



x0

Sherrie Cronin

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The ancient group x0 hides in the shadows until a young Nigerian beauty forces them to emerge. Thinking that her telepathic abilities are perfectly normal, this Igbo woman draws upon her powers to seek an ally to rescue her captive sister. Unfortunately, the telepath she finds is cranky Texan lady who doesn't believe in nonsense and who insists that the disturbing phenomenon in her own mind isn't there.

Realizing that her sister has become a strategic pawn in a dangerous game of international politics, she vows to do anything to get the attention of this uncooperative fellow psychic. As the women struggle with each other, common links begin to forge these two radically different women together in ways that even x0 does not understand. They could intervene, but should they?

This second edition of x0, the first novel in the 46. Ascending collection, has been designed for a better transition from the original ebook format. Links and supplemental information have been moved to the book's website where the reader can browse at his or her leisure.

x0 Details

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From Reader Review x0 for online ebook

Michelle Willms says

X0 by Sherri Cronin

Lola Zeitman is pregnant, 26, and a geoscientist. She interprets seismic data for an oil company to assist in determining fault lines for offshore drilling. She works in a male-dominated office. Much of the time, she feels isolated and excluded from most of the group. Even the women working at her place of employment tend to shun her. She is more educated, and the women, for the most part, seem to hold this against her. The men treat her pregnancy as a weakness, as a sort of communicable disease that proper people in their positions should know how to avoid. Lola continues to mature in her profession and in life; she has three lovely children with her extremely wonderful husband.

Somadina, who lives in Nigeria, has lived a life whose early years were marked by sadness. Her father, Ikenna, dearly loved her mother, his first wife, which is not always the case with first wives in Nigeria. Somadina was a perceptive child, quick to pick up on people's moods. She was very intelligent as well. She was lovely and not demanding, seeming to know if the time was not right for play or for questions. When her mother died in childbirth due to the incompetence of a mid-wife, giving birth to a daughter - a daughter that was supposed to be a son, no less - Ikenna became emotionally unavailable to either. He quickly selected two wives to produce sons for him, ignoring his two existing daughters. Somadina vows to grow up to be powerful so that she can always protect her little sister, Nyananyi.

Somehow, Lola in the United States and Somadina in Nigeria begin to form a bond, a bond that grows in strength and in power.

Sherri Cronin has written a novel that is compelling, intelligently written, and filled with riveting historical and factual information about both countries. Her characters are so compelling, the story so riveting, it stays long after the novel has been finished. The ideas contained within XO are phenomenal and raised a number of "what-ifs" within the reader's mind. Few authors have the ability to both grab the imagination and compel the intellect the way Cronin manages to do in this novel. This is simply a must read for those who like to be intellectually challenged by their authors. Cronin is amazing.

This is an excellent book that opens a window in the mind for the consideration of unlimited, unexplored vistas. It welcomes everyone, though the narrow-minded may be a bit challenged to understand.

This book was a First Reads win provided by the author in a Goodreads competition.

sosophiewaslike says

I received this book through a first-reads giveaway.

Despite a relatively gentle start to the story, I was surprised at how quickly I got into this book. The characters are written in such a way that I fell easily into reading about their lives and personalities.

That being said, the pace is far from slow or lacking in excitement. By the final few chapters I literally could not put the book down, desperate to know what would happen next. Also, many important issues are raised throughout the story, including african history, world politics and terrorism, as well as cultural and racial divides.

I would recommend this book to older readers, due to some scenes depicting psychological manipulation (to put it lightly) and sexual, emotional and domestic abuse.

One of the aspects I enjoyed most about this book was how 'convincing' it was, so to speak. I often find in stories where an 'ordinary' character is flung into a situation where they are forced to challenge their beliefs and reconsider their perceptions of reality, they are often blindly accepting of the new circumstances. In this case, Lola's reaction to realising telepathy exists is grounded, gradual, and realistic.

One feature of this book is that it was originally designed to be read on an electronic reader, therefore includes a number of hyperlinks throughout the text, directing the reader to relevant articles, youtube videos, photographs and the like. All these website links are listed in the back for those who, like me, were reading a paperback copy. Although I did not make use of this feature this time around due to limited internet access, I fully intend to do so in the future in order to enhance my reading experience! This is just one example of how well researched and informative this book is, with accurate references to science and particularly drilling in the oil industry.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and would definitely recommend it to others. As this novel is one of six, I am eager to read more and will definitely be adding the others in the series to my 'to read' list! Fianlly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the author, sherrie cronin, for hosting the giveaway, which has provided me with a brillaint read!

