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*Par China Miéville*

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**Par China Miéville : King Rat (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised King Rat (English Edition):

Commentaires clientsCommentaires clients les plus utiles3 internautes sur 3 ont trouvé ce commentaire utile. fantastique (au sens propre), dantesque, un style magiquePar Docteur FoxVoilà une aventure de changelin pas du tout politiquement correct.King rat vit dans la fange et dans l'ordure, plus rat que homme, déchu de son titre de roi des rats depuis que le Flutiste (the piper) a entraîné les rats à la mort sans qu'il puisse les défendre (comme dans le conte bien connu).Il va entrainer le héros de cette histoire dans un monde parallèle, unique, archétypique magiquement décrit par Miéville tandis que le Flutiste utilise les courants de musique underground pour devenir encore plus puissant.Dantesque.1 internautes sur 1 ont trouvé ce commentaire utile. Modern day fantasy with a twist - Good readPar Ralph HummelWhen I picked up this book, I did so because it was contained on one of those "essential-fantasy-reading-lists" that abound on the internet, so my expectations were somewhat wary due to previous mixed experiences. To be pleasantly surprised, is the least I can say after heaving read this book. The plot is very fantasy as in so far as the main characters live in today's London and are derived straight from legends and other well known fairy-tales and thrown into an urban jungle setting to fend on their own. The plot trudges along slowly in the beginning, but picks up pace and climaxes nicely when it hurtles towards the final battle between good and evil.Sounds like fantasy, yep, you are right. All the classic ingredients of a fantasy novel are present, yet this book is more than that. The reader discovers a rather difficult father-son relationship, that throughout the book deteriorates with every single page turned. Mix that with Saul's loss of one world and his friends just to discover another, strange an bizarre world that co-exists in the samè space where survival is top rule, you get an exciting yet strange read you will enjoy.The only grain of salt I found within the book is that some of the side-plots that seemed very promising were either not fully developed or resolved really too quickly for my taste, which sometimes made me think that the book was either rushed towards the end, or has been edited down by the publisher. The result of this is, that I could not identify fully with the characters, nor follow their motivations as well as I would have liked to.In any case, I have enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone wishing to read something different once in a while.1 internautes sur 1 ont trouvé ce commentaire utile. Original et réussiPar Phil-DonPuisant directement à la légende du joueur de flûte ayant le pouvoir d'envoûter les êtres vivants, "King Rat" est la suite moderne du conte, décliné sur le mode du fantastique et de l'horreur. Si le lecteur accepte le merveilleux de l'auteur (l'existence d'un héros mi-humain mi-rat, etc...), le livre offre une intrigue prenante et originale mêlant habilement légende, horreur et poésie. L'action se passe à Londres sur fond de musique Underground, le tout contribuant à une atmosphère bien rendue.

Description du produit China Mieville's exciting debut novel, *King Rat*, mixes a young man's search for identity with a pulse-pounding story of revenge and madness. Something is stirring in the London dark, stamping out its territory in brickdust and blood. Something has murdered Saul Garamond's father, and left Saul to pay for the crime. But a shadow from the urban waste breaks into Saul's prison cell and leads him to freedom. A shadow called King Rat. Freedom and a new destiny: King Rat reveals Saul's royal heritage, a heritage that opens a new world to Saul, the world below London's streets. A heritage that also drags Saul into King Rat's plan for revenge against his ancient enemy, the Pied Piper of Hamelin. The Piper walks the world again, and wants to finish the job he started those long centuries ago. With Drum and Bass pounding the backstreets, Saul must confront the forces that would use him, the forces that would destroy him, and the forces that shaped his own bizarre identity.

Présentation de l'éditeur *King Rat* blends eerie fairy tale and contemporary urban fantasy in China Miéville's fantastical debut. Something is stirring in London's dark, stamping out its territory in brickdust and blood. Something has murdered Saul's father, and left Saul to pay for the crime. But a shadow from the urban waste breaks into his prison cell and leads him to freedom. A shadow called King Rat. In the night-land behind London's façade, in sewers and slums and rotting dead spaces, Saul must learn his true nature. Grotesque murders rock the city like a curse. Mysterious forces prepare for a showdown. With Drum and Bass pounding the backstreets, Saul confronts his bizarre inheritance - in the badlands of South London, in the heart of darkness, at the gathering of the Junglist Massive. Like the DJ says: 'Time for the Badman.'.com Saul Garamond returns from a journey in late evening and sneaks into his bedroom to avoid a confrontation with his estranged father. He awakes to the intrusion of police and the news that his father has been murdered and he is the number-one suspect. Forgotten in a jail cell, he is freed by a peculiar, stinking, and impossibly strong stranger--only to find rescue may be worse than imprisonment. The plot moves through subterranean and rooftop London quick as a techno beat, as Saul discovers his curious heritage and finds himself marked for death in an age-old secret war among frightful inhuman powers. China Miéville's urban fantasy novel, *King Rat*, is an impressive, even daring, debut. It is a Lost Prince story that avoids both black-and-white morality and the standard fantasy-novel adoration of royalty. Furthermore, it is inspired by the unlikeliest of sources, the Rat King legend and the Pied Piper of Hamelin fairy tale. Finally, *King Rat*, powered and propelled by the rhythms of jungle/drum-'n'-bass music, is a fantasy novel set in the 1990s that genuinely captures the 1990s. --Cynthia Ward From Publishers Weekly In the past decade, contemporary renderings of traditional fairy tales have become a staple of fantasy fiction. This flashy riff on the Pied Piper theme marks a notable extension of the trend and an auspicious debut for its author. Saul Garamond is a restless young Londoner, aimlessly adrift, when he is wrongly imprisoned for the murder of his father. Saul is snatched from the authorities by a mysterious savior named King Rat, who claims to be both the deposed leader of the rodent army driven out of Hamelin 700 years before and Saul's real father. Raised as a human, Saul has much to unlearn before King can teach him to become a worthy opponent of the Rat Catcher, who framed Saul for murder and is still pursuing King. Meanwhile, the Rat Catcher forces his friendship on Saul's composer friend, Natasha, by posing as a flautist who hopes to work his melodies into her "drum 'n' bass" dance music and turn London's hip-hop underground into his unwitting stormtroopers. Though the plot is predictable and Saul's efforts to get in touch with his inner rat are clearly patterned on the Star Wars school of messiah-making, Miéville pulls the reader into the story through the kinetic energy of his prose. From the novel's opening image ("The trains that enter London arrive like ships sailing across the roofs"), the narrative crackles with a mesmerizing melange of impressionistic description and street slang that powerfully limns the squalid London cityscape. Paced at the rhythm of the Jungle music it evokes, this dark urban fantasy proves nearly as irresistible as the Pied Piper's tunes. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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