



The Divided Earth

Faith Erin Hicks

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The Nameless City—held by the rogue Dao prince Erzi—is under siege by a coalition of Dao and Yisun forces who are determined to end the war for the Nameless City once and for all. And the people of the city—the "Named"—are caught in between.

Meanwhile, Rat and Kai must infiltrate Erzi's palace and steal back the ancient and deadly formula for napatha, the ancient weapon of mass destruction Erzi has unearthed—before he can use it to destroy everything Rat and Kai hold dear!

In her third and final installment in the *Nameless City* trilogy, Faith Erin Hicks delivers a heart-thumping conclusion. With deft world-building, frantic battle scenes, and a gentle and moving friendship at its heart, the Nameless City has earned its place as one of the great fantasy series of our time.

The Divided Earth Details

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Author : Faith Erin Hicks

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From Reader Review The Divided Earth for online ebook

laurel [suspected bibliophile] says

The thrilling conclusion to the Nameless City trilogy! As Rat and Kaidu try to figure out how to get back at Erzi and Mura and subvert their plan to destroy the Yisun army with an ancient and powerful weapon, Kai's father and the monk Joah run into old friends...or possibly enemies.

I loved this MG graphic novel trilogy so much. The artwork is absolutely stunning, and the storyline is riveting and doesn't shy away from tough topics like colonialism, the cycles of war and peace, conquering nations, power imbalances, hatred, and how to fight without fighting (and that there is a way to win without death and fighting)—and what it means to sacrifice everything for a place and people that you love.

There were quite a few plots and subplots, which were all wrapped up pretty well. Joah's mysterious origins are revealed, we learn more about Mura's motivations and her manipulation of Erzi (honestly, I wanted to see more of this because Mura is a really fascinating character), and Rat tells Kaidu her real name.

TL;DR: if you enjoyed the first two installments, you'll love this one.

I received this ARC from NetGalley for an honest review.

Alex says

It was fine.

I wish there had been more involvement from the city. More people fighting for change. More... well, people. There were seriously 8 people leading the attack on the Dao palace and maybe 12 soldiers fighting back. I guess I wanted it to feel like a city full of people fighting for what they believed in and wanted. And even though the story made that point, the art didn't execute it very well.

Sharon Tyler says

The Divided Earth is the third (and final) book in The Nameless City series by Faith Eric Hicks. It is currently scheduled for release on September 25 2018. The book begins where the second book in the trilogy, The Stone Heart, left off. Readers do need to read this series in order to understand and enjoy the story fully.

Kai and Rat might need to sacrifice everything for peace. The city is under new rule, and if they cannot stop the tragic events that are in motion the cycle of war, death, and violence will continue. The added challenge of treachery inside the palace and an army quickly approaching the outer walls raise the stakes and the likelihood of everything ending badly.

The Divided Earth is a solid graphic novel, and a good conclusion to a trilogy. As always, her art work is stunning and adds a great deal to the story and character development. I simply love the style and coloring. In the story itself, I liked the efforts that Kai, his parents, Rat, and many of the characters went through to do what they thought best for the greater good, and the city specifically. Like in real life, people's ideas of what

is best, what is right, and what should happen is always varied and sometimes quite different. I like the development and tension built around what would happen with the city, and our major players, come the final conflict. It was very well done, but I felt like I could have gotten to know a few of the secondary characters a little more (like Kai's mother) but got more that I expected with the return of some younger characters from the earlier books. I enjoyed the adventure and the danger, I think the political and military posturing was very well built and explored. I was fully engaged with the read, and kind of want an epilogue to see what might happen well after this story ended, what does the future hold in the long term for Kai and Rat, does peace last, and where do Kai's parents end up. The conclusion tied up all the necessary loose ends, but I was invested enough to still be curious.

The Divided Earth is a solid conclusion to the trilogy. although I will admit to wanting to see what might happen in the Nameless City in the years to come. I was satisfied, but still want more.

