



# Dead City

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**A tween takes on undead New Yorkers in this paranormal action-adventure that “breathes new life into the zombie genre” (Suzanne Collins, author of *The Hunger Games*).**

Most kids have enough to deal with between school, homework, extracurricular activities, and friends, but Molly Bigelow isn't your typical tween. By day, Molly attends MIST—the Metropolitan Institute of Science and Technology—but it's what she's learning outside of school that sets her apart from her classmates. Molly is a zombie hunter, just like her mother.

This, however, is news to Molly. Now she must come to terms with not only the idea that zombies exist, but also that they're everywhere, and it's her job to help police them and keep the peace. Sure, she'd like to be a regular kid, but “regular” just isn't possible when it turns out the most revered (or feared, depending on your perspective) zombie hunter in the history of New York City is your mother. It seems Molly's got some legendary footsteps to follow...

## Dead City Details

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Author : James Ponti

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## **From Reader Review Dead City for online ebook**

### **Arabella says**

Ok book

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### **Mkittysamom says**

I absolutely loved Molly! Her story starts out with her killing a zombie in the locker room..one missing a hand she previously lopped off. Then while she waits for help with disposal of the body, she tells the story of how she got to be stuck in the locker room. She is brainy and smart, and although she lost her brilliant Mother to cancer..before she died she hooked Molly up with everything she would eventually need for the strange adventures that would come Molly's way. Like being an Omega.. finding out about the Undead..and their city. Like humans..some are bad and some just want to be left alone. Her mother is very wise and her advice can even be used in the reader's life (like mine), she really touched me as a character. Anyways this is an action packed, hilarious tale of Molly just trying to find her way among friends, families and zombies!! Great Read..and good thing there are two more books!!

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### **Taylor Wallace says**

I loved this book because it wasn't just about zombies it had a very meaningful story behind it. I definitely recommend reading it!

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### **Kelly says**

It was a great book. It was adventurous and not too fake.

The beginning is a bit slow but once you get a little further in the book it starts to pick up.The plot in the book is very action packed.

I really enjoyed this book because of the action and I like to read books that are part of a series.

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### **Heidi says**

Zombies are not my favorite thing to read about, frankly, I find the whole concept rather disgusting. However, I found the premise of this series intriguing so I picked it up. And I'm glad I did. While I didn't enjoy the zombies (dripping flesh, yuck!), I did enjoy Molly and her friends. The plot here is rather different in that the most of the zombies aren't stupid, mindless creatures, but vary in terms of grossness and intelligence. There are three levels of 'undead', Level three are the stupid, mindless variety, Level 2 are more

human looking and can blend in with humans with a little help, and Level 1s look pretty much like people except they don't breath. Level 1s and 2s seem to retain the intelligence they had as humans. Level 2s however are basically soulless and as such can be extremely dangerous, as Molly discovers for her self when she goes looking for the zombie who chased her and her mother when she was little, leading to her fear of heights. Molly has a fun narrative voice that makes the book funnier than one would expect a zombie book to be. Molly is a bit snarky and when she meets up with her zombie fighting team (belonging to a group called the Omegas) including Natalie, Grayson, and Alex, the interactions between the four are quite entertaining. But Molly is used to doing things on her own and that independence leads her to make some poor choices that put not only herself but her whole team in danger. This is definitely a series that I would recommend to middle grade readers looking for zombie books.

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### **Ms. Rinaldo says**

Describe the book in 5 words:

Hilarious, suspenseful, gripping, adventurous, friendship.

Favourite Character: Grayson

What I liked: I really enjoyed how the book was very fast paced. It had me guessing what was going to come next by giving clues throughout the book. I also really like how it started with a prologue and came back to it in the second last chapter.

Would you recommend? YES!!!

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### **Jenny Jo Weir says**

This book was recommended to me by my 11 year old son. He said it was "a MUST read".

He was right! I truly enjoyed this book. There wasn't a dull moment in this book and the story ran along very well. I liked the protagonist and support characters. It's a very well written book and such a fun read. I now understand why my little guy liked it so much.

I'm looking forward to book 2 and 3 in the series.

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### **Tammy Dahle says**

My thoughts:

I LOVED this book!

Let's start with the cover which is cool and creepy. Molly is ready to kick some serious zombie butt. Love the omega sign hidden in title-clever! I have no doubt many kids will pick up this book based on the cover alone.

