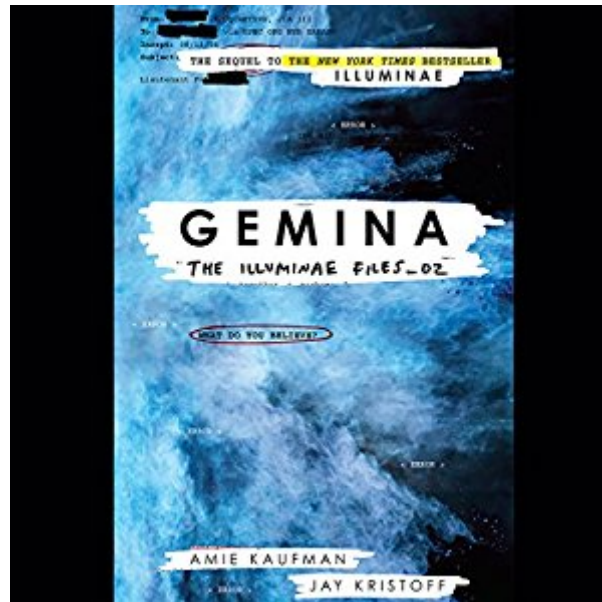


The book was found

Gemina



Synopsis

The highly anticipated sequel to the instant New York Times best seller that critics are calling "out-of-this-world awesome". Moving to a space station at the edge of the galaxy was always going to be the death of Hanna's social life. Nobody said it might actually get her killed. The sci-fi saga that began with the breakout best seller *Illuminae* continues onboard the Jump Station Heimdall, where two new characters will confront the next wave of the BeiTech assault. Hanna is the station captain's pampered daughter, Nik the reluctant member of a notorious crime family. But while the pair are struggling with the realities of life aboard the galaxy's most boring space station, little do they know that Kady Grant and the *Hypatia* are headed right toward Heimdall, carrying news of the Kerenza invasion. When an elite BeiTech strike team invades the station, Hanna and Nik are thrown together to defend their home. But alien predators are picking off the station residents one by one, and a malfunction in the station's wormhole means the space-time continuum might be ripped in two before dinner. Soon Hanna and Nik aren't just fighting for their own survival; the fate of everyone on the *Hypatia* - and possibly the known universe - is in their hands. But relax. They've totally got this. They hope. Once again told through a compelling dossier of emails, IMs, classified files, transcripts, and schematics, *Gemina* raises the stakes of the *Illuminae* Files, hurling listeners into an enthralling new story that will leave them breathless.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This review was originally posted on my blog, June Reads Books. As was completely expected, *Gemina* was a rollercoaster and I was hanging on tightly to discover the end. This second

installment of the Illuminae Files takes place at the space station Heimdall that Hypatia and all the people aboard have been fighting to reach the whole last book. The story opens just before a station-wide celebration of a holiday. Cue Hanna, the spoiled station captain's daughter who will stop at nothing to get her way. She's planning the perfect expensive outfit for the perfect date with her boyfriend to the big celebration at the station. Until suddenly the station is ambushed by BeiTech. Suddenly people are dying left and right, and she is cut off from her boyfriend. The only people able to team up with Hanna to save their station are two cousins from a criminal gang. About two thirds of the way through the book, the crew on Hypatia are able to make contact with the space station and both discover themselves in a nearly impossible phenomenon that has caused two alternate universes to merge as one. Not only do Hanna and her team need to save their space station from their invaders, but now they also need to team up with the crew from Hypatia to save their universe from collapsing. Of course the whole book is filled with strategic ass-kicking and grotesque deaths, because what else would you expect from Kaufman and Kristoff? A cool aspect that separates this book from the previous is the illustrations by Marie Lu. Hanna is a creative thinker and best processes things by doodling in her journal. Many of her journal pages throughout the invasion are included with the files and allow for the reader to connect with her and other characters on a deeper level. I love this addition to the storytelling. My favorite aspect of Gemina, though, was the amount of character growth developed throughout this intense reading experience. Each of the characters (at least the ones that outlived others longer) were fully fleshed out and came out the other end as a changed person. It made me root for the characters even more. Gemina follows Illuminae as one of my favorite reads this year. Kaufman and Kristoff have this habit of ripping your beating heart out of your chest, crushing it, inflating it with a breath of hope, repeating this a couple times, and then shoving your heart back into your chest, filling you with every emotion in the book. Now dump some delightful romance into the madness that will warm up that very heart that is going through so much turmoil. I anxiously await the third and final installment with bated breath.

Though I didn't like this book as much as its predecessor, ILLUMINAE, I did really like it. The biggest reason I found it slightly less enjoyable than the first book was that it was impossible to reproduce the first book's originality; trying to do basically the same thing a second time was inevitably going to provoke feelings of "been there, done that." There were also a few other things that interfered with my enjoyment of GEMINA:--the unrelenting teen-snarky repartee was a bit much for me--I'm getting tired of "kick-butt heroines" in YA--I didn't much care for the male lead, a

small-time thug and member of a crime family--the subplot with the brain-sucking monsters was way too much like the "Alien" franchise. But other than that, I found this book as intense and fun as the original. The plot kept me turning pages, the majority of the characters (especially a character with a disability) were well rendered, and the ingenuity of the concept continues to impress me. I have to really love a series to read past book 1, but in the case of this series, I can see myself buying the books as long as the authors keep turning them out.

OH. MY. GOD. IF I COULD GIVE THIS BOOK 10000000000/5 STARS, YOU BET YOUR BUTT I WOULD. THIS BOOK WAS FREAKING EPIC AND AMAZING AND FANTASTIC AND MIND BLOWING AND POWERFUL AND ACTION-PACKED AND SO MANY FREAKING OTHER WORDS. *breathes* I will try to be chill. BUT I KNOW NO CHILL. This story is one of the best, if not the very best that I have read this year thus far. It's the most complex thing ever and it is epic. From the get-go, it is nothing but action. Just know that it is fantastic and mind-blowing. It is fabulous. It is unique. It is heartbreaking and soul-wrenching. It will tear you apart just to put you back together. It is literally so hard to describe without spoiling it. Just know it will blow your freaking mind. You immediately connect with all of the characters. Some characters you really love, you end up having mixed feelings about. Characters you were pretty apprehensive about, you end up loving to pieces! They are all very complex and dynamic and well-thought out. I loved their different personalities and how they clashed and came back together. It was super refreshing to see such dynamic characters. We usually see the same type of characters in YA, but these characters were some of the best that I've read about in a while. The format of this book was even better than that of the last book. So much more was introduced. It was super cool to see the artwork of Marie Lu. She is an artistic genius! I loved all of the IMs and emails and files and just how you got to know each character with this format. You get to see the story in a different light. You get duped into a lot of things because of the dynamics of the story and the unique way it is told. This book is so fast-paced (in the best way ever) and so action-packed, that it is literally impossible to put this book down. I AM SERIOUS. I read this book, being almost 700 pages, in TWO DAYS. If I didn't have class and didn't have to go to sleep, I would have stayed up all night reading it that first day! If I haven't given you a fantastic reason to pick up this book, then I do not know what would be one. GO DO YOURSELF A FAVOR. READ THIS BOOK.

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