David Gregory Lloyd says

x0 is a compelling tale of worlds apart and how they come to interact. The author has drawn extensively on her own personal experience in the field of geophysics where she has interpreted seismic data in the oil industry for many years, as well as her research into Nigeria: covering its historical, political, economical and social aspects.

While the leading plot appears to be the tale of a woman ruthlessly misused as a pawn in a dangerous political game, and the efforts of those who set out to save her - what I found most compelling is the web of human interaction, not only weaved through our increasing immediate access to each other through technological means, but also through the telepathy of the key characters.

When we think of telepathy, many of us still think back to the Duke University experiments, where a person in one room was meant to transmit, through mind alone, images to a person in another room. x0 takes a much more sophisticated approach to the whole notion of telepathy - or better stated: levels of communication which go beyond what is generally accepted as possible according to "natural" laws. Some people might think that we are entering here into the area of Science Fiction, but I don't think so. Many of us have experienced things that we cannot explain by so-called "natural laws" - usually things involving people we are close to. x0 is taking this one step further - building upon what appears to exist and hypothesizing on where it may take us.

Perhaps what appears the most far-fetched in the book is the philosophy of the secret organization, which calls itself x0 (or ONE). Yet, even here, the author doesn't pull us away into a fantasy world. The organization's philosophy is just that - a "philosophy" - which is accepted even to different degrees by the members of the organization, themselves. What is also interesting is that the members of this organization can find their own special place within the organization, no matter if they believe themselves to be religious or not - or whether or not they believe in God.

I found the book well written and a compelling read. Moving back and forth between the minds of the key characters proved to be quite effective and the characters are constructed in such a way as to complement each other in the telling of the story.

The one thing that I found difficult to relate to, however, is the inclusion of "links" in the book. I am not against the idea of introducing links, especially if this creates a type of hypertext which allows the reader to interactively decide in which direction the plot will lead him/her. But this is not the case here. The introduction of links is meant to optionally supply more information about certain things mentioned in the book. However, I can't see a reader following these links in the midst of reading without losing an essential part of the rhythm. Also the sudden appearance of the word "Buy" beside links to a song, tends to suddenly exclude us from the writing, if only for a moment. In this case, I would have preferred the author to have used footnotes - putting a number beside each place where a link is desired and include all of the numbered footnotes as a list of links in a special section at the end of the book.

I look forward to reading more works by this author.

Brian Rush says

This book is really creative and unusual. That up front. I'm interested in seeing the sequel, which is always high praise. The voice is good, the characters are interesting, and so is the plot. There are a couple of experiments that the book makes and I'm still trying to decide if they work, which probably means they do. I'll get to that in a moment.

In synopsis, this is about two women living on opposite sides of the world, geographically and culturally, who are bound together by a telepathic tie even though they are total strangers. The main plot line involves a nefarious political scheme, with the sister of one of the two women as its intended victim. It's a good story, and the way the telepathy contributes to the story development held my interest.

A word about the experiments. There are two of them. One is that the point of view shifts often and abruptly, creating the sense of identify being a fluid and shifting thing, and the isolation of the individual being an illusion. That violates a basic convention of fiction writing which holds that point-of-view changes should be done not too often and clearly delineated by (for example) chapter headings (although other ways of making the shift clear and unconfusing can work, too). I found that jarring to begin with, and you may, too, but my suggestion is to get past it and get used to it -- I think it works. The defiance of the convention is deliberate here, I understand why it was done, and the story still flows well.

The other experiment is to embed links in the story to music, articles, and so on where these occur in the story. That I don't think works as well, but it's by no means a killer. If you click on those links, you'll disrupt the flow of the tale badly and lose immersion, but I didn't find it hard to ignore them, and of course they're still there if I want to go back and check it out.

I did feel that the pace of the story could have been a bit faster and livelier. Some of the passages of description and technical detail could have been shortened, the necessary information conveyed more economically, and the story would have been more gripping; as it was, some of the plot's potential (and it has a lot) was lost, I felt.

Still, good story, and a worthy read.

Abhishek says

A nice book which tells much about Nigerian culture and history. But this is not the major theme of the book. The underlying theme is that of telepathy and how the two protagonists of this book, Lola and Somadina forge a bond between themselves in order to find Somadina's sister, who has been taken captive to be used as a pawn in a larger game. The subject of telepathy is explained in great detail by the author.

The book also touches upon the issues of neglect during childhood and the subsequent effect on the personality of the concerned. In this case Somadina's sister, Nwanyi, suffered from a lack of self respect and longed for affection, which helped her husband to use her in his self delusional plans.