Main character Molly is a smart, yet awkward 7th grader who is struggling to fit in and figure out where she belongs. Everything in her life suddenly changes when she finds herself accepted into a secret society of

zombie hunters called the Omega Society. An ages old club dedicated to keeping New York safe from the undead.

A genius move by author James Ponti adds a new twist to zombies by making the undead emotional, feeling creatures-some of which are just trying to live peacefully among humans. Of course, some zombies are trouble makers and that's where the Omega Society comes into play. It is now Molly and her team's job to gather clues, solve puzzles, and track down the evil undead.

Not only is Molly trying to wrap her head around her unusual new job, she deals with complicated new friendships, a strained relationship with her older sister, as well as discovering shocking things she never knew about her mother.

I loved that Molly was not a perfect person, she messes up-sometimes in big ways. It was fun to watch her grow and evolve through out the story. The New York history and landmark facts were also a fun reading bonus. I stand firmly in the "Molly" fan club. I can't wait to read more of Molly's zombie fighting adventures.

Dead City is a perfect Middle School read. I can't wait to put it on the library shelf and watch the kids devour this zombie story.

A big thank you to Simon and Schuster for providing this book to read and review. I'll be donating this book to the Salmon Middle School.

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## **Duchess Crystal says**

A MUST READ!

I purchased Dead City a few weeks ago at a local school book fair. I was browsing the tables full of books when I came across this one. The thing that caught my eye is the cover so I picked it up, read the back and thought that it sounded pretty interesting so I was going to give it a shot.

I am so glad that I did.

I LOVE everything about this book!! It is gritty, funny, suspenseful and down right spooky at times. You will fall in love with the characters and their sense of humor, loyalty and unwavering courage.

The bad zombies (Lv's 2 & 3<----mostly 3's) are Fah-reak-ee!!!

*\*grabs my bottle of vanilla extract\**

As I was reading Dead City I could literally see everything play out in my head, almost like I was in a movie and I had the best seat in the house with a big tub of delicious and oh so warm and oh so buttery popcorn in my hands. With every new discovery that Molly and her friends would make, had me going "Huh, that is pretty darn nifty." The dangerous situations that they would sometimes find themselves in had my grasping my book just a little bit tighter. I may or may not have held my breath a time or two.

If you are looking for a fantastic read for you child or heck even for yourself, then this is just for you.

Until next time....

Happy Reading :)

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### **Angie says**

I felt I had to read this because my librarian recommended it, and I felt uncomfortable returning the book, pretending like I had read it. But I ended up liking the story very much. I did find it nearly impossible to accept the idea that four teenagers were part of an elite team to police and protect the undead. Come on, you expect me to believe there aren't adults better-suited for the task? Sure they're ultra talented and intelligent teens, but maybe wait until they're of age? I reminded myself that a 30-something-year old was not the intended audience and continued reading.

Which, by the way, I'm glad I did. The story was fast-paced and entertaining, but the history interspersed throughout the book was pretty fascinating. I found myself researching several places and events that were unfamiliar to me.

I will read book 2.

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### **Mari says**

Awesome. A gritty, urban, paranormal title that will be great for 5th grade and up. No romance (hooray!), strong smart girl main character, and best of all, it doesn't feel like an older YA title that got dumbed down for a younger audience. Happy dance! I can't wait to take this out to the schools when we do our pre-summer reading booktalks. Good dialog, great plot, and a "leave you on the edge of your seat" ending. I wanted a little more information on the actual how-people-become-zombies, but not so much that I knocked any stars off the rating. A well crafted winner! Let's have another happy dance!

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### **Will says**

Suspenseful, awesome, zombies, and zombie hunters. My favorite character is Alex. I really like how the code writing is the periodic table of elements. I also like the crazy zombies. Like the level 2's and 3's. I definitely recommend it.

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### **Justin Langlois says**

As a zombie fan, I found myself very intrigued by this story. The concept is unique in the "zombie" genre (zombies confined to Manhattan?) and the action really just keeps the tale moving along. I immediately picked up volume 2 (quite the cliffhanger!) to see where Molly and her fellow Omegas are headed.