Rod Brown says

A pretty solid ending to a good series, though there was an overreliance on way-to-convenient coincidences and slam-bang action. The fourth star in my rating belongs solely to Kata who shows up for the first time and practically steals the show. (Solo spin-off book needed now!)

(p.s., It doesn't take anything away, but I'm peeved that in an editorial oversight, a minor character's name changed from "Iniko" in the second volume to "Eniko" in this one.)

Jenna says

Wonderfully done and continues to explore pertinent themes of war, belonging, trauma, diversity, friendship, and just about anything else you could think of. Faith Erin Hick's drawings matched even this darker tone perfectly. Conclusion tied up well without being overly sappy or dramatic and the while I am still curious what's happening to our "villains" now, it isn't a big hangup.

Is there any noise of this becoming a movie or animation? Because that would be lovely to see it gain an even wider fanbase than I'm sure it already has. Time to bug the middle schoolers about this series!

Kris Springer says

Great series; wonderful art and a message about friendship and hope and trust. A very touching relationship between the 2 protagonists, developed over the course of the 3 books. I will probably go back and read all 3, right in a row, to re-experience the character development and remind myself of some of the plot twists from the 1st 2. Worth the read!

Todd Glaeser says

Thank you to Netgalley for the free e-copy.

I really liked the first two books in this series and this is a great conclusion. I don't "know" if this is true, but I "feel" like the art is scratchier, not as polished as the previous books. But I'm not sure.

I do like how the story concludes, that violence is not inevitable.

Tara Schaafsma says

Last book in this series. So good.

Rachel Reid says

It's so good!

Nancy says

This review can also be found on my blog: <https://graphicnovelty2.com/2018/09/2...>

The Divided Earth is the final book of The Nameless City trilogy, and wraps the narrative up in a thrilling and satisfying conclusion!

Preceded by books The Nameless City and The Stone Heart, the story takes place in the fictional city Daidu, named by the Dao's, the most recent conquering nation. However, due to centuries of conquest, the inhabitants of many different nationalities simply call it The Nameless City. This politically important Asian city sits alongside a mountain pass and is the only route to the sea, making it a critical location for trade and military movements. An ancient people carved a passageway through the mountain, but the technology they used has been lost to the ages.

The main characters are teen Kaidu, a Dao recently of the distant Homelands who is sent to the city to train as a soldier, a street-wise girl named Rat who has lived in the city her whole life, Ezri, who is the General's son and who has just taken drastic measures to rule the city and his dangerous bodyguard Mura. These four young people have just discovered a mystical tome in the monastery that they believe has powers to dominate all the surrounding nations.

Ezri and Mura take the book that holds the formula for making Napatha, a powerful fire that can destroy armies and eat through stone, and plan to use it for the Dao nation to remain in control of the city. Both have complex and diverging reasons for wanting this power, and author Faith Erin Hicks deftly weaves in their back stories to explain their viewpoints. We see how Ezri desperately justifies his actions, and his layered portrayal shows that he isn't crafted to be a pure villain in the story.

Additional characters come into play, as adults from Kai and Rat's life play integral roles in trying to thwart the war that Ezri and Mura are intent on starting. The conclusion has Ezri and Kai, two young men who come from privileged upbringings, face off. Paired with that, is the poignant confrontation between Mura and Rat whose backgrounds include tragedy and broken homes. These matches between the pairs show how similar starts in life don't always lead to the same paths; as love and support from others and your own

personal integrity can help shape you.

The conclusion is satisfying, with a three year time jump to show a realistic wrap up to the story. A few details were a bit pat, but as the story is geared towards young readers, the arcs for the four main characters ended appropriately. I was invested in the city's inhabitants and would love to visit them again in a future story by Hicks. As such, I was excited to be approved for this book by NetGalley, so I could get a sneak peek at how the series concludes.

