Sividious Stark and the Stadium Between Worlds by Greg Park

Tessa Joy McMillan
tessajoymcmillan@gmail.com

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Review:

While hiding in the bushes from bullies, Sividious slams into a wounded winged creature, Aya, who gives him a high-tech lanyard before she is captured by aliens called Agents. The lanyard is an All Access Pass that transports the wearer to a special stadium deep within space. Sividious tells his best friend, Jackie, about his encounter with Aya and together they travel to the stadium to find her. They discover that the stadium is an intergalactic “Colosseum” with alien gladiator games where creatures from different worlds fight to earn their freedom— that is if the ruling party, the Kaladan, will allow it. After several attempts, and gaining more alien technology to help them, Sividious and Jackie help Aya escape back to her home world.

Park mixes the best elements of *The Hunger Games* with the complexity of *Star Wars* in his new YA science fiction series. Through his fiction, Park addresses important themes such as children’s reaction to the loss of a parent, bullying, courage, and friendship. Sividious seems to not care what the consequences of his actions are against the bullies at school. But once he becomes involved with saving Aya, protecting Jackie, and seeing the corruption of the Kaladan, purpose and drive comes back into his life. He is then able to use his abilities of logic, and later magic, in a positive and productive ways. *Sividious Stark and the Stadium Between Worlds* is a wildly creative, detailed, and fun read.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

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