Also mentioned in this book is the issue related to the abuse of wives at the hands of husbands in certain parts of Nigeria, which the author tells is completely legal. This is quite disturbing and the scenes that bring forth this issue are also very bold and disturbing, which are not for the faint hearted. Nwanyi's husband tortures her in the most inhuman of ways and derives sadistic pleasures out of it, just to subvert her into making her act according to his wishes.

What I felt could have been improved in this book was that the plot hatched by Djimon, Nwanyi's husband, could have been given more focus and developed a bit more. Much focus has been given on explaining the phenomenon of telepathy which sometimes gets a bit boring due to the the text bookish feel. But the fast paced ending of the book corrects this to a great extent.

Laura says

Maybe this isn't quite as bad as 1 star. But I just rated Never Let Me Go 2 stars, & that was much better than this.

First, there were more than a few grammatical errors. Your readers shouldn't have to stop to interpret/correct the basics - that brain power should be used for making connections, spotting themes, wondering what's coming next.

Second, there's no real threat at the climax. You know how it will turn out, & that just makes it moot. Nwanyi's abusive experiences before that feel real, & start to verge on harrowing. But then that melts away.

Third, an attempt is made to delve into the x0 organization. But it just never grabbed me.

For all that, the reader does enjoy spending time with Lola & Somadina. They're written well enough to get you through this if you really want to get through it.

And of course, like everything else these days, it's a series. So if you do like it, there's more for you to dig into. Just not for me.

Bob Craton says

This is a fantasy for adults combining the real world and 'magic' in the form of characters with telepathic ability. It's a marvelous example of the 'magical realism' genre. I highly recommend it.

Leesa says

I received this book via LibraryThing's Member Giveaways.

This was a good, unique, fresh book. Cronin crafts a seamless story from the perspective of three people, two of them learning how to manage their telepathy, the other trying to make a violent, political statement.

Cronin weaves in current events, providing links to the news items affecting our main characters. She shows us the struggles Lola and Somadina face in their regular lives as well as coping with their gifts *and* try to save Somadina's sister from a violent, dark existence.

Sometimes from paragraph to paragraph we'd transition from Lola's world (Texas) to Somadina's world (Nigeria), which I felt was well done on Cronin's part to show us how Lola and Somadina were taking two different paths to the same destination.

I did not enjoy reading from Djimon's perspective. I'm not saying it was unnecessary, but it did indeed make it hard for me to read the terrible things he was inflicting on Nwanyi. Abuse is an ugly thing, and it is heartbreaking to think that this goes on and how many people turn a blind eye to it, not just in Nigeria, but everywhere. Cronin doesn't shy away from it, and even at the end, she doesn't sugar coat Nwanyi's recovery. I appreciated this honesty and realism.

The cover art is beautiful, with vibrant colors while showing a hint of the connection in the Power of One philosophy. The typography for the title is distinctive and the art is something I would hang on my wall.

I have the next two books in the series to review, Y1 and Z2. I look forward to reading them.

Teresa Lavender says

WOW - won this here on goodreads. What a fabulous story. Well-written, great story, incredible characters. Had me crying, laughing, anxious, angry. I can't wait to read the rest of Sherrie Cronin's books.

April says

This book was a wonderful surprise. I wasn't sure what to expect when I started reading the book and the

first couple of chapters made me wonder if it was going to be what really interested me. However, I was very happy to realize that I enjoyed the book much more than I ever could have expected. The story touched on so many different aspects of life, relationships, the world, and much more. The story provides a connection with both the United States and Nigeria as well as background information on Nigeria and the people of Nigeria. I loved the inclusion of the websites and information because it provided a much better understanding of some of the characters and their culture as well as how their relationships and laws worked. It was interesting to see how very different people could develop such an incredible bond through a unique connection. Just the idea of xo as a group was intriguing, but I thought the aspects of the group dynamics, ideas, and ability to debate were wonderful. I don't want to touch on the events of the story because I figure anyone who wants to know what the book is about can read the synopsis. Overall, this book was one of the best I have read in a long time. It made me think, consider, feel, and so much more while keeping me entertained and intrigued. I will definitely be reading the rest of the series as soon as possible.

I received a free copy of this book from a Goodreads giveaway.

Anemone Flynn says

x0 (also known as To The Power of Zero when said aloud) by Sherrie Cronin is a thrilling science fiction novel with a global twist. Lola Zeitman's life has been pretty standard up to now. And the birth of her and her husband's firstborn son, though arduous, was the beginning of a pleasant family life, filled with school lunches, neglect for her geologist career, and love. For Somadina and her sister Nwanyi, though, the death of their mother during those years ended any chance for real family relationships with either parent. In their hometown in Nigeria their father withdrew into his shell of pain and anger and remarried, leaving the girls to grow closer and closer together. Nwanyi relied on Somadina for everything.

