

Book review- Liliana, City of London School for Girls

The Last Storyteller by Donna Barba Higuera

Imagine if the world ended and you were the only person who remembered. That's what happens in *The Last Storyteller*. Petra Peña wakes up on a new planet, hundreds of years after Earth was destroyed. Everyone else's memory has been erased except hers to make a so-called ideal world, but Petra can't let all the memories disappear. She feels responsible for keeping them, even though she doesn't yet know how. The idea of being the only person who remembers the past feels terrifying, and Higuera makes you be able to feel Petra's emotions.

At first, Petra is completely alone. She is scared, frustrated, and unsure of what she's supposed to do. But then she learns that she is a *cuentista*, which is a storyteller, and that her job is to keep history alive. She travels, observes, and shares the stories, even when it's dangerous. I liked that she doesn't give up, even when things are hard, which makes her feel relatable and real. I also liked how her character grows throughout the story. She starts as someone unsure and scared, but by taking on the responsibility of telling these stories, she becomes confident and brave.

One of the things I liked most about this book is how much it made me think about memory and identity, which are both extremely important topics in our lives. The story shows that remembering where we come from is important not just personally. It also focuses on family and ancestors. Petra's connection to her heritage reminded me that stories and experiences shape us into who we are.

The book is exciting but also emotional. I felt Petra's fear when she was completely alone, and I felt proud of her when she began to share her stories and make a difference. It's inspiring to see how one small person can have such a big impact. I also liked how the book mixes genres. Science fiction, history, and culture are all combined. The world Higuera the author created is fascinating, and Petra is a character who feels brave, smart, and real.

I would definitely recommend *The Last Storyteller* to anyone who enjoys science fiction, adventure, or books that make you think. It's a story about courage, determination, and how powerful stories can be. Petra's journey shows that even when everything seems lost, one person can carry hope forward and make such a big difference.

