



City of Refuge

Starhawk

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

City of Refuge

Starhawk

City of Refuge Starhawk

Sequel to The Fifth Sacred Thing, following the overthrow of the Stewards.

City of Refuge Details

Date : Published December 2015 by Califia Press

ISBN :

Author : Starhawk

Format : ebook

Genre : Fiction, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Spirituality, Novels

 [Download City of Refuge ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online City of Refuge ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online City of Refuge Starhawk

From Reader Review City of Refuge for online ebook

Katrina Dreamer says

It took me a while to get through this because the beginning dragged a lot. Overall, I enjoyed the story and appreciated reconnecting with the characters. But I think Starhawk would have benefitted from a harsh editor who would have kept the plot moving.

Sarah says

Well, reading this during the rise of the new US administration seemed... a propos. I'm glad I did. I think Starhawk has a lot to teach us. And, I think this book could have used an aggressive editor. It's longer than necessary and all the various sub-plots can be hard to keep up with. It's less witchy and magical than Fifth Sacred Thing, I would say. It's more complex. And it's obvious that it was written 20 years later, which makes sense. A lot has changed since then. I would say it didn't have the same hard hitting impact on me that Fifth did when I read it as a 21 year old. But that's to be expected. I'm a jaded 37 year old now. ;)

Beth says

Starhawk says that the question that animates City of Refuge is, "How do you build a new world when people are so deeply damaged by the old?"

I loved the parts of the book that were about the community in the north and creating the new community in the south - and all the problems that went with that.

However, while maybe it was necessary to give full scope to the work, there was too much warfare, violence, disturbing graphic details and death for my liking.

Starhawk says

It's not often that a sequel is just as good as the first book.

In the case of City of Refuge, the #3 in Starhawk's urban fantasy series, it's actually better. How incredible to pick up with these characters 25 years after falling in love with them the first time.

Max says

There is a lot to love about this book, so many aspects of what's true in our struggle and the world I want to see, beautifully described in this epic tale.

ANNNNND, something huge is missing here. The world Starhawk creates here is kind of post-racial, or post-racist, as though racism and white supremacy magically disappeared in the time between now and 20 years from now, as though that were not among the most difficult of struggles embedded in the power

structure of society that needs to be addressed. It's not even present in descriptions of the "Steward" culture. With all the painstaking effort made to create a detailed world we want to see that emerges from something resembling where we are now, and the path to get there, the way we address racism and white supremacy seems glaringly absent from this vision.

Maybe it's too much for me to want this book to be a manual for all the things we need to address. But I'm still a bit surprised that I'm not seeing this question arise from other reviewers. Maybe only white folks are reading this book?

Monica says

City of Refuge is the sequel to The Fifth Sacred Thing, Starhawk's utopian/dystopian novel set in a future California. I'd say it makes the most sense to read these books in the order they were written, starting with The Fifth Sacred Thing, then the prequel, Walking to Mercury, and then ending with City of Refuge. Out of the three, I liked The Fifth Sacred Thing the best, but am very glad there was a sequel. (Alas, no mainstream publisher wanted to publish it, so it was funded via Kickstarter.)

While The Fifth Sacred Thing focused a lot on the power of non-violence and non-violent direct action, in City of Refuge Starhawk explores more of a diversity of tactics - non-violence and invitations to "take a seat at our table" with the creation of an alternate "City of Refuge" within the heart of the dystopian LA along with the parallel use of guns and a ragtag army and navy in order to help liberate the debt slaves of the Southlands. Also, the theme of how to make a revolution among people who've been damaged by capitalism, patriarchy, etc. was explored.

Lots of food for thought here.

Occasionally I felt like the main characters were a bit too heroic, and I wish Bird could've forgiven himself (not that I think he needed forgiveness) sooner, but those are minor quibbles.

Kelda says

I loved it! I kind of consider The Fifth Sacred Thing the permaculture 'bible'. It's beautiful allegory and stories about the characters that represent parts of our own psyche, and about the world that we want to create. (Not to diss Mollison's Designer's Manual, but it's a how-to, rants, and not story-telling) But now I think City of Refuge might have a stronger claim to that title. The basic question it explores "how to create a more just, sane, beautiful world within the greater destructive systems around us?" is I think more a core question for me than what she explored in the Fifth "is it possible to win non-violently?" although they are both beautifully paired. I'll be recommending this book everywhere and thank you to Starhawk for writing more of this adventure!!

Over and over again she hits the nail on the head as characters explore the obstacles, hilarious roadblocks, consensus problems, and personal trauma that make doing this work so difficult. Thank you for creating a vision of how we can see our way through this!

Karen says

What a great surprise to find out that, over twenty years after *The Fifth Sacred Thing* was published, there is now a sequel! And a second surprise that it was done well. It must be a challenge to return to a world you've written about 20 years ago and keep it consistent, and she did. I was amused that, since Starhawk couldn't introduce any "futuristic" technologies that she hadn't foreseen in the first book, nobody had anything resembling a smartphone. She really stuck to the intention of keeping the story consistent.

