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ENGL405

Gage's Story Letter #1

Hey Gage, I was the one who did the Line edit of your story. I like the goals you've set out for yourself while writing the story, and I think you have a lot of neat ideas here. Early on I noticed that Eye was the one narrating Evan's perspective. This is a very unique POV, and I really like this idea. In your author's note, you mentioned how you wanted to engage the reader, and I think a POV change is a good way to go about this. Although I feel like there are some stronger ways to include this. I think little insights from Eye would strengthen this unique pov you've set up. The concept is super neat, but trying to force it into a twist hurts the uniqueness of it.

One of the more minor critiques I want to get out of the way is sentence redundancy. I think a quick edit of information and nixing a few sentences that provide similar or the same info as previous ones will help the story flow better.

There's a lot of interesting Sci-Fi. I think this concept of a massive galactic war has a lot of potential for world-building. But I wish the aliens felt more alien. Their actions and living quarters were very human, and I think it was a missed opportunity not to make them as out there and weird as possible. I also think it was a missed opportunity to not explore the idea of 'Memory Interference'. Some of the questions I had were:

- What is the procedure for memory interference?
- Is Eye Evan, or has he become something new?
- Do the other aliens look down on Eye, not that he is "infected"?

I wish it were more about Eye and his interpretation of Evan's death, as opposed to being more about Evan. Not that the Evan stuff is bad, but I think he needs something more going on to justify his story. A lot of the meat and potatoes from this story come from Eye's perspective on Evan's life and the blending of their consciousness. I think this would work better as a longer novel, but as a short story, the concept works even if it's a bit constrained.

Good concept, good story, I just think it needs to be polished up a little, and it'll really start to shine.