



The City of Ember

By Jeanne DuPrau

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The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues before the lights go out on Ember forever!

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

It is always night in the city of Ember. But there is no moon, no stars. The only light during the regular twelve hours of "day" comes from floodlamps that cast a yellowish glow over the streets of the city. Beyond are the pitch-black Unknown Regions, which no one has ever explored because an understanding of fire and electricity has been lost, and with it the idea of a Moveable Light. "Besides," they tell each other, "there is nowhere but here" Among the many other things the people of Ember have forgotten is their past and a direction for their future. For 250 years they have lived pleasantly, because there has been plenty of everything in the vast storerooms. But now there are more and more empty shelves--and more and more times when the lights flicker and go out, leaving them in terrifying blackness for long minutes. What will happen when the generator finally fails?

Twelve-year-old Doon Harrow and Lina Mayfleet seem to be the only people who are worried. They have just been assigned their life jobs--Lina as a messenger, which leads her to knowledge of some unsettling secrets, and Doon as a Pipeworker, repairing the plumbing in the tunnels under the city where a river roars through the darkness. But when Lina finds a very old paper with enigmatic "Instructions for Egress," they use the advantages of their jobs to begin to puzzle out the frightening and dangerous way to the city of light of which Lina has dreamed. As they set out on their mission, the haunting setting and breathless action of this stunning first novel will have teens clamoring for a sequel. (Ages 10 to 14) --*Patty Campbell*

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-7. Ember, a 241-year-old, ruined domed city surrounded by a dark unknown, was built to ensure that humans would continue to exist on Earth, and the instructions for getting out have been lost and forgotten. On Assignment Day, 12-year-olds leave school and receive their lifetime job assignments. Lina Mayfleet becomes a messenger, and her friend Doon Harrow ends up in the Pipeworks beneath the city, where the failing electric generator has been ineffectually patched together. Both Lina and Doon are convinced that their survival means finding a way out of the city, and after Lina discovers pieces of the instructions, she and Doon work together to interpret the fragmented document. Life in this postholocaust city is well limned--the frequent blackouts, the food shortage, the public panic, the search for answers, and the actions of the powerful, who are taking selfish advantage of the situation. Readers will relate to Lina and Doon's resourcefulness and courage in the face of ominous odds. *Sally Estes*
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Review

"DuPrau's first foray into fiction creates a realistic post-apocalyptic world where everyone has lived underground for so long that they assume it has always been that way. . . . Reminiscent of post-apocalypse fiction like Robert O'Brien's *Z for Zachariah*, DuPrau's book leaves Doon and Lina on the verge of the undiscovered country and readers wanting more."—*USA Today*

"The cliffhanger ending will leave readers clamoring for the next installment."—Starred, *Kirkus Reviews*

"While Ember is colorless and dark, the book itself is rich with description. . . . Part mystery, part adventure story, this novel provides science fiction for those who do not like science fiction."—Starred, *VOYA*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Long:

The book The City of Ember gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading through a book The City of Ember to be your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You may know everything if you like available and read a e-book The City of Ember. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this book?

Margaret Gray:

The knowledge that you get from The City of Ember could be the more deep you looking the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but The City of Ember giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood simply by anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. That book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this specific The City of Ember instantly.

Jennifer Lorenzo:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some research before they write for their book. One of them is this The City of Ember.

Stacey Sims:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled The City of Ember your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get just before. The The City of Ember giving you another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful data for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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