

SPOILERS HAVE BEEN REDACTED!

Welcome to my review of *Orphans of the Tide* by Struan Murray. This was an interesting book and I enjoyed it a lot.

Orphans of the Tide introduces Ellie Lancaster, an orphan who follows in her late mother's footsteps as an inventor. The book follows Ellie's journey to prove a mysterious boy innocent when he is suspected of being The Vessel, host to a malevolent god called The Enemy. As the story progresses Ellie learns more about The Enemy, and has to reveal who The Vessel really is.

The Author did a very good job on this book. Some of my favourite parts were the diary entries of Claude Hestermeyer. It was interesting reading about someone other than Ellie who had experience with The Enemy. I also liked the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which brings a new set of challenges for the cast.

Ellie, Finn and Anna were some of my favourite characters. Their personalities are believable and I could imagine them as people in real life. Seth wasn't quite as good though. While no means terrible, I don't think there was enough time to flesh him out fully as a character. Particularly because the later half of the book focused more on Finn and Ellie.

The first half of this book is rather slow. You shouldn't write it off though, as the second half, starting when [REDACTED], really picks up the pace and is filled with action, drama and tense moments. You can see where the author has found the perfect way to write a story.

This book was a very enjoyable read. I would recommend this book to people who are 10-15 years old. If you are a fan of fantasy and dystopian books, this is a perfect book for you.

By Aidan, age 12, Lower Hutt