



David Massie and the Quantum Flux

Andrew M. Nehring

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David Massie and the Quantum Flux is an imaginative science fiction adventure in which a boy who skips across realities is chased by a dark enemy.

In Andrew M. Nehring's inventive novel *David Massie and the Quantum Flux*, a teenager travels through alternate realities and into battle with aliens and underground reptilians.

David Massie's genius older brother Morgan went missing five years ago. Before he left, he entrusted David with the key to his lab, where he created advanced technologies, like a teleporter he invented when he was thirteen. Now, David is trapped in a glitch: he wakes up each morning in a different universe. In one, the Catholic Church governs everyone; in another, capitalism and corporations rule and children must work.

Then a man in blue armor who calls himself a time cop appears, freezes time, and whisks David away to stop the anomaly from continuing. But someone from a different universe is one step ahead of them; they have a malicious agenda that may destroy the world.

David and the time cop, CP, use invisibility to sneak through secret bases and fight aliens and Earthling reptilians. The cool technology of David's world is introduced in a comprehensible way, and the book's short chapters and action make it immersive and entertaining. Still, the violence and language of David and the time cop's swift adventures are at slight odds with David's age and the book's straightforward writing style.

The fast conversations are punctuated by active one-liners; they trade between humor and seriousness depending on what's appropriate to the situation. CP is skilled at what he does, and he is a kind and endearing mentor to David, resulting in a lighthearted sensibility in the scenes where they are being attacked by aliens or are improvising to get into the secure places they need to be.

The intelligent black-armored foe who lurks in the background of the story is a worthy adversary; the mystery surrounding his intentions results in ample intrigue. But the personalities of other characters, including David, are underdeveloped. David seems to be along for the ride—a too-passive main character. His friend and love interest, Rory, appears in just three brief scenes, though she, too, is aware of the reality jumps and wants to help David and CP. The book's cliffhanger ending implies her greater involvement in the sequel.

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AIMEE JODOIN (May 12, 2021)

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