

## City of Ember

Book report by Jamie

This book is about a city that was built underground by the "Builders". The city is very well planned and regular. Every day the lights come on and every night they are turned off at the same time. Everyone is given a specific job when they leave school – they pick a piece of paper out of a bag and that is their job. The city is powered by a generator on the underground river. But the generator is falling apart. The city has food stores underground but these are almost empty. The feeling is that the city is starting to crumble and decay.

The main protagonist is a girl called Lina Mayfleet. She is an orphan and lives with Mrs Murdo after her grandmother dies. Following her grandmothers ramblings, she finds a box with instructions about how to get out of the City. But unfortunately they are damaged: chewed by her little sister Poppy. She deciphers the instructions with her friend Doon Harrow. Together they figure out how to leave the city using boats on the river.

In the process, they find out all sorts of bad things about the city. For example, the mayor and his friends have a secret room in the pipeworks where they are keeping stolen food and light bulbs. Some citizens are selling stolen goods for very high prices. The police are corrupt.

I really enjoyed the book. It was written in a way that made it seem like there were mysteries. And the author created some suspense as well. I really wanted to read ahead and find out what happened. There were good and evil people and you did not know which would win.

I also found the book a little slow at some points. For example, when Lina and Doon had to find out how to use matches and candles, I got a little bit bored because I was waiting for them to figure out how to use them....and I already know.

Overall, I would recommend this book and also its sequel, The People of Sparks and its prequel The Prophet of Yonwood.