

the scar by china mieville

The Enigmatic Depths of The Scar by China Miéville

the scar by china mieville is a novel that effortlessly pulls readers into a world where imagination and dark fantasy collide. Known for his unique blend of weird fiction and urban fantasy, Miéville once again crafts a story that is as intellectually stimulating as it is thrilling. *The Scar* dives deep into a richly textured universe filled with strange creatures, mysterious cities, and a plot that keeps you on the edge of your seat. If you're a fan of speculative fiction or just curious about what makes Miéville's work stand out, this exploration of *The Scar* will offer you insights into its themes, style, and why it remains a significant piece in modern fantasy literature.

Understanding The Scar by China Miéville: A World Unlike Any Other

When you pick up *The Scar* by China Miéville, you're not just opening a book—you're stepping into a sprawling, vividly imagined realm. The novel is set primarily in the floating pirate city of Armada, a bizarre and sprawling metropolis made of repurposed ships lashed together. This setting alone showcases Miéville's talent for world-building, creating an environment that feels organic, lived-in, and utterly unique.

The Setting: Armada and Its Mysteries

Armada is much more than just a backdrop; it's a character in itself. The city's construction from countless vessels gives it a fragmented, patchwork feel that mirrors the complex social dynamics and political intrigue brewing within. As the city sails across the mysterious waters of the world, it becomes a symbol of freedom, danger, and the unknown. *The Scar*, in this context, refers not only to a physical

place but also to the scars borne by characters and societies alike—scars of trauma, ambition, and survival.

Plot Overview: A Journey into the Unknown

At its core, *The Scar* by China Miéville follows the story of Bellis Coldwine, a linguist and scholar who is captured and brought to Armada. Her journey from a captive to a key player in the city's fate is marked by encounters with strange figures, including pirates, sorcerers, and monstrous sea creatures. The novel is a thrilling mix of adventure, mystery, and political drama, with Miéville weaving complex character arcs and ethical dilemmas throughout the narrative.

Key Themes Explored in *The Scar*

Miéville's work often explores themes that blend political commentary with fantasy, and *The Scar* is no exception. Some of the prominent themes include:

- **Identity and Transformation:** Characters in *The Scar* frequently grapple with their sense of self amid chaos and change. Bellis's transformation is emblematic of this, as she adapts to her new environment and challenges.
- **Power and Control:** The shifting alliances and power struggles within Armada highlight the fragile nature of authority and the costs of ambition.
- **The Unknown and Exploration:** The novel delves into humanity's desire to explore and conquer the unknown, embodied by the city's quest to find the mysterious "Scar" itself—a place shrouded in myth and danger.
- **Otherness and Diversity:** Miéville populates his world with a diverse cast, including non-human entities and cultures, pushing readers to reconsider notions of normality and alienness.

China Miéville's Writing Style and Influence in *The Scar*

One of the reasons *The Scar* by China Miéville captivates readers is its distinctive writing style.

Miéville's prose is dense yet poetic, filled with inventive vocabulary and meticulous descriptions. His background in political theory and love for the New Weird genre shine through in the narrative structure and thematic complexity.

The Role of New Weird in *The Scar*

The Scar is often cited as a landmark example of New Weird fiction—a genre that blends elements of fantasy, horror, and science fiction while breaking traditional genre boundaries. This novel pushes those limits by introducing readers to a world that is neither fully magical nor entirely scientific, but something unsettlingly in-between. This ambiguity invites readers to question reality and reflect on the nature of fear, power, and society.

Symbolism and Imagery

Miéville's use of symbolism is rich and layered. The city of Armada, the Scar itself, and the creatures inhabiting this world all carry deeper meanings that resonate beyond the surface story. The Scar can be interpreted as a metaphor for the scars left by colonialism, trauma, or the unknown frontiers humanity seeks to conquer—adding depth to the adventure narrative.

Why *The Scar* by China Miéville Resonates with Readers

The Scar appeals to a wide range of readers because it combines gripping storytelling with profound thematic exploration. Fans of fantasy appreciate its imaginative world-building and complex characters,

while readers interested in social and political issues find much to ponder in its subtext.

What Makes The Scar Stand Out in Fantasy Literature?

