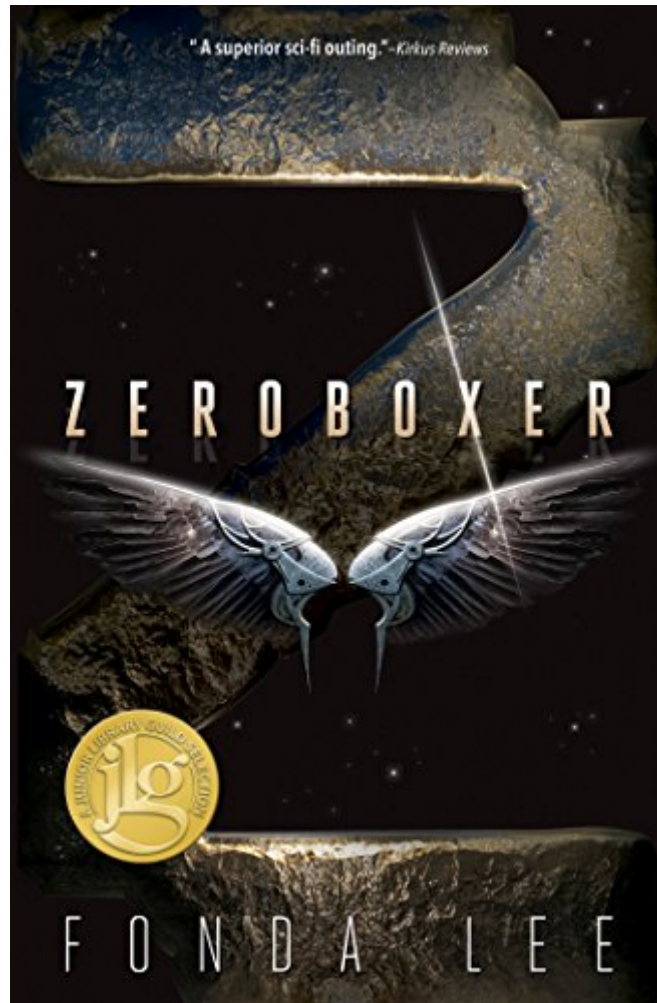




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# Zeroboxer



## Synopsis

A rising star in the weightless combat sport of zeroboxing, Carr “the Raptor” Luka dreams of winning the championship title. Recognizing his talent, the Zero Gravity Fighting Association assigns Risha, an ambitious and beautiful Martian colonist, to be his brandhelm’s personal marketing strategist. It isn’t long before she’s made Carr into a popular celebrity and stolen his heart along the way. As his fame grows, Carr becomes an inspirational hero on Earth, a once-great planet that’s fallen into the shadow of its more prosperous colonies. But when Carr discovers a far-reaching criminal scheme, he becomes the keeper of a devastating secret. Not only will his choices put everything he cares about in jeopardy, but they may also spill the violence from the sports arena into the solar system. Praise: 2016 Top Ten Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers “A superior sci-fi outing.” •Kirkus Reviews “Lee’s debut novel is an intense, smart, and action-packed read.” •VOYA “This gripping sci-fi novel will have teens screaming for a sequel.” •School Library Journal “This is a strong debut from Lee, combining brutal, visceral athletic scenes with science fiction action, all woven around a complex moral dilemma.” •Publishers Weekly “A thought-provoking read.” •Booklist “This book will keep students on the edge of their seat.” •School Library Connection

