

# THE US Review of Books



## ***Companions***

by Larry Rhodes

[DreamWriters Media](#)

book review by Gretchen Hansen

*"Once they sat with their food trays, Julia blurted out, 'It's kind of weird knowing your main competition is a series of beautiful automations.'"*

Jim's life is humming along nicely. He has a lucrative job in his field of AI and a girlfriend. Although he would not complain about his current situation, it isn't what anyone would consider adventurous. This is about to change in ways he can't even imagine. An acquaintance presents him with an intriguing offer to work on cutting-edge technology for a renowned company. They are, in fact, looking for someone with Jim's expertise in AI to perfect their product.

Alder Industries Projects is more than a curious venture. They are developing life-like "companions." These robots look and move like humans. Jim's job is to make them interact with people. After he completes their programming, he will train them for several months to ensure they provide an experience as close to a real companion as possible. His new reality starts to imitate a strange sci-fi fantasy but in a good way. Each generation of companions is an improved model as the team advances their programming knowledge, and Jim learns how to develop them.

Rhodes is a skillful writer, and his book's narrative is quick-paced without compromising depth. The characters are developed through intelligent dialogue. The author presents intriguing scenarios that provide a tasteful touch of sensuality. He also presents enough details about the process of creating the robots to satisfy readers who love science without weighing down the human story. This novel will appeal to fans of science fiction and drama, and readers will have a difficult time putting this book down. There is no doubt Rhodes will gain new fans who will devour each page.