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13-year-old Guy Erma lives in the shadow of the Dome, he has no father and no mother and his future is uncertain, he must start earning a living when he turns 14. He knows not where he will live or even how he will eat, and his only dream is to enter the military academy - at the heart of the Dome.

Two boys as different as any two boys might be. One act of cruelty will throw their lives together, but who dare they trust?

Kidnap Details

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Author : Sally Ann Melia

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From Reader Review Kidnap for online ebook

Freda Mans-Labianca says

I like it and I don't like it.

A couple of times, I felt like the story got a little repetitive. I also wondered, about halfway through, if we were ever going to get anywhere in the story. It flipped back and forth a lot but nothing really made sense to me. Really, it never did quite come together for me. That's what I didn't like. I have hopes the other books in the series will bring it all together more, and this one is more of an intro.

I know other readers will love it though. It has this cool Star Wars element mixed with a kidnapping, and those moments were super exciting.

I'm just a tough nut to crack when it comes down to it, sci-fi just isn't my usual fare. Don't let that stop you from giving it a chance though.

2.5/5

Christy says

This review first appeared on my blog Christy's Cozy Corners.

When I was asked to review this book, I was not sure what exactly this book was going to be about. I knew it was considered a Young Adult Sci/Fi book, but that's about it. It took me a little while to get into the story because it starts out on a strange note. But once I got into the story, things started falling into place. The different planets and how the people who come from the planets intertwine is really interesting.

The characters in this book are well-developed and though this is just the beginning of the story, you can start to see how they connect. The kidnapping of Prince Teodor is the major story line in this part of the book. His kidnapping has political reasons, but who exactly is behind it? And how does Guy Erma fit into the story? The settings in the story are very well described and bring the story to life. I am looking forward to finding out how the story plays out. There are so many great characters and so much action that any young sci-fi book lover will enjoy reading this book.

Jeremy Michael Gallen says

This science fiction novel is the first in a trilogy consisting of three parts of the longer story Guy Erma and the Son of Empire, akin to what author Brent LeVasseur did with his five-part Aoléon the Martian Girl series of five entries. In the first part, teenagers Teodor, a prince, and Guy Erma, and orphan, come from different walks of life, although their paths ultimately cross. The prologue introduces Captain Karl Valvanchi, a thirty-one-year-old warrior tasked with defense above Sas Darona, lying on a disputed border between the Zaracan Democratic Union and the expanding Freyne Empire, with the latter finding a rare metal, although cybernetic insects, or cy-sects, prove lethal to their attempted excavation of the mineral.

New to this first part of the trilogy are various illustrations that depict various characters and beings, the first showing Teodor riding a feline creature known as a goran, the second showing him saluting, the third

showing the green-hair-striped but mostly white-haired Nell Valvanchi, the next depicting the dark-haired Guy Erma, the following one depicting the white-haired Karl Valvanchi, the one afterward showing a Battle Borg, and the last showing a map of the Dome that plays part in most of the book. These images are a welcome addition to the latest iteration of the first part of the divided series and help readers get a clear view of what a few of the characters and beings look like.

The main story itself opens with Prince Teodor having a nightmare of his father's murder, with his granduncle Frederon being Emperor, and a goran race being imminent as part of the Magnolia Weekend in the Dome, which will hold an election called the Dome Debate to decide whether Chart Segat will remain the dome's administrator. Teodor ultimately finds himself a captive, with his mother, Regent Sayginn, vowing to rescue him. Although this author has read the full three-part Guy Erma and the Son of Empire, he found this first part with the illustrations to be a welcome version, and would very much recommend it.

Dhivya Balaji says

REVIEW

A YA Sci-Fi thriller usually resorts to certain stereotypes that the writers (and unfortunately some readers) think are necessary for the book to be a bestseller. These stereotypes make the book and the content (however different the story might be) seem repetitive. Thankfully, Kidnap breaks not one, but all of those 'set rules'.