- **Inventive World-Building:** Miéville's creation of Armada challenges traditional fantasy settings, mixing urban decay with nautical adventure.
- **Complex Characters:** The protagonists and antagonists are deeply flawed and multifaceted, making their journeys emotionally engaging.
- **Philosophical Undertones:** The novel doesn't shy away from addressing big ideas about society, power, and human nature.
- **Genre-Blending Narrative:** By incorporating elements from various speculative genres, Miéville keeps readers guessing and enthralled.

Tips for Readers Diving into The Scar

1. **Take Your Time with the Language:** Miéville's prose is rich and occasionally challenging; savoring the language enhances the reading experience.
2. **Pay Attention to Details:** The world-building is intricate, and small details often foreshadow larger plot developments.
3. **Embrace the Ambiguity:** The novel thrives on mystery and the unknown, so allow yourself to dwell in uncertainty rather than seeking immediate answers.
4. **Explore Related Works:** If you enjoy The Scar, consider reading other Miéville novels like Perdido Street Station or Embassytown for more New Weird adventures.

Impact and Legacy of The Scar by China Miéville

Since its publication, The Scar has garnered critical acclaim and a devoted fanbase. It has been

praised for pushing the boundaries of fantasy literature and expanding what speculative fiction can achieve. The novel's influence is evident in the growing popularity of the New Weird genre and in discussions about the intersection of politics and fantasy storytelling.

Many readers and critics highlight how *The Scar* challenges conventional norms, inviting fresh perspectives on narrative structure and thematic depth. Its blending of adventure with intellectual rigor makes it a standout work that continues to inspire writers and readers alike.

Exploring *The Scar* by China Miéville is like embarking on a journey through uncharted waters—filled with wonder, danger, and profound questions. Whether you're drawn to its imaginative setting, complex characters, or thought-provoking themes, this novel offers a rich reading experience that stays with you long after the last page. *The Scar* is more than just a fantasy tale; it's an invitation to explore the scars and mysteries that shape both worlds and individuals.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'The Scar' by China Miéville?

The Scar follows the story of Bellis Coldwine, a linguist who is captured and taken to the floating pirate city of Armada on the Scar, a mysterious and dangerous stretch of ocean. The novel explores themes of power, identity, and survival as Bellis navigates the complex politics and threats of this fantastical world.

How does 'The Scar' connect to China Miéville's other works?

'*The Scar*' is set in the same universe as Miéville's novel '*Perdido Street Station*', known as Bas-Lag. While the stories are separate, they share the same richly imagined world, featuring similar races, settings, and a dark, imaginative style of fantasy.

What are the prominent themes explored in 'The Scar'?

Prominent themes in 'The Scar' include exploration and discovery, the nature of freedom and captivity, the clash between civilization and chaos, and the consequences of ambition. The novel also delves into identity and transformation, especially through the protagonist's journey.

How is the setting of Armada significant in 'The Scar'?

Armada, the floating pirate city built from salvaged ships, is central to the novel's atmosphere and plot. It represents a chaotic, anarchic society that contrasts with traditional city-states, emphasizing themes of community, survival, and the blurred lines between order and disorder.

What style and genre does China Miéville employ in 'The Scar'?

China Miéville uses a style often described as 'new weird'—a blend of fantasy, steampunk, and horror with richly detailed world-building and complex characters. 'The Scar' challenges traditional fantasy tropes and offers a dark, imaginative, and immersive reading experience.

Additional Resources

The Scar by China Mieville: A Journey into the Depths of New Weird Fiction

the scar by china mieville stands as a seminal work within the New Weird literary movement, a novel that defies easy categorization while offering readers a richly imaginative and intricately woven narrative. Published in 2002, this dark fantasy and speculative fiction novel explores themes of identity, freedom, and the nature of power through a complex plot set in an extraordinary world. China Mieville, known for his inventive storytelling and unique stylistic voice, delivers in The Scar a story that is as haunting as it is thought-provoking, inviting readers to immerse themselves in a universe where the boundaries between reality and fantasy blur.

In-depth Analysis of *The Scar* by China Mieville

The Scar is a narrative that centers on Bellis Coldwine, a linguist and scholar, who is forcibly taken from the city of New Crobuzon and thrust into a dangerous voyage aboard a floating pirate city known as Armada. Throughout the novel, Mieville constructs a vivid and unsettling maritime world filled with enigmatic creatures, pirate factions, and arcane technologies. The novel's setting itself is a character—dynamic, unpredictable, and thoroughly alien—illustrating Mieville's talent for worldbuilding that challenges conventional fantasy tropes.

