



The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2)

By China Miéville

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BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from China Miéville's *Embassytown*.

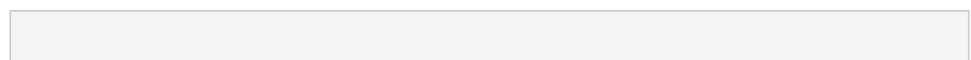
A mythmaker of the highest order, China Miéville has emblazoned the fantasy novel with fresh language, startling images, and stunning originality. Set in the same sprawling world of Miéville's Arthur C. Clarke Award-winning novel, *Perdido Street Station*, this latest epic introduces a whole new cast of intriguing characters and dazzling creations.

Aboard a vast seafaring vessel, a band of prisoners and slaves, their bodies remade into grotesque biological oddities, is being transported to the fledgling colony of New Crobuzon. But the journey is not theirs alone. They are joined by a handful of travelers, each with a reason for fleeing the city. Among them is Bellis Coldwine, a renowned linguist whose services as an interpreter grant her passage—and escape from horrific punishment. For she is linked to Isaac Dan der Grimnebulin, the brilliant renegade scientist who has unwittingly unleashed a nightmare upon New Crobuzon.

For Bellis, the plan is clear: live among the new frontiersmen of the colony until it is safe to return home. But when the ship is besieged by pirates on the Swollen Ocean, the senior officers are summarily executed. The surviving passengers are brought to Armada, a city constructed from the hulls of pirated ships, a floating, landless mass ruled by the bizarre duality called the Lovers. On Armada, everyone is given work, and even Remades live as equals to humans, Cactae, and Cray. Yet no one may ever leave.

Lonely and embittered in her captivity, Bellis knows that to show dissent is a death sentence. Instead, she must furtively seek information about Armada's agenda. The answer lies in the dark, amorphous shapes that float undetected miles below the waters—terrifying entities with a singular, chilling mission. . . .

China Miéville is a writer for a new era—and *The Scar* is a luminous, brilliantly imagined novel that is nothing short of spectacular.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In the third book in an astounding, genre-breaking run, China Miéville expands the horizon beyond the boundaries of New Crobuzon, setting sail on the high seas of his ever-growing world of Bas Lag.

The Scar begins with Miéville's frantic heroine, Bellis Coldwine, fleeing her beloved New Crobuzon in the peripheral wake of events relayed in *Perdido Street Station*. But her voyage to the colony of Nova Esperium is cut short when she is shanghaied and stranded on Armada, a legendary floating pirate city. Bellis becomes the reader's unbelieving eyes as she reluctantly learns to live on the gargantuan flotilla of stolen ships populated by a rabble of pirates, mercenaries, and press-ganged refugees. Meanwhile, Armada and Bellis's future is skippered by the "Lovers," an enigmatic couple whose mirror-image scarring belies the twisted depth of their passion. To give up any more of Miéville's masterful plot here would only ruin the voyage through dangerous straits, political uprisings, watery nightmares, mutinous revenge, monstrous power plays, and grand aspirations.

Miéville's skill in articulating brilliantly macabre and involving descriptions is paralleled only by his ability to set up world-moving plot twists that continually blow away the reader's expectations. Man-made mutations, amphibious aliens, transdimensional beings, human mosquitoes, and even vampires are merely neighbors, coworkers, friends, and enemies coexisting in the dizzying tapestry of diversity that is Armada. *The Scar* proves Miéville has the muscle and talent to become a defining force as he effortlessly transcends the usual clichés of the genre. --Jeremy Pugh

From Publishers Weekly

In this stand-alone novel set in the same monster-haunted universe as last year's much-praised *Perdido Street Station*, British author Mieville, one of the most talented new writers in the field, takes us on a gripping hunt to capture a magical sea-creature so large that it could snack on Moby Dick, and that's just for starters. Armada, a floating city made up of the hulls of thousands of captured vessels, travels slowly across the world of Bas-Lag, sending out its pirate ships to prey on the unwary, gradually assembling the supplies and captive personnel it needs to create a stupendous work of dark magic. Bellis Coldwine, an embittered, lonely woman, exiled from the great city of New Crobuzon, is merely one of a host of people accidentally trapped in Armada's far-flung net, but she soon finds herself playing a vital role in the byzantine plans of the city's half-mad rulers. The author creates a marvelously detailed floating civilization filled with dark, eccentric characters worthy of Mervyn Peake or Charles Dickens, including the aptly named Coldwine, a translator who has devoted much of her life to dead languages; Uther Doul, the superhuman soldier/scholar who refuses to do anything more than follow orders; and Silas Fennec, the secret agent whose perverse magic has made him something more and less than human. Together they sail through treacherous, magic-ridden seas, on a quest for the Scar, a place where reality mutates and all things become possible. This is state-of-the-art dark fantasy and a likely candidate for any number of award nominations. (July 2). Forecast: *Perdido Street Station* won the Arthur C. Clarke Award and the British Fantasy Award. A major publicity push including a six-city author tour should help win new readers in the U.S.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-Even better than the author's *Perdido Street Station* (Del Rey, 2001), *The Scar* is also set in the alternate world of Bas-Lag, where linguist Bellis Coldwine is fleeing the city of New Crobuzon. On her journey, pirates capture her ship, and she and the slaves onboard are taken to the floating city of Armada,

ruled by the twisted Lovers. The Lovers have a plan that will change the lives of more than the inhabitants of Armada forever, and the quest to find the mysterious reality-shifting place called the Scar begins. The world of Bas-Lag is dark and dangerous and its odd and macabre inhabitants are fully formed, however alien they seem. But even if the noir story and characters were merely ordinary, Mieville's writing would set this book apart. If poetry can have internal rhymes, the prose has an internal structure that uses sound and syllable repetitions, resulting in brilliant and biting word combinations that produce a style more analogous to music than to writing. The author's technique is something akin to Lewis Carroll's use of portmanteau.

Sophisticated readers will be engrossed not only by the story but also by the very words used to detail the plot, and they will never think of the fantasy genre, or fantasy authors, in quite the same way again.

Jane Halsall, McHenry Public Library District, IL

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maria Macdonald:

This The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. That The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2) without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't become worry The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2) can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2) having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Melanie Moore:

The knowledge that you get from The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2) will be the more deep you digging the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2) giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood through anyone who read that because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2) instantly.

Leroy Ange:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get large amount of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read will be The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2).

Molly Salazar:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Scar (New Crobuzon Book 2), you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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