



Gabriella and Dr. Duggan's Secret Dimensional Transport Machine

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A young adult science fiction tale of genetic modification and dimensional travel.

Gabriella, a teenage girl who recently lost her genetics researcher father in suspicious circumstances, discovers that she is a surprisingly good athlete and the only “non-modified” able to compete with genetically modified super-athletes. Did she become this way because of a genetic modification experiment her father conducted? Who killed her father and why? Are they after her? Due to her notoriety, a scientist presents her the opportunity to be the spokesperson for his new invention, the Dimensional Transport Machine. Using the machine unleashes a bizarre and entertaining series of events that helps Gabriella discover who she is and who she wants to be.

Gabriella and Dr. Duggan's Secret Dimensional Transport Machine Details

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From Reader Review Gabriella and Dr. Duggan's Secret Dimensional Transport Machine for online ebook

Jakenv says

This one was a definite positive surprise. Cover was a bit off putting but after reading teaser from author believed would be worth a read. Enjoyed action with characters of enjoyable personality. Get in on the action for a fun summer read. Received as winner on Goodreads which did not influence my review.

Marc Secchia says

More than your average YA sci-fi yarn, this story explores what it means to be human in a world where people and athletes can be engineered for performance or heightened skills. Where should the line be drawn? What does it mean to be human if you're born in a test tube, and your parents have paid for particular enhancements? How do you measure performance? What is 'normal'?

The story follows Gabriella, a teen athlete who rises from poverty into a position where she begins to attract the attention of the Big Pharma companies that control sports in a near-future world. Gabriella is an all-natural athlete competing in a tough environment against the best the Pharma companies can engineer - or is she all natural? There's the shady connections of her geneticist father, who is murdered very early on ... what was he working on? I like it that not all of the questions are answered in this engaging story.

Gabriella has to work, and work hard, for the successes she sees, and there are also failures along the way and unexpected pressures - pressures to conform, to perform, to please and provide for her mother, and to become involved with what the other athletes are doing. She has to work as part of a team but also excel individually. I enjoyed the pressure of the matchmaking culture she comes from, although for me the love triangle developed in the plot did not quite work. The sport of Ultraball seemed to take something of a second position in the novel, I would have liked to see more of that.

Good, solid, clean sci-fi for YA and above, which does not pull punches when it comes to the big questions, this one for me rates 5/5.

Kirsten Jany says

I tremendously enjoyed this story about the questionable ethics of genetic research.

Cardona has crafted a mystery set in a futuristic society, where affluent folks can have their children modified through genetic upgrades. In this setting, narrator Gabriella, a sixteen-year-old girl, finds herself the only "natural" athlete in the most popular global sport, a game called "Ultraball". While Gabriella's DNA does not show any genetic alterations, she can keep up with her modified peers and opponents. She, inevitably, becomes a target of NuGen, Ultraball's biggest sponsor.

A fan favorite, Gabriella is chosen to promote Dr. Duggan's new Dimensional Transport Machine, which makes continental travel possible within seconds. During one of those transports gone awry, Gabriella encounters her deceased father in that place between destinations called "The Void".

With NuGen on her heels and her father's ominous warnings, Gabriella is on a quest to find out her true identity and solve the mystery of her dad's murder. This book is a real page turner that kept me up several nights in a row! A cleverly crafted story that raises strong ethical questions, it is a welcome break from the usual high school dramas with their cliché characters. I rate it a fully deserved 5 stars!

Terri Christie says

"I almost can't believe where I am; surrounded by bright blinding light, like floating on the surface of the sun, low lying clouds drifting all around me caressing my skin with tingling static, and the strong smell of jasmine and lilac that takes my mind away to another place. And dead silence. An unnatural silence. A silence so strong that my ears ring, trying to fill in the absence of sound.

I am standing in the Void.

But the real reason that I am back here, the reason I couldn't tell Dr. Duggan... Oh boy, the real reason—yes, the real reason is that a figure in the distance, at the last possible moment, the tiniest of moments, a moment just long enough to see a face of the greatest importance, the face of my dead father, out of the very corner of my eye, a tiny flash, then gone, just as I passed through the Void exit and back into the dull of reality—that's what brought me back here to this lost and empty place. Am I crazy? I can't believe I am doing this! I can't believe I jumped off the chair! I must be crazy! I am in another dimension! And for what? A momentary glimpse out of the corner of my eye? Gabby, what were you thinking?