One of the defining features of *The Scar* is its blending of genres. It operates at the intersection of fantasy, science fiction, and horror, often categorized under the umbrella of New Weird fiction—a subgenre that Mieville helped popularize. This hybrid nature allows the novel to explore complex philosophical questions through speculative storytelling. The narrative's maritime setting, infused with gothic and Lovecraftian elements, creates a mood of suspense and existential dread, while simultaneously offering moments of lyrical beauty and introspection.

Exploration of Themes and Motifs

At its core, *The Scar* delves deeply into the themes of exile and transformation. Bellis's journey is as much internal as it is physical; she wrestles with her past, her identity, and her aspirations in a world that is both unfamiliar and hostile. The floating city of Armada symbolizes a liminal space—a place detached from traditional societal structures and moral certainties—allowing for an examination of freedom and constraint in equal measure.

Power dynamics permeate the narrative, especially through the character of Uther Doul, the enigmatic leader of Armada, whose ambitions drive much of the plot's tension. Mieville uses Doul's vision of harnessing a mysterious sea monster known as the "scar" to explore themes of hubris and the costs of idealism. The novel questions whether such grand designs justify the sacrifices and ethical compromises they demand.

Another significant motif in *The Scar* is language and communication. Given Bellis's background as a linguist, the novel frequently reflects on the nature of understanding—between individuals, cultures, and species. This emphasis on language serves as both a plot device and a metaphor for broader issues of connection and alienation.

Comparisons Within Mieville's Works and the New Weird Genre

When compared to other works by China Mieville, such as *Perdido Street Station* or *Iron Council*, *The Scar* is often noted for its more focused narrative and maritime setting. While *Perdido Street Station* embraces a sprawling, urban chaos, *The Scar* narrows its scope to the confined yet vast expanse of the ocean and the floating city. This shift in setting alters the tone, imbuing the story with a claustrophobic tension that contrasts with the anarchic vibrancy of Mieville's other novels.

Within the New Weird genre, *The Scar* shares thematic and stylistic similarities with authors like Jeff VanderMeer and Kelly Link, who also blend elements of fantasy, horror, and speculative fiction to challenge genre conventions. However, Mieville's prose is distinguished by its density and poetic quality, often described as baroque or labyrinthine, which can be both a strength and a barrier depending on the reader's preferences.

Features and Literary Techniques in *The Scar*

Mieville's use of language in *The Scar* is notably complex and evocative. His descriptive passages are richly textured, conjuring vivid images of the sea, the creatures inhabiting it, and the eerie ambiance of the floating city. The prose carries a rhythmic quality, balancing narrative momentum with moments of philosophical reflection.

The novel's structure is linear but interspersed with flashbacks and shifts in perspective that reveal the characters' backstories and motivations gradually. This technique helps maintain suspense and deepens the reader's engagement with the psychological dimensions of the characters.

Another notable feature is the novel's worldbuilding. Mieville introduces a host of unique concepts, such as the "scar" itself—a colossal, mythical sea creature that becomes the focal point of the crew's obsession. The Armada's society, composed of diverse and often conflicting pirate factions, is intricately detailed, illustrating power struggles and alliances that mirror larger themes of governance and social order.

Strengths and Potential Drawbacks

The Scar's strengths lie in its originality, imaginative scope, and thematic depth. Mieville's ability to create an immersive, otherworldly environment helps the novel stand out in the crowded field of speculative fiction. Readers who appreciate richly detailed settings and morally ambiguous characters will find much to admire here.

However, the novel's complexity and dense prose can be challenging. Some readers may find the pacing uneven or the narrative difficult to follow at times, especially given the abundance of invented terminology and intricate descriptions. Those less accustomed to New Weird fiction might struggle with the novel's blend of genres and its philosophical undertones.

The Scar by China Mieville's Impact and Legacy

Since its publication, *The Scar* has garnered critical acclaim and multiple award nominations, including the prestigious Arthur C. Clarke Award. It has contributed significantly to the visibility and legitimacy of New Weird fiction as a literary category. The novel's influence can be seen in the works of contemporary speculative fiction authors who prioritize worldbuilding and genre fusion.

