society enforces its will by use of cyborg creatures called Scela. From the other end of the fleet and a privileged background Key Tanaka wakes up after her Scela reconstruction with no knowledge of why she made the transformation.

The fleet's controlling General Body is at a critical point in its conflict with the rebellious Fractionists who wish to split the fleet and break the General Body's control. There's a recruitment drive on for Scela and both Key and Aisha are a part of a newly recruited group of trainees, but it's not an ordinary group, and Key and Aisha are part of that. Life as a Scela is depicted as a really different experience from that of a baseline human. Enormous strength and resilience with a sensor suite and onboard computer that's in partial control of their person side, but also as part of a hive mind that can be as small as the individual squad or as large as all Scela. It's also really interesting to see how relatively ordinary citizens cope with suddenly becoming literal tools of a repressive regime. I actually ended up liking this much more than the other books I've read from this author, and it reminded me a lot of another series I like Medusa Uploaded.

Mar 26, OutlawPoet rated it liked it. I loved the mecha aspect of everything. But our Girls were kind of...bland. The worldbuilding was a little slow for my taste. It took forever for me to really even understand the main point of the plot. And, unfortunately, we kind of get into trite YA territory rage against the evil government oh thank god our girl s is the ONE or in this case the TWO. I just wanted a little more. So, the mecha kicks butt. But it needed a little more of everything else. View 1 comment. Feb 21, Tara Sim rated it it was amazing. If you like badass girls, space adventures, gray morals, and huge mecha soldiers, this is the book for you.

Emily once again demonstrates her ability to craft an action-packed story that nonetheless wallops you right in the feels. Jul 24, Laura bibliophile rated it liked it Shelves: releases , diversity. It's probably more like 3. Full review to come. Feb 15, Andy rated it liked it Shelves: book-box-edition , mental-illness-ptsd , queer-rep-pansexual , queer-side-character , own , read , mental-illness-anxiety , queer-rep-ace , bookclub-read , queer-af.

The theme was Asexual MC! This book takes place in the future. The human population has left Earth because the planet has been destroyed yikes. For years, they've been traveling in the Fleet which is under control by the General Body. Their army is made of Scela which are human-machine cyborgs. Only the most desperate people undergo the potential surgery to become a Scela, the process is painful and results in the loss of some bodily February pick for the WickAndJaneBookClub on Instagram. Only the most desperate people undergo the potential surgery to become a Scela, the process is painful and results in the loss of some bodily autonomy. Aisha Un-Haad would do anything for her family and when her younger brother contracts the plague, she knows her only hope lies in becoming a Scela and the paycheck for Amar's treatment.

Key Tanaka is a perfectionist with big dreams about being the best, but when she wakes up as a Scela, she doesn't know how or why she decided to take the metal. Aisha and Key end up in the same squad, along with their two other squad mates: Praava and Woojin. I may have come into this with the wrong assumptions, but for me I thought this universe was queer-normative. I went into this knowing almost all the MCs were queer so the non-consensual outings read differently with that mind frame. I highly recommend reading Claudie's review to learn more about this. After reading this and a couple other reviews, I am lowering my rating from 4 to 3 stars. Besides the problematic outing, I really enjoyed this book. I loved both Aisha and Key and how different their personalities were. I loved the ecosystem part, it was just so dang cool!

This was a fun dystopian space adventure. There were definitely times my emotional well being was stressed, but I really liked this. My favorite part was seeing the squad grow closer, especially Aisha and Key. At one point, I was hoping a QPR might develop between them but alas. Jul 03, Jessie Ageless Pages Reviews rated it it was ok Shelves: sci-fi , arc , all-surface-no-substance , netgalley-arc , le sigh , horror-and-gore , antiheroes-do-it-better , blah-blah-blaahhhh , actiontastic , diversity-for-the-win.

