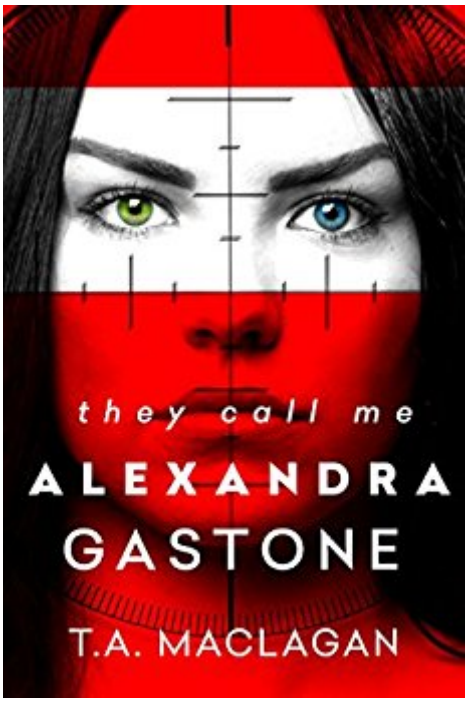
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They Call Me Alexandra Gastone



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Synopsis

"An intricate, debut spy thriller...readers will keep turning pages, and the surprise ending will have them anxiously awaiting a sequel." Ã¢â ¬â ¢BooklistÃ Â Ã Â "...the intersection of action, espionage, and drama makes for solid...entertainment: readers will gladly sit back and watch Alexandra navigate the obstacle course that comes with playing her role too well. It's a strong debut for New Zealand author Maclagan." --Publisher's Weekly"Death-threats, global takeover, double-agents, hidden files and a blown coverÃ¢â ¬â ¢by the time you get to the shocking conclusion of this cliff-hanger, you won't know who to trust..." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Girls' LifeÃ Â Ã Â "A solid debut that has both heart and smarts. Clever, solidly paced, and power-packed with a killer voice. They Call Me Alexandra Gastone is a blast to read. A perfect balance of mystery, romance, and betrayal. Bring on the sequel!" Ã¢â ¬â ¢ Lindsay Cummings, #1 New York Times bestselling author of ZenithÃ Â Ã Â When your life is a lie, how do you know what's real?Ã Â Alexandra Gastone has a simple plan: graduate high school, get into Princeton, work for the CIA, and serve her great nation.She was told the plan back when her name was Milena Rokva, back before the real Alexandra and her family were killed in a car crash.Ã Â Milena was trained to be a sleeper agent by Perun, a clandestine organization from her true homeland of Olissa. There, Milena learned everything she needed to infiltrate the life of CIA analyst Albert Gastone, Alexandra's grandfather, and the ranks of America's top intelligence agency.Ã Â For seven years, "Alexandra" has been on standby and life's been good. Grandpa Albert loves her, and her strategically chosen boyfriend, Grant, is amazing.But things are about to change. Perun no longer needs her at the CIA in five years' time. They need her active now.Ã Â Ã Â Between her cover as a high school girlÃ¢â ¬â ¢juggling a homecoming dance, history reports, and an increasingly suspicious boyfriendÃ¢â ¬â ¢and her mission in this high-stakes spy game, the boundaries of her two lives are beginning to blur.Will she stay true to the country she barely remembers, or has her loyalty shattered along with her identity?Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

When Milena was seven years old , after her mother died she was sent to a training camp in their country of Olissa and was trained to become a spy which is part of a revolutionary group called Perun who fight for Olissa and everything that has been stolen from them due to the Americans. Upon completion of her training she was sent to America to go undercover as Alexandra Gastone - a granddaughter of an CIA agent Albert Gastone . Alexandra and her family have been killed in a car crash, so it’s the perfect in. The plan was to stay doormant and then once she graduates from college to join the CIA and then become a double agent. Now she is 16 years old and has been alerted that she needs to kill the Prime Minister and her agent field days are about to start. What will happen though when her loyalties become murky as she has grown to love Albert as if he really was her grandfather , what about her friends and boyfriend ? As the book goes along, we discover that commands aren’t as they seem and maybe what Milena has been trained for is wrong especially when she discovers that their is a file on her from the CIA ? Has anything the past years been true or has everyone just been living one big lie ? They Call Me Alexandra Gastone was an amazing read and more so suprising that it was a New Zealand Fiction as often I have found some NZ books to be a tad boring . Not to give the ending away, but readers be prepared for a massive twist as when I read the last page I was like OMG aaah and wanted more , so am hoping that the author publishes a sequel book or one from the other character’s POV.If you love spy stories , kick-ass females and adventure then you will love They Call Me Alexandra Gastone by T.A Maclagan .

