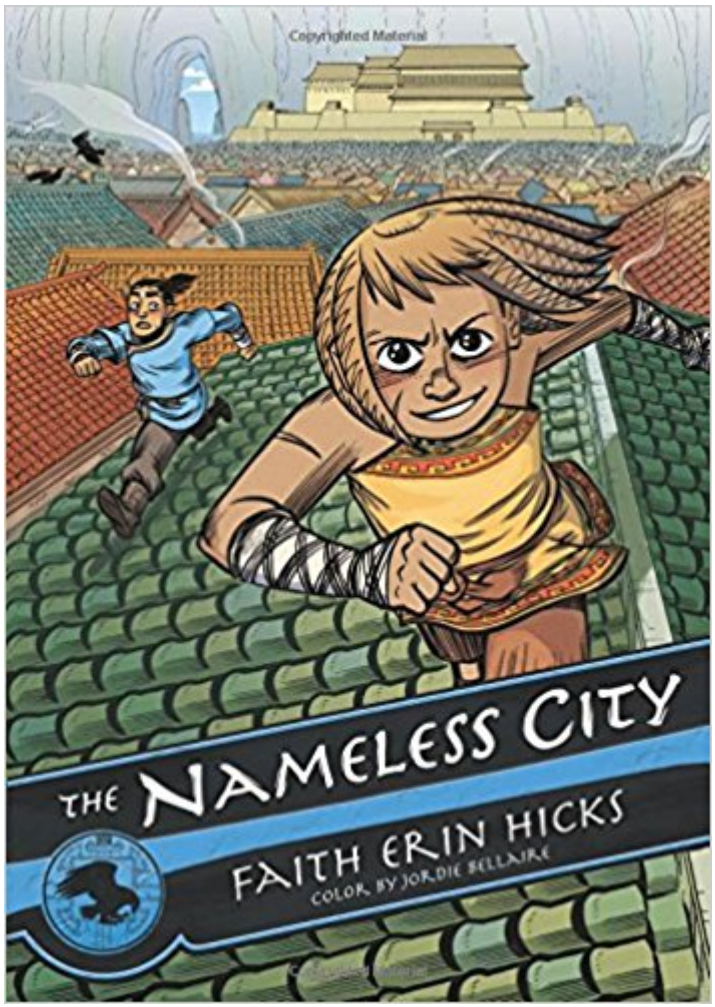
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The Nameless City



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Synopsis

Every nation that invades the City gives it a new name. But before long, new invaders arrive and the City changes hands once again. The natives don’t let themselves get caught up in the unending wars. To them, their home is the Nameless City, and those who try to name it are forever outsiders. Kaidu is one such outsider. He’s a Dao born and bred--a member of the latest occupying nation. Rat is a native of the Nameless City. At first, she hates Kai for everything he stands for, but his love of his new home may be the one thing that can bring these two unlikely friends together. Let’s hope so, because the fate of the Nameless City rests in their hands.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 390 (What’s this?)

Series: The Nameless City (Book 1)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: First Second (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1626721564

ISBN-13: 978-1626721562

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 212.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #89,013 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Fantasy #2487 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #3302 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 4 - 8

Customer Reviews

Gr 4Ã¢â ¬â œ6Ã¢â ¬â •Rat and Kaidu meet on the streets of the Nameless City. They are from different worlds: Kaidu is from the Dao clan, the current occupiers of the city, and Rat is a girl living on the streets and struggling to survive under Dao rule. But they form a fast friendship traversing the city using parkourlike exploring. As they get to know each other, they delve into the secrets of the Nameless City’s history and come to realize that the only chance the city might have to survive is through unity instead of endless conquest. Though this is a visually appealing, action-packed story from a talented graphic novel artist, the seemingly deliberate lack of any cultural context is

distracting and problematic. The story seems to take place in a Chinese-inspired world featuring Chinese junk ships, Chinese-style clothes, and words such as Dao, Yisun, Liao, and Yanjing, yet there is no further evidence that the setting is indeed China or anywhere in Central Asia. This appropriation of disparate elements of Chinese culture comes across as opportunistic; the author's fictional world borrows specific cultural aspects and ignores others strictly for the purpose of storytelling. This makes for a hollow and unsatisfying read on place and culture, and it keeps readers at a distance. Even the name of the book hints at a historically fraught practice: the continued occupation of the city is cited as the reason it is "nameless." Readers will be left wondering which people first named the place. VERDICT The borrowing of vaguely Asian-influenced cultural markers without deeper engagement or authenticity is too troubling to overlook. Not recommended.Ã¢â ¬â •Angie Manfredi, Los Alamos County Library System, NM