From page one to the appendix, (yes; the appendix, which is a glossary for the Sci-Fi terms used in the book) the book was racy, vivid and written very creatively. The first few pages of the book are the 'make or break' for the reader because of the new concepts and unfamiliar terms that are introduced aplenty. But once you manage to use the appendix and get familiar with the terms, the book moves at a pleasantly fast pace.

The story is a parallel comparison between two thirteen year old boys, one, a prince of a kingdom and two, a reluctant fashion model bastard child who wants to join the most elite military force of the kingdom. For a story that happened 'long, long ago on a planet far, far away', the technology described is amazing. There are droids – mini cameras that can be 'pinched' and there are domes and cathedrals that are antique on the outside and sleek on the inside.

But in the eons that separate the story and the present, one thing hasn't changed – the underlying politics that interferes on every level from military selections to dinner menu and dance rehearsals. The prince (heir to the empire) is kidnapped and the suspects range from the Queen's political opponent and the Emperor who wants to marry her to produce his 'heir'. The plot doesn't have too many holes but a lot of unanswered questions (that is not to be mentioned in detail because this book is just the first one of the series).

Overall, the language (at least the part that doesn't have the story – specific, specially coined words) is impeccable, crisp and clear. The story is new and unique in some contexts, but falters in the lack of certain explanations that would have smoothed out the obvious crevices. The book made me want to read the second part as soon as the first part was over, because, after all, this was just a chronicle of all events that happened in one day! Who wouldn't want to read what happened in day two? Talk about cliff-hangers, this author has them mastered.

Cheryl says

This is a really good book. If you like sci-fi books or are a fan of the Aoleon books by Mr. Brent LeVasseur, who just makes to give his thumbs up on this book, then you might want to check this book out.

It has a good storyline and characters. Prince Teodor of Freyne and Guy Erma are both strong characters. However I have to say that in the beginning I thought that Guy stood out as the stronger male lead for me. Yet as the story progressed Teodor did grow in strides as well. Another person that I liked is Captain Karl Valvanchi. His storyline was strong too. He helped bring the different sides of this story together.

Reading this book brings out my geek side. This is because I like the world that the author has built and there are Borg! I have not read many books with Borg in it. This excites me because I am a Trekkie (Star Trek fan). So if this does not get you excited to check this book out then the illustrations will. They are colorful and full length. I can't wait to read the second book in this series.

Angela Crawford says

Kidnap starts out with a bang! The writing is very imaginative and fun for both the young and the young at heart. I really liked both the science fiction and fantasy elements in this book. The tech was well thought out and the descriptions of the landscapes and fascinating creatures are very well done. They capture the imagination and draw you into the story quickly. The characters are interesting and you want to find out what happens next. I loved Karl and Nell, they quickly became my two favorite characters. Prince Teodor seemed to be a normal thirteen year old who would rather have fun blade training and racing his Goran, the giant racing cats, instead of performing his 'official' duties. The title character, Guy Erma, is a bit confusing. He's the character we spend the most time with, leading me to believe that he's supposed to be the hero of our story. Some of his actions made me question this. I can't really explain that without giving away too much of the story. I do wish that more had been resolved in this book but I do think that the series shows a lot of promise. A solid 3.5 star read.

Victor Gentile says

Sally Ann Melia in her new book, "Kidnap" Book One in the Guy Erma and the Son of Empire series published by Dickson House introduces us to Guy Erma.

From the back cover: I don't want to go! Do I have to go?

13-year-old Teodor knows his duty to the memory of his father and his kingdom, he must help those less fortunate than himself. He must also impress his uncle the Emperor if he is ever to become the Son of Empire. A frightening nightmare fills him with foreboding, but still he must go – into the Dome.

13-year-old Guy Erma lives in the shadow of the Dome, he has no father and no mother and his future is uncertain, he must start earning a living soon. He knows not where he will live or even how he will eat, and his only dream is to be accepted in the military academy – at the heart of the Dome.

