

Insignia

By S.J. Kincaid

Annotation

- Forgotten fourteen-year old gaming phenomenon Tom Raines is recruited to fight a virtual reality war in interstellar space. As a member of the Intrasolar Forces, he now has friends and maybe even a girlfriend, but what will it cost him?

Book Talk

- Two alliances, the Indo-American and Russo-Chinese are fighting a virtual reality (VR) war in space. Tom Raines, a nondescript 14-year old with bad skin is recruited to help by joining the Intrasolar Forces. While he is barely making it through his online classes, he is a phenomenal gamer flying under the radar, using his skills in VR parlors in casinos to keep himself and his father alive. With the Forces, Tom learns that as he grows his friendships more is at stake, especially when he's under investigation. The only chance to save himself is to win a reputation at the Capital Summit against his nemesis, and possibly love interest, Medusa. What virtual boundaries does Tom have to cross to win?

Book Trailers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVQ3bcYKpp0>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlWwpmup_rY

Author on the Internet

- Website: <http://sjkincaid.com/>
- Twitter: <https://mobile.twitter.com/SJKincaidBooks>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SJKincaidBooks>
- Blog: <http://sjkincaid.com/blog/>

Items to use in a library display

- Casino chip, wires, gaming equipment, gloves

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- Discussion questions by Shelby Day:
<http://www.tomesociety.org/uploads/1/5/5/3/15531344/insignia.pdf>

First Line of the Book:

- “New Town, new casino--same old plan. Dusty Squanto Casino made it easy for Tom Raines, since he didn't even have to pay his way into their virtual reality parlor.”

Non-Fiction Companion Titles

- *Virtual Reality* by Lisa Yount
- *Virtual Reality* by Sheila Wyborny

What to Read Next

- *The Eye of Minds* by James Dashner

Other Books by this Author:

- *Vortex, Catalyst, Allies* (Insignia Series)
- *The Diabolic*

Additional Resources

- Music:
<http://8tracks.com/qwerty12345678901/official-playlist-for-insignia-by-sj-kincaid>
- Arts/Crafts: Design your own virtual reality game: describe the characters, the location, the challenges players will face and the prizes they will earn.
- Interview with the author:
<http://scifichick.com/2012/07/05/sci-fiction-exclusive-author-interview-sj-kincaid/>;
<http://www.jeanbooknerd.com/2014/07/sj-kincaid-author-interview.html>
- Lesson ideas: Reflecting on dystopian themes:
http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/06/dark-materials-reflecting-on-dystopian-themes-in-young-adult-literature/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=1.
- Lesson ideas: Reflecting on the role of government
<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/04/one-size-fits-all-reflecting-on-the-role-of-government/>;
- Pros and cons of robotic warfare:
<https://ethemes.missouri.edu/themes/2095?locale=en>
- Interview with the author about her new book, *The Diabolic*:
<http://publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-authors/article/69814-writer-nurses-craft-until-diabolically-good-things-happen.html>