The Giver Book Review

Zack Chen 2020/11/4

*The Giver,* a humanistic science fiction novel by Lois Raleigh, was published on April 16, 1993. It won the Newbery Award for Children in 1994 with sales of 3.5 million copies. In America, it is required reading in many junior high schools, but it is also banned.

The novel begins with the construction of a utopian future society. As the plot unfolds, it gradually turns into a dystopia. The novel tells the story of a boy named Jonas at the age of 12, Jonas lives in a community without pain, without conflict, without emotion. Jonas was chosen to take over as *The Giver*.

In the book, the people in the community can't see the color, I think the color is a kind of hint here, it suggests that people in such a society has no thoughts and feelings. Everything is dull black and white. The government in this society clearly wants to create a utopian society, but also inhibits people's emotions. So where’s the difference between this society and the zoo.

My favorite character is Jonas, who seems to be the only sentient being in this crazy society. However, those feelings and memorys cannot be shared with others and can only be left behind by himself, which is the loneliest. Jonas is also the only person who can retain justice and principles in this crazy society. At the end of the novel, he silently chooses to return the memory to everyone and leaves alone.

In today's society, indeed, there are wars and conflicts, but also full of the warmth, joy, and love between people. Like those memories in the book, the warmest time is Christmas, when families get together, open gifts, and feel the warmth and love of the holiday. People have the freedom to choose and everyone can pursue their own interests and feelings. That is freedom, that is what people yearn for, that is the essence of society. Indeed, future assimilation solves all sources of evil, but also deprives people of emotion, while reason and data replace it. And those who are different are banished to death, which makes me feel a little unfair.

I think this book isn’t a proper Sci-Fi, a real Sci-Fi is based on scientific or historical conclusions, rather than unprincipled, ungrounded imagination. Such style should be network novel or horror novel series. And since I can't really learn anything from this book from the perspective of a reader, it's written more from the perspective of a ruler, so this book should be attributed to President Trump and President Xi Jinping, rather than a must-read book for elementary and middle school students. And it has no high literary value

In the nutshell, I think this book is not bad, The plot is so interesting and the content so novel that I recommend it to politicians in the hope that they don't turn their country into a dystopian society. I rate this book five out of three stars.