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The Empire of Freyne is a newcomer to the United Races. As a developing race, the thirteen-planet empire is of interest to other galactic races, not all of this interest is friendly. The Dome Elite is a force of space marines whose defensive actions and adventures defend Freyne and its neighbours from hostile alien pirates and acquisitive space brigands, so allowing the inhabitants to sleep soundly at night.

For the young men and women of Domeside, to be a part of the Dome Elite, you need to master the maths and technology associated with space warfare and also to be fierce fighter who can fight in confined spaces with short sharp blades. When you are in Dome Elite, you are the best!

Meanwhile politicians and imperial rulers know that whosoever controls the Dome Elite, who decides their mandate and mission also controls the empire. You have to inspire and lead the men, to have and hold the right alien alliances and legal treaties. When you own the Dome Elite. you are in power!

This is an exciting story! This is science fiction at its finest. One hero is from the upper class, the other hero is from the lower class. They are forced together and not only have to figure out how to get along but to save the galaxy as well. There is plenty of action and suspense to keep you interested. And the good news is that “Kidnap: is only part one. There is a great deal more story to go. Something to really look forward to. I recommend this book.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from IRead Book Tours. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

Aditi says

“Science fiction is the most important literature in the history of the world, because it’s the history of ideas, the history of our civilization birthing itself. ...Science fiction is central to everything we’ve ever done, and people who make fun of science fiction writers don’t know what they’re talking about.”

----Ray Bradbury

Sally Ann Melia, an English science-fiction author, pulls off a great adventurous and thrilling science-fiction in her new book, *Guy Erma and the Son of Empire* which is the story of two 13 year old boys- one a poor boy and the other- an heir of two kingdoms.

Firstly, I'll begin with how much I loved the cover of this book, which holds a special meaning to the underlying storyline of this book. The writing is absolutely fantastic and I was engrossed into this edgy adventure from the very first page. Well, in the beginning, the author intricately layed out the story and the cast before us, which some might find it difficult to grasp so much introduction right at the start of a story.

Synopsis:

I don't want to go... Do I have to go?13-year-old Prince Teodor of Freyne knows his duty to the memory of his father and his kingdom. Always, he must help those less fortunate than himself. Yet a frightening

nightmare fills him with foreboding, but still he must do - into the Dome. 13-year-old Guy Erma lives in the shadow of the Dome, he has no father and no mother and his future is uncertain, he must start earning a living when he turns 14. He knows not where he will live or even how he will eat, and his only dream is to enter the military academy - at the heart of the Dome. Two boys as different as any two boys might be. One act of cruelty will throw their lives together, but who dare they trust?

The story is set across in a parallel universe to ours where the author have drawn each and every details of that world with enough realism to make us believe in it. The pace of the book is really fast and with so many events and thrilling adventure, I was never left out feeling bored or out-of-the-world. And for that I would like to applaud the author for her brilliant imaginative skills who draws reality and fantasy equivalently.

There are a lot of characters in this book which are very strongly-developed and since this is a YA fantasy genre book, I was met with a lot of shape-shifters, giant cats etc. This compelling cast of characters are what which keeps the story building with every turn of the page. The protagonists, Guy Erma and Price Teodor are like two ends of a magnet- one born lucky with means and resources but not with much skill, whereas the other born with less resources, but with great strength.

In a nutshell, this book is a complete roller-coaster ride filled with bone-chilling adventures and power-packed actions and thrills that is surely going to keep you on your edges.

Verdict: This brilliant sci-fiction is a must-read for all YA lovers.
Courtesy: I received the book for a blog tour.

Sherry Fundin says

I wasn't sure about this book, but something kept pulling at me. It didn't take long before I was fully involved in Teo and Guy's world. I could not put it down and read it through in one sitting.

Teo is a recalcitrant prince, soon to be king and Emperor.

Guy Erma is an orphan who dreams of becoming one of the Dome Elite.

