



The Lord of Opium

By Nancy Farmer

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As the teenage ruler of his own country, Matt must cope with clones and cartels in this riveting sequel to the modern classic *House of the Scorpion*, winner of the National Book Award, a Newbery Honor, and a Printz Honor.

Matt has always been nothing but a clone—grown from a strip of old El Patron’s skin. Now, at age fourteen, he finds himself suddenly thrust into the position of ruling over his own country. The Land of Opium is the largest territory of the Dope Confederacy, which ranges on the map like an intestine from the ruins of San Diego to the ruins of Matamoros. But while Opium thrives, the rest of the world has been devastated by ecological disaster—and hidden in Opium is the cure.

And that isn’t all that awaits within the depths of Opium. Matt is haunted by the ubiquitous army of eejits, zombielike workers harnessed to the old El Patron’s sinister system of drug growing—people stripped of the very qualities that once made them human.

Matt wants to use his newfound power to help, to stop the suffering, but he can’t even find a way to smuggle his childhood love, Maria, across the border and into Opium. Instead, his every move hits a roadblock, some from the enemies that surround him...and some from a voice within himself. For who is Matt really, but the clone of an evil, murderous dictator?

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The Lord of Opium By Nancy Farmer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #101422 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-09-03
- Released on: 2013-09-03
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

* "This highly anticipated sequel to Farmer's National Book Award-winning *The House of the Scorpion* (2002) begins soon after the funeral of the drug lord El Patrón and the murder of nearly everyone who attended the event. Fourteen-year-old Matt, the dead drug lord's clone, was originally created to provide spare parts for El Patrón, but is now the Lord of Opium.... Once again, Farmer's near-future world offers an electric blend of horrors and beauty. Lyrically written and filled with well-rounded, sometimes thorny characters, this superb novel is well worth the wait." (June 24, 2013, *STARRED REVIEW)

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—This long-awaited sequel (2013) to *The House of the Scorpion* (2002, both S & S) begins with Matt becoming El Patrón and no longer a clone. With El Patrón's death and the death of all his relatives, Matt is the new Lord of Opium and his plan is to cure the eejits, the microchipped workers of Opium, and prevent a takeover of the country. He must learn to be a tough drug lord and deal with his new status as a person, not a dispensable clone. Dangers surround the boy, and he must learn who to trust in order to save the eejits and the lives of his friends. Matt must also struggle for his own soul as he assumes power. Addressing many ethical issues such as cloning, the drug trade, human rights, and ecological concerns, Farmer shines a light on issues facing our society today and provides a fascinating look at how people deal with these concerns in *Opium*. Raúl Esparza shows Matt's internal struggles and brings to life the emotions and personalities of all the characters. They are well created and complex, from the jefe Cienfuegos, who destroyed people's lives while wanting to save the environment, to Listen, who struggles with emotions, religion, and friendship when she only knows science, abandonment, and terror. Farmer's novel is a reminder to stay vigilant to the problems of the world and not become indifferent. This is a well-written work with an important message for teens.—Sarah Flood, Breckinridge County Public Library, Hardinsburg, KY

From Booklist

* "Most young readers who loved *The House of the Scorpion* (2002) when it was first released are now adults, and today's teen audience will need to read the first title in order to fully understand Farmer's brilliantly realized world.... A stellar sequel worth the wait." (June 1, 2013, *STARRED REVIEW)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gregory Howard:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *The Lord of Opium*. Try to make the book *The Lord of Opium* as your buddy. It means that it can being your friend when you sense alone and beside those of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Thomas Jones:

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Kimberly Franks:

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Barbara Simon:

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