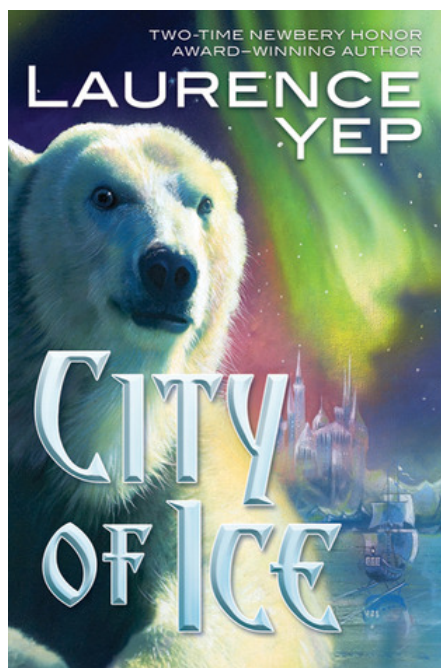




City of Ice

Laurence Yep

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Two-time Newbery Honor Award-winning author Laurence Yep returns with the action-packed sequel to the critically-acclaimed *City of Fire*

From the islands of Hawaii, Scirye and her loyal companions pursue the villainous Mr. Roland and evil dragon Badik all the way to the city of Nova Hafnia in the Arctic Circle. With the help of a trader, Prince Tarkhun, and his daughter Roxanna, the companions chase their enemies into the vast and desolate Wastes. Scirye and her friends are determined to stop Mr. Roland from getting his hands on the second of the Five Lost Treasures of Emperor Yü, which will give him the power to alter the very fabric of the universe. But few who enter the Wastes ever return, and Scirye has no choice but to call on the spirit of the North for help. As wild and unpredictable as the Arctic itself, will the spirit turn out to be friend or foe?

City of Ice Details

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From Reader Review City of Ice for online ebook

Debbie says

This was a good sequel to "City of Fire". It is the further adventures of Scirye, Kles, Leech, Koko, Bayang, and some new characters. They are continuing the quest to find Roland.

shrug city says

Pretty good! A little less cohesive than the previous book, but I really dig Laurence Yep's earnestness about mythology and arctic wildlife and everything, really. Plus Bayang having to struggle against her star-crossed parental feelings for Leech is hilarious. She just wants to be his mom!

Rhiannon Ryder says

Stuck in Canada Post forever (seriously, this book took almost two months to get to me), City of Ice was one of those books I was dying to rip into. I loved City of Fire and was dying to dig into more of the adventure.

Although filled with the same sweeping fantasy vistas, the same characters and the continuation of the same story, City of Ice wasn't as enjoyable to me as the first part City of Fire. My main gripe was I didn't feel the same draw to his characters I did in book one. Three of the 5 companions have discovered things that make them secretive and unsure in their group and it stilted the reading for me somewhat. There was too much internal monologuing and it really hurt their outwards interactions, which was one of the main draws of the first book for me.

I also feel like some of the historical/fantasy blend I loved so much in the beginning was continuing to be fairly complex and a bit confusing. Although I love that Yep has enough respect for his readers to keep it intelligent I'm wondering if it should be so complex that lengthy descriptions and explanations are still in order to follow the story. By book two I feel like the ground work should be solidly built and its time to start to delve deeper into the adventures and the character development. Instead I spent too much time trying to understand new cultures and places. If as an adult reader this bored me then I suspect it would be dull for younger reader.

My other really big issue with the story was continuity. If in the middle of an action scene someone is being stuffed in a bag, and then suddenly they are untouched on the floor and the bag is doing something else, somewhere else, you have a problem. I had to read several sentences a couple times over, due to continuity mistakes like these, and they were really frustrating. Talk about killing the drama. If it had happened only once I would consider it just a typo, but there were several action scenes that had this issue, just in the first half of the story.

An intriguing trilogy with some really great aspects too that I really really want to like, but I've stalemated on part two and am not sure I would pick up part three.

Julia says

CITY OF ICE still has the creativity and fantastic world-building of **CITY OF FIRE**, but suffers a little bit from "mid-trilogy" malaise. Scirye and her companions continue to struggle with the morality play of working together and deal with magical forces beyond their comprehension, and they continue to chase the villains that threaten the world as they know it. Luckily, their adventure into the arctic offers thrilling new landscapes, new mythologies, and new friends to meet along the way.

