



Skye City: The Trials of Arturo collection

R.D. Hale

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****Winner of Wattpad's: Watty 2014: People's Choice Award for Science-Fiction****

This collection contains Skye City: Episode One: The Rise of an Orphan, Episode Two: The Migdols of Samaris, Episode Three: The Biopunk Generation, and Episode Four: The San Terian Genocide. If you have purchased these Episodes separately, you do not need to purchase this product.

My name is Arturo Basilides. I am an orphan living in the slums of Medio City – the capital of a nation ravaged by a war which was won by extremists. Offered a choice between slavery and disenfranchisement, we exist in an underclass so disconnected we effectively inhabit a different era. Daily life involves scavenging, theft and substance abuse with a bunch of misfits who are somehow still in one piece after years of abandonment. I am a natural born fighter and although I despise warfare, I must witness the downfall of those bastard elites whilst fulfilling my romantic intentions with the forever unattainable girl of my dreams.

Skye City is a biopunk adventure set in a world where science is indistinguishable from magic and oppression is near-inescapable. Technology has created a newer, 'superior' form of human and genetically engineered monstrosities are as terrifying as anything encountered in your nightmares. The underclass have been underestimated and as they fight back the boundary between freedom fighter and terrorist becomes increasingly blurred. Meanwhile, the drug-induced haze of a traumatised mind places a question mark over the meaning of reality.

'Skye City interweaves heavy social issues and philosophy, milking the sci-fi genre for all its worth. The slum dog's efforts to maintain their humanity in such a heartless age, when everything is going against them is palpable. The 99% versus 1% theme focuses our minds on where society might be heading and forces us to look at things how they are, if we wish them to be truly different.' Dean C. Moore – Author of Renaissance 2.0

Skye City: The Trials of Arturo collection Details

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From Reader Review Skye City: The Trials of Arturo collection for online ebook

Ellanos Yi says

Sky City is a FUN read. Every chapter is a page turner. Reading the book is like riding on a roller coaster. R. D. Hale succeeds in throwing readers surprises and suspenses with no lack of humor. Every scene is pictured well and the fantasy element portrayed is beyond imagination. Sky City is a MUST read, where readers get to know the predicament of the orphans, and witness them grow from slumdogs to heroes. This story is perfect for teens and young adults who love Sci-Fi and Adventure genre.

Barbara D. says

A good sci-fi action novel.

The book began slowly but, after several chapters, the plot and the action started to heat up. The novel contains many dystopian and fantasy elements that make this book an interesting read. The storyline is fast-paced and action-packed. I would recommend this book to lovers of a good sci-fi/action novel.

Kit says

First of all let me start by saying I am not usually a fan of reading science fiction, as a horror author myself I am more predisposed to that genre. However, this book is not just a great science fiction book it is just a great book. The world that RD Hale creates is utterly real to the reader and so are the characters who reside there. I enjoyed the way the author infused the book with social commentary and philosophy, but without detracting for. The story at any point, or coming across preachy.

I was utterly absorbed in the world of sky city from the first page, and Hale's prose is a joy to read. I hope there is more to come for. This series, and this author. I highly recommend this book.

Sleepy Bookworm says

I may be biased by the fact the writer is a personal friend of mine, but I can't say how impressed I was by his first novel. The plot follows an orphan named Arturo and his friends as they embark on an adventure in a world similar to our own but with some bizarre twists: the genetically engineered creatures being a particular highlight, trust me you'll be surprised and impressed by what Ricky has come up with!

The story is incredibly descriptive, full of action and I felt I was there every step of the way. Time and again I was amazed by the creativity on display and the book is also hilarious despite covering dark subjects. I absoluteley loved it!

David Dunnet says

Epic would be one word to describe this book. A tale of orphans living in a dystopian city, they have fallen into the pitfalls of drugs and alcohol and live a pretty bleak existence, yet ultimately found this to be an uplifting tale. The author takes us through madcap episodes showing firstly how the teens survive in their world with hilarious results. The protagonist, and later his friend are sucked into a rebellion against the religious elite. From this point the tale gets more action packed. And darker. The imagery is quite beautiful. Throw some robots and monsters into the mix and you have the recipe for a masterpiece. Sure, the pacing was a little off at times, but this was inevitable because there is just so much in there. The grammar was flawless and faults were few and far between. This could be the start of an outstanding series.

Joseph says

I got this on a free download a while back, and what a bargain it was! The book is truly epic but it kept me reading all the way to the very end. It's full of adventure in amazing places, with monsters, robots, cool tech and it would make an awesome movie. Sky City is exceptional and I'll happily pay for the next one!

Angela says

I recently purchased this book on a whim. Not normally a sci-fi enthusiast, I was first attracted by the authors voice in the free sample. The other reviews also led me to believe that the story would be just my cup of tea. I think one reviewer mentioned it being a slum dog sort of tale. I was not disappointed. The telling of this story through the MC's eyes gives us a real, intimate perspective on this dystopian world as the hero and his friends battle through day to day living. The characterizations are really well done, as is the dialogue. But what really made it for me was the carefully crafted descriptions that really brought this futuristic world to life. A thoroughly enjoyable read from start to finish that I have every confidence recommending to others.

Dean C. Moore says

This is really a masterpiece of a debut novel. Mr. Hale demonstrates an imagination and flair for storytelling that puts him in league with the best sci-fi writers of today. The story's forward momentum is relentless, and I found it impossible to put the book down. Set in India, amid the poorest of the poor, the social commentary regarding the abuses being perpetrated against the masses of humanity remains poignant and heartfelt throughout. And though set in the future, the writer can't help but shine a revealing light on what's going on in today's world. As such, this story is one of the best impetuses I've yet encountered in fiction to get off our duffs and do something about social inequity. And that makes this more than just a triumph of great storytelling; it's a transformative bit of magic that leaves the reader and the world forever changed for the better.

