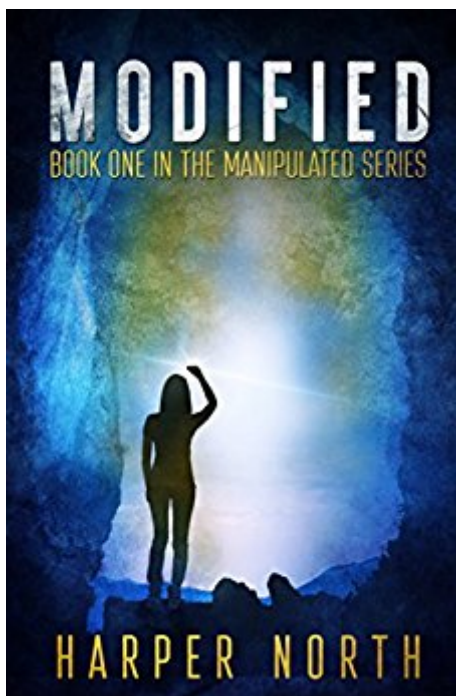


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Modified: Book One In The Manipulated Series



Synopsis

What if the sky was deadly? Seventeen-year-old Fin has never stepped foot on the surface of the Earth. Working the mines deep below has been the only life she has ever known, an underground existence of sweat and monotony in service to the Enhanced Human Coalition—the genetically-modified who control the underground from the world above. Every Dweller underground understands that you serve the EHC up top, or you don't eat. Two hundred years after the planet's magnetic poles began to flip, Earth's surface has become irradiated and unsustainable. As the land, water, and even the air grew toxic, the underprivileged were doomed to a life of hard labor underground, while the Enhanced Human Coalition on the surface enjoy their spoils. But now, Fin and her friends discover a stolen piece of EHC tech that modifies genetics, giving them the abilities of those up top—varied levels of increased strength, intelligence, and adaptation to the surface's harsh conditions. The theft of this technology triggers a manhunt, forcing them to flee to the most dangerous place they could possibly go—aboveground. Can she save a world broken in two? Fans of *The Maze Runner*, *Configured*, and *Influence* will devour this fast-paced, innovative sci-fi story.

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Customer Reviews

This is a fun, quick read. There are some editing issues, a couple that are pretty distracting, but the story doesn't suffer. I look forward to the next book in the series.

This story was a good read. The author did a good job with the characters and all the action that was in the story. This was a good combination of sci fi and adventure.

This book was non stop action in a compelling dystopian world. The entire story is told from the POV of Finley, a 17 year old girl whose entire life has been as a slave underground. Life on the surface is only possible for those whose genes have been modified, a privilege only available to the richest citizens. The society Harper North has created consists of several "tiers", which are basically castes. Finley's life takes an unexpected turn when she accidentally discovers a mod kit which gives her the ability to resist the radiation on the surface and equates her abilities with the highest tier. Not only her body, but her mind is enhanced, basically giving her superpowers in the underground mines. This also paints a huge target on her back, and on the backs of her friends. During their daring escape, one girl is captured, and the others must find a way to sneak to the surface and rescue her. Their arrival jump starts a revolution for societal reform and better treatment of the underground dwellers. I loved everything about this book. The characters were wonderful, although from the start we just want to smack Lacy for being so selfish and obnoxious. But you need a "sassy" friend in the group to keep things interesting. You also need evil villains, which are definitely in abundance in this story. There's also a great amount of world development. Unlike other dystopian novels, the entire book doesn't take place in the oppressed society. We don't have to wait until book 2 or 3 to find out what's on the surface. We are introduced to all the major conflicts and all the important groups of people. The plot moves quickly from one perilous scenario to the next as the characters pursue and attempt to free their missing friend. I was immediately drawn into the tale and couldn't put the book down until I finished reading it. There's even a hint at a potential romantic connection, still in the very early stages. I'm excited to see where this goes in the next book. I volunteered to review an ARC of this novel.

I am reviewing an Advance Reader Copy of this book. Modified by Harper North is the first in the new dystopian young adult series *Manipulated*. The book is written in first-person and is from seventeen-year-old Fin's point-of-view. I didn't hate it, but I didn't love it either. Nothing grabbed my attention and made me want to know what was going to happen. The story felt flat. The plot seemed to be one event happening after another without any story building in between. Just one problem after another being solved by random deus ex machina. I didn't care about any of the characters, they seemed very generic and one-dimensional. At one point I forgot that Elias and Sky were two different guys, nothing about either of them stands out. Both of them are nice, and that's about it. Lacey was incredibly annoying from the very start and her dialog felt juvenile at best. I don't know what Drape's purpose in the story was if he was taken out nothing much would change. He was there, and that was about it. And then there was Fin, the heroine of the story. She was the main character, but I felt no attachment to her. She starts out pretty well, but after the group's initial escape she starts to need to be rescued from every situation and fails to outmaneuver Nero at every turn. It just got irritating. I guess I just find it annoying when the villains out think the heroes over and over again. I also (unfortunately for this book) was unable to stop myself from comparing it to *Red Rising*. The subjugated underground workers, the class system, the elites above ground using the dwellers to mine for them; so many parallels to yet nowhere near the storytelling, world-building and well-developed characters of the *Red Rising* universe. If you want a really good oppressed society rebellion story, read *Red Rising*. This book wasn't terrible, but it wasn't amazing either. It has potential though, so maybe the second book will be better.

It's been a long time since I have read a solid dystopian book. I am glad I came across this one. Fin, Lacy and Drape are dwellers, living and working their entire lives underground in the mines, barely more than slaves without even realizing it. When they come across a modifying kit, they accidentally launch a series of events that starts a revolution. All because they want to save their lives and the girl who kindly offered help-Cia. Joining their forces with Elias, they become part of the resistance. The concept of genetic modification is nothing new, but I love the variety of possibilities how to use and twist the idea. In a world full of oppression, the evolution is unstoppable and with a little nudge, one modified human might change the entire course of the world. I loved to observe the impact and consequences of the modification on the characters. They all changed in a unique way, changing their personalities differently and making the group even more diverse than in the beginning. Adapting to challenging circumstances is exhausting and sometimes insufferable, but I admired their strength to push forward despite the harsh conditions. Great book. I received an ARC

copy and wrote my honest opinion voluntarily.

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