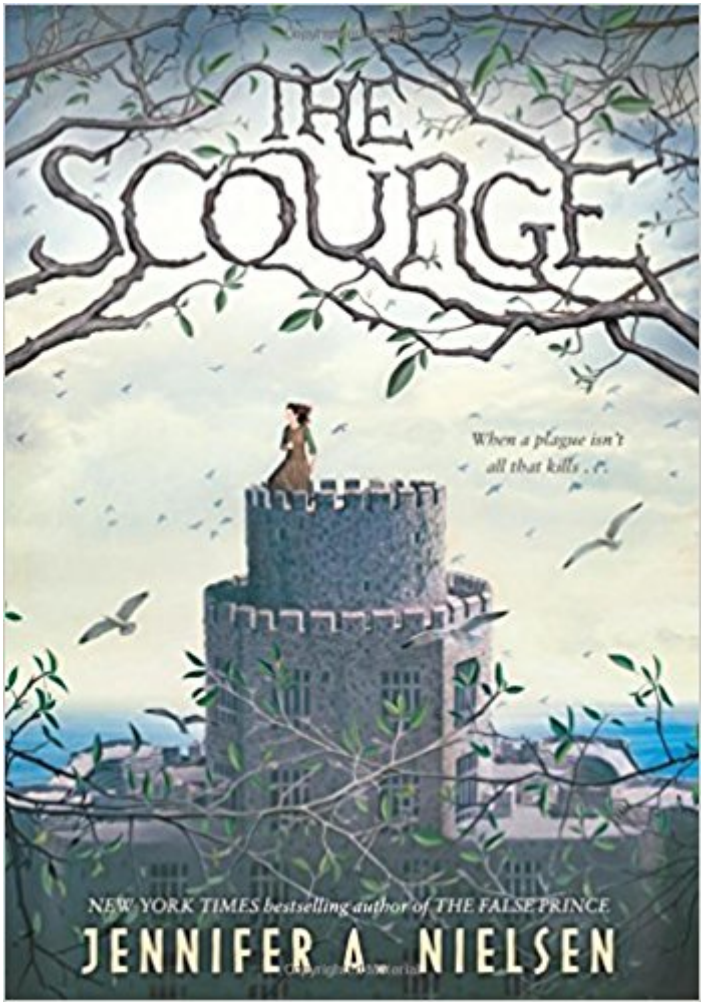
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The Scourge



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Synopsis

As a lethal plague sweeps through the land, Ani Mells is shocked when she is unexpectedly captured by the governor’s wardens and forced to submit to a test for the deadly Scourge. She is even more surprised when the test results come back positive, and she is sent to Attic Island, a former prison turned refuge -- and quarantine colony -- for the ill. The Scourge’s victims, Ani now among them, can only expect to live out short, painful lives there. However, Ani quickly discovers that she doesn’t know the whole truth about the Scourge or the Colony. She’s been caught in a devious plot, and, with the help of her best friend, Weevil, Ani means to uncover just what is actually going on.But will she and Weevil survive long enough to do so?The Scourge is an explosively thrilling tale of adventure and intrigue, courage and heart from New York Times bestselling author Jennifer A. Nielsen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 5Ã¢â ¬â œ8Ã¢â ¬â •Under orders from Governor Felling, wardens enter the River People’s country to extract five grubs, a derogatory name given to its citizens. But the grub, Ani Mells, turns out to be a handful. When Ani is tested for the Scourge, a disease plaguing the people of Keldan, she gets quarantined on Attic Island with the other Colonists who test positive for the disease. The problem is, patients enter the island but never leave. Ani suspects there is more going on than meets the eye, and in order to survive, she must uncover the truth. The story quickly advances from there, with Ani embroiled in a fight for her life. The characters are well defined and memorable.

Feisty Ani, a likable character who is thoughtful and strong, drives the story forward and keeps readers wanting to know more. VERDICT A solid choice for readers who enjoy tales of strong heroines set in the ever-popular dystopian genre.Ã¢â ¬â •Robyn Gioia, Antilles Middle School, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico

Praise for The Scourge:"A strong, feisty main character... narrates a story that is equal parts adventure, mystery, and political intrigue." -- The Horn Book"Ani's willingness to help others, a hard battle in herself as she tries to get over long-held assumptions, demonstrates effectively how emergencies can bridge distances." -- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books"Nielsen's (A Night Divided) polished fantasy smoothly combines medieval elements with hints of mystery and romance.... it delivers a significant message about how misinformation breeds intolerance." -- Publishers Weekly"Nielsen provides readers with a strong, three-dimensional heroine and a plot that will keep readers guessing." -- School Library Connection"The characters are well defined and memorable. Feisty Ani, a likable character who is thoughtful and strong, drives the story forward and keeps readers wanting to know more.... A solid choice for readers who enjoy tales of strong heroines set in the ever-popular dystopian genre." -- School Library JournalPraise for A Night Divided:"Like Anne Frank before her, Gerta is small but mighty, a hardheaded heroine who dreams up big ideas and refuses to give up in the face of adversity and danger. Nielsen (Mark of the Thief) evokes the constant unease of life in a divided Berlin through Gerta's sober narration... but the family never loses sight of the power of humility and forgiveness." -- Publishers Weekly"Nielsen, best known for her fantasy novels, proves she is equally skilled at historical fiction in this solidly structured, balanced account of the origins of an infamous historical landmark... The novel's strong setting and tense climax will keep readers engrossed and holding their breath until the last page." -- School Library JournalPraise for Mark of the Thief:*"The fast-paced, ingenious plot, charismatic hero and highly diverse cast of characters -- including the ancient, eternal city itself -- make this series opener a captivating joy ride." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review"Perfect for Rick Riordan fans." -- San Francisco Chronicle"Fans of Nielsen's Ascendance trilogy will be clamoring for this new series. This genre mash-up of history, fantasy, and action/adventure is fast-paced and explores themes such as class struggles, familial ties, and the immorality of slavery." -- School Library JournalPraise for the Ascendance Trilogy:A New York Times Notable Children's BookA Publishers Weekly Best Book of the YearA Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" Children's BookA Cybils Award Winner"[A] pageturner." -- The New York Times Book Review"Sage proves to be a compelling character whose sharp mind and shrewd self-possession will make readers eager to follow him into

