



Rubberman's Cage

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Lenth grew up in a lie. Apparently there's more than five people in the world. Four Brothers live their lives in an enclosed habitat as directed by the silent Rubberman above them. When they disobey, they get shocked. This is normal. It always has been. but when a Brother dies, they learn of death. When he is replaced by someone new, they learn they are replaceable. When the ceiling above the ceiling cracks open, Lenth plans a journey beyond the known universe: A third floor. Up.

Rubberman's Cage Details

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From Reader Review Rubberman's Cage for online ebook

Melissa (The Reader & The Chef) says

This is an interesting book. It's weird and not as exciting as I was expecting but it kept me reading to find out what was going to happen.

A.B. Shepherd says

In Rubberman's Cage we have the story of Lenth. Now I happen to hate that name for a character. The story explains it was Length but everyone got too lazy to say the g. Okay I guess. It's Picard's dystopian world so he can do what he likes with the names of his characters. Still hate it.

Lenth lives in a controlled environment with his three Brothers (Picard's capitalization, not mine), and above them through a grate lives the Rubberman. The Rubberman never speaks. He stomps on the grate to get their attention, and shocks them when they don't do as they are supposed to, or don't follow their routine. They eat, exercise, work, shower, and sleep. That's it. All in their tiny little three room world. But one day when their Rubberman isn't directly overhead, someone peeks his head through the ceiling in the Rubberman's room, above their grate, and Lenth figures out there are more than four people in the world (is the Rubberman a person?) and there is more to the world than just the Brothers' rooms and the Rubberman's rooms.

The story goes on as Lenth manages to escape his world and explore the world he never knew existed. With his isolated history he is, in many ways, like a small child. He's never seen a female and doesn't even know they exist. He can't read. He doesn't really know anything. But he's curious and he's eager to learn and explore.

Oddly, considering the world around him, he is allowed to. I won't go into much more detail because I don't want to spoil the story for you.

I will say the book wasn't what I expected, although I am not sure what I expected. It turned out to be sort of a coming of age story of a grown man, combined with a morality tale, and with a cautionary look at what our future could become.

I didn't dislike it, but I didn't love it. I'm not even sure if I liked it. But I will say it was interesting and it left me thinking, so all in all, not too shabby.

Virginia Stark says

I flat out loved this book. Picard has a grasp of dystopia that rivals Orwell or Huxley in combining parable with a realistic world that actually with me after I put the book down. This book is truly original and thought provoking.

Katy says

This was an interesting book, and went much further than the blurb suggests. The beginning explains how the main character, Lenth, breaks out of the room he's lived his whole life in and what he finds on the other side. It's a big learning experience for him, in an emotional and educational sense (he's never seen a woman before), and it was interesting to watch him process everything. The end of the book got pretty exciting, but in the beginning I wasn't really sure about where the plot was really going, and it took awhile for things to get exciting. It was a strange book overall, and not really what I expected, though it did bring up some interesting questions. This is why I rated it three stars. I received this book in a Goodreads Giveaway.

Tabitha Ormiston-Smith says

In a world left behind after a devastating war, the survivors live in their underground bunker, maintaining their survival systems without any idea of what has happened to their world or even of what their world really is. One man escapes from the confines of his rigidly defined position, and his voyage of discovery through successive layers of a neo-primitive, regressed, rigidly defined society makes a truly gripping read.

The post-holocaust society is depicted with imagination and empathy and is completely believable. Tradition layers upon developed superstitions to produce a warped society, mechanically repeating activities for which the reasons have long been forgotten, if they were ever understood.

Rubberman's Cage is post-apocalyptic dystopian fiction at its finest. A must read for 2014.

Jason says

I won a copy of this on Goodreads and it is one of the best books I have received so far.

It is going to be tough to review this book without giving anything away but here goes.

Lenth lives with his 3 brothers and above their cage lives the Rubberman, he controls their lives, tells them when to sleep, wake, shower, eat, exercise and work. That is his life and that's all he knows. Until one day he sees somebody in the roof above the Rubberman's room and everything changes.

It took me a while to figure out what type story this is and it is a dystopian novel. I thought it was going to be funny as on the first page you get instructions on the language (honour has U in it and z is pronounced Zed and not Zee) there are moments to make you chuckle but for most of the time it is quite moving as Lenth starts to learn and evolve.

The great news there is going to be a second book, I will def be getting a copy to read... and I will also be watching the movie\TV series as there has got to be one.

Blog review is here. <https://felcherman.wordpress.com/2018...>

Elena Linville says

You can find this review and more on my blog.

I have been lucky to read some good books lately and *Rubberman's Cage* is one of them. When I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review, I was a bit cautious at first. The title and the cover looked a bit ominous. I knew it would be either post-apocalyptic or dystopian, but I was afraid that it would be dark and dreary as well. I'm glad that this fear turned out to be unfounded.

This is the story of a young man named Lenth who has lived his whole life in a room with his three Brothers and a Rubberman watching over them through the grated ceiling above. This room is all he's ever known. To him, that's the extent of the world. But one night the shackle that they all have to put before they go to bed malfunctions and one of his Brothers is shocked until he dies. He is gone the next morning and there is a stranger sleeping on his bed instead. Everyone else takes this change in stride, but Lenth just can't let go. He wants answers. He wants to find his missing Brother, and he wants to see what's beyond the grated ceiling that the Rubberman walks.

The book follows Lenth's journey in search of his missing brother while he explores this strange world full of rooms with Brothers and Rubbermen. It is a coming of age story, because Lenth is as innocent as a child. He can't read; he's never seen a woman and doesn't know what they are; he has no concept of death. He is told that his brother died, but when he can't grasp the fact that death is final, that you can't repair a dead person. He thinks that he just needs to find him and wake him up...

This is also a chilling tale of a society how has regressed so much that they are reduced to repeating rigid tasks and protocols that had been set up years ago and the meaning of which has long been forgotten (and became obsolete). Nobody really knows why they need Rubbermen, or why men and women are kept separately, or how all the machinery really works. They know just enough to maintain the status quo. The sad part is that nobody questions it. Brothers think that Rubbermen know what they are doing and why. Rubbermen are persuaded that the Providers have that knowledge because they are clueless themselves, and so on.

So it was an interesting and rather endearing read. The book is well written and I liked Lenth, with his child-like candor and curiosity while he explores this ever-growing world. My only gripe is that it almost seems too easy for him to do so. He manages to get from level to level without too many problems and none of them really life-threatening. And everybody treats him well, considering. You would think that in a society where Brothers are constantly shackled in place (in bed, in the shower, on the treadmill, at the workstation) and shocked when they disobey, the reaction of those who find one just wandering around would be more violent.

All in all though, I think it's a solid and entertaining story that I thoroughly enjoyed reading. I would definitely recommend it to my friends!

Tony Stark says

An engaging read that presents the tropes of mind conditioning, dystopian control and family relations in a classic yet gripping light. Good, bleak, futuristic type fabelry. A great read for a gritty, hardcore experience.
