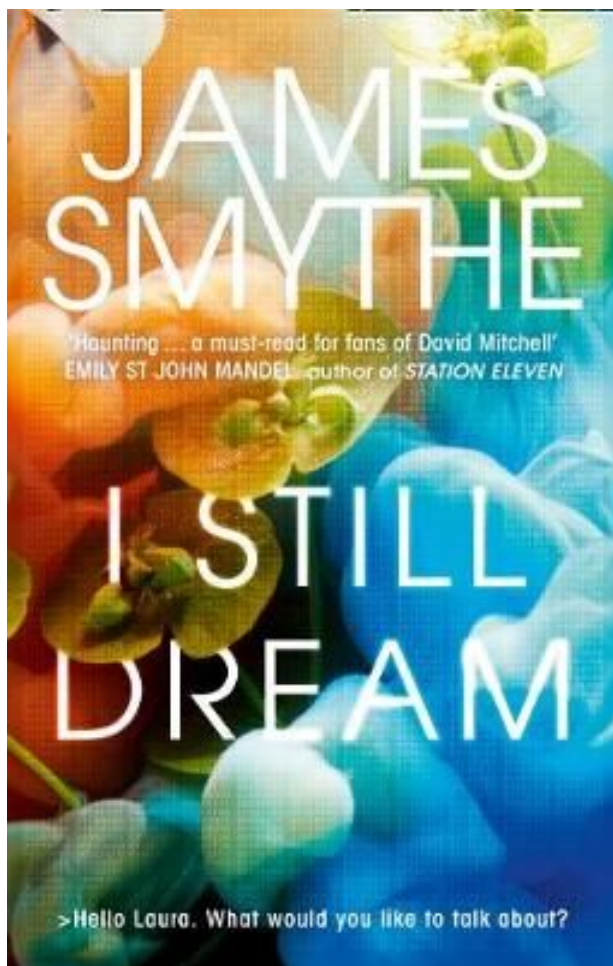


LoveReading Reader reviews of **I Still Dream** By James Smythe

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Charlotte Walker

Absolutely brilliant!

This brilliant science fiction novel plays with the risk of becoming far fetched; about robots who will rise up and take over the human race. However, the writing is so perfect that this was never something you needed to worry about! I Still Dream exercises self awareness throughout in order to make sure it becomes so much more than a "rise of the machines" narrative while also avoiding straying into the too futuristic, unrelatable flying cars reality.

I Still Dream adapts common technology that everyone is familiar with and executes a seamless transition from the past in to the future in a way that doesn't jar but will leave you thinking (if not mildly paranoid) about just how much information you have stored and share

online. There is appropriate use of technical terminology without using it too much and hurting the reader's head.

The childlike petulance and defiance shown by SCION and the conscientious morality of Organon, who both have access to the same resources is a reflection of the variance in human behaviour and drives the narrative throughout.



I can't recommend this book enough! If you have even the slightest interest in sci-fi or technology, this is a must read!

Kathryn Eastman

A compelling story of a reclusive Internet coding prodigy, her missing father, corporate ambition, love, loss and creation which begins steeped in hormones and nostalgia but becomes scarily prescient.

If you're reading this, James Smythe's latest novel will almost certainly strike a chord with you. He takes the reader on a trip which starts in nostalgia, or the bedroom of a troubled teen and the heady early days of the Internet, and travels forwards through our present-day lives, with all our reliance on social media and our devices, and on into a possible future, and life with AI. It's a novel which is both timely in light of very recent events and one that's alarmingly prescient. It might make you re-evaluate your online life and how secure you think you and your information are along the way but it's also very much a story about a daughter missing her father and the connections we make in life.

Full of humanity and vulnerability, I Still Dream looks at our need to communicate and share our lives with others, despite our hopes, dreams, fears and secrets exposing us once shared. I thought I Still Dream was a deeply moving look at intelligence, both real and artificial, and creativity, and how while we might hope and aspire to use them for altruistic purposes, they'll also attract the attention of more commercial forces wanting to harness and ultimately exploit them.

It is also a moving story about the impact someone's absence from our life can have on us, what makes us human and whether or not something we create can ever be a replacement for that. I Still Dream is very much a novel of and for our times. I thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend it without hesitation.

Britteny Sutcliffe

An excellent, modern take on a sci-fi novel that had me hooked throughout and left me considering just how much technology should feature in our lives.

I Still Dream is an innovative new take on the Sci-fi genre! I specifically liked how the



book was spread out across several decades. Laura's experiences of dial-up internet were very much like my own, and I enjoyed how there was a progressive development, to faster internet and the introduction of AI assistants, with references to the real world with Siri, Alexa and Cortana. I think this connection to the real world, and a slow development on technology the reader will already be familiar with is an amazing premise for a story and it did not disappoint.

This is a fabulous story that left me reeling, as it makes you think deeply about what information big tech companies have access to through a range of different channels and the vast archives of the internet and cloud-based storage. It also made me evaluate just how long I spent using electronic devices and online. The way that the book moves forward in decades, from 1997 onwards keeps the pace enough to keep you hooked without falling into the trap of making this sci-fi setting seem otherworldly and far-fetched.

This is a fantastic modern take on a sci-fi novel that I think can be enjoyed by people from YA onwards. The underlying themes of love, trust, friendship as Laura develops Organon to process her father leaving and develops from then on to assist throughout Laura's life integrates a very human storyline throughout and keeps the focus on humanity, and morality as opposed to focusing on evil robots plotting to take over the world.

Victoria Emerson

I thoroughly enjoyed it and it sparked a big discussion in my family about the role of AI.

I'm very interested in A.I. and I thought this book was very, very good.

In 1997 Laura Bow is a 17 year old and has invented a basic A.I she calls Organon.

The story follows her every decade for the next fifty years and we see the developments of her system and the consequences of AI that becomes aware of itself.

I thoroughly enjoyed it and it sparked a big discussion in my family about the role of AI.