Follow our slumdog as he overcomes every crushing obstacle put in his way, and uses those pressures to transform himself from less than nothing in the downward cast eyes of his social "betters" into an unstoppable, larger than life force, who will spearhead a rebellion to bring justice to an unjust world. Will the rebellion succeed or fail? And either way, will he lose his humanity in the process of becoming superhuman?

Ebook Planet says

Arturo Basilides is an orphan inhabiting the dangerous slums of Medio city. He lives day to day, grifting, abusing drugs, and generally being reckless. What marks Arturo out among his fellow slumdogs is his exceptional intellect and physical adeptness. His abilities attract the attention of the Rebellion and from there events become increasingly unlikely.

Arturo is a highly complex and charismatic individual, and is unquestionably the most interesting thing about this book. So often you will be impressed by his resourcefulness, only to be let down by his arrogance and naivety. His rage at points becomes all consuming, and yet you never get the sense he has lost touch with his humanity, even when he does the unthinkable. He is a flawed, but redeemable character.

The plot follows the anime approach of throwing everything at the reader: robots, mutants, apparitions and so on. The world of Eryx, and the varied locations contained within, are unique and vividly depicted. As such the experience becomes utterly real to the reader, but the paradox is: you can never be sure what is or is not real because of Arturo's drug-ravaged mind. The entire thing plays out like a mesmerising dream. Add to this the moral ambiguity of the rebellion, and you have a story that will keep you guessing all the way till the end.

Surprises are plentiful, and the author regularly relies on deus ex machina to pull implausible plot elements together. However, this is done with a wry sense of humour that helps to negate a sense of incredulity. The action sequences become increasingly brutal and the fact the characters are teenagers adds a sense of tragedy to the situation. In this respect the book is almost a biopunk equivalent of crime drama City of God.

The writing style strikes an interesting balance between detail and minimalism, with experimental syntax used to dramatic effect. The entire package is unlike anything you will have read and is a must-read for lovers of hard science fiction. If you take the chance with Sky City: The Rise of an Orphan, you will discover an unforgettable read.

R. D. says

Religious extremists won The Great War and a worldwide societal structure was imposed under the law of their goddess. The lowest official tier – Level Three Citizenship is one step away from slavery and the majority of the population opt out of the system altogether. These 'bottom levellers' struggle for survival in a world where technology is almost indistinguishable from magic and artificial lifeforms are hostile to their very existence.

Arturo Basilides is the one in ten billion - an internet-educated outlaw with exceptional intellect and strong survival instincts. Traumatized and drug-ravaged, he spends his life daydreaming and trying to brighten his pitiful existence. Arturo ran away from an orphanage when he was twelve years old and now lives with his gang in an abandoned building. Together, they roam the shadows of Sky City – a two mile high playground for the privileged few. The teenagers survive adverse conditions due to remarkable self-sufficiency and they treat life as an endless narcotic-fuelled party.

Arturo's old friend Smig offers a chance to earn some money and introduces him to a man called Jardine. Our hero finds himself sucked into a rebellion against the religious elite and he faces ethical dilemmas along the way due to that old adage – one man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist.

D.L. Denham says

I started Hale's Sky City three days ago and have spent nearly 20 hours absorbed in his fantasy. A wonderfully written piece that goes beyond the action and excitement of overcoming a corrupt social system and digs deeper: rising from the ashes of despair. A beautiful world and I am eager to discover where Book 2 will take our characters.

Octopus says

This is one cool book with a phenomenal, original plot and great characters. Arturo is one of the best lead characters I've come across because he's so unique and very complex. There are so many twists and turns you won't know what to expect and I was constantly blown away. The fight sequence against a flying robot will live long in my mind. I sat up reading all night and still did not get to the end, so I finally finished it after some sleep and now I'm reading all over again!

Andrew Jackson says

Rare indeed to discover an author with something original to offer in this age of the stale and contrived. RD Hale offers a powerful voice and depicts the world of Eryx with poetic beauty, through the eyes of a teenage drug addict. The confusion and inconsistency of Arturo, makes him a fascinating protagonist and his experiences help to open the reader's eyes to so many of the horrors we face today, and so often deny the existence of. Variety and excitement are key elements and are delivered with consistent panache, taking us on a rollercoaster ride into the fantastical and the horrifying. Silliness and humour prevent things from becoming too dark, despite terrorism being one of the key themes. There is a love story running through all of this, but Hale has resisted cliché and turned romantic convention on its head. Genuine surprises are frequent all the way to the heartpounding conclusion and I was blindsighted so many times. Without wanting to give too much away, Sky City develops into a dark superhero kind of tale.

Elmore Leonard and Frank Herbert spring to mind when I try to think of comparisons, but really there aren't any authors with true similarities to Hale.

There are, however some problems with this book and they are as follows: Occasionally contrived lines of dialogue and tacked on scenes which jarred ever so slightly. An overload of plot threads which were difficult to follow, some of which went unresolved, no doubt until the sequel. Lots of characters but some were either unlikeable or did not appear frequently enough so felt pointless. Events drift from unusual to weird, and I like weird, but this may be off putting to some.

The flaws in the story are real, but it is important to give full credit to an author who has been so daring in his debut effort.

P.S. Winn says

I have just bought the rest of this collection! Great sci fi thriller. Arturo Basilides lives in Medio City a slum

area of the future where magic and technology combine for a great adventure. I loved the writing style of this author and the way the story drew me in and kept me until the last turn of the page.

Dale says

An exciting and immersive adventure written in language that is rich and evocative. I think readers will look back on this in a few years and boast "I remember discovering his first book and telling my friends..."
