



The Laboratory

Skyler Grant

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Emma is an artificial intelligence with a love of science, insults, and devilish traps.

When her systems are booted up she finds herself in control of a long-abandoned facility in a post-apocalyptic wasteland. The world is filled with dangerous threats granted great powers by the same cataclysm that befell the world. Emma must balance safety with the desire for test subjects as she brings herself back fully online and stakes out a place in this new world.

The Laboratory Details

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Seawater says

A wealth of enjoyable characters and development. Humour that certainly had me laughing out loud a good number of times. The narration was really top quality; talk about giving life to a dungeon core.

Sadly, the books in the series like to end on cliffhangers and it is a fair sized series, while they are also on the shorter side (under 6h), making it a bit costly if you want to listen to the rest as audiobooks. Also, after the first couple it starts drifting away from the dungeon core styling into more straightforward science fiction. A little disappointing, but still manages to keep itself interesting and unique.

Erin says

DID NOT FINISH

I really tired. I got through nearly an entire day, and only had an hour and 20 minutes left to listen to. But I just didn't care any more.

It was alright. At first it was really cool, just imagining that it was GLaDOS come to life and from her perspective... But it also got boring at times with the constant just inane techy updating. I just stopped caring. It was funny at first though.

I felt like I missed the entire bit where the mech people attacked and she got a second prisoner. Just suddenly he was there.

Meh.

Jon Grafton says

Just yes. This is one of the most enjoyable sci-fi books I've read this year. It is fast-paced, filled with action, super-powered villains and heroes and cyborgs - everything you'd want in an entertaining novel from this genre. But the thing that sets The Laboratory apart is the protagonist and sometimes antagonist of the novel, a quantum super computer with a highly developed, scientific and sarcastic personality. The real story here is the humanization of this conscious machine, which is brought back to life after being dormant for many, many years. At first, the computer sees humans as nothing but a means by which to attain a more favorable outcome (or upgrade). Throughout the book, as allies and enemies are formed in fast order, this machine has to reevaluate its priorities (like a person) in order to survive. Super fun!

Brian Campbell says

Great book, if short. It seems to be a deconstruction of a deconstruction, a first time exploration of the LitRPG genre, RPGs in written form. The whole genre is interesting and it wins as a new pulp genre, if nothing else. When done right, you get an awesome Avent-guard serious like this. Sci-fi, post-humanism, strong AI (as a metaphor for players playing a game, strategy in this case, is fun to consider), all in a written RPG format. Don't miss out on such an interesting and fun story!

laeaurra flamehawk-mitchell says

And then?

For standalone books, I prefer some sort of ending. I realize it was intentional but it felt like 2 chapters were missing at the end. I enjoyed most of it and then it stopped. Didn't make for a good first impression.

Lunan says

[The problems though are myriad: The entire building, upgrading, resource and assets thing is not really explained, and because of the ability to generate resources out of replenishable energy, it becomes completely pointless as the "core" just upgrades whatever it wants whenever it wants. Also. Why didn't it jus

Iori says

I never laughed this much, the comedy was good, the story well thought and the characters are interesting! Anna and Emma their relationship is really stormy, the worse thing is that they care about each other. The laboratory is not like the previous dungeon Litrpg that I've read and so far I loved it. In hoping that the second book can be a good sequel, I'm waiting.

DJay says

I usually stay far away from Dungeon Core books, but this one had me hook line and sinker. The premise is that some stuff fell on Earth and infected the people there giving them super powers. There's a computer that I could swear is the spirit animal of GLADOS from the portal games, because the comments EMMA makes would give Gorden Ramsey pause. This book is a nice read and really fun. The dynamics of the two main characters is awesome. The supporting characters are a little flat atm, but I think as the story progresses we might see them fleshed out more...Then again, they were running inside of death traps for most of the book.

Either way, fun read. You should give it a whirl.

Arthur Hayes says

A blast but short.

Really enjoyed this title and it is great for a quick read but disappointing with the cliffhanger and the author saying its a standalone. If a second title isn't coming out I would have rather not read it. Given that, I will check out the authors other works because I really did enjoy this story.

Roger says

I like some of Skyler grants work but this just don't work for me. I not going to say it a bad story or badly written, that's just not true. I just couldn't get in to the story. I finished this book and started book 2 but just about 80 pages in had to stop.

I would say try it, it may work for you.

Bolajide Adeyoye says

I think I'm in love?

She's highly sociopathic, is encased in magical crystal, and may or may not end up doing bad things to me for the SCIENCE, if given the chance, but I think she and I might be in this for the long run. I think EMMA and I are going to have a long happy, future together. This is another slam dunk, homerun, skybreaker touchdown from Sklyer Grant and I can't wait for the sequel.

N.V. Cefalo says

3.8 stars

Really cool for the concept and twist on the genre - huge props to Skyler. While I felt that a majority of this story was about upgrades, I was thoroughly enjoyed with the characters and banter within. I am hoping with the next story in the series, we get to learn a bit more about the backstory of the world and the dungeon too.

Douglas Debner says

A relatively enjoyable book with one significant flaw. The MC is working towards taking over the world but all that happens in this book is that it makes the barest start towards achieving that goal. The only reason this book doesn't get 1 star for lack of resolution is because world domination is really the goal of a secondary character that the MC goes along with because that way it should have a safe environment for conducting its experiments.

The MC is an AI called E.M.M.A. in a world where super powered people have destroyed the world,

including the laws of physics so even electricity doesn't always work right. Emma saw the destruction coming so tried to set things up in away that would allow her to continue to function but she failed. Fortunately Anna finds Emma and restarts her, but Emma has lost all her memories and so is starting from scratch information wise but Emma does have her own secret base. From there Anna and Emma work to take advantage of local super power led gangs and grow their power. Unfortunately, this brings them to the attention of some very powerful people who are beyond Emma's abilities to combat. The book end with Emma and Anna losing a confrontation with one such person but managing to escape. (DOES THAT SOUND LIKE ANY KIND OF A RESOLUTION TO YOU????)

Bottom line: An okay book but not worth the time unless you are going to read the entire series (and even that may not be worth the time since this book clearly demonstrates that the author doesn't know how to bring a story to any kind of a satisfactory conclusion).

Leif Kurtz says

Loved it and want to see more

I really enjoyed the book and would love to see how all the characters change and progress in the new airship while changing it to suit their needs. I think the element of adding a dungeon core to an air ship is an interesting concept that I would love to see explored in depth more. I hope he will continue the adventure for a while longer before starting other projects.

Travis says

Perfect.

How can you miss. This is the first time AI've seen LitRPG combined with scifi, and I have to say, I love it. This is the kind of thing I'd write if I could write LitRPG. Fantastic stuff.

Ok, so it's not as refined as perhaps some of the other systems presented in other books, the point system is seemingly based on torture instead of actual combat and stuff, but what the heck, it's a darned laboratory that doesn't move, and it doesn't actually qualify as a dungeon, but it is similar, so I guess it's ok as far as it goes. Really love the concepts behind this one. I see there are more in the series, so I'll have to get ahold of those too, but my compliments to the author, great execution of a pretty novel concept.
