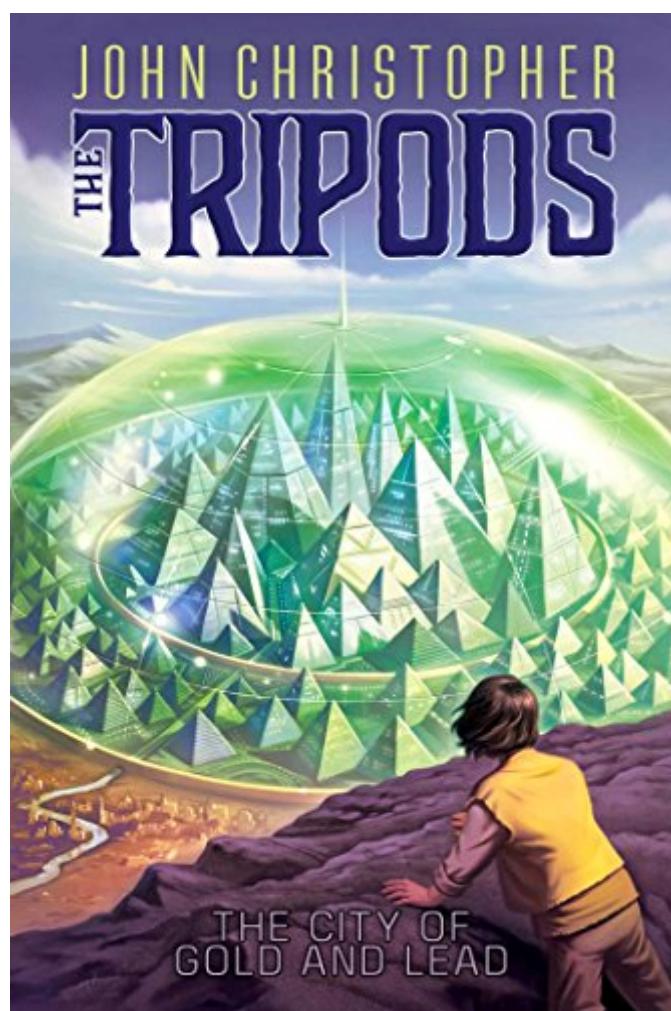


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The City Of Gold And Lead (The Tripods Book 2)



Synopsis

Will and his friends return to the City of the Tripods and risk their lives in this second book of a classic alien trilogy ideal for fans of Rick Yancey's and Margaret Peterson Haddix's Shadow Children series. When Will and his friends arrived at the White Mountains, they thought everything would be okay. They'd found a safe haven where the mechanical monsters called Tripods could not find them. But once there, they wonder about the world around them and how they are faring against the machines. In order to save everyone else, Will and his friends want to take down the Tripods once and for all. That means journeying to the Tripod capital: the City of Gold and Lead. Although the journey will be difficult, the real danger comes once Will is inside the city, where Tripods roam freely and humans are even more enslaved than they are on the outside. Without anyone to help him, Will must learn the secrets of the Tripods and how to take them down before they figure out that he's a spy and he can only pretend to be brainwashed for so long.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The second book in this trilogy finds Will, Beanpole and a boy named Fritz embarking on a dangerous journey to participate in a contest being held in a distant town. Basically it's an Olympic type of challenge where the strongest contestants win the dubious honor of serving the Masters inside their domed city. This book is much more grim than the first. The boys are no longer on an adventure to a hazy place in the distance. Their eyes have been opened to the world as it really is and with that knowledge comes the loss of a good deal of childhood. This journey will be more harrowing than the first in many respects. They learn harsh lessons along the way. Such as when they must learn that someone being nice it doesn't necessarily make them a friend. That they must not allow the lure of an easy life turn them aside from their goal. And, perhaps the most dispiriting lesson of all, that all too often people are perfectly willing to stay on the sidelines, believing it's best to fit in and not make waves. One of the things I recognize and appreciate more now is the author's belief in the power inherent in children. The great thing about kids is their ability to think beyond the norm. Since they don't already think they know how things are supposed to work they naturally think outside the box and will keep at it, which leads to action. Their lack of education and experience allows them to believe that anything is possible. Perhaps even bringing about the downfall of their alien overlords.

I enjoyed this, and I think the novel stands well on its own. Although this series is generally considered "juvenile" or "young adult" sci-fi, it has surprising depth and moral ambiguity about it. The heroes have flaws and sometimes do bad things for the right reasons, and other good guys turn out to be not so good at all. There is a sense of peril and forboding throughout, without much humor or levity to balance it out. For whatever reason I was not as taken with this as I was with "White Mountains". Perhaps because I first read "White Mountains" as a young adult, so there was some nostalgia there when I re-read it as an adult. However, that novel also follows the classic motif of three young men on a long journey. This novel is something different. It has a bit of the "on the road" aspect at the beginning, but that's a minor part. The bulk of this book is set in the Masters' city. Will is much more passive in this outing, and doesn't have much choice but to persist while events unfold around him - as such there is less action. I also found "The Games" to be kind of a strange setup for the main plot of the story. The depiction of the Masters and their city and lifestyle is quite imaginative - well, downright weird actually - and also complex with their own quirks and their own moral ambiguity. Much different than what I had expected. Overall this was a good read, and I look forward to reading the conclusion.

I recently reread The City of Gold and Lead and enjoyed it just as much as I did when I was a middle schooler in the late 1960's. I am writing a book that incorporates events from the 1960's and 1970's, so was prompted to read many of the books that I was reading at that time. John Christopher, the author of the Tripod series of books, skillfully creates a world of repression where aliens have ruled the earth for over 100 years. In The City of Gold and Lead, the reader is shown what life is like within the alien bases here on earth, for both the aliens and their human slaves. Start by reading The White Mountains, proceed to The City of Gold and Lead, then read Pool of Fire. imaginative and thought provoking, the series will please science fiction lovers from middle school/young adult to adult. A fun summer reading diversion.

This story had some nice touches. The boy hero of the first book (this is the second of the series) sneaks with another into the city of the Tripods. Mysteries are revealed and adventures are had. But I had two problems with it. First, it's slow. Journeys are described in detail and the buildings and food are also explained carefully. These stretches really slow the story down. An author once said that good stories are like with the boring parts taken out. He forgot to take out a few boring parts in this book. The other issue was that I didn't admire or respect the main character. His laziness and selfishness aren't countered with any special redeeming features. Worst of all, a passive lead character makes for a passive story. The underlying ideas make it good. The slow execution keeps it from being great.

Tripods is an exciting adventure taken on first by a seemingly single boy. But grows into 3 boys bound by friendship and determination. One single goal in mind.

OK but too long

An amazing book. Full of hope and wonder. It left me looking forward to the next book. I can't wait to read The Pool of Fire.

It was a truly great book, I couldn't put it down. Make sure to read the white mountains and pool of fire as well as when the tripods came.

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