



Nightshade City (Nightshade Chronicles, Book 1)

By Hilary Wagner

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Deep beneath a modern metropolis lies the Catacombs, the kingdom of mutant rats of superior intellect. Following a bloody coup, the once peaceful democracy has become a dictatorship, ruled by decadent High Minister Kildeer and vicious Billycan, a demented former lab rat and now head of the Kill Army. Three young orphan rats--brothers Vincent and Victor and a clever female named Clover--rebel against the Ministry, joining forces with Juniper, Billycan's archenemy. Juniper and his maverick bank of followers, helped by a tribe of earthworms, plot to overthrow their oppressors and liberate the citizens to create a new city: Nightshade City. This impossible-to-put-down animal fantasy, set in a brilliantly imagined subterranean world, explores timeless themes of freedom, forgiveness, the bonds of family, and the power of love.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4–8—Vincent and Victor Nightshade live in the underground rat city known as the Catacombs, home to unusually long-lived and intelligent rats. Their father, Julius Nightshade, was once a leader of the city, but now the evil High Minister Killdeer and his vicious helper, Billycan, have taken control and terrorize its inhabitants, demanding food as tribute and forcing orphans to serve in their army or kitchens. When Vincent and Victor try to escape Killdeer's clutches, they meet Juniper Belancort, a friend of their father, who now leads the resistance against Killdeer. Along with Juniper's niece, Clover, they are drawn into the struggle to free the rats from Killdeer's reign and bring them to a new home, Nightshade City. The three help develop a plan for the rebel rats and their ally earthworms to tunnel into Killdeer's palace and confront him directly, leading to a variety of underground battles. Wagner has created an atmospheric and action-filled tale, and her balance of strong male and female protagonists is appealing. Fans of Erin Hunter's "Warriors" books (HarperCollins) may enjoy the animal action and touch of romance, and the authentic rat and earthworm abilities add to the strength of the story.—*Beth L. Meister, Milwaukee Jewish Day School, WI*

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From Booklist

Presumed dead by his enemies, Juniper is an elder in a community of rats who, since being forced from their catacomb homes, have started to build a new democratic world, Nightshade City, and are preparing to overthrow the oppressive ruling rodent regime, headed by dictator Killdeer. Switching perspective between Nightshade and Killdeer's worlds, the third-person narrative unfolds a classic and predictable battle between good and evil as it explores themes of family loyalty, spirituality, freedom, unrequited love, and coming-of-age. The stock characters, including compatriot earthworms and a human boy, are easy to visualize, although a satisfying, rich picture of the underground setting never fully emerges. The rebellion is ultimately accomplished with a persuasive speech and only a modicum of violence, but there should still be enough gore throughout to satisfy those who like to see some fur fly in their fantasy. This first novel, with its cliff-hanger ending, will appeal to fans of the Redwall and Warriors series. Grades 5–8. --Andrew Medlar

Review

"Fans of Redwall and the Warriors series will love this heroic tale of good versus evil in a subterranean society of rats." --Rick Riordan, Author of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joann Hamilton:

This Nightshade City (Nightshade Chronicles, Book 1) are usually reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The reason why of this Nightshade City (Nightshade Chronicles, Book 1) can be on the list of great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed you actually with information that maybe will shock your prior knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed types. Beside that this Nightshade City (Nightshade Chronicles, Book 1) forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day

task. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

Vincent Ashworth:

The reason why? Because this Nightshade City (Nightshade Chronicles, Book 1) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Karl Irwin:

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Tim Vazquez:

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