Hicks has crafted a story that tied in adventure, friendship and the cost of war. She creates a believable world inspired by 13th century China and her artwork was wonderful with the precision of her backgrounds and how she captures emotion. The coloring by Jordie Bellaire is lovely- and her work should get a shout out, as a colorist's work establishes an aesthetic that is a crucial part of the storytelling. This captivating trilogy is a must read, not only to a YA audience, but also with older readers who will enjoy the nuanced tale. Rating: 4.5/5

Angie Pinchbeck says

A great conclusion to a great series! I would definitely suggest this to any YA (and maybe a bit older!) readers who want a good story, great art, and something of substance. It was a fun read with a good message.

Agn? says

3.5 out of 5

The Divided Earth is a satisfying, action-packed conclusion to a great middle grade graphic novel trilogy.

Is it just me or is the artwork a bit sketchier in this volume? Still, the action sequences are on point:

However, the story does feel a tiny bit simplistic and idealistic, especially the end of "the war." Also, as mentioned by another Goodreads reviewer, there are literally a dozen or so people fighting in the battle that would determine the future of the city.

Dan says

An absolutely satisfying conclusion to one of my favorite graphic novel series in the past few years.

David Schaafsma says

The Divided Earth concludes The Nameless City Trilogy, preceded by The Nameless City and The Stone Heart. It's Hicks' most ambitious and accomplished work so far, a comics meditation on violence in society and the role young people might play in shaping that process. The story is a fantasy adventure with political

implications focusing on the partnership of two young people, Kai and Rat, who come from different factions in the area of Daidu, or what most people in the area call The Nameless City.

In this graphic comics trilogy for young people, probably most likely for tweens, there are four young people who are main characters, Kaidu, Rat, Ezri and Mura. Daidu is just the latest name given to a city by the most recent conqueror, but most residents know that with the next violent conquering will come a new naming, so most townies just say the heck with renaming it. It's somewhere in Asia, located critically near the sea, important for trade routes, so that's why people want to conquer it. Kaidu or Kai is of the Dao faction, sent to the city as a soldier, who befriends Rat, who lives in the city. Two other young people that are central are Ezri, the General's son, now the General of All Blades, who essentially wants to rule the city, and his bodyguard Mura, who basically wants to destroy it and start over. They find an ancient book that they believe possesses secrets, such as the secret formula for Napatha, a fire that can destroy enemies, eat through stone (Makes me think of nuclear warheads, the ultimate conquering instrument).

Kai and Rat, from different factions, are anti-war. They are like the European Union or the United Nations. They are pro-democracy and peaceful cooperation. The last book is full of action, but the basic move is a face-off between these two opposing views, two different approaches to governance, even as another potentially conquering nation heads to the Nameless City, led by the Yisun Army. We are led to support the friendship of Kai and Rat, who come from troubled and broken upbringings, and their peaceful approach. Mura is interesting in that she is a kind of terrorist or violent anarchist. All positions are articulated well, and we get to know the characters representing them as complex and interesting.

I like the small but important role played by the monk. I like it that Rat in the end finally tells Kai her real name. I really like the friendship—running and leaping from building to building—of Kai and Rat.

So the book is great, written for young people, focused on adventure and friendship and anti-violence as a key for preserving the planet, in an anti-colonialist spirit, even in the face of the Endless War we are experiencing on the planet now. The artwork by Hicks is wonderful—pencilled digitally, hand-inked, a great approach that makes it feel more intimate, and the coloring by Jordie Bellaire increases the essential warmth of the story. No one is better than Hicks at drawing both action sequences and emotions in children's comics right now. I'm a fan of her work, such as *Friends with Boys* and *The Adventures of Superhero Girl*. This is her best so far, though.

Ran says

This was a good ending to the Nameless City series. I've said it before, but it remains true - I love Hicks's artwork. I think the pacing, spacing, and color bring this series to life (thanks also to Jordie Bellaire's lovely colors). Can we also just talk about how much of this particular installment is about a fight over a physical book (knowledge in general - in this case, how to make napalm)? Definitely worth a look, especially if you need a feel-good ending.