a sequel." -- The Wall Street Journal"A swashbuckling origin story... chock-full of alluring details for adventure-loving boys." -- Los Angeles Times*"An impressive, promising story." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review"A fast-paced and thrilling read with twists and turns that never let up." -- School Library Journal"Gripping." -- Kirkus Reviews"Should appeal to fans of... Suzanne Collins... [A] surefire mix of adventure, mystery, and suspense." -- The Horn Book

This was a very great book. Can’t describe how much I loved it! It never kept me bored, always suspenseful. Recommend it strongly. I applaud! A MUST read!Ãƒ Â Ã Å¸Ã ËœÃ Â•Ãƒ Â Ã Å¸Ã â ˆÃ Â•Ãƒ Â Ã Å¸Ã Â•Ã Â» Also if you do enjoy it recommend "A Night Divided" by the same author.

Not as good as A Night Divided, hard to really get into.

Grate

When I first read the synopsis of this book I truly thought I was getting something more along the lines of a gritty tale with mysterious abound. What I received instead was a super light read, with little mystery, and really no surprises at all.The Scourge starts off with Ani, a young girl who seems to always get in trouble, or at the very least trouble seems to follow her like a loving puppy. In her world there is something known as the scourge, which is a fatal disease that anyone can catch, but luckily for her village, no river person has ever caught the dreaded disease. Until one day when she is captured, brought in for testing, and found with the horrible disease. Then her whole life is turned upside down as she is sent to a colony to live on a tiny island for the rest of her short days. But Ani has never been a quitter, and this disease will not get her down. Or for that matter keep her mouth shut. With wardens watching them day and night, and with her own sickness taking over her strength, Ani struggles to find a cure with the help of her friends. But little does anyone realize their true plight, and Ani will not back down until she uncovers the truth, and saves those she loves.The Scourge was a nice, pretty steady book with interesting characters as I did enjoy Ani, her mischievous ways, and her friends. Even the villains were quite villainous. But the plot was completely see through. You already knew exactly what was going to happen before it did, which took the majority of the mystery out of the book. The ending was nice, and overall it was truly just a super light read. I do love children’s books and young adult books, but this one seemed just a bit too young for my taste. So if you like a bit of adventure, a definite light read with a happy ending and not

really any mystery then this one is for you!

I received a free physical copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.Ani Mells is one of the River People living outside of the city of Keldan where the Scourge has run rampant for 300 years. Luckily, the River People have avoided the disease by staying far away and living rough lives eking out a living on the land. But when Ani is captured by the Wardens of Keldan, along with her best friend Weevil, she tests positive for the Scourge.Along with the daughter of a wealthy citizen of Keldan named Della, Ani and Weevil are sent to the Scourge colony on an old prison island to live out the remainder of their painfully short, diseased lives.All is not what it seems in this middle grade dystopia. The people of Keldan treat River People like they are the cause of the Scourge and yet the River People has mysteriously avoided catching it for hundreds of years. Until Ani Mells infuriates the city ruler, that is.Though Ani is sure she can't have the Scourge, she tests positive and even suffers the horrible symptoms. The Scourge Colony is a prison where victims are sent to slave away for the benefit of the city until they succumb to the disease shortly after.Wonderfully defiant and snarky Ani Mells is thrust into this colony and doesn't take to it the way the city folk do. Ani is strong-willed, stubborn, and butts heads with the guards as often as she can manage. While she is often labeled a trouble-maker, she is more of a hero in disguise. She is quick to stand up for and help her friends.Her friendship with Weevil, and later with other inhabitants of the island, really gave this situation a positive outlook. Nothing too horrible happens and the ending puts aside any fears that might be had while reading, which makes this perfect for middle-grade readers who haven't read the more brutal young-adult dystopians such as The Hunger Games or The Maze Runner.

The Scourge by Jennifer A. Nielsen is a fantastic page turner. Much like Jennifer made me fall in love with The False Prince (still one of our most loved series even in 7th), I too fell in love with Ani and Weevil and the trouble they cause. This is an accessible book, many reading confidences will be able to get sucked in and stay sucked in as the action springs from page to page, and yet, it is also a book that speaks of human relationships, of deep commitments to each other. My only disappointment with this book is that it is not a series; I would have loved for the story to keep on going because it is that good.

WhatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s there to say? The book was written by Jennifer Nielsen. Therefore, it was an amazing read. The end.Seriously, I do have more to say. But really, fans of Nielsen will not be

disappointed as she provides readers with another exciting adventure full of witty and courageous characters. The concept was unique and kept me turning the pages to figure some things out. I did guess what was happening halfway but did not know why it was happening, which made the read even more intriguing. I appreciated the idea of befriending those we hate or think we ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“hate" and getting along with them for the greater good. Without giving anything away, the main character Ani struggles with this and readers see her character and others change in that regard. Weevil and Ani are one of my favorite book couples of the year (Is that an official title? If not, it should be in the bookworm world.) As usual, some of the dialogue and narrative made me laugh out loud. All in all, it was a great read and I am looking forward to more of Nielsen's works!

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