I am disappointed, though. This book has more than a few good ideas but the messy execution of them makes it hard to stick around, much less immerse myself in Key and Aisha's POVs. The worldbuilding is sink or swim, but without enough information provided and the POVs felt indistinguishable. Feb 20, Stephanie rated it liked it. All of the characters hated each other for most of the book, and most of them were incompetent, which just made me frustrated no matter how justified their feelings were or what else was going on. Jul 12, Whitley Birks rated it liked it. I was most of the way through this book and stuck on why I was having so much trouble finishing it. Taken down from within. Aisha and her family concerns and Key with her identity crises were both beautifully wrought, and made for compelling stuff...while we were in their

chapters. The sci-fi aspects were really great, and the body horror stuff was just the right amounts, with lots of chilling descriptions of the turning-cyborg process.

The characters all learning how to handle their new, enhanced bodies and coming to terms with both the good and the bad parts of it were interesting to read. But other than that, yes, cyborg goodness. So, yeah. Good characters and setting, but not a lot of follow through on the tension which made for a rather fragmented read. Jan 30, USOM rated it it was amazing. Disclaimer: I received this arc as a gift from a friend. Hullmetal Girls was rich, thought provoking, and full of two fantastic protagonists.

I loved that some describe this book as full of 'angry cyborg girls' because that to me sounds like my anthem. I want angry cyborg girls and Skrustskie delivers. So let's begin with the characters. First off, Key felt like this breath of cathartic fresh air and she remains this enigmatic puzzle until the end of the book. I was really expecting Aisha to be Disclaimer: I received this arc as a gift from a friend. I was really expecting Aisha to be my favorite. And she is the obvious choice for me not to mention she's aro ace!!!!!!

I screamed when I saw this. Both of our protagonists are rich, detailed, and they felt so genuine. The world building here is phenomenal. But what proved to me that Hullmetal Girls was the book for me was the cyborg aspect. They have these Scela which are like these alien embodiment. It has a will and it sort of mends to the body. It's supposed to be this symbiotic process, because if it's not, then the human can die.

But this had all sorts of delicious I know that's a weird word to use consequences and challenges for the book. Are they still human? And what parts of their agency do they retain? I can't get over the book. There's too much that I love. Oct 07, A rated it it was ok Shelves: am-i-missing-something , aces , queer-as-in-fuck-you. My friends, this book let. Aroace protagonist in a book about cyborgs?

This is my niche. Unfortunately Hullmetal Girls didn't really deliver. The characters felt one dimensional very clear motivations but not much beyond that ; the plot wasn't well structured; and the descriptions fell flat. The descriptions. I could never wrap my mind around what the cyborgs actually looked like. And at one point, I realized a character who hadn't been fully described, who I'd been My friends, this book let. And at one point, I realized a character who hadn't been fully described, who I'd been imagining as a dude in his 40s or 50s, was actually a teenager. I won't speak beyond my own identities, but the representation felt I can't quite put my finger on it. It was refreshing to see an aroace character explicitly call herself aroace but, as other reviewers have pointed out, it's basically forgotten after that. Other identities are treated similarly. Is the book trying to play the representation casual? But it did feel a bit like tokenism to me.

That is not informing this review. All in all, this was a big bummer to slog through--especially after I had been looking forward to it for so long. Sep 07, Faith Erin Hicks rated it liked it. I really loved the worldbuilding. Unfortunately the characters, villains and their motivations were super thin, never quite living up to the promise of the setting. Jul 09, Arys rated it it was amazing Shelves: ya-reads , sci-fi-fantasy. Set years after a fleet of ships leaves the Solar System in search of a new planet where humanity can survive, things have settled into tiers based on how close a ship is to the front of the fleet. A terrorist group, Fractionists, aims to take power in order to break up the fleet rather than keep it consolidated. The General Assembly's troops and enforcers, Scela, are made up of cyborg warriors.

Those who have volunteer to risk their lives to see if they can join with an exo. Told from two different POV's of people who have decided to take that chance. Aisha Un-Hand has made the choice to become Scela in order to help her family. Her pay goes to medical care for her brother and to keep her sister from having to work a dangerous job. Key Tanaka cannot remember why she decided to take the exo. Her memories are disjointed or non-existent. Each is from opposite ends of the fleet and brings an opposing and complex perspective. As they and two other Scela recruits they are joined with go through training and assignments we find that things are even more complex than they seem between the General Assembly and the Fractionists and as Aisha and Key learn more and speculate it creates an added complexity to a story with an innovative setting and interesting dynamics.