Two boys growing up, so different, yet the same. They have desires and insecurities, egos and jealousy.

When Teo has a nightmare of the tunnels...and finds himself taken there, I immediately tried to figure out who was behind the kidnapping. He just happens to be a pawn in the 'game' that is being played for the title of Emperor of Freyne.

The characters had me eating out of their hands and I think they will grow and develop into some exceptional people who think outside the box, making unpopular moves that take their world to a better place.

D'Elen McClain's writing took me on a space odyssey that included all the things necessary to take me out of this world. We have shapeshifting aliens, telepaths and suicide fighters. Political intrigue, terrorism,

plague. Wonderful writing, great world building and so much more.

I love the gorans, giant cats that are ridden like a horse, making me think of the creatures in Star Wars.

The thrill and suspense held my attention throughout and I love that D'Elen showed the good and bad of her characters, making them more believable.

I am curious how she will bring the different worlds together. This may be fiction, but it brings to mind some of the problems of our own world and the question of...will we ever learn to live in harmony with one another?

I want to know more of the story of Teo and Guy. Will Nell play an important part in the future? :-)

I received this book in return for an honest review.

Mandy says

I received Kidnap in return for an honest review as part of the tour hosted by I Read Book Tours. Kidnap is told from the point of view of two very different boys Teodor the prince and future king of Freyne and Guy an orphan with no registration who dreams of the Dome Elite. Each boy has been forced to grow up quickly after the loss of his father or growing up in the fashion house each enduring their own struggles. Things in Freyne aren't as peaceful as some would like, people on Sas Daron are at war and even rebellion is happening at home. With the upcoming Magnolia Weekend it's the time to celebrate, races, parties, fashion shows, debates and even the future of Freyne will change.

After his fight is cancelled by his mother Teodor is sent to sing in the choir hoping to help her chance of winning the upcoming debate. When Teodor is kidnapped and many Domeside children had been injured or killed his mother suspects someone she knows with a hidden agenda. His guards saw that it was the Battle Borgs which they are supposed to control who took off with him. Will they be able to bring him back before it's too late? What about Guy will he be able to make it into the Dome Elite even though he has no registration and no one to claim him? What about Karl the mysterious shapeshifter from another planet who's shown up suddenly at his brother's request to help promote the Sas Daron tribes.

I liked that we are given point of views from both boys as well as Karl even though he's not a main player yet I have lots of hope for him in the next books. While they are similar each in a lot of ways they are also very different each having grown up a different lifestyle. I'm curious to see more of Nell as a character also the young shapeshifting girl quickly became one of my favorites the way she changed her hair to match her dress was great. I hope to see more of Karl in the next one he may just be what Freyne needs to settle the unrest.

I was curious the moment I saw the cover for Kidnap there is just something about it that catches the eye and I had to sign up for the tour. Right from the start we are drawn into the character's from one to the other while it is back and forth it's very clear who you are reading the transition is smooth. I loved that Teodor is a goran rider which is a giant cat I found the whole idea of the goran awesome but I'm glad I haven't woken up with a horse size cat. The author does a great job creating a captivating world filled with enough action and suspense to leave you wanting more. I enjoyed the characters I was able to connect with all of them on

some level and I even found a few of my favorites that I can't wait to see what happens next. While Kidnap is a YA novel it is clean so even young teens as well as adults will enjoy it. I found the book hard to put down and can't wait to start the next one and see what's going to happen next an exciting new series.

Lu Ann says

Kidnap is a tale of a planet and the people within it, which is a part of a future society. Young Prince Teodor is training extra hard to be fit to become the next King, since the sudden demise of his father. There are others, a couple of whom he trusts, doing all they can to keep this from happening.

Guy Erma is a boy the same age and build as the Prince who desperately wants to become a Dome Elite. The only way one in his station of society can accomplish this is to win a tournament against the Prince. If he fails to receive this opportunity, in a few days he will be permanently placed in a position he despises. The days of the great festivities of Magnolia Weekend is the last chance to prove his worth before his 14th year. Everything will be determined by then. Dignitaries from other parts of the universe are arriving as guests for these festivities. However, just before the days of festivities, the Prince has been kidnapped.

