



The Boy Who Reversed Himself

By William Sleator

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When Laura finds her homework in her locker with its writing reversed, she's baffled, until she learns an unbelievable secret: her weird neighbor, Omar, has the ability to travel to the fourth dimension. Laura forces him to take her there—and then, a novice in “four-space,” she goes there on her own. There's only one problem—she doesn't know how to get back. A cerebral science-fiction thriller, cunningly constructed to keep the reader involved until the last pages. *The Horn Book*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Once again, Sleator treats us to the best that YA science fiction can offer: average and sometimes not-so-average teenagers facing the physical and mathematical absurdities of our universe. Laura's determination to get into medical school has cast her as a brain and, thus, untouchable. She has a crush on Pete, the football captain and weird things are happening on a daily basis, ever since Omar, the creepy boy next door, moved in. Laura makes Omar confess his secrets: he's training to become the guardian of the Second Dimension, while he's exploring the Fifth. Laura invites Pete on a journey to the Fifth Dimension but her game becomes a nightmare when she and Pete are captured, and the whole existence of the world depends on Omar's ability to rescue them. After the seriousness of *Singularity*, Sleator has returned to some of the humor of *Interstellar Pig*. A welcome offering from a versatile writer.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up How can the mathematical uncertainties and complexities of the fourth dimension translate into a successful novel? Sleator begins by creating fully realized, sympathetic, three-dimensional characters whom readers are eager to follow into an alternative "terra" so "incognita" as to boggle the mind and inspire an almost Lovecraftian horror. Omar, a "weird" new kid, and teenage Laura are the travelers into the fourth dimension here, and those adults who may question their motivation have forgotten the overwhelming urgency of the adolescent need for love and acceptance. The alternative world that they find is a spectacularly successful speculative achievement, thanks in part to its remarkable verisimilitude and in part to Sleator's success in creating wonderfully alien creatures who are, nevertheless, emotionally and intellectually comprehensible. The mathematics of their milieu has also been made intellectually comprehensible (no small achievement) by Sleator's skillful introduction of theoretical considerations into his plot and his consistent application of them. In fact his two worldsours and its fourth-dimensional neighbor may be seen as representing two sides of an equation, just as his two sets of characters Laura and Omar, Gigigi and Ramoomare oddly identical. The sum of all these disparate parts is a novel that is viscerally exciting, mentally stimulating, and deeply satisfying. Michael Cart, Beverly Hills Public Library

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Users Review

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Ashley Johnson:

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