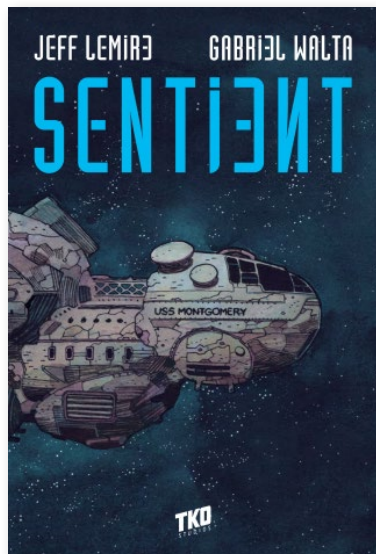


READER'S GUIDE

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Sentient (TKO Presents)



This is a gripping tale of children trying to figure out who they can rely on when all trusted adults are gone. As modern conversations evolve around A.I. and its role in daily life, particularly for our youth, *Sentient* is a great reference point for encouraging productive discussions.

CREATORS: Jeff Lemire and Gabriel Walta

ABOUT: A 2020 Eisner Nominee for Best Limited Series. Welcome to the U.S.S. Montgomery. When a separatist attack kills every adult on board a colony ship in deep space, it is up to VALARIE, the on-board A.I., to help the ship's children survive. But as they are pursued by dangerous forces, can Valarie become more than what she was programmed to be—a savior to these children?

“

“Sentient is a truly original science fiction story that borrows traces of Lord of the Flies and Bicentennial Man infused with the human journey to beat insurmountable odds. The story by Lemire is heartfelt, harrowing, and redemptive. The art by Walta, Wands, Fletcher, and Powell is superb. Altogether, a story that shows the answer to the question, that if you can ever prepare your children for the unthinkable and to trust that you that your nurture leads to their better natures.”—**Graphic Policy**, 2019



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of VALARIE, the A.I.? How does it evolve during the story?
2. Lemire places heavy ethical choices on the shoulders of children and an artificial intelligence. Which decisions did you feel were bad ones? Which choices did you agree with, and why?
3. There is an emptiness felt throughout the story, such as the emotional toll on the children, the lack of physical contact from a parent, and the vastness of space. How does this feeling drive the narrative? How did it influence the character's decisions?
4. What did you think of the Walta making Val look like pieces of the ship versus giving it a humanoid form? Based on appearance alone, do you think others would be more or less likely to accept Val as a nurturing figure?
5. What literary and/or cinematic works were you reminded of when reading *Sentient*?

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