The author's development of the various characters and her portrayal of the various images, are very creatively done. She has additionally added a few illustrations to make visualization more effective. The diverse characters are very interesting. The Title was very well chosen and the Book Cover eye-catching and appealing.

My major criticism with this story was, for a couple of brief moments, I felt slightly confused with the intermingling of other dignitaries as part of the plot. I never felt certain how exactly they fit in. The ending was too done abruptly ended. The tale led up to the monumental impact of the upcoming Magnolia festivities then ended before the occasion. It premature. It would have been much more effective to end just before the finalization of the Special events.

Moon Shine Art Spot ~ Lisa says

Review:

I was provided Kidnap, Part 1 to give an honest review of afterward. I found the action Joey me interested. I was a. It confused with who was who at the beginning. I did not care for the illustrations which may behave just been rough drafts.

I was beginning to get into the plot and figured out who was who and which planet they were from when the book ended. I was disappointed at such an abrupt end with the rest of the story to come later. I felt like it wasn't enough to be a stand alone book.

I enjoyed the alternating points of view that helped to give an better idea of how the various planets operated and also painted a clear picture of the corruption & plans of the governments. It was a good read, but dropped off Ay before it should have ... Not giving enough of the story.

Book description:

Guy Erma and the Son of Empire is a new three-part action adventure, set a long time ago on a planet far far away.

I don't want to go! Do I have to go?

13-year-old Teodor knows his duty to the memory of his father and his kingdom, he must help those less fortunate than himself. He must also impress his uncle the Emperor if he is ever to become the Son of Empire. A frightening nightmare fills him with foreboding, but still he must go - into the Dome.

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Reviews:

"One of the most powerhouse imaginations I've encountered in sci-fi..." Dean C. Moore, The Warlock's Friend

"Guy Erma and the Son of Empire by Sally Ann Melia is a fast-paced and exciting YA military sci-fi read. Don't miss this one!" Brent LeVasseur, author and illustrator of the Aoleon The Martian Girl series.

A good old-fashioned space opera and political thriller - if you loved both Frank Herbert's Dune and Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games - you will adore Guy Erma.

Illustrations

This book includes 4 full colours illustrations when read on a colour kindle or eBook reader. These images are displayed in black and white in the paperback and some older kindle viewers.

Images can also be view on the author website sallyannmelia.com/kidnap

Important: Series information

This book is the first part of the Guy Erma and the Son of Empire, it has 200 pages.

The second book is Hunter with 162 pages and the third book is Exile with 150 pages.

Please note this book was previously published in one volume of 440 pages: Guy Erma and the Son of Empire - also available on Amazon.

Lose yourself in this fantastic new adventure - Scroll up and grab a copy today.

Jessica Bronder says

Prince Teodor, Teo, would rather race groans, giant cats, and practice with the blades that the Dome Guards use than perform official duties. Teo lives in the shadow of the Dome, a facility for training and teaching young children to be Dome Guards, a special force that is used to protect Teo and his family. But Teo has a nightmare about the Dome and is really worried about it.

Guy is basically an orphan from one of the fashion houses that specialize in overly expensive clothing for the rich of the universe. Guy has a dream of being a Dome Guard but because of his questionable parentage he faces the risk that he may not get in. Guy performs in odd jobs to make money.

These boys are going to be thrown together when Dome Cyborgs attack a rehearsal and kidnap Teo. But this is not just a simple kidnapping. There are many different political players that can benefit or lose from the kidnapping. It seems that powers are going to try and use Teo against his mother's rule to get their way. The key factor seems to be if they find Teo in time for elections.