Overall I enjoyed Hullmetal Girls by Emily Skrutskie both for some of the Sci-Fi themes, familiar and unfamiliar blended together, as well as for the layers of the story we are given as the characters learn more about their new and past selves and the underbelly of the Fleet. This was a very detailed book which gives us both social dynamics and technical futurism. I voluntarily reviewed an advance review copy of this book I received for free from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my open and honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Read out the first chapter of Hullmetal Girls here!

We're tools. Things to be wielded with force. The book gripped me with its first words, providing just enough of a primer of the world, the customs, and I had high hopes for this Battlestar Galactica mashup with cyborgs Read out the first chapter of Hullmetal Girls here! The book gripped me with its first words, providing just enough of a primer of the world, the customs, and I had high hopes for this Battlestar Galactica mashup with cyborgs and a militaristic dystopian future. Unfortunately, this book fell short for me and didn't live up to my hopes. It's been three hundred and one years since humanity left the solar system and took to space in search of a new planet to call home. They live in a fleet of ships that are all under Commander Vel's command and searching for a home together.

Due to rising tensions from the Fractionists that want to see the fleet split up into smaller groups to search, Vel has requested a large recruitment drive for people to volunteer to become Scela, cyborgs in the General Body that are the military force of the fleet. Hullmetal Girls is told in the alternating perspectives of new Scela recruits Aisha Un-Haad and Key Tanaka, but there are also two secondary characters that are part of their "unit": Woojin Lin and Praava.

Hullmetal Girls by Emily Skrutskie - Penguin Books Australia

If she can make it through the training, she might have a shot at recovering her missing past. In a unit of new recruits vying for top placement, Aisha's and Key's paths collide, and the two must learn to work together--a tall order for girls from opposite ends of the Fleet. But a rebellion is stirring, pitting those who yearn for independence from the Fleet against a government struggling to maintain unity. With violence brewing and dark

secrets surfacing, Aisha and Key find themselves questioning their loyalties. They will have to put aside their differences, though, if they want to keep humanity from tearing itself apart. Get A Copy. Hardcover , pages. More Details Original Title. Other Editions 3. Friend Reviews. To see what your friends thought of this book, please sign up. To ask other readers questions about Hullmetal Girls , please sign up. I've seen this tagged as LGBT but what kind of specific representation does this book have?

Emily One of the two POV characters identifies on the page as aroace. One prominent side character is a trans girl, and another is on-the-page pansexual. On ...more One of the two POV characters identifies on the page as aroace. One character can be read as questioning or uncertain, but only ever expresses romantic interest in other genders. Is this book a standalone or part of a series? See 2 questions about Hullmetal Girls.... Lists with This Book. Community Reviews. Showing Average rating 3. Rating details. Sort order. Start your review of Hullmetal Girls. Jan 27, Elle ellexamines rated it really liked it Shelves: zreads , yreleases , favorite-characters , favorite-friendships , 4-star , lgbtq , authors-of-color , sff-scifi-dystopias , elle-recs-list , gay-genre-fiction. Hullmetal Girls follows Aisha, who sells her body to become a mechanical soldier for the chance to save her brother, and Key, a girl who wakes up in a mechanical body with no memory of how she got here - or whether she consented.

As the two vie for a top spot with their squad of four, they become entangled in a vast rebellion on the ship, and are forced to question everything they know. This is a book that, first and foremost, plays off fear. I am also terrified of body horror. And of needles. I would argue this is more of a worldbuilding-focused story. And can we just talk about how cool the world is?

Very Pacific-Rim with the mechanically-enhanced copilots and the friendship focus. Very current-adult-scifi with the worldships. Very dystopia with the oppressive government and rebellion. Yet somehow, this feels like something very new; via a discussion of agency and a lack of tropey romance, it blends a mix of tropes into something that feels very original.