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### **Barb Middleton says**

When Molly Bigelow drops a severed human finger into a zip lock bag thinking it is really cool, I couldn't

help but think of my friend from childhood who had a spleen collection in her bedroom from all the animals she dissected in biology classes from high school and college. Nothing grossed her out. Nothing grosses Molly out either. She's not afraid of much. She helped her mom who was a forensic pathologist for the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner before dying of cancer two summers ago. Now Molly works with Dr. Hildago, a colleague and friend, who took over the Medical Examiner job. When Dr. Hildago and his intern Natalie reveal that there are zombies in the city, Molly gets to join a secret zombie terminator club at her school and be trained as a zombie-hunter.

Some zombies are harmless and others are criminal. It is the nasty ones that Molly hunts along with other gifted students from her school. A member of the fencing team at school, she can chop off body parts better than most, all the while giving an ongoing matter-of-fact humorous commentary. No one knows about her duel life. For the most part she is fearless. Zombies don't faze her. Jumping into water conduits and shooting over falls is all in a days work. She'll even speak out for zombie rights. Her only fear seems to be heights. Which she'll have to face. I'm not sure if she overcomes that fear as the ending leaves the reader bridge-hanging in this fast-paced, action packed novel. The narrator's sarcastic, self-deprecating voice is what really hooked me into the story. Molly is a strong female character that is a hoot with her deadpan delivery of inner monologues.

Molly had an unusual upbringing. While other girls went to dance lessons, Molly took Martial Arts, bird watching programs, or went to the Morgue every Friday with her mom who taught her to respect death and not be scared of it. Her older sister, Beth, likes to pick on her. The author captures their complex sibling relationship by showing how outspoken and smart Molly's older sister is as she embarrasses and harasses Molly. However, when an outsider criticizes Molly, then Beth sticks up for Molly with a mother-bear-fierceness. It's only okay if Beth calls Molly weird. No one else can. My brothers were like that with me. They could trap me under the covers, call me names, and torture me, but if anyone else tried, they'd lit off on that person with surprising ferocity.

The prologue made me twitchy that a zombie was going to pop-up in different action scenes. It adds tension because I know it will eventually happen, just not when. The author weaves in historical facts about yellow-fever and mining that is well-paced with the action. He also uses those facts to connect them with the zombie powers, as well as limitations, and their emergence in society. This book reminded me of "The Haunting of Derek Stone," by Tony Abbott, but with a narrative voice that is more funny than serious. Zombie jokes are littered throughout the plot such as Molly accidentally ripping off a zombie's arm and facing her team that laughs and says, "I'd give you a hand," Grayson offered, "but it looks like you already have too many." The rest laugh and high five each other as Molly fights the zombie alone. Obviously they are not too worried about her finishing it off. If you like gross-silly action, then you'll get some good laughs. The humor buffers the violence putting some distance between it - just think of Wile E. Coyote and The Road Runner from Looney Tunes cartoons. The Coyote tries to eat The Road Runner who always outwits him usually resulting in The Coyote falling off a steep cliff and leaving an indent of his body after it hits the bottom and is driven several feet into the earth. He always gets up and tries again. Kind of like a zombie.

Molly is dealing with grief over the death of her mom, as well as being a new kid at a new school. The author explores the importance of belonging to a social group in school. Molly is excited to be a part of a group at school until she disagrees with them. Molly stands up to the group's leader when it is decided to exclude another girl that wants to join them. The result is Molly is kicked out of the group and forced to eat alone at lunch every day. When she becomes a part of the zombie team, it gives her a group of people like herself that are independent and willing to accept and celebrate differences in each other. The first group she was in had a leader that wanted to use the position as one of power and control over others; whereas, the social dynamics with the zombie hunters meant trust and respect for each other. Molly doesn't have a

problem being different from others, but she is lonely and does want friends. She is headstrong and doesn't always think through her actions. The result is she endangers her team. Her character arc involves dealing with the loneliness of losing her mom and finding how she fits into her changing world. She learns the importance of teamwork and working together, but not without some hard lessons. A subplot explores the prejudices people have toward others that are different. Like zombies. The author manages to make the reader sympathetic toward zombies by contrasting ones that help humans versus ones that don't. Just because they are dead, doesn't mean they don't have human qualities. A story with a strong heart beat.

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## **Sara says**

[Precocious middle-schooler Molly Bigelow is kind of an odd kid. She goes to a special math and science school called MIST (Metropolitan Institute of Science and Technology), spends her free time hanging out in the morgue her late-mother worked in, and still has time for friends a

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