So maybe a teenage spy is hard to believe but the author makes it so you don’t doubt where she came from and how she got there. I really enjoyed it and the relationships. They felt real and had depth.Content:Sex - 1 (Talk of going all the way between a teenage boyfriend and girls friend and kissing.)Language - 4 (No specific count but many damns, hells, b*****, and sh**)Violence - 2 (Spy action fighting. Nothing graphic)PG-16

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“For the blood of the fallen. For the blood of the living. For Olissa we fight.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•They Call Me Alexandra Gastone is the first installment in author T.A. Maclagan’s Alexandra Gastone duology. 17-year old Milena Rokva was given away by her father when she was only 7 years old. She was given to an organization called Perun who may be called freedom fighters in some circles. They claim to be fighting for Olissa independence from the US, who stood in while other countries tried to take over the country. Milena was trained to become a sleeper agent, and took the place of the real Alexandra Gastone when her family was killed."Lex" has always been thought of as necessary, especially by the woman who pushed her to her limits. She’s necessary in order to get close to Albert Gastone, a public liaison and analyst at the CIA. She’s supposed to go to college, and then apply to the CIA where she will become a mole for Perun. But, after being given the order to assassinate a foreign leader who is visting DC, while blaming her "grandfather" and then taking the responsibility, Lex’s heart is torn to pieces. Is she faithful to Perun who trained her? Is she faithful to Albert who has done nothing but loved her and given her everything she ever wanted?"I’d played a part for so long, who was I? A spy? A granddaughter? A high school student? A friend? A liar? A traitor? I was all of these people, and the contradictions where starting to rip me apart."They Call Me Alexandra Gastone is an interesting story because no matter how hard you train someone to do a certain job, and try to break them to do what you want, they will always have free choice of finding other avenues to follow instead. I have to admit something. I actually really liked Grant as Lex’s boyfriend. I admit that I have often found the characterization of Quarterbacks to be ego driven, steroid for brains, male sluts who want to sleep with the entire female population, and little of anything else. In this case, Grant is sweet and fun, and supportive even though he is totally out of his depth with Lex.I also deeply care for Albert. He is such an adorable man, who has given his heart and his time to Lex and even goes as far as takes her around the globe! I love that he teachers her to question everything, which makes sense when so many plot twists are thrown at you by the author. I am curious about the setting of this book. Even though this reads as a contemporary/mystery, this story is set against the back drop of a

major war in the Middle East. (shocking, right?) It is set against the back drop of $6.00 per gallon gasoline, which the media once screamed about earlier this decade. So, I ask the author, is this an alternative reality setting? Or a futuristic world?This book reminds me a whole lot of the cold war stories I used to read as a kid. You never knew what was going to happen next, or whether or not your neighbor was actually a Russian sleeper agent. I am all in for the sequel, and I do hope the little surprise the author comes as a support mechanism for Lex, and not another difficult challenge.

As a 7th grade language arts teacher, I confess to a not-so-secret passion for Young Adult Literature. "They Call Me Alexandra Gastone" is a great addition to my class library and a novel that I can easily recommend to my students. I love that the author doesn't treat her young adult readers like children; the plot, characters, and dialogue are complex, real, sometimes even brutal, and demand readers' attention. This is a great novel to introduce students to international thrillers and I've even been able to cross-reference some aspects of the novel to my students' Cold War curriculum in social studies! Another aspect of the novel that I loved is how strong Alexandra's voice is throughout the novel. Her doubts, struggles, and hopes are reflective of her unique situation. She is a strong female; both mentally and physically and I loved that as such, she could appeal to both my male and female students. I would definitely recommend this novel and am so excited about the sequel!!!

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