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

ZEROBOXER kicks butt. I don't say that very often, mainly because it's become such a cliché in YA. How many YA novels and/or main characters have you heard described as "kick-butt" recently? And how many of those same novels and/or main characters actually merited the description? Well, ZEROBOXER does. Fonda Lee's debut not only delivers some amazing fight sequences--conducted, as the title indicates, in zero gravity--but constructs an excitingly original science fiction world set on Earth, Mars, and a lunar colony. The story, which concerns the rise of young Terran zeroboxer Carr Luka to the pinnacle of his sport--and the secrets and lies that threaten to tear him down--is told with the directness and visceral energy of a boxing match, while the subplot concerning Terran/Martian tension and prejudice provides a reflective backdrop to the whole. Carr himself, and the cast of characters surrounding him, are all sympathetically rendered--especially Risha Ponn, an expatriate Martian who works as Carr's marketing strategist and who becomes his romantic interest. Lee's writing is clean, her plotting seamless, and her visualization of what sports and sports marketing might look like in the era of space colonization utterly convincing. Here's a sample, from a scene where Carr encounters some diehard fans: "They all grinned. How childlike they seemed. They were teenagers--one or two of them looked eighteen or nineteen, around Carr's own age--but to him, they all looked like [his fan] Enzo, silly with enthusiasm. This was fun for them, traveling all the way here, sharing in the fandom, getting close to the drama of the [fighting] Cube and the fighters they'd seen in holovid. Zeroboxing defined Carr's life, in every way, good and bad, ecstatic and heartbreaking. He'd given his entire childhood to the sport. It had made him and aged him. But to them, it was all entertainment." That's pretty good stuff! Like many reviewers, I usually point out something I didn't like about the books I review. But in the case of ZEROBOXER, I'm honestly drawing a blank. Lee's terrific debut should be on the reading list of anyone who enjoys genuinely kick-butt YA sci-fi action stories.

So, I'm not much of a sports person at all (very much the bookish and sedentary type), but Zeroboxer had me hooked. The action scenes show off the author's martial arts expertise and writing skill and succeeded in keeping me on the edge of my seat. The worldbuilding was well thought out and diverse in an organic way, creating a believable future extrapolated from present day geopolitics. The deeper themes about genetic engineering were intriguing, but ultimately a bit

lacking in the execution. The story ended with a bang but without enough exploration of the consequences and implications of the climactic events to be fully satisfying for me. I think there was room for a sequel and wanted more than what I got from this standalone title.

This is quite simply one of the best science fiction novels I've ever read. As a reader, I was totally swept away: I found myself rooting hard for Carr, thought the rich world of the future that Lee imagines -- Mars/Earth tension, Luna, space station "vacation" colonies -- was completely immersive, and I gobbled up the thrilling zeroboxing scenes. But as a writer, I might be even more impressed if that's possible. Fonda Lee has not only built a world in ZEROBOXER, she's created a sport -- from the rules and regulations right down to the fandom feeds. It's such a unique and wonderful debut, and I know I will be thinking about this story for quite a long time. I highly recommend this to anyone -- sci-fi readers, sports lovers, thriller readers -- it's a PHENOMENAL novel.

Ooh...this book was good! I'm so glad Sabaa Tahir recommended it to me when we were talking about books to hook the boys in my classroom especially. For those who like watching MMA or enjoy Caged Warrior or futuristic living in space stories, Zeroboxer is a great book recommendation. I was totally engrossed in this story and invested in what would happen to Carr Luka in the Cube as his star rose in the world of zeroboxing. And the world Fonda Lee created as a vision of a future where people are leaving Earth as the planet and society devolves to live on the moon and Mars was intriguing and felt like an all too real possibility as genetic science makes enhancements possible to adapt to those environments. Overall a strong YA sci-fi read!

This is one of the best sci-fi novels I've read in a long time. Carr is a likable and confident character and the worldbuilding is completely on-point--you feel genuinely immersed in the world; there is nothing trite or overworked about it. It's fast-paced, fun and full of energy. Highly recommend!

I loved this book! I am not typically a fan of boxing or MMA but this book is about so much more. Fonda Lee paints a beautiful world that is very technologically advanced from today, but also very believable and accessible to any reader. I was completely drawn in by the story, the characters, and the challenges they faced. It was impossible to resist putting yourself into the conflict and challenging your own beliefs about right and wrong. Fonda Lee is a fantastic story teller, and I cannot wait to read more from this exciting author.

When I first read the description of Zeroboxer, I thought...when is the movie coming out? After reading it, I still think the same thing. This book is well written. Many of the lines make you think. My favorite line is probably: criminally selfish or recklessly selfless? The fight scenes are intense. It is a quick read. I think the ending is actually good. Because it really sums up what living really is.

This takes the best of boxing and scifi and blends them together in a beautiful mix of emotional depth, hard choices, a fascinating world and intensely real characters. The fight sequences especially left me on the edge of my seat and longing for more. My favorite YA scifi in a long while.

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Zeroboxer

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