In academic circles, *The Scar* has been the subject of numerous analyses focusing on its postcolonial themes, its interrogation of utopian ideals, and its innovative use of language. It continues to be recommended reading for those interested in the evolution of fantasy literature and the boundaries of speculative storytelling.

The novel's enduring appeal lies in its ability to provoke thought and challenge readers to reconsider their assumptions about genre, narrative, and the human condition. Through Bellis Coldwine's harrowing journey and the hauntingly realized world of Armada, China Mieville crafts a story that resonates long after the final page.

The Scar by China Mieville remains a landmark work—complex, unsettling, and richly rewarding—for readers willing to navigate its depths. It is a testament to the power of speculative fiction to expand the horizons of imagination and to explore the scarred landscapes of both the external world and the inner self.

[The Scar By China Mieville](#)

the scar by china mieville: *The Scar* China Miéville, 2002-06-25 A mythmaker of the highest order, China Miéville has emblazoned the fantasy novel with fresh language, startling images, and stunning originality. Set in the same sprawling world of Miéville's Arthur C. Clarke Award-winning novel, *Perdido Street Station*, this latest epic introduces a whole new cast of intriguing characters and dazzling creations. Aboard a vast seafaring vessel, a band of prisoners and slaves, their bodies remade into grotesque biological oddities, is being transported to the fledgling colony of New Crobuzon. But the journey is not theirs alone. They are joined by a handful of travelers, each with a reason for fleeing the city. Among them is Bellis Coldwine, a renowned linguist whose services as an interpreter grant her passage—and escape from horrific punishment. For she is linked to Isaac Dan der Grimnebulin, the brilliant renegade scientist who has unwittingly unleashed a nightmare upon New Crobuzon. For Bellis, the plan is clear: live among the new frontiersmen of the colony until it is safe to return home. But when the ship is besieged by pirates on the Swollen Ocean, the senior officers are summarily executed. The surviving passengers are brought to Armada, a city constructed from the hulls of pirated ships, a floating, landless mass ruled by the bizarre duality called the Lovers. On Armada, everyone is given work, and even Remades live as equals to humans, Cactae, and Cray. Yet no one may ever leave. Lonely and embittered in her captivity, Bellis knows that to show dissent is a death sentence. Instead, she must furtively seek information about Armada's agenda. The answer lies in the dark, amorphous shapes that float undetected miles below the waters—terrifying entities with a singular, chilling mission. . . . China Miéville is a writer for a new era—and *The Scar* is a luminous, brilliantly imagined novel that is nothing short of spectacular. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from China Miéville's *Embassytown*.

the scar by china mieville: *The Scar: A Bas-Lag Novel 2* China Mieville, 2002-05-01 From the author of *Perdido Street Station*, an epic and breathtaking fantasy of extraordinary imagination A colossal fantasy of incredible diversity and spellbinding imagination. A human cargo bound for servitude in exile... A pirate city hauled across the oceans... A hidden miracle about to be revealed... These are the ingredients of an astonishing story. It is the story of a prisoner's journey. Of the search for the island of a forgotten people, for the most astonishing beast in the seas, and ultimately for a fabled place - a massive wound in reality, a source of unthinkable power and danger. PRAISE FOR CHINA MIEVILLE [Mieville's] wit dazzles, his humour is lively, and the pure vitality of his imagination is astonishing. Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Guardian* (on *Three Moments of an Explosion*)

Dark and thought-provoking. The San Diego Union-Tribune (on *The City & The City*) Richly conceived. The New York Times Book Review (on *Embassytown*) Mieville more than delivers. San Francisco Chronicle (on *Kraken*) Compulsively readable. The Washington Post Book World (on *Perdido Street Station*)