Then, after Lola's 40th birthday and re-entry to the workforce, sixteen-year-old Nwanyi is given in marriage to a stranger from another tribe and city. The bride price is higher than expected, the groom is a complete unknown, and Somadina is uneasy. Half a world away, Lola begins to feel uneasy about her own sister, and cannot shake the emotions.

That is the start of a slow trickle of feelings, sensations, and thoughts between the two women. Somadina and Lola, two very different women, begin to realize what is going on - then they discover they are not alone in this phenomenon. As Nwanyi edges closer and closer to complete disaster, she cries out to Somadina and Lola, who must work together to discover what has happened to her.

This story is amazingly well-researched and has many multi-media links embedded in the text to help you engage with the culture and story. The relationships are complex and satisfying. I found the premise - telepathy on various levels - fascinating. The mystery and search for Nwanyi offers a convincing and dramatic plot.

It is difficult to get much benefit from the multi-media links on the traditional Kindle device - but it's not a problem to read the story without stopping at each one. A Kindle Fire is recommended to get the full benefit, or you could read it with Kindle for PC or refer to your computer as necessary. The story is tight at the beginning of the book, but does start to unravel slightly at the end. It finishes well, but feels a little unbalanced. The author tries a little too hard to scientifically justify the telepathy - I didn't think it really needed that much explanation.

This book is definitely not for children. There are several adult situations, including some physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. I didn't feel they were gratuitous - the sense of urgency accelerates throughout the story. There are also racial and societal issues discussed, including culture, terrorism, and eugenics. I rate this book as appropriate for Adults (who know what they're getting into) on the Aardvark Scale.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in order to review it.

The above links are affiliate links to Amazon.com. See my disclosures here.

Find more reviews at my book review website, AnemoneFlynn.com

Mickey says

X0 is not for everyone. If you do not possess a sense of humor, a thirst for knowledge, and a great measure of humanity and tolerance toward people, you should NOT read this book.

If you however do own these qualities, you will find X0 a spirit lifting experience, and an added value in the form of knowledge and cultural entertainment that will make you smile and wish to read it again.

The formal story holds within a greater meaning of the way strangers can connect and develop friendship and human bond that is stronger than words. Not everyday you read a book that gives you values, higher than the immediate satisfaction.

It is not easy for all to "get to the story" because this book, unlike many others of that genre, is demanding. It needs attention, open mindedness and curiosity, but the story itself makes persistent worth the while.

X0 is an important book to read, in these days of "global village" and thoughts about the environment, while we forget sometimes that people are the most important asset for other people. We are all the same, we all need a hug, a listening ear and an open heart every now and then. this is what X0 is about.

I loved what it stands for. I loved this book.

Shannon (Mrsreadsbooks) says

The ancient group x0 hides in the shadows until a young Nigerian beauty forces them to emerge. Thinking that her telepathic abilities are perfectly normal, this Igbo woman draws upon her powers to seek an ally to rescue her captive sister. Unfortunately, the telepath she finds is cranky Texan lady who doesn't believe in nonsense and who insists that the disturbing phenomenon in her own mind isn't there. Realizing that her sister has become a strategic pawn in a dangerous game of international politics, she vows to do anything to get the attention of this uncooperative fellow psychic. As the women struggle with each other, common links begin to forge these two radically different women together in ways that even x0 does not understand. They could intervene, but should they?

This was an interesting book, it has aspects of science fiction, paranormal, fantasy and political fiction all wrapped in one. The book does start off a bit slow, but the plot quickly picks up shortly afterwards. The

author took the time to do the correct research into Nigeria, including both social, historical and political aspects when writing this book. Overall, I thought the character development was well done and found it easy to become interested in the lives of all the main characters. It was an interesting read and I would recommend it to those who enjoy stories about telepathy and other such science fiction. Also, the cover art on the paperback version of this book is beautiful. This is the first book in the series. Thank you to the author for sending me a copy of the book.

Anemone Flynn says

x0 (also known as To The Power of Zero when said aloud) by Sherrie Cronin is a thrilling science fiction novel with a global twist. Lola Zeitman's life has been pretty standard up to now. And the birth of her and her husband's firstborn son, though arduous, was the beginning of a pleasant family life, filled with school lunches, neglect for her geologist career, and love. For Somadina and her sister Nwanyi, though, the death of their mother during those years ended any chance for real family relationships with either parent. In their hometown in Nigeria their father withdrew into his shell of pain and anger and remarried, leaving the girls to grow closer and closer together. Nwanyi relied on Somadina for everything.

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Kim says

won off of www.librarything.com
was signed by author