Included in School Library Journal's and Kirkus's "Best of 2016" list, and NYPL's "Notable 100 Best Books for Kids"."The artwork is breathtaking...lending each panel a richness that appropriately reflects a multifaceted culture." Ã¢â ¬â ¢New York Times"Faith Erin Hicks breathes life into her characters with gale-force winds. The Nameless City makes you feel everything its heroes are experiencing inside and out, from adolescent angst to the scrape of terra cotta tiles under a leaping boot." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Bryan Konietzko, co-creator of Avatar: The Last Airbender"Faith Erin Hicks is one of the best creators working in graphic novels today and The Nameless City is a fantastic introduction to an exciting new series. Looking forward to reading more!" Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kazu Kibuishi, author of the Amulet series"This tale of unexpected alliances has everything: winning characters, a sumptuous setting, and sharp observations about power and history. Hidden depths abound in The Nameless City." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Scott Westerfeld, author of Uglies and Zeroes"The beauty and construction of the Nameless City will leave you breathless. Faith has created a world so detailed and believable, it makes me want to explore the back alleys to see what is there." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Jeff Smith, author of the Bone series"HicksÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sequential artwork is polished, and though males hold nearly all the political power, the female characters are mighty warriors the men respect (and sometimes fear)." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers Weekly, starred review"Offer this winning graphic novel to fans of Fullmetal Alchemist and Avatar: The Last Airbender, who will appreciate its mix of fun and adventure and its exploration of questions of identity, belonging, and history. A superb beginning." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus Reviews, starred review" With comprehensive worldbuilding, well-rounded characters, and entertaining action, this expertly executed story will find a home with a wide variety of readers." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Booklist, starred review "Historical fiction fans will likely find this a gripping narrative about

how people adapt to, quietly fight against, but mostly just endure lives under the control of others." Ã¢â ¬â ¢The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books"Suitable for middle school but sophisticated enough to appeal to older readers, this title belongs in all libraries serving young people." Ã¢â ¬â ¢VOYA Magazine, starred review

Kaidu was born to the warrior caste of the Dao people. The orphan girl, Rat, was born in the Nameless City. They meet when Kaidu is sent to the City to be trained as a soldier. Born to two sides of the war that conquered the City, the two somehow become best friends. Unlike a lot of children's fiction, this book deals honestly with the racism, sexism and class prejudice Rat must suffer. as the daughter of a conquered people. I also enjoyed the way the city was drawn: a vast city spreading to the horizon which is at the same time a trap and a labyrinth for people not born of the City. Another review called this book a classic children's adventure. I agree. The way this book dealt with the serious themes while still being a fantastic adventure story reminded me strongly of classics like the Narnia series and Bridge to Terebithia.

Reading graphic artists describe the nuts-n-bolts of their craft, you learn that cityscapes are often viewed as a necessary evil, real back-breaking work to create. That's why Faith Erin Hick's Nameless City is so exquisite and alive as you follow Kaidu and Rat roof-running through their adventure in it. It's a character itself, fleshed out and made three dimensional ... something we think we know but still find surprisingly unique and mysterious. And that's the crux to Ms. Hicks and this novel: She's a master craftswoman who has written a first-rate story that's easy to fell in love with. Thankfully, it looks like it might be a series!

I have been a fan of Ms. Hicks ever since I stumbled onto her " Demonology 101" website oh some (mumblety mumble) years ago. Her art is not photorealistic, but it is fresh and honest and expressive. I will purchase the next book in this series as soon as I can finish hunt-and-pecking on this damon tablet "keyboard".

Great graphic novel. Truly a graphic novel. Excellent writing and the art is great too.

Good enough to be referenced at the end of Uncharted 4. Rich and compelling world building and nuanced characters. Can't wait for more.

Fans of Faith Erin Hicks will not be disappointed with this entry into her bibliography. The art is amazing and the story is good. If I have a complaint, it's that I devoured the comic just a little too quickly, making it feel very short, even though it was a healthy length for a graphic novel. I'm very much looking forward to the next entry in the series.

Faith Erin Hicks' art is great, but she is really at her best when she is writing and drawing. The only ripper is that this is the first of a trio! Good character development - I was really rooting for people by the end of the book. And for nearly everyone. It isn't black and white, good versus evil. Everyone is more layered than that.

I have eagerly waited for this book to come out since I saw the first images from it on Faith Erin Hicksz site. It was even more wonderful than it looks! The art is beautiful, and the story is delightful! The characters, so far, are great! I am looking forward to the second volume even more eagerly than I waited for the first!

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