the scar by china mieville: *The Scar* China Mieville, 2002-01-01 A mythmaker of the highest order, China Miéville has emblazoned the fantasy novel with fresh language, startling images, and stunning originality. Set in the same sprawling world of Miéville's Arthur C. Clarke Award-winning novel, *Perdido Street Station*, this latest epic introduces a whole new cast of intriguing characters and dazzling creations. Aboard a vast seafaring vessel, a band of prisoners and slaves, their bodies remade into grotesque biological oddities, is being transported to the fledgling colony of New Crobuzon. But the journey is not theirs alone. They are joined by a handful of travelers, each with a reason for fleeing the city. Among them is Bellis Coldwine, a renowned linguist whose services as an interpreter grant her passage--and escape from horrific punishment. For she is linked to Isaac Dan der Grimnebulin, the brilliant renegade scientist who has unwittingly unleashed a nightmare upon New Crobuzon. For Bellis, the plan is clear: live among the new frontiersmen of the colony until it is safe to return home. But when the ship is besieged by pirates on the Swollen Ocean, the senior officers are summarily executed. The surviving passengers are brought to Armada, a city constructed from the hulls of pirated ships, a floating, landless mass ruled by the bizarre duality called the Lovers. On Armada, everyone is given work, and even Remades live as equals to humans, Cactae, and Cray. Yet no one may ever leave. Lonely and embittered in her captivity, Bellis knows that to show dissent is a death sentence. Instead, she must furtively seek information about Armada's agenda. The answer lies in the dark, amorphous shapes that float undetected miles below the waters--terrifying entities with a singular, chilling mission. . . . China Miéville is a writer for a new era--and *The Scar* is a luminous, brilliantly imagined novel that is nothing short of spectacular. From the Trade Paperback edition.

the scar by china mieville: *Art and Idea in the Novels of China Miéville* Carl Freedman, 2015-09-07 This book offers (in the first six chapters) critical readings of six novels by China Miéville, which are followed (in the seventh chapter) by a theoretical meditation on some of the conceptual issues raised by and engaged in the Miéville oeuvre. There comes a moment in *The City & the City*, though it is not necessarily the same moment for every reader, when you realise that Beszel and Ul Qoma are not separate realms but the same space divided. Likewise, art and idea are often subject to absurd partition, but then along comes an author such as China Miéville who shows them to be, in truth, indissoluble. So argues Freedman's inordinately readable and just as rigorous account of Miéville's major novels. Highly recommended. (Mark Bould, University of the West of England) Freedman offers a compelling interpretation of Miéville's novels informed equally by an impressive range of literary influences and a carefully documented exploration of historical antecedents. Seeing Miéville's genre hybridity as an illustration of the power of dialectical thinking, Freedman illuminates the complex utopian project of Miéville's fiction. Freedman is one of our finest critical voices on Miéville, one of the most important speculative writers of the 21st century. (Sherryl Vint, University of California, Riverside)

the scar by china mieville: *China Miéville* Tony Venezia, Sherryl Vint, Raphael Zähringer, Dougal McNeill, Joe Sutliff Sanders, Paul March-Russell, Ben De Bruyn, Matthew Sangster, Anthony F. Lang, Jr., Mark P. Williams, Roger Luckhurst, 2015-12-01 The chapters in this collection respond to the range of interests that have shaped Miéville's fiction from his influential role in contemporary genre debates, to his ability to pose serious philosophical questions about state control, revolutionary struggle, regimes of apartheid, and the function of international law in a globalized world. This collection demonstrates how Miéville's fictions offer a striking example of contemporary literature's ability to imagine alternatives to neoliberal capitalism at a time of crisis for leftist ideas within the political realm.

the scar by china mieville: *Fantasy, Politics, Postmodernity* Andrew Rayment, 2014-06-15 "The books are true while reality is lying..." Championing the popular Fantasy genre on the same

terms as its readers, Rayment casts a critical eye over the substance and methods of political critique in the Fantasy novels of Terry Pratchett, Philip Pullman and China Miéville. Ranging across subjects as diverse as exquisite fundamentalism and revolutionary trains, encountering pervert-priests, dwarf hermaphrodites and sex-scarred lovers and pondering the homicidal tendencies of fairy tales and opera, Fantasy, Politics, Postmodernity develops a theoretically wide-ranging and illuminating account of how the novels of these writers do and do not sustain politically insightful critique of the real world, while bringing intellectual and ethical concerns to bear on the popular Fantasy form.

the scar by china mieville: Diffractive Reading Kai Merten, 2021-05-27 Putting the New Materialist figure of diffraction to use in a set of readings – in which cultural texts are materially read against their contents and their themes, against their readers or against other texts – this volume proposes a critical intervention into the practice of reading itself. In this book, reading and reading methodology are probed for their materiality and re-considered as being inevitably suspended between, or diffracted with, both matter and discourse. The history of literary and cultural reading, including poststructuralism and critical theory, is revisited in a new light and opened-up for a future in which the world and reading are no longer regarded as conveniently separate spheres, but recognized as deeply entangled and intertwined. *Diffractive Reading* ultimately represents a new reading of reading itself: firstly by critiquing the distanced perspective of critical paradigms such as translation and intertextuality, in which texts encountered, processed or otherwise subdued; secondly, showing how all literary and cultural readings represent different ‘agential cuts’ in the world-text-reader constellation, which is always both discursive and material; and thirdly, the volume materializes, dynamizes and politicizes the activity of reading by drawing attention to reading’s intervention in, and (co)creation of, the world in which we live.

