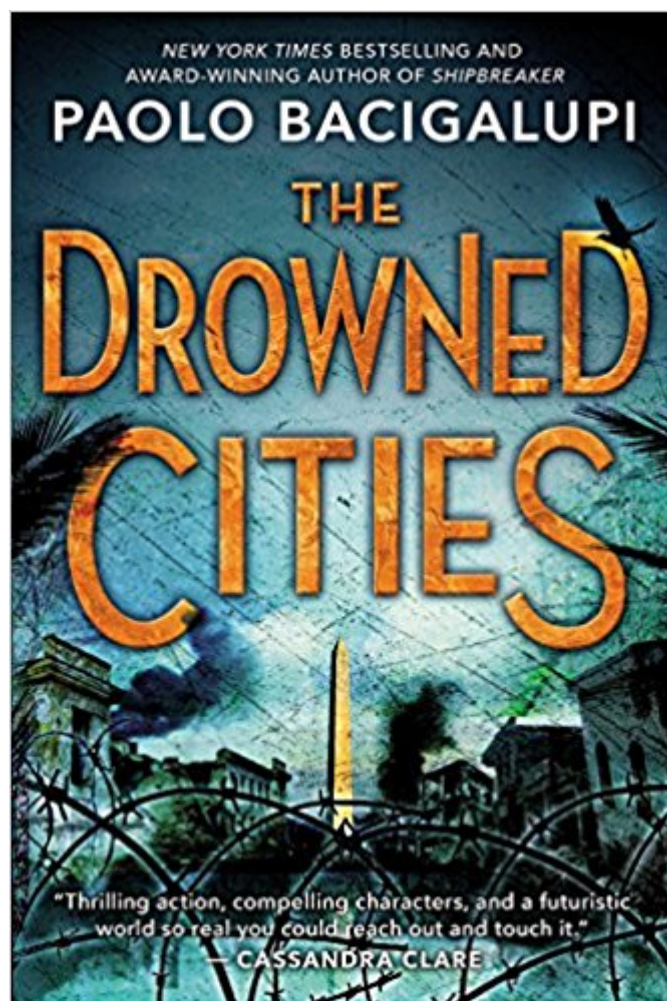


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# The Drowned Cities



## Synopsis

This thrilling companion to Paolo Bacigalupi's bestselling award-winner *Ship Breaker* and upcoming *Tool of War* is a haunting and powerful story of loyalty, survival, and heart-pounding adventure. In a dark future America where violence, terror, and grief touch everyone, young refugees Mahlia and Mouse have managed to leave behind the war-torn lands of the Drowned Cities by escaping into the jungle outskirts. But when they discover a wounded half-man--a bioengineered war beast named Tool--who is being hunted by a vengeful band of soldiers, their fragile existence quickly collapses. One is taken prisoner by merciless soldier boys, and the other is faced with an impossible decision: Risk everything to save a friend, or flee to a place where freedom might finally be possible. "Suzanne Collins may have put dystopian literature on the YA map with *The Hunger Games*...but Bacigalupi is one of the genre's masters, employing inventively terrifying details in equally imaginative story lines." --Los Angeles Times  
A 2012 Los Angeles Public Library Best Teen Book  
A 2013 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Book  
A 2013 CBC at Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year Book  
A 2013 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens Book  
A Junior Library Guild Selection  
A 2014 Tennessee Volunteer Book Award Nominee

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-In the ruins of an America toppled by greed, gas shortages, and flooding caused by climate change, civil war runs rampant. Orphans Mahlia and Mouse have been taken in by a kindly doctor, but when they cross the wrong soldier boys, even he may not be able to save them. Mahlia has turned hateful and pessimistic since the maiming that left her without a right hand. She decides that hope lies in saving a bioengineered soldier-beast, a half-man, who could protect her as she flees the Drowned Cities. It is only when Mouse is taken by soldier boys that Mahlia turns deep into the city's broken heart to try to rescue him. Joshua Swanson brings to life Bacigalupi's dark and compelling companion (2012) to his Printz Award-winning title, *Ship Breaker* (2010, both Little, Brown). Good pacing and staunch delivery keep listeners on the edge of their seats as Mahlia and Mouse fight to survive in a post-apocalyptic America. The inclusion of a creepy half-man ratchets up the tension a notch for the whole second half of the listening experience. In libraries where patrons are clamoring for solid dystopian novels, this will be a solid choice.-Jessica Miller, West Springfield Public Library, MA  
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A 2012 Kirkus Reviews Best of YA Book  
A 2012 VOYA Perfect Ten Book  
A 2012 Los Angeles Public

Library Best Teen BookA 2013 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults BookA 2013 CBC at Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year BookA 2013 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens BookA Junior Library Guild SelectionA 2014 Tennessee Volunteer Book Award Nominee\* "Beautifully written, filled with high-octane action, and featuring badly damaged but fascinating and endearing characters, this fine novel tops its predecessor and can only increase the author's already strong reputation." — Publishers Weekly, starred review\* "The novel's greatest success lies in the creation of a world that is so real, the grit and decay of war and ruin will lay thick on the minds of readers long after the final page.... Breathtaking." — Kirkus Reviews, starred review

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