There are two narrators: Aisha Un-Haad, a hijabi aroace girl trying to save her sister, and Key Tanaka, a Japanese girl with her memory wiped. Something I really like about this book is that Aisha and Tanaka are both angry, and the book does such a good job of humanizing and validating that anger. They are dealing with the loss of their autonomy, of their bodies, and with a classist system attempting to continue that takeaway. The narrative around their realization of this is brilliant , and I found myself rooting so much for them both. Actually, can we just talk about Aisha? Her sister Malikah is one of my favorite characters, and her devotion to her and Amar is one of the best parts of the whole book. Hullmetal Girls is also a book primarily driven by friendship - there is no romance - and by the squad dynamic of the four scelas.

Pravaa and Woojin each make for compelling leads - Pravaa is Indian, pansexual, and a trans girl, and Woojin is Korean. She gets the balance just right for me. The narrative is so interested in the agency of these characters, and in the loss they must experience, and in their struggle, at every moment, to wrest it back. I liked it. But I also really wish the fact that the cast is Very Queer were like. I think the author was trying to make all the queer rep really incidental and then went too far in the Quest For Casual Queerness and just didn't talk about it past that? But overall? TW: needles, death in space, body horror and loss of bodily autonomy. Blog Goodreads Twitter Youtube View all comments. Mar 30, Cece ProblemsOfaBookNerd rated it really liked it Shelves: anticipated-of , lgbtqia , science-fiction , female-protag , read-in , my-books , split-pov , e-arcs.

Hullmetal Girls is the weird, complex, sci-fi book about consent and reluctant friendship between girls I didn't know I was looking for. Aisha makes the choice for herself, a drastic decision that goes deeply against her religion, in order to get the government money her younger siblings need to survive life in the back of the fl Hullmetal Girls is the weird, complex, sci-fi book about consent and reluctant friendship between girls I didn't know I was looking for. Aisha makes the choice for herself, a drastic decision that goes deeply against her religion, in order to get the government money her younger siblings need to survive life in the back of the fleet. Key doesn't know why she made the decision she did. She has memories of a life of privilege, a world where she wanted for nothing. But her memory is full of holes, and she can't piece together why a girl of her standing would ever decide to become a mechanical monster.

So much about this book is a discussion of consent, of bodily autonomy, of classism and the moral gray of an uprising. It's a deeply fascinating story, and one that can get horrifying fairly quickly if you have issues with body horror and loss of bodily autonomy - which I do! It's an alarming subject matter! There were times when this was a hard read. Related to autonomy and lack of consent, I do want to say that there are a couple of characters who experience some sort of outing, or are forced to come out, under unideal circumstances. Scela are often forced to share a brain space and all their thoughts. Due to this system, which the characters are forced into without warning or consent, we learn that one of the side characters is a trans girl. This also leads to a later scene in which Aisha is exposed to memories of characters having sex and, when she is deeply uncomfortable with this, comes out as aroace.

At this time, another character comes out as pansexual as well. I, as a queer reviewer, felt that this scene very clearly established the through-line of lack of consent and autonomy that the main characters were faced with. It was difficult, and wrong, and these characters should not have had to come out the way they did, which I feel is the point the scenes were making. Some ownvoices a-spec reviewers have also felt this, but many feel that these scenes were hurtful, so please be aware of that particular content going in.

Ok, so back to the rest of the book. This features and enemies-to-best-friends female friendship that I would like to shout about to the heavens. Especially because I feel like Aisha and Key were not written to be especially likable characters. Aisha is furious, bold, and unyielding in her protection and love of her siblings. She will make bad decisions and follow them through fueled by her one-sighted view of how the world should work. I think this makes her a fascinating character, but also one that challenges readers. Similarly, Key is very much a privileged main character surrounded by characters with no privilege and that is played up in the way she treats Aisha, Pravaa, and Woojin.

