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The eleventh plague book series

Top reviews The latest Top Reviews Jeff Hirsch's amazing debut is now in paperback! In the wake of a war, america's landscape has been ravaged and two-thirds of the population died of an evil flu strain. Fifteen-year-old Stephen Quinn and his family were among the few who survived and became salvagers, roaming the country in search of material to act. But when Stephen's grandfather dies and his father falls into a coma after an accident, Stephen finds his way to Settler's Landing, a society that seems too good to be true. Then Stephen meets strong, defiant, mischievous Jenny, who refuses to accept things as they are. And when they play a joke that goes horribly wrong, chaos erupts, and they find themselves in the middle of a battle that will change settler's Landing - and their lives - forever. ISBN-13: 9780545290159 Publisher: Scholastic, Inc. Published date: 09/01/2012 Pages: 288 Sales rating: 130,482 Product dimensions: 5.25(w) x 8.00(h) x 0.58(d) Age range: 12 - 18 Years Praise for ELEVENTH PEST THE ELEVENTH PLAGU hits disturbingly close to home, vividly depicting a world that has nose-dived into a futuristic nightmare. . . . An excellent, tight debut novel. --Suzanne Collins, author of THE HUNGER GAMES A Gripping Survival Drama. --USA TODAYSure to be a hit among fans of dystopias. --BOOK LISTAn impressive story with strong characters. --PUBLISHERS WEEKLY From the Publisher Although it relies on some increasingly common dystopian tropes, Hirsch's debut novel is an impressive story with strong characters. A generation after China dropped a weapons plague on the United States, the nation is in ruins, and 15-year-old Stephen is walking the country like a scavenger. Shortly after Stephen's grandfather dies, his father has an accident that crosses a river and is incapacitated. Stephen finds himself in the small village of Settler's Landing, where a group of survivors have created an isolated oasis of sorts, a far cry from the life Stephen is accustomed to. While there, he meets Jenny, a girl of Chinese descent who is ostracized because of her race. Although Stephen worries about his father's fate (and his own), he begins to fall for Jenny, and they are both drawn into the horrors of their world, sometimes through their own miscalculated actions. Hirsch delivers a dense, well-crafted story, and although the world building is easy on details of the global catastrophic and its aftermath, most readers will be able to accept the hand-waving and enjoy the action and the danger. Age 12-up. (Sept.) Publishers Weekly Gr 6-10 -- This post-apocalyptic story begins with more excitement than the rest of the book delivers. Steve, 15, was born after the collapse, and he knows only the nomadic struggle to survive as he and his family have experienced. With his mother and grandfather dead, only he and his father left. When an action heroic kindness on his father's part goes horribly wrong, Steve must turn to a group of strangers for help. Much of the rest of the novel is about his teachings to trust the inhabitants of the small settlement, as well as his budding relationship with Jenny, an angry young woman whose rage is never completely demystified. The characters and the action are not as convincing as in the best youth fiction in the genre. This book is likely to appeal to younger teens who want to enter the post-apocalyptic trend but want to avoid graphic violence.-Hayden Bass, Seattle Public Library, WA School Library Journal Hirsch's debut explores the creation of a new civilization out of post-apocalyptic ruin. Teenage salvager Stephen Quinn has heard stories about what America was like before collapsing due to a war with China and a virulent flu. His paranoid grandfather keeps his family alive through harsh rules. After Stephen's grandfather dies, Stephen's father leaves isolationism and is critically injured to save prisoners from slaves. Stephen lets go of his reluctance to trust strangers and accepts help from a boy scout party. The Scout City, Settler's Landing, tries to recapture an idealized American past, complete with cookouts and baseball games. But Settler's Landing is no utopia, thanks to Caleb Henry, the token rich villain, and his stereotypical bully of a son, Will, who is convinced Stephen is a spy from nearby Fort Leonard. Will's usual target, the wild Chinese girl Jenny, binds to Stephen over their common outcast status, while her adopted brother Jackson draws him into youth sports, and teacher Mr. Tuttle encourages his intellectual growth. Stephen and Jenny accidentally set off a chain of impulsive actions that puts more than just Settler's Landing at risk. Stephen's underlying internal conflict over the clash of social obligations and personal survival connects first-person narrative and physically manifests itself at climax. At times heavy-handed, but the author's enthusiasm shines through. (Dystopia. 12-17) Kirkus Reviews © 1996-2015, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates © 1996-2015, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates I used to believe that the end of the world meant the end of everything. Now I know it just means the end of civilization. Stephen Quinn has never known government or society, he was born into a world plunged into chaos and decay of a costly war and the release of a deadly virus known as P11. P11, or the eleventh plague was dropped on the United States by the Chinese, who now control the countries west of the Rocky Mountains while the few survivors in the east live by salvage, slave trade or any other distaste I used to think the end of the world meant the end of everything. Now I know it just means the end of civilization. Stephen Quinn has never known government or society, was born into a world thrown into chaos and decay by a war and the release of a deadly virus known as P11. P11, or the eleventh plague was dropped on the United States by the Chinese, who now control the countries west of the Rocky Mountains while the few survivors in the east live by salvage, slave trade or other distasteful professions. For the Quinn family, the only way to survive is to keep moving, but when Stephen's grandfather dies and his father endures potentially fatal wounds, for the first time in his life they are forced to stop moving. Stephen and his father are taken in by the small life support community Settler's Landing, but he knows from the start that he is not entirely welcome. Dan Bittner's tale of The Eleventh Plague by Jeff Hirsch, while not enough to make him a must-listen narrator for me, is solid, well done, and a certain blessing for the book itself. I had seen several meh reactions to this sound before tuning in, and I'm not sure if it was my lowered expectations, or the fact that I was very meh about my own previous listening (Fever 1793), but I found myself much more easily drawn in and wrapped in the story of the Eleventh Plague than I expected. I love that Hirsch ploughs us down for some time after the so-called apocalypse has already happened, but not so long after it is not remembered or healed. In my experience, this is a rather unique point of view, and reminded me a little of Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, which also takes place in a generation that can remember what society was like before. Stephen's parents and grandfather were there for the release of P11 and the war, they experienced everything, and loved each other enough to bring a child into such a world regardless of the dangers. Stephen has never known a life other than a salvageman, traveling from Canada to Florida on annual trade routes, never taking the same path and never getting involved with other people's situations. When he and his father are brought into the community by Settler's Landing, Stephen is like a skittish animal, unwilling to believe that he is not up for slaughter. He has never seen houses in use, slept on a real bed or eaten three square meals a day. He has had performances and the importance of family drilled into his head, but suddenly these definitions are challenged, and the concept of friends is also introduced. I felt that Hirsch did an excellent job of letting us into Stephen's head during these foreign experiences, and the reactions of the people of Settler's Landing, both welcoming and aggressive, seemed very real in the current state of the world. The problem, however, was that I kept waiting for the real story to start — and then realized too late that this was it. When the book trailer has a tag line like The only way to survive is to keep moving, I expected Stephen to do just that. I expected him and Jenny to take off and survive on their own—a survival story in general. This wasn't really that. The eleventh plague is certainly a story of survival, but different than I

