



The Scar

By China Miéville

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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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The Scar By China Miéville Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #667923 in Books
- Brand: Mieville, China
- Published on: 2004-06-29
- Released on: 2004-06-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.86" h x 1.00" w x 4.18" l, .63 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 608 pages

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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 Miéville, 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:

Jennifer Jones:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always try and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , once we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be The Scar.

James Wendler:

Can you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't ascertain book by its cover may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not seeing that fantastic as in the outside look likes. Maybe you answer is usually The Scar why because the great cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside or perhaps cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

Mary Haskell:

The book untitled The Scar contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains her idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was published by famous author. The author provides you in the new time of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice examine.

Robert Journey:

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