the scar by china mieville: The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature Richard Bradford, Madelena Gonzalez, Stephen Butler, James Ward, Kevin De Ornellas, 2020-09-03 THE WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANION TO CONTEMPORARY BRITISH AND IRISH LITERATURE An insightful guide to the exploration of modern British and Irish literature The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature is a must-have guide for anyone hoping to navigate the world of new British and Irish writing. Including modern authors and poets from the 1960s through to the 21st century, the Companion provides a thorough overview of contemporary poetry, fiction, and drama by some of the most prominent and noteworthy writers. Seventy-three comprehensive chapters focus on individual authors as well as such topics as Englishness and identity, contemporary Science Fiction, Black writing in Britain, crime fiction, and the influence of globalization on British and Irish Literature. Written in four parts, The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature includes comprehensive examinations of individual authors, as well as a variety of themes that have come to define the contemporary period: ethnicity, gender, nationality, and more. A thorough guide to the main figures and concepts in contemporary literature from Britain and Ireland, this two-volume set: Includes studies of notable figures such as Seamus Heaney and Angela Carter, as well as more recently influential writers such as Zadie Smith and Sarah Waters. Covers topics such as LGBT fiction, androgyny in contemporary British Literature, and post-Troubles Northern Irish Fiction Features a broad range of writers and topics covered by distinguished academics Includes an analysis of the interplay between individual authors and the major themes of the day, and whether an examination of the latter enables us to appreciate the former. The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Literature provides essential reading for students as well as academics seeking to learn more about the history and future direction of contemporary British and Irish Literature.

the scar by china mieville: Spaces and Fictions of the Weird and the Fantastic Julius Greve, Florian Zappe, 2019-11-18 This collection of essays discusses genre fiction and film within the discursive framework of the environmental humanities and analyses the convergent themes of spatiality, climate change, and related anxieties concerning the future of human affairs, as crucial for any understanding of current forms of “weird” and “fantastic” literature and culture. Given their

focus on the culturally marginal, unknown, and “other,” these genres figure as diagnostic modes of storytelling, outlining the latent anxieties and social dynamics that define a culture’s “structure of feeling” at a given historical moment. The contributions in this volume map the long and continuous tradition of weird and fantastic fiction as a seismograph for eco-geographical turmoil from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century, offering innovative and insightful ecocritical readings of H. P. Lovecraft, Harriet Prescott Spofford, China Miéville, N. K. Jemisin, Thomas Ligotti, and Jeff VanderMeer, among others.

the scar by china mieville: Fairy Tales of London Hadas Elber-Aviram, 2021-01-28 Finalist for the 2022 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Myth and Fantasy Studies From the time of Charles Dickens, the imaginative power of the city of London has frequently inspired writers to their most creative flights of fantasy. Charting a new history of London fantasy writing from the Victorian era to the 21st century, *Fairy Tales of London* explores a powerful tradition of urban fantasy distinct from the rural tales of writers such as J.R.R. Tolkien. Hadas Elber-Aviram traces this urban tradition from Dickens, through the scientific romances of H.G. Wells, the anti-fantasies of George Orwell and Mervyn Peake to contemporary science fiction and fantasy writers such as Michael Moorcock, Neil Gaiman and China Miéville.

the scar by china mieville: The Oxford Handbook of Law and Humanities Simon Stern, Maksymilian Del Mar, Bernadette Meyler, 2020 How might law matter to the humanities? How might the humanities matter to law? In its approach to both of these questions, *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Humanities* shows how rich a resource the law is for humanistic study, as well as how and why the humanities are vital for understanding law. Tackling questions of method, key themes and concepts, and a variety of genres and areas of the law, this collection of essays by leading scholars from a variety of disciplines illuminates new questions and articulates an exciting new agenda for scholarship in law and humanities.