Not only that, but the premise was not contrived. *The Fifth Sacred Thing* had always felt to me like it ended and didn't need a sequel, but once this book got started I thought, "oh, of course. They defeated the Stewards in one battle, but the war isn't over." From there, the unfolding of this book's plot made total sense. It was a little lacking in ups and downs - basically everything went well until the last dramatic battle. But I loved how she delved into the ways the aftermath of the first battle had influenced the characters psychologically, and the difficulties of people raised in violence learning not to be violent anymore.

A few things did not sit right with me. One was the decision to use violence. The first book focused heavily on non-violence, not only as a form of resistance but a principle in all interpersonal interactions. In this book, everyone seems to be fairly easily won over to the idea of using targeted violence - odd, given how many people sacrificed themselves in acts of non-violent resistance and how vehemently that strategy was debated. Furthermore, the specific principles were never really spelled out, like how much violence is too much? Who is a legitimate target? How do you keep yourself from starting to enjoy it and using more than is necessary? It seemed like a big omission.

My second issue was with River's journey to become a "real person." I loved his character and loved seeing him develop an identity and self-respect while struggling to unlearn the violence he was taught. But when he kept giving speeches to the "sojuhs" and telling them they were real people, too, it felt off. I don't think the issue in any real-life situation is that the downtrodden and enslaved don't think of themselves as real people. What message was she going for there?

Lastly, and this is somewhat trivial, the relationship between Bird and Madrone was not portrayed well. In the first book they were separated most of the time, so it was a neat idea to let them journey and work together in the book ... but it seemed like all they did was fight and then switch to talking dirty about their lust for each other. We never really saw what their relationship was built on.

Overall, I'd say it's a good story, not as much of an "ideas book" as *The Fifth Sacred Thing*.

Carolee Wheeler says

I loved this story just as much as *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, but I was a little wary as I was reading. I've heard a little bit about Starhawk possibly having traditional/Dianic/non-intersectional views, so every time one of the "uneducated" people uses a pejorative term for a woman or a non binary person and is not challenged, I cringed. I recognize why these characters might have been taught those views, but it still bothered me that in a story filled with inclusivity of other kinds, there was still this unchallenged hurtful language. ETA: maybe the purpose of it was to illustrate just what a hurdle the Insurrection from the North faced. Not merely enough to show the wage slaves freedom; there's also a long road ahead in improving their values and vision.

Hannah Emery says

I read this book as someone familiar with Starhawk's political and spiritual writing, and also with *The Fifth*

Sacred Thing, so there was nothing here that surprised me on those counts. As a novel, I think this is a stronger effort than Fifth Sacred Thing: the characters are more three-dimensional and the world-building is fuller than in the previous one (there are even a few places where people in the southlands note that the northerners are overly preachy about their own ways of doing things; I live in the Bay Area and am a fan of much of Starhawk's vision for post-apocalyptic San Francisco, but this made me laugh in recognition just the same :) This book is not for everyone, but if you enjoyed the other books in the series, you won't be disappointed.

Nightbow says

I gave up. Yawn. I loved THE FIFTH SACRED THING although it took me a while to get into it. I value and respect Starhawk as a Pagan leader and visionary. I contributed to the Kickstarter for this book...and boy, now that I'm several chapters into it....I just don't care. It's not her best writing, either; she needed a better editorial team. It just should be better. It's too earnest. Maybe I'll come back to it in the future and give it another go; if I have a different response then I'll update/replace this review.

Deryn says

I read the previous books in the series long ago, and the rule of the Stewards is becoming daily more believable as a near-future dystopia. One thing, though. I kept seeing descriptors of peoples' skin as chocolate or coffee or caramel and remembering this article: <https://www.buzzfeed.com/hnigatu/if-w...>

...and it threw me out of the story. Every time. Writers, please don't do this. People are not food.

Tatiana says

I am a huge fan of the Fifth Sacred Thing and had been excitedly awaiting City of Refuge. Starhawk delivered on an engaging, enchanting tale. I spent several nights up until the wee hours of the morning and had a severe "book hangover" when it was done. I love being in this world created by Starhawk, where the characters are complex and genuine, and hope abounds in spite of "post-apocalyptic" setting. Starhawk has an inspiring vision and she is an amazing storyteller.

Jan says

Do you ever finish a book and want to clap and shout it from the mountain?

Blessed be! Naho! So may it be!
So it is.

Rise up, brothers and sisters, a new day is dawning.

Bg says

An evocative, descriptive, thrilling look at an alternate future - let's not call it a dystopian novel since it allows so much more room for hope than most of that genre.

Although it is a sequel to *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, it is also a very strong stand alone novel.

I recommend this novel for anyone who liked *The Hunger Games* or *Divergent* - they all share strong women protagonists. *City of Refuge* is a novel for anyone concerned about our future, hopeful for the promise of community solutions to climate change and ready to be inspired by a visionary look at what is possible. Not just theoretically possible but actually possible, especially with solutions like permaculture, water reuse, alternate forms of energy and different methods of sharing power and responsibility.

Graphic violence is integral to plot, but mean that some sensitive readers should be forewarned.

This book is a GREAT read!
