



Rats (The Zone Unknown Book 4)

By Paul Zindel

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Sarah and her brother live next to the world's largest garbage dump on Staten Island in New York City. Thousands of rats at the dump have mutated into gruesome killers, and one of the workers there has just been mauled. Without mercy, the rats wreak havoc on the once-peaceful neighborhood, entering homes through kitchen sinks and toilets. Now the entire city stands on the brink of total infestation. Can the kids save millions of innocent people from a grisly death?

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Rats (The Zone Unknown Book 4) By Paul Zindel Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Zindel (Reef of Death) churns out another variation of his teen versus man-eating beast theme. Again, he relies heavily on horror, gore and gimmicks. The first scene graphically depicts a man being devoured by a mob of vicious rats, and the rest of this nightmarish thriller follows suit, as billions of rodents invade New York City after their feeding ground (a garbage dump in Staten Island) is buried under asphalt. Enter Sarah, the 15-year-old daughter of the landfill supervisor; like many of Zindel's recent heroes and heroines, Sarah possesses the courage, intelligence and creativity needed to take charge of a life-threatening situation and bring order out of chaos. Unfortunately, her scheme to "hypnotize" the rats has less narrative oomph than the string of grizzly deaths occurring before the story's climax. The book does contain a somewhat watered-down message about environmentalism, but readers caught up in the fast-paced, blood-spewing action may not take time to ponder the moral. Ages 10-14. (Aug.)

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From School Library Journal

Gr 6-9-Staten Island and the rest of New York City are threatened by an invasion of vicious killer rats in this gory, makes-your-skin-crawl thriller. The epicenter of the disaster turns out to be a huge landfill brimming over with decades worth of rotting garbage, right next to the quiet neighborhood where Sarah Macafee, 15, and her brother Michael, 10, live with their widowed father. Mr. Macafee just happens to be the city sanitation officer in charge of the landfill, which is in the process of being paved over with a layer of asphalt. The horror begins one summer morning with rats emerging from residents' toilets, hot tubs, and in-ground swimming pools. Sarah and Michael discover a neighbor dead in her car, and alert their father that rodents from the landfill are mounting an attack on their neighborhood. Readers looking for gruesome details are treated to numerous descriptions of bodily dismemberment by these traditionally maligned mammals, and the jolts of horror recur at regular intervals while Sarah and her brother survive several cliff-hanger escapes. Just in the nick of time, Sarah figures out a way to halt the vermin in their tracks and put an end to the bloodbath that engulfs a crowded Manhattan entertainment center. Zindel's style is fast paced and the plot is chock-full of shivery, stomach-churning action. Young readers will certainly rest easier once Sarah uses her wits to end a nightmare of carnage.-Douglas Wooley, Brooklyn Public Library, NY

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Review

Zindel is a master at creating and sustaining a mood, and Raptor is no exception. SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cory Denton:

Book is actually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book Rats (The Zone Unknown Book 4) will make you

to end up being smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think which open or reading a new book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or acceptable book with you?

Eric Langley:

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Christopher Gaul:

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Barbara Mobley:

As a scholar exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart or real their interest. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and also can't see colorful pics on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Rats (The Zone Unknown Book 4) can make you feel more interested to read.

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