I know, I know, I shouldn't have done this, but I am here now—"

A great novel for teenagers! At times the narration is long winded and could use a bit more dialogue but the plot advances nicely. We get to see how Gabriella grows through to trials she experiences from moving from country to country and learning to adjust to a new semi-pro sports career. Oh and do not forget the love interest... or two? What would a story line be without a little self conflict? Thanks for the good read.

Lana Axe says

A Teen with Lots to Do

Gabby is a typical teen until her father is killed and she and her mother are forced into hiding in a new country. She discovers a natural talent for ultraball, despite not being a genetically engineered child as her competitors are. She suffers a terrible injury at 16 and thinks she is done with the sport. To her surprise, however, she is given the opportunity to experiment with new a newly created machine capable of teleporting a person over great distances.

During her travel experiences, she is sent thousands of miles to a research station in Portugal. Being of a

curious nature, she decides to step off into the void in hopes of finding her deceased father. She is still deeply troubled by his death and worries for her own safety and that of her mother. In an effort to assuage those fears, she puts her heart and soul once more into training.

Time passes rather quickly throughout this story, despite being told in first person, all in present tense. Six months of training passes within a few paragraphs, and it feels almost too fast at times. On one page, Gabby is riding around with friends and the next she is back in the laboratory for testing. I felt as if I were running alongside Gabby as she trained one moment, argued with her mother over match-making the next, followed up by more training for her sport and a ride on the teleport machine. I came away just a bit weary after so much activity.

The futuristic world is not overly complicated. In fact, it is our own world with a few new elements such as teleportation and genetic modification. This allows the story to be easily followed by younger readers, making the story suitable for kids as young as 12. Active girls who aren't afraid to compete in physical sports will especially enjoy this one.

Dale Hackett says

Grows on you

The genetic key of knowing the unknowable, light vs dark, it's all here or seems to be. The mystery deepens as you read further into the story, all she wants to know is her real past, whom she is. What is true love? Perhaps she knows by end of story. I hope there is a part two?

Demelza Carlton says

I received a free copy of this book from the author for an honest, non-reciprocal review.

It's definitely clean teen fiction at an appropriate level - Gabriella comes across as a normal teenager, though one who's been through a fair bit of running training. I appreciate the detailed training schedules she refers to, as they definitely show the author's knowledge about training elite athletes and what Gabriella's life became during training, but I admit I skipped over those bits because they weren't relevant to me.

I like the way Gabriella doesn't understand all the complicated science in either the genetics or the transport machine, like a normal teenager with her background. It certainly made the story more believable.

The ending was well-constructed, though it still left questions that I hope will be answered in any sequel to this book.

A well-deserved four stars.

Samantha says

So here's the thing. I bought this because of the cover. I'm a total Stargate SG1 and Atlantis fangirl, and a bit

of a geek. Okay, full on geek and mystic. So much so that one of the nicknames my family has given me is Carter - after Samantha Carter from SG1. Because I'm your goto girl when it comes to tech. But I'm also a geek like Daniel in ways, especially being a member of the Oma Desala fan club. So anyway, the cover, well it reminded me of the Stargate, and that was reason enough to buy the book.

Getting into it at first left me scratching my head, and feeling terrible, so much trauma for a family, then living in a remote area in poverty. That sucked.

The book picked up and took off though and I was completely hooked. The concepts expressed, and the journeys our protagonist had to go through, well they speak all too well to a world we are increasingly finding ourselves living in, whether we want to or not. The way Corporate power and implied ownership of people and our very DNA is brilliant. It's real, it's happening, and there's precious little we can do about it.

But Gabby, she's a fighter, and she's blessed with some extraordinary abilities and circumstances in her lives. Yes, lives. I'm not going to spoil it, but as another reviewer put it, this is like two books in one. And for all the tech, the sports, the science, the PSAs about where our world is heading, there is an underlying message that can't be missed. "When God closes a door, he opens a window."

Gabby's window happens to be a device not unlike a Stargate, only that to get from one gate to another, a gifted traveler can find what lies between. A connection to the mystical, to the realm of moving beyond our limitations into our possibilities. And in this part of the story, and the way Gabby navigates her life is just brilliant and breathtaking. She's a fighter, smart. and sees beyond the limitations some many of us refuse to open ourselves up to. Call it God, or Enlightenment, or whatever fits into your view of time and space, this is where the book really takes off, and Gabby has the chance to have, for the first time in her life, some control of her future. She looks carefully, seriously at the options, and makes hard choices we can each relate to at some level or another.