As fascinating as Auntie Pele and her Hawaiian volcanoes were in **CITY OF FIRE**, I found the snowy reaches of the Arctic Circle even more interesting. As an added bonus, we are able to dive straight into this new landscape from chapter one, as our heroines and heros were winging their way there at the close of book one. The interaction of myth and magic on the tundra was more than enough to hold my attention, and helped carry the story when I became impatient with the insecurities of Scirye and her friends. Though the emotions were completely plausible for children in their position, it wasn't a compelling part of the story for me.

CITY OF ICE from a world-building perspective is as lush and interesting as any in this series, but the character development languishes as Yep sets up conflicts for book three. Even with that criticism, however, I know that the concepts and landscapes that were so beautifully written in this book will stay with me long after I finish it. Certainly long enough for me to remember to pick up the last of the *City Trilogy* when it's available.

Full review to follow.

Sexual Content: None.

Angela says

The plot line was ok, but I didn't really see any developement in the events. I mean, the entire book they were out in the ice and they didn't do much except meet Uncle and almost get eaten by that old hag. So the plot line was flat. I spent more time than usual just trying to slog my way through this book. Not sure if I'm going to read the last book in the trilogy. Some of the things that happen in this story just didn't make any sense or didn't have any relation to the mainplot event. i mean, the dancers and the bracelet that Leech had was pretty pointless. So overall, a three star book.

Valerie says

This was definitely better than the first book in the trilogy, but still not well written. the plot is good, but how we get to the plot points... not so great.

Susan Treat says

Keeps getting good

Rick Stuckwisch says

This second book in the trilogy was an improvement over the first. It was smoother and easier to read, and it moved along more steadily. The characters are fully developed and three-dimensional, and the story itself is likewise well developed and well crafted. Enjoyable, and not a bad read at all.

Maia says

Bears... Badgers... Dragons... People reborn... Warriors... AWESOME!

thistle says

I love the first book's premise and like its execution well enough; this second one is a bit of a jumble.

Chris says

Laurence Yep pulled it off again, with another amazing book in the city trilogy. keep it coming, I running out of good stuff to read.

Selena Yukino (The Lioness: hear me roar) says

It was great! Loved it, so, so much!

Haley DeShone says

I loved this book and can not wait until the third book releases. "City of Death" I love the characters and how the book continues to try and capture the same people. How the catch up to them and then some how loose them. I also like how the keep trying and trying to catch up and are there together for each other. In my opinion I liked the first book because it first introduced you to the characters and what is going to happen. Because in the second book it seems that the characters change.

Ramona says

Look forward to the next book in the City trilogy and I need to go back and read book #1. The characters were lively. Their interactions with each other were good, amusing, and well written.

Josiah says

Scirye, Kles (a miniature griffin), Bayang (a dragon), Leech, and Koko are far from finished with their quest to catch Badik the dragon and Roland, who stole a pair of priceless artifacts and are certain to do worse if they aren't called to account. Our caravan of justice seekers follows Roland and Badik to the Arctic Circle, where the waters are frozen and temperatures dip to an excruciating minus sixty degrees. Riding on Bayang's back through the icy wind is almost too much for Scirye and her companions to endure, but no one wants to choose a slower mode of travel when Roland and Badik are getting away. Bayang alights in the city of Nova Hafnia for a needed rest, where Scirye finds a new ally: twelve-year-old Roxanna, who is the same age as Scirye and Leech. Roxanna's father, Prince Tarkhun, attempts to detain Scirye because her pursuit of Badik seems suicidal, but Scirye isn't about to be stopped from avenging her sister Nishke, whom Badik killed. Joined by Roxanna in defiance of her father, the group continues along the frigid route toward their enemies.

The full danger of the Arctic becomes apparent when a mystical polar bear attacks. It turns out Lord Resak is no normal bear; he's an amalgamation of every animal spirit in the Arctic, their strength, passion, and dignity in a single powerful body. Lord Resak sympathizes with the goal of eliminating Roland and Badik. His kingdom's location is secret, but would a modicum of risk not be appropriate if Scirye and her friends could deal with these villains once and for all? Roland and Badik haven't survived this long without being perceptive, however. They mount an all-out assault on Lord Resak's kingdom, a battle Scirye's side must win if they are to continue pursuing Roland and Badik. Their resolve is unbroken, but how many beloved allies will die to win the day?

I like *City of Ice* slightly better than *City of Fire*, but I'm not sure this trilogy is to my taste. I get mired in the prose and have difficulty processing what I'm reading. I would almost consider rating *City of Ice* one and a half stars, but it's just not for me. A certain breed of fantasy fan will enjoy it, though, and because I know Laurence Yep is capable of good things, I retain some hope that I'll like the final book. I'm ready for *City of Death*.
