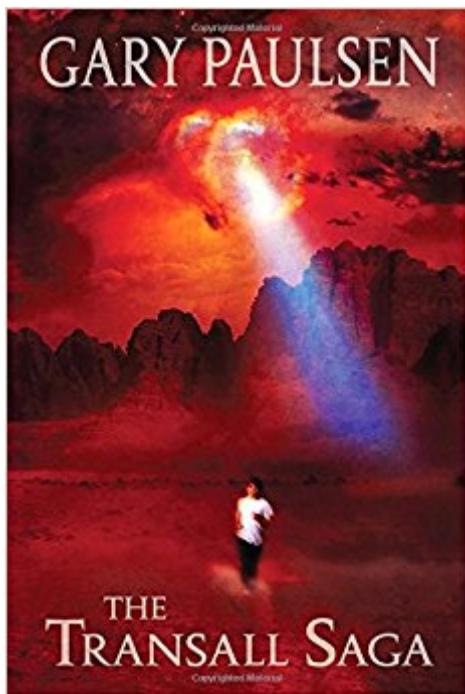


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# The Transall Saga



## **Synopsis**

Mark's solo camping trip in the desert turns into a terrifying and thrilling odyssey when a mysterious beam of light transports him to another time on what appears to be another planet. As Mark searches for a pathway back to his own time on Earth, he must make a new life in a new world. His encounters with primitive tribes bring the joy of human bonds, but violence and war as well--and, finally, a contest in which he discovers his own startling powers.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0630 (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 196 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #113,332 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #113 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel #370 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories #2997 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Gary Paulsen, author of several books of high adventure and survival--including the Newbery Honor winners *Dogsong*, *Hatchet*, and *The Winter Room*--this time brings readers a science fiction tale reminiscent of *Planet of the Apes*. The Transall Saga follows 13-year-old Mark on his first solo desert camping trip. After stepping into a mysterious beam of light, Mark is transported to another place--a strange and hostile world. As Mark tries to find his way back home, he learns to survive in this dangerous jungle, calling on reserves of strength he didn't know he had. Encountering wild creatures, primitive tribes, and a more advanced and warlike group of humans, the young protagonist is forced to grow up before he can return to the life he once knew. In the process, he becomes a slave, a warrior, and falls in love--all before the mystery of exactly where he is becomes

clear. As an adventure story and coming-of-age tale, *The Transall Saga* makes for gripping reading. While the account of Mark carving a new life in a place both strangely familiar and totally alien is cleverly imagined, the science fiction elements are, unfortunately, not nearly as well thought out. Still, fans of Paulsen's other works will find much to enjoy here, including vivid characters, exotic locations, and feral beasts that will not soon be forgotten. (Ages 10 to 15) --Neil Roseman  
--This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

Mysteriously transported to a strange place and time, 13-year-old Mark learns to survive. "Paulsen works his magic with another wilderness adventure yarn," said PW in a starred review. Ages 10-up. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

What would you do if you were camping alone in the desert as a thirteen year old, when a beam of light transported you to somewhere that you couldn't recognize? This is what Mark is faced with when he convinced his parents to let him go camping alone in Gary Paulson's *The Transall Saga*. Once he arrives at this strange planet he struggles for survival. As time passes he learns how to make the best of his environment, and then he discovers other people. He interacts with several different tribes of people and sees different levels of civilization. After saving one of the villages he becomes a respected warrior. This catches the attention of the Overlord of Transall, the new name for Earth, and he makes a trip to see Mark. Even though a lot of time has passed Mark still wants to learn more about this mysterious light and the Overlord seems to know just how to help. Before leaving on his quest for knowledge Mark receives a piece of Cocoa Cola bottle that proves he is on Earth. The *Transall Saga* shows a post apocalyptic view of earth if the human race had to almost start over again. In this science fiction novel, the reader gets a glimpse of what might happen if a pandemic swept the Earth. Whether this book serves as a warning to readers or merely as a "what-if" situation is up to you. I enjoyed reading this book; it kept a fast pace and kept me hooked as a reader. Using a third person narration allows Paulson to get more information across and use a lot of descriptive writing within the story. The narration also allows the reader to know what Mark is thinking, which is especially helpful when there are no other people around or when the people he interacts with only speak in a strange language. Without the element of knowing Mark's thoughts I think I would have been lost as a reader. Another thing that I enjoyed about this book was the timing of when the twists came up in the book. While there were clues that Mark was still on Earth this idea was not confirmed until near the end of the book. As a reader it

added more suspense throughout the reading. When considering this book to read for a science class, I chose to present this book to high school age students. After reading the book I would rather use this book in a middle school level classroom. The word choice and sentence structure would be better suited for a slightly younger audience. However, the topics relating to science in the novel could work for a middle school or high school classroom. I would use this book as a way to tie in the concepts of adaptations in the environment and pandemics. I believe this book would serve a good choice in the science classroom because it can give an extensive example of how these two key concepts tie into each other. The Transall Saga has a good plot line and keeps readers interested, so students are more likely to stay engaged with the material during and after reading it.

The Transall Saga by Gary Paulsen is a must read for anyone that is interested in the genre of fantasy, science-fiction or the post-apocalyptic setting. The book drives upon the survivalist as a main character as many of Gary Paulsen's other novels. It is about a young boy that named Mark that talks his parents into letting him camp in the desert on his own. As he is camping he finds a strange blue beam, he falls into and ends up in a world that is completely different than his own. He discovers new plants, animals, and people. Read this book to see how Mark puts his survival skills to the test and adapts in this new world called Transall.

Amazing book! I've finished it a few times now and enjoyed it every time. On my last read through though i did notice once thing i found entertaining... Its all because of Ebola! This book was written back in 1998 and now here we have all these Ebola talks in Africa. Now all we need is the virus to start to kill off the planet and then terrorists to nuke the world and the book will become true.

Read this for the first time freshman year of high school as a recommended read of the librarian. Already knew Paulsen well and gave it a shot. Turned into one of my all time favorite reads. Just bought it again on kindle and finished it in a few hours. The story is captivating, and a highly recommended read to anyone who loves a good survival/coming of age story.

I read this book as a paperback once as a kid and loved it. Years later I found it for kindle and had forgotten so much. Fast, simple and well paced book, easy to read on a couple hour and a half long flights.

Great book. Interesting plot

I read this book back in high school 1998. Im 36 now. I love this book. great story. Its like a sci-fi movie, it reminds some what like that movie Stargate. I had to buy this book its great.

The teen hero of the book falls into a spot in the desert that takes him to another place to another place where he must learn to live off the land or die. Just when he masters some skills he is captured and made a slave by feudal tribes of beings that are similar to humans. He fights for his freedom and becomes a leader. When I was a kid, my dad introduced me on to the rollicking science fiction he had read when he was young himself. Robert Heinlen, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Andre Norton... In the same vein this is a good adventure yarn of a stranger lost in another land. The author is well known for his great teen survival stories (like Hatchet) and western adventures, has written a new teen adventure in the genre that I grew up with and miss so much. Thanks Gary, and I hope you write some more like this one.

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