She is also incredibly angry, and a lot of that rage is focused inwards on the holes in her memories and the ways they make her feel incomplete. Because her anger is focused on what she feels she is lacking, as well as the people in her life who have led a much more complicated life, she is also a challenge for readers. But I feel like this book dealt with anger in such a particular, validating way that I also couldn't help but love both Key and Aisha. Besides the characters, Hullmetal Girls excels in its worldbuilding. I think it is pretty easy to see the author's love of sci-fi wound

through the story, especially her love of films like Pacific Rim.

I think the world does a great job of walking a line between that dour feel of an all-powerful regime and the fun of a world set across a group of spaceships. There are moments when it feels like the book allows itself to be more fun, to embrace the fact that its main characters are super soldiers in space. I really feel like that levity lent itself so well to the much tougher subject manner and some of the complex decisions both Aisha and Key were working through. And speaking of worldbuilding, I know I just wrote a whole paragraph about some of the aspects of the mind-sharing technology in this world and what that leads to, but mind-sharing is a personal all time favorite trope of mine and I honestly screamed aloud when I realized how it was going to be incorporated.

Characters who are constantly faced with that level of closeness, and how sharing one-another's every thought can shape relationships, is a fascinating concept to me that I think was used incredibly well throughout this entire book. Honestly, and I don't feel this is hard to gather, I adored this book. It had all the elements of a fast-paced sci-fi story I was looking for, it had excellent characters, worldbuilding stakes, and an exploration of what one is willing to do for freedom that impressed me so deeply. I loved every second of this book, and I can't wait to see how Emily Skrutskie continues to write worlds and stories that are all-consumingly fantastic. I am dying?? View all 4 comments. The trans character is outed without her consent: the Scela have this group-think capability with their exos where they can actually "read" one another's emotions and thoughts, and one of the narrators utilizes this to out Praava without any consent being given whatsoever.

On top of the poor content, the author has taken to invading reviewers' private spaces by harassing them on social media, and more. It's been a bad look all around, and has sadly quite probably removed Emily Skrutskie's other works from my TBR. You can read more about that here, with screenshots and receipts attached. Between the problematic content and the fact that this book was already a 2. This is what a Scela is meant to be. A living weapon, a replacement for the ancient guns that blew holes in the hulls of ships we lost so long ago that their names are no longer taught. The Scela are people who have been given a robotic exoskeleton to wear on their backs, which drills into their nervous systems and feeds commands and information to their brains. My favorite part of the book was learning about how the exos work, the surgeries required to become a Scela, and the features that came along with it, such as their group-think capabilities and the options for them to exert their willpowers and commands over them teammates or inferior colleagues.

I thought this whole idea was super unique and would translate beautifully to the silver screen. Unfortunately, where Hullmetal Girls fell short for me was the characters themselves. I also felt like some of the characters—Aisha especially, in the second half—were making choices and displaying behaviors that felt very bizarre compared to their original personality constructs. I may not be a useful Scela yet. The plot itself is intriguing enough once you get a little ways in it does start off slow, but again, it lost me in the ending. All in all, did I love this?

Buddy read with one of my faves, Heather! You can find this review and more on my blog, or you can follow me on twitter, bookstagram, or facebook! View all 8 comments. This is my third book. The closer I look at it, the more I realize it's made of things that scare me. Physical things, like surgery and irrevocable body modification and sci-fi body horror. Abstract things, like being known too well, giving away too much of yourself, and being used. But it's also made of things I love: spaceships, jacked up cyborgs, angry girls, and machines with a little sass in them. I hope it scares you, but you love it too. View 2 comments. Jul 09, Acqua rated it it was ok Shelves: predictable, dystopian, no-romance, q, qf, arc, ya, db, sci-fi. View all 7 comments. Aug 21, Claudio Arseneault added it Shelves: sf, lgbt, asexual, aromantic.

The attention and care Hullmetal Girl gives to violation of consent and bodily autonomy and the way invasion of the mind and body can affect someone seems to vanish when it comes to the way queer identities are revealed. The following has discussion of outing a trans character and of a seemingly sex-averse aroace her stomach turns at the mention of sex at least once that I clearly recall, and she seems generally put off by it character being forced to witness sex between others.

