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Silver Under Nightfall, by Rin Chupeco. Reviewed by Amy Moore.

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feeling more and more at home among the vampires, challenging the assumptions he's held his entire life while at the same time being under more threat than ever, surrounded on all sides by beings who see him, in some way, as prey. When a terrible secret about the origins of the corruption is discovered, Remy and his vampire allies are driven back to the human capital, where Remy's past and a terrifying future collide.

Though the plot follows Remy, Malekh, and another allied vampire, Song Xiaodan, from the human court to the vampires and back again, the story focuses tightly on the conflict within Remy rather than being the tale of the journey itself. He's forced into close proximity with vampires for the first time and thus forced to acknowledge they are as genteel and nuanced as any human he's known, while also fighting for his life against enemy vampires every night. The conflict within Remy plays out across the misty countryside as well, as human villagers attack them on sight and as even the vampires of Malekh and Xiaodan's court see humans as lesser beings, worth defending from the new spreading corruption only because it threatens vampire-kind as well. How different are humans and vampires, as they prove themselves alike in violence, self-preservation, and dignity and courage, too?

As Remy's perceptions of his allies and his place in the world shift, he is pushed and pulled by forces all around himself, from the ambition of his father, to whom he is the sole son and heir, to the agenda of a queen he isn't sure he can trust, to the desire to protect his few friends and flee the competition and prejudice that has kept him from advancing within the elite corps of the vampire hunters. These political forces drive the story forward, and the world is built up around the reader by the machinations of its characters more than by de-

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Rin Chupeco. *Silver Under Nightfall*. Gallery / Saga Press, 2022. 512pp. \$19.99 paperback. Reviewed by Amy Moore.

Silver Under Nightfall is a 2022 novel by Rin Chupeco that follows outcast vampire hunter Remy Pendergast as he uncovers mysteries surrounding the emergency of a terrifying new breed of vampire, one that feeds mindlessly and destroys everything in its path. After a chance meeting with Zidan Malekh, lord of the Third Court of vampires, and to escape possible criminal charges when he's framed for the murder of a political rival, Pendergast goes from hunter to honored guest—or maybe, hostage, a human envoy to the vampire court. The Third Court promises that they are as concerned as the humans with investigating and putting a stop to the scourge of the corrupted vampires, and Remy's presence among them is both a show of good faith from the humans and a chance for Remy to escape rumors, threats, and prosecution—if he can survive.

Remy's loyalties are tested as he finds himself



scription or exposition.

Though *Silver Under Nightfall* is not horror by genre, it contains horror elements, from the creeping, bloody corruption within the walls of Remy's father's house, to the mystery of his slaughtered mother, to the grotesque descriptions of the corrupted, revenant vampires.

These elements blend perfectly with classic sword-and-sorcery style battles to create a tense, snappy narrative with some of the best-written action scenes I've read in a while. The blending of action and worldbuilding and character-driven conflict keep the story moving well throughout its over 500 page length.

Silver Under Nightfall is perfect for readers who enjoy vampire and monster stories, character-driven narrative, mild horror, and political intrigue, as the mystery of the murder that almost saw Remy jailed keeps pace with the knock-down, drag-out battles and discovery of the vampire world. As the first part of a duology, the book knits as many mysteries as it unravels, with a twist ending that sets the stage for the conclusion to come. The sequel and finale, *Court of Wanderers*, is set to release in September 2023.