had expected (and kind of wanted). It was more about the survival of civilized society and building the future than a more primitive sense of the word. I also didn't feel the relationship between Stephen and Jenny. Something about the pace of it just seemed... Av. He is immediately interested in her, but in a different way, not a romantic way. Jenny is constantly causing and getting into trouble, much of which is in her own defense, but her reactions constantly escalate matters. I felt that there was no real development between the two, which would have been fine if there had been a more physical relationship, but it suddenly seemed as if Stephen did not want to live without this girl who ruined the lives of everyone around her. Even though we were allowed to be in Stephen's head, I didn't understand Jenny's thought process at all. She seemed like your classic angry teenager, but I couldn't help but be shocked that no one ever screamed at her You don't know how good you are! She wants nothing more than to break free from Settler's Landing, but as some of the Chinese decent, the outside world would be ten times more dangerous to her as the enemy than it was for Stephen and his family. This is never addressed, and it surprised me. Some of the adults made little sense to me too. I've never known any teacher who would only give half of the participants in a match detention, but maybe it's just me. These problems aside (the first one that I recognize is entirely my own fault for my mindset before I listened), I enjoyed listening to the Eleventh Plague. I appreciate it so much when this kind of book exists as a standalone, and always enjoy a good male point of view, which I feel Jeff Hirsch given through the character Stephen. I loved that in a world that had fallen apart, the past and the future came together and blurred the lines between them to form the present. The eleventh plague is a haunted reflection on what a future of biochemical weapons can hold, how easily we fall apart, and what it takes to come together. It at times makes a little frying pan heavy with the message, but not so much that I was knocked on the floor and I liked the book as a whole. Original review posted on Bunbury in Stabler... More... More

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