At first I was disappointed in the way the book ended, because I missed the part about it being book one of three. I'm so jazzed and looking forward to the rest of this story and where the Author takes us. He's doing a wonderful job so far!

Tracy says

I would give this book a 3.5/5 star rating. I enjoyed the story, however I felt there was a lot of back story that was completely missing to help make sense of what was happening in the story. It just became a bit frustrating (as well for Gabriella) that there was this whole life her parents led that she knows nothing about and that seemingly is the cause of why they are having to run once her father dies. Even as more details emerge throughout the story it still feels as though there is so much missing. The ending of the book was the same way. It felt unfinished and somewhat of an abrupt end. Perhaps there will be more details provided in a sequel? Overall though, it was a quick and easy read and did keep my attention. I just would have preferred to have more of the missing pieces filled in.

Emily says

I finished this book long after my husband went to sleep and had to stifle a "Noooooooooooo!!!!!" at the abrupt ending. I need NuGen #2 to come out yesterday! Yes I am an adult and yes this is a book about a 16 year old teenage girl, but it was mature enough to hold my attention. It also posed some excellent questions about

genetic modification and really caused me to think.

Maria says

What is a poor, young girl to do? After the strange disappearance of her father and a sudden move to another country, Gabriella finds herself at the heart of a strange experiment. For good or for bad, Gabriella bravely works with Dr. Duggan. This is a fast paced novel and is great for teens and tweens. Filled with suspense, great characters, and a wild plot, it's a real page-turner!

Antonio Simon Jr. says

Gabriella is unique. In a world of genetically modified humans, she is the only non-modified person capable enough to compete in athletic competitions designed for gene-modified super athletes. She needs every bit of her raw talent and training to get through what lies in store. Her father, a genetics researcher, has been killed for unknown reasons, and there are plenty of obstacles in the way of finding the truth behind her father's murder.

After a crushing injury threatens to end her athletic career, Gabriella is presented an opportunity as unique as she - advances in science have produced a device capable of teleporting people vast distances. As the device is on the cutting edge of technology, it goes awry with unexpected results. Gabriella is flung to a place in-between dimensions where she learns more about her father from the most unlikely of sources. I won't tell you more on that, as it would spoil it for you.

All in all, it's a good sci-fi adventure that grapples with such heavy concepts as scientific ethics, personhood and gene-modification, and persevering despite tough odds.

Randee Baty says

Imagine a world where your parents decide what genetic qualities they want you to have and genetics companies can produce you in a test tube. This is the world that "Gabriella" is set in. The title and the cover make this seem like a book maybe for middle schoolers but don't let that deceive you. This book is much deeper and mature than the cover indicates.

The story begins with Gabriella losing her father so she and her mom have to go undercover and change their names to hide from those responsible. Life is tough until she is discovered to have amazing athletic ability, especially for one who is not genetically modified like most athletes of the day. This throws her into a world of high profile sports that changes her life completely. She is asked to be the spokesperson for Dr. Duggan's Secret Dimensional Transport Machine and life changes forever.

James Cardona's future looks a lot like ours but with some key differences. All of North America is one country. Obviously, genetic engineering is legal and accepted. The major sport is Ultraball. I think anyone from 14 or 15 on up will enjoy this novel. It has a deeper emotional feel than many YA novels. I think it leaves the door open for follow-up books and I, for one, would be anxious to read them.

I received this through Goodreads Early Readers program and I appreciated the chance to read and review it.

Jonathan Garrett says

This book was so good! Don't let the silly cover fool you - this book is really well written and a book that adults can really enjoy. While the book is centered around a teenage girl, Cardona tackles some challenging scientific topics like time travel, string theory, and genetic modification of humans. "Gabriella and Dr. Duggan's Secret Dimensional Transport Machine" is fun enough for teens to love reading, and smart enough for adults to like too. I received this book for a Goodreads first read giveaway. Thanks!

Kelly says

*I received a free copy of this novel from Goodreads.

This was an extremely unique book. Part thriller, part sci-fi, and part mystery, Gabriella and Dr. Duggan's Secret Dimensional Transport Machine is suspenseful and exhilarating to read. It picks up speed as it goes along, and is impossible to put down.

5/5 stars!
