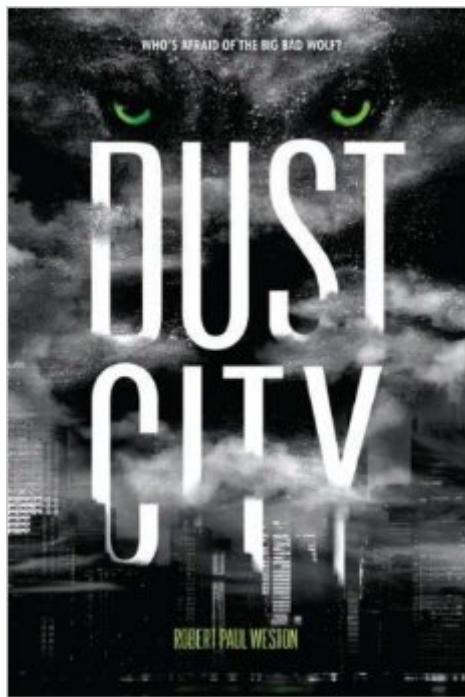


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# Dust City



## **Synopsis**

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? His son, that's who. Ever since his father's arrest for the murder of Little Red Riding Hood, teen wolf Henry Whelp has kept a low profile in a Home for Wayward Wolves . . . until a murder at the Home leads Henry to believe his father may have been framed. Now, with the help of his kleptomaniac roommate, Jack, and a daring she-wolf named Fiona, Henry will have to venture deep into the heart of Dust City: a rundown, gritty metropolis where fairydust is craved by everyone-and controlled by a dangerous mob of Water Nixies and their crime boss leader, Skinner. Can Henry solve the mystery of his family's sinister past? Or, like his father before him, is he destined for life as a big bad wolf?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 630L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 304 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.9 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #840,446 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #296 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #467 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Adaptations

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Why did I leave this sitting on my shelf unread for so long. It was enchanting, or rather, it was the characters that were enchanted. Fairy magic in the form of 'dust' is an every day commodity in Dust City. It used to be made by real fairies, but they have long since fled and now it is a manufactured product. Not as good as the original, but still magical and mostly effective. Henry Whelp has been locked away in juvie for a while now with the other wolves. Yes, wolves, foxes, goblins and all other sorts of animals have achieved sentience and live along side the hominids. It's not a perfect

relationship between them, but it works for the most part. When his friend Jack, the guy with the magic beans, shows him some letters from his dad, the big bad wolf who killed the little girl and her grandmother, Henry starts to question many of the so called truths that he's been told. As I started reading this story, I'll admit that I was a bit confused. Were there really talking wolves and elves and goblins all living together. I wasn't too sure about the characters who seemed quite familiar, almost like beings out of the Grimm's Brothers' Fairy Tales. (that was intentional according to author Robert Paul Weston). By about page 30, my confusion was clearing and total enjoyment setting in. I had no trouble believing that all these animal like beings were living together and in many cases cross-species friendships had flourished. Once Henry realized that he didn't have to go through this as a lone wolf and he called on his friends for help, the story really took off. This is a FUN story made all the more entertaining each time I realized a character was based on a Grimm's character. This is not a children's book as it included much mayhem and murder, though YA and adults will both find it a gripping read. Most definitely on my recommend list.

So many of the young adult books that I read are so similar. Shortly after finishing them I can't remember which story went with which title or which characters belonged in which book. This is not the case with Dust City. I'm giving a huge shout out to author Robert Paul Weston for creating such an original story. Dust City definitely scores points for creativity. Henry Whelp is the son of the big bad wolf who killed Red Riding Hood and her grandmother. Unfortunately there was no woodsman with an ax to rescue them thus landing the big bad wolf in jail for committing brutal murder. Henry ends up at St. Remus a home for wayward youth. Beginning to suspect that his father may have been framed for the murders leads Henry to set out on a quest to uncover the truth about what really happened the night Red Riding Hood and her grandmother died. One of my favorite things about Dust City is the fairytale characters that make appearances. From Jack and his beanstalk to Snow White, from the Frog Prince to King Midas with the golden touch, twisted versions of these classic fairytale characters play a role in this story. This imaginative story is one I would highly recommend. Dust City will be released next week on 9/30/10. Content: A handful of swear words and some violence, fairly mild compared to most YA books. Rating: 4 Stars

DUST CITY was an enjoyable enough story; not what I expected, not my favorite, but an ok read in the end. Basically it's a deeper look into the world of fairytale land and where the characters stories continued after the "Happily Ever After" end. The biggest let down for me, was that I struggled to really connect with any of the characters. Yes, the lead Henry is an endearing sort, but the

connection doesn't go much further then that surface likableness, which made me less then on the edge of my seat to see how it all turned out for the down on his luck wolf. And when I say wolf, I don't mean werewolf; think talking human size walking-on-two-legs fairytale wolf, like Brothers Grimm wolf as in Henry's dad is The Big Bad Wolf that ate Red Riding Hood and her grandmother. Anyhow, Weston's dark fairy tale DUST CITY is a look into the world of fables when the magic starts to fade and corruption starts to take over... ultimately what happens when the bad guys get the upper hand. All in all, an interesting idea and I liked the story, but a bit on the long side for the level of storytelling that's accomplished in the end.

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