Book Review: Confusion of Princes

By Wandile Mchunu 05 November 2024

Confusion of Princes is a pretty interesting read, though it definitely has its ups and downs.

The science fiction story is about a young man who is destined to become a prince, but before he can claim his destiny there are some customs and traditions, he needs to follow like aligning his mind with the higher power so that the kings and other princes before him can communicate with him using telekinesis.

On the positive side, the world-building is fantastic. Garth Nix does a great job of creating this whole complex empire with its own history, customs, and magic traditions. You can easily picture yourself there, and the reading pacing is good – you keep turning the page to see what's going to happen, especially when Khemri starts getting into trouble.

But here's the thing, the arc of the story is mostly unrising, remaining low, this means the characters can feel a bit flat sometimes. You never also get a strong sense of who these characters really are deep down, and the ending? Well, let's just say it is a bit of a roller-coaster ride. Some readers may find it satisfying, I would suggest this book to anybody who enjoys suspense waiting to find out what's going to happen, because personally, I feel like the ending generated too many questions in my head rather than resolve them.

This review of Garth Nix's (Confusion of Princes, 2012). You may republish it, so long as you credit the authors and Karibu! Online (www.Karibu.org.za), and do not change the text. Please include a link back to the original article.