This takes place in an alternate universe that took me a little to get figured out. But once I did I couldn't wait to find out what happened next. I felt bad for Teo losing part of his family but I could understand his difficult time doing the princely tasks that he doesn't want to do. I admit at first I didn't like Guy, he seems a bit arrogant and rubbed me the wrong way. But once I got to know him and his situation I could understand his actions.

This is a great story that leaves you at one heck of a cliff hanger. I can't wait to see what happens in Part 2: Hunter.

I received this book from iRead Book Tours in exchange for an honest review.

Cindy says

Kidnap is an entertaining read centered in a whole other universe. Something like Earth doesn't seem to exist and there are 13 different planets. In this monarchy setting, Teodor, the Prince of Freyne is one of the main characters. This boy is likable, yet sometimes, he seems a bit 'need to have everything my way' type, but not completely spoiled. Teodor is a bit unsure of himself in the beginning and definitely doesn't want to follow his duties, but once he arrived at the domes, he can't be the unwilling boy anymore. Teodor got a really open-ended finish. I'm really curious to see what could have happened to him! Nell is really likable. Teodor's first opinion of her was bad, but we grow to slowly enjoy her character.

Guy Erma has a really unique name. Guy Erma is the second main character, but it seems that the story revolves around him more. I would say Guy Erma is definitely the more mysterious character since we don't really know his background, but we do know his ambition. The book's POV did start with Karl though and that was when I was really confused on what's happening. Since Chapter 1 went back to Teodor. A lot of characters are introduced in the beginning and you can learn about each of their stories.

I really enjoyed the little pictures and drawings between a lot of the chapters. They certainly give more visuals of each character and add more fun in the reading. I also really enjoyed reading another level of science fiction. There are borgs, domes, different planets, superpowers like telepathy, and a lot more! Most science fiction would take one of these factors and combine it with our contemporary world, but entering the Dome and Freyne was like seeing a whole new universe.

To those who enjoy a heavy science-fiction series, here's one for you! I would say though, this would be for middle grade readers more than young adult, since the main characters themselves are about 13 and 14, which is more middle grade. I tend to like reading about my own age, but when there's a lot of adventures throughout the novel, like this one, I don't mind. :)

Gmr says

The opening reveals some disturbing information about the travels of particular otherworldly beings to areas in which they aren't to be as well as some bricks that are missing. What's important about a few bricks? Ah, good question. They aren't your ordinary mud and mortar type but clear housings for cy-sects...nasty little things that carry poison and can multiply faster than you can say bunny. Just where they went is a mystery, as is the why, but things start to become a little clearer as the story progresses. Jump forward a bit and we've moved the spotlight to Guy Erma, a talented orphan child held back by his lack of parents but not for long if he has any say in the matter, and Prince Teodor, a child of similar age yet different circumstances....from the outside at least (one of those "don't judge a book by its cover" moments). These two may be at odds even they don't understand but I have a feeling they share more than they know. However, during the course of this story, one will lose his freedom while the other fights to see through the allusions presented them.

It's a tough nut to crack, but thankfully Regent Sayginn (Teodor's mother) is more than up to the task (at least in my opinion). Oh, did I mention the Emperor is demanding her hand in marriage? Yes, yes...it seems it would be better for all involved and truly set their worlds at peace. (*cough cough* Yeah right! *cough cough*) Let's just say that there is certainly more going on behind his doors than just peace treaties and frankly, he gives off a Darth Vader vibe (before he sorta showed his heart). ~shudders~ His intentions are less than honorable and the fact that he is hiding something doesn't escape the Regent nor an unexpected ally, Karl Valavanchi. The plot thickens and things come to a head only to...end.

The only true drawback I could see was the ending...or rather the EPIC cliffhanger that leaves you wondering WTH! HOW could you leave us this way! What's going to happen to...and what about...and I think that maybe Guy is really...and, and, and....well, you get the picture. There are A LOT of unanswered

questions and the groundwork has certainly been laid to lead readers right into book 2. I know it's on my wish list.

****review copy was received in exchange for my honest review....full post can be seen on my site****
