



2019

The Drowned Cities, Ship Breaker #2

Emma Patton

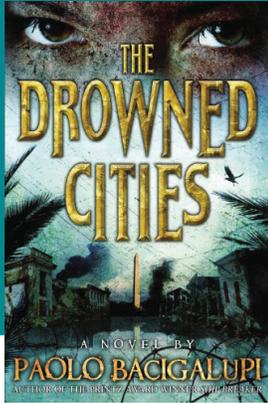
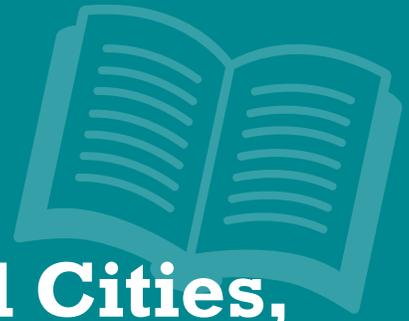
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Book Review

The Drowned Cities, Ship Breaker #2

Author

Paolo Bacigalupi

Reviewer

Emma Patton

Rating

Significant Shortcomings

Level

Young Adult

Pages

464

Year

2013

ISBN

9780316056229

Publisher

Little, Brown Books for
Young Readers

In the harsh world of the Drowned Cities, it's difficult to remember what it means to be human. Malia and Mouse are both refugees under the care of a kind doctor, who is teaching Malia his craft. Though Malia and Mouse aren't related, they take care of each other like siblings would. One day, they stumble across a dying half-man named Tool as they're walking through the jungle. Half-men were engineered by scientists to be nearly unbeatable opponents in the wars. Since half-men aren't even human, it's unthinkable to consider negotiating with him. After all, his only instincts are for survival. But Malia and Mouse live in a harsh world, and everyone, human or not, is just trying to survive. They discover that they have more in common with Tool than they thought.

The Drowned Cities is a companion novel to Bacigalupi's other young adult novel, Ship Breaker. Though reading Ship Breaker isn't necessary to understand the events in The Drowned Cities, it does continue with the same world of desperation and depravity. The Drowned Cities is a very high-action read. Though some readers may find it easier to read because of the emphasis on conflict, other readers may become bored, as the plot and character development are sacrificed for the harsh depiction of war. The events are gripping, but the world the characters are living in is so impersonal and barbaric that the characters seem that way as well, and it can be difficult to connect to their story or relate to their experience. Additionally, the intensity and general tone of desperation that is present throughout the story makes it best suited to readers who are not sensitive to harsh books. Even without the language and violence, the book is definitely more appropriate for older readers, and the tone may be too heavy for even many young adult readers.

*Contains moderate violence and mild language.