It happens and the story immediately moves forward, which left me with the impression no one really thought of it as a forced outing. This is especially frustrating because Praava talks about taking hormones not long after, and this could have served as the willing, casual coming out, making the first intrusion and chromosome stuff completely pointless. Honestly, no matter how you look at it, it was bad. Now for the forced witnessing of sexual intercourse... Below is the description of what is shared through the exosystem. I think this contributes a lot to the feeling these events can be dismissed as minor, rather than being treated with the seriousness they deserve "[I was both told this scene was awful, and that it wasn't so bad. Well, for me it was awful when it clicked that Tanaka "clearing the images, the sensations, the sex" meant so did Aisha. Considering her stomach flips earlier in the story at the mention of someone flooding the exosystem with mention of sex Aisha comes out in the conversation immediately following this, stating that this kind of "problem" will not happen with her because she is aroace, and as this is the only time asexuality and aromanticism are mentioned clearly the other is an oblique reference that Key uses as an attack, so And that's pretty much it when it comes to queer rep.

It's not the focus--why, awesome! But the consequence of spending very little time mentioning queer identities or reflecting them through internal narration is that the instances it shows up have WAY more weight. So no, I wouldn't recommend this book for the representation in it. A few other notes: I couldn't distinguish Key's and Aisha's narrations unless they referred to each other, or near enough.

Every time I stopped mid-chapter, I got confused. And finally, this is a story with cyborgs and a lot of machine-enhancements that frequently equates Scela half-human, half-machine bodies to being a monster, and I wasn't entirely comfortable with that treatment. Disabled reviewers could discuss this better; it just often felt like despite treating its characters as humans, the story pushed for the idea that their body wasn't, and that they were trapped in it. With all of that said, it does have some good stuff. While this isn't the most thrilling story I've read, and some of the twists are predictable, I did grow attached to Aisha and her anger and her love for her family. I loooove the concept of four people's mind connecting so thoroughly and learning to be there for each other and supporting each other the way they do at the end.

I love a good revolutionary story. The reading experience wasn't bad, but I was incredibly excited for it before hearing of its potential rep issues, and this still leaves me with mostly disappointment. Likewise, I enjoyed reading about ethnically and sexually diverse characters. The story was not

particular original, which I didn't really mind, but I found the actual narrative disappointingly weak. I wanted to completely love this novel, but instead I have to settle for appreciating it. Even though it's classified as young adult, I thought it was 3. Even though it's classified as young adult, I thought it avoided a lot of the usual tropes and read more like adult fiction. Dec 13, Sana marked it as to-read-so-bad-it-hurts. Jun 16, Leah rated it it was ok Shelves: young-adult-lit , netgalley-edelweiss , m-f , ebooks-kindle , trans , queer-lit , ace-spectrum , arcs-review-copies , 2-stars , non-or-dubious-consent. I had high hopes for this book, but unfortunately, it fell flat in a lot of ways.

Read the full review on my blog. Jul 24, Kayla rated it really liked it Shelves: releases. The Hunted. Daughter of Deep Silence. Will McIntosh. The Weight of Zero. Karen Fortunati. Shades of Earth. Kelley Armstrong. Half Life. Lillian Clark. Scott Sigler. A Line in the Dark. A Million Suns. The Dead-Tossed Waves. The Dark Side of Nowhere. Neal Shusterman. Niall Leonard. The Dark and Hollow Places. Survive the Night. Danielle Vega. Eve of Man. Giovanna Fletcher and Tom Fletcher. Wink Poppy Midnight. April Genevieve Tucholke. Battle Lines. It Will End Like This.

Jillian Blake. Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake. The Upper World. The Secret Garden. Frances Hodgson Burnett. Black Spiral. Glork Patrol Book Two. With Lots of Love. How to Save a Superhero. Walking in Two Worlds. Goodnight Ganesha. The Many Meanings of Meilan. This Town Is a Nightmare. When Grandfather Flew.

[The Additional Journals and Letters of Frances Burney : Volume II: 1791-1840](#)
[Notebook : Large format \(letter size\). 120 Lined pages. Wide ruled. Ideal for School notes, Journal](#)
[Blank Canvas](#)