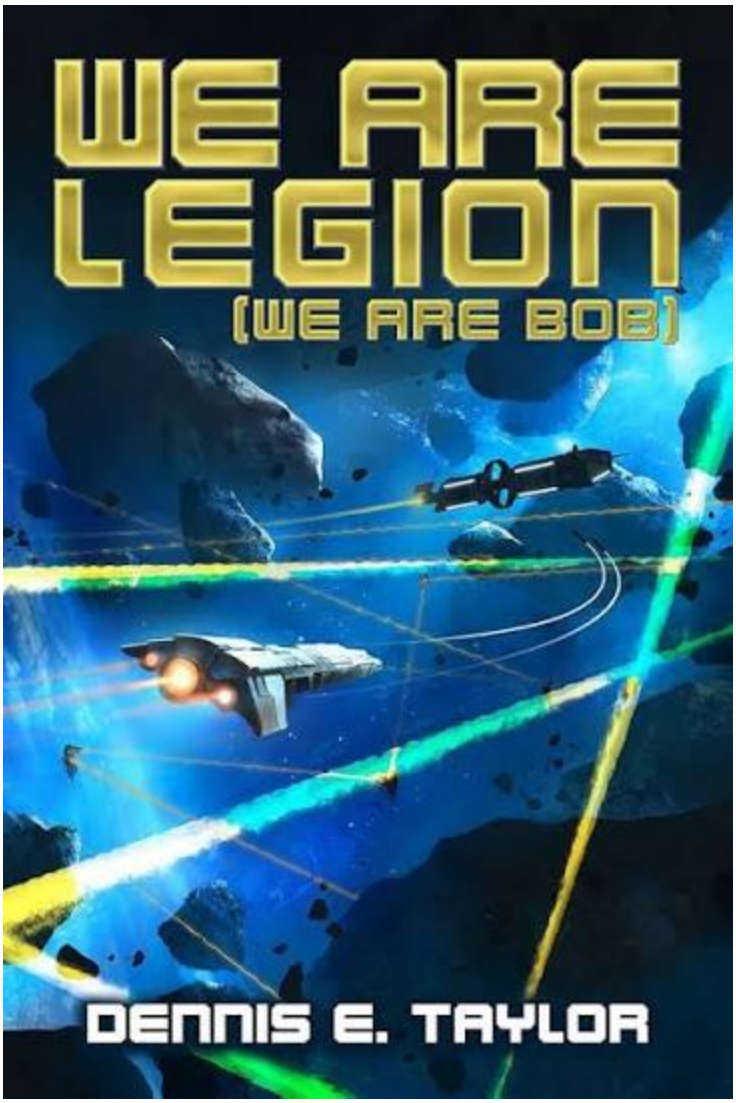

We Are Legion (We Are Bob)
Dennis Taylor
Reviewed by: Ayan Mohapatra, 15
Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity
www.bethestaryouare.org

Bob Johansson, who recently gained large amounts of money from selling a software company, makes a deal with a cryogenics company to freeze his head after his death so that he can be resurrected in the future. However, shortly after making the deal, he is hit by a car and meets an untimely death. When Bob wakes up, it is the 21st century, and he has become an artificial intelligence. Bob is tasked by the dictatorial American regime FAITH to become a self-replicating probe in outer space to search for habitable planets. Once in space, Bob makes many copies of himself, each one slightly

different, beginning an epic adventure to explore new worlds. But other nations also sent replicants into space, creating a looming threat to all the Bobs.

There is a lot to like about We Are Legion (We Are Bob)*. The book splits into various subplots once Bob enters space, ea*ch of them quite enjoyable. Some of the plots are more focused on negotiation and intrigue, while others deal with more straightforward exploration. The book regularly shifts perspective among Bob's copies, allowing for a firsthand understanding of their similarities and differences. Across the book, there is a theme of dealing with Bob's newfound existence. The combination of Bob becoming an AI and his interactions with many slightly different copies of himself raises deep questions about the nature of the self.

There isn't much bad about the book, but there are some parts that could be subjectively irksome. The book regularly references pop culture, most regularly Star Trek. This may be endearing to some, but others, including me, may find it somewhat irritating. Furthermore, besides FAITH, the book does not develop the Earth nations much. Brazil, for example, plays an antagonistic role in the book, with the Brazilian replicant being the closest thing to a main villain. However, we are not given a clear reason as to why Brazil plays such an antagonistic role. Overall, though, these minor flaws pale in comparison to the book's virtues.

I would recommend *We Are Legion (We Are Bob)* to all fans of science fiction 11 and up, perhaps younger if they are a committed reader. The book has it all, with wordbuilding of a future Earth society, interesting xenobiology, some pondering on the nature of the self, and some good humor to boot. *We Are Legion (We Are Bob)* is sure to be a fun, interesting, and thought-provoking experience.

Recommended Titles:

For We Are Many, by Dennis Taylor

Project Hail Mary, by Andy weir

Columbus day, by Craig Alanson