



Don't judge a movie by its title

By Haley Gimpel

"Don't judge a book by its cover." This well-known saying is often not taken to heart. I know I am quick to judge in certain areas, so I have to back track and rethink why I judged it. Recently, I heard the title of a new popular movie: *K-Pop Demon Hunters*. I thought, "Yeah, I am not interested in K-pop or demons, so I won't watch it." After I changed my mind and watched it, I was pleasantly surprised.

K-Pop Demon Hunters was released on Aug. 23, 2025. It is an animated movie rated PG and is one hour and 36 minutes long. Many Korean themes are incorporated into the film, despite it being an American production. The storyline consists of three girls: Rumi, Mira, and Zoey, who are demon hunters. They are gifted with singing voices to defeat the demons, forming a band called "HUNTR/X," also known as Huntrix. Later on in the movie, a demon boy band, the Saja Boys, pops up and tries to steal their fans' souls. Huntrix has to figure out a way to defeat these demons and protect the world.

Originally, I thought this movie would be glorifying demons and idolatry. To my surprise, it was actually the opposite. Rumi, the main character, turns out to be a hunter who is also a demon. She has

patterns on her skin that represent her demon side, which she hides from the other girls. This was an intriguing aspect and a small plot twist, nothing too shocking. She is ashamed of her demon side throughout the movie, but towards the end, she learned to overcome the battles she faced. I thought this was a great theme. No matter how much shame and brokenness you face, you can always overcome it.

This theme can be seen through another character, too: Jinu, the leader of the Saja Boys. He had been a demon for 400 years. The ruler of the underworld, Gwi-Ma, has a certain level of control over Jinu and the other demons. Jinu has a tragic backstory with family and wishes to erase these memories. Rumi attempts to help, and from what I understand, kind of accomplishes that. Jinu was chained to his shame, unable to break free, yet once he confessed to this, he gained his soul back and gifted it to Rumi. I was really impressed by the details of his story and how relatable it could be. It reminded me a lot of the Christian faith.

In the Christian faith, the brokenness of the world is often seen. In the movie, the Huntrix band could see the "Honmoon," which was the barrier that protected the world from demons. When the Honmoon was weak, the girls could see all the broken parts of the world. Also, many themes

of redemption, forgiveness, and change can be seen. Like I mentioned earlier, Jinu got his soul back from Gwi-Ma towards the end of the movie. Jinu confesses to his past mistakes, changes his heart, and overcomes his shame, which leads to him being saved. This reminded me of the Christian faith because when someone believes in Jesus, who covers their sin and shame and changes their heart, they are saved.

Along with those deep themes, this movie is also humorous. I really enjoyed the different personalities of Rumi, Mira, and Zoey. Rumi is a perfectionist who is always determined and motivated. Mira is the black sheep of her family: strong and intense. Zoey is a lovable character: energetic and eager to help others. Huntrix's manager, Bobby, was a great comedic part voiced by Ken Jeong. He loved his job but was also stressed; he made numerous funny comments in those situations. Also, the music in this film is extremely catchy. The most popular song, "Golden," held the number one spot on the Billboard 200, making history for the music of an animated film.

I do wish the movie had been a little longer with a little more backstory. The beginning does give some background, but I would have appreciated more about how the girls met and got to be so talented. I also wish I had seen more of Mira and Zoey. They are side characters, but I felt their thoughts could have been included a little more, especially about whether they were suspicious of Rumi's actions. Rumi always wore turtle necks to cover her patterns and never went to the bathhouse, so I wonder if Mira and Zoey were ever suspicious of her.

Ultimately, I enjoyed this movie. I know animated movies aren't for everyone, but I would recommend giving this one a watch. Even if some parts are strange, I think you can appreciate the deeper themes in this movie. I would rate it a 7/10, with one being terrible and ten being amazing. Just like you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, don't judge a movie by its title.