the scar by china mieville: Popular Fiction and Spatiality Lisa Fletcher, 2016-10-31 This volume moves the debate about literature and geography in a new direction by showing the significance of spatial settings in the enormous and complex field of popular fiction. Approaching popular genres as complicated systems of meaning, the collected essays model key theoretical and critical approaches for interrogating the meaning of space and place across diverse genres, including crime, thrillers, fantasy, science fiction, and romance. Including topics such as classic English ghost stories, blockbuster Antarctic thrillers, prize-winning Montreal crime fiction, J. R. R. Tolkien’s Middle-earth, and China Miéville’s Bas-Lag, among others, this book brings together analyses of the real-and-imagined settings of some of the most widely read authors and texts of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries to show how they have an immeasurable impact on our spatial awareness and imagination.

the scar by china mieville: Literary Animal Studies and the Climate Crisis Sune Borkfelt, Matthias Stephan, 2022-11-22 *Literary Animal Studies and the Climate Crisis* connects insights from the field of literary animal studies with the urgent issues of climate change and environmental degradation, and features considerations of new interventions by literature in relation to these pressing questions and debates. This volume informs academic debates in terms of how nonhuman animals figure in our cultural imagination of topics such as climate change, extinction, animal otherness, the posthuman, and environmental crises. Using a diverse set of methodologies, each chapter presents relevant cases which discuss the various aspects of these interstices. This volume is an intersection between literary animal studies and climate fiction intended as an interdisciplinary intervention that speaks to the global climate debate and is thus relevant across the environmental humanities.

the scar by china mieville: International Law Theories Andrea Bianchi, 2016-11-04 Two fish are swimming in a pond. 'Do you know what?' the fish asks his friend. 'No, tell me.' 'I was talking to a frog the other day. And he told me that we are surrounded by water!' His friend looks at him with great scepticism: 'Water? Whats that? Show me some water!' International lawyers often find themselves focused on the practice of the law rather than the underlying theories. This book is an

attempt to stir up 'the water' that international lawyers swim in. It analyses a range of theoretical approaches to international law and invites readers to engage with different ways of legal thinking in order to familiarize themselves with the water all around us, of which we hardly have any perception. The main aim of this book is to provide interested scholars, practitioners, and students of international law and other disciplines with an introduction to various international legal theories, their genealogies, and possible critiques. By providing an analytical approach to international legal theory, the book encourages readers to enhance their sensitivity to these different approaches and to consider how the presuppositions behind each theory affect analysis, research, and practice in international law. *International Law Theories* is intended to assist students, scholars, and practitioners in reflecting more generally about how knowledge is formed in the field.

the scar by china mieville: *Up Through an Empty House of Stars* David Langford, 2003-08-01 At last, *Up Through an Empty House of Stars* brings together the best of the never before collected SF reviews and articles that helped build David Langford's towering reputation since 1980. Complementing the review columns collected in *The Complete Critical Assembly* and the knockabout essays and squibs in *The Silence of the Langford*, this volume's 100 glittering selections mix serious critical insight with the inimitable Langford wit. In 2002 David Langford won his sixteenth Hugo award as Best Fan Writer, for critical and humorous commentary on SF. In the same year his occasionally scandalous SF newsletter *Ansible* won its fifth Hugo. Langford also received the 2001 Hugo for best short story, and the 2002 Skylark Award. Here he shines a unique light on classics like Ernest Bramah, G.K. Chesterton, Robert Heinlein and Jack Vance, and analyses major SF -- and major clunkers, and minor eccentrics -- of the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s, continuing to the latest by such current stars as Gene Wolfe and China Mi, ville. Plus witty asides on crime fiction and its SF links, gleeful examination of writing so bad it's almost good, and (even at his most serious) turns of phrase to make you laugh aloud

the scar by china mieville: *What Do I Read Next?* Neil Barron, 2005-10-21 By identifying similarities in various books, this annual selection guide helps readers to independently choose titles of interest published in the last year. Each entry describes a separate book, listing everything readers need to know to make selections. Arranged by author within six genre sections, detailed entries provide: Title Publisher and publication date Series Names and descriptions of characters Time period and geographical setting Review citations Story types Brief plot summary Selected other books by the author Similar books by different authors Author, title, series, character name, character description, time period, geographic setting and genre/sub-genre indexes are included to facilitate research.

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