



Un Lun Dun

By China Miéville

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Un Lun Dun By China Miéville

What is Un Lun Dun?

It is London through the looking glass, an urban Wonderland of strange delights where all the lost and broken things of London end up . . . and some of its lost and broken people, too—including Brokkenbroll, boss of the broken umbrellas; Obaday Fing, a tailor whose head is an enormous pin-cushion, and an empty milk carton called Curdle. Un Lun Dun is a place where words are alive, a jungle lurks behind the door of an ordinary house, carnivorous giraffes stalk the streets, and a dark cloud dreams of burning the world. It is a city awaiting its hero, whose coming was prophesied long ago, set down for all time in the pages of a talking book.

When twelve-year-old Zanna and her friend Deeba find a secret entrance leading out of London and into this strange city, it seems that the ancient prophecy is coming true at last. But then things begin to go shockingly wrong.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 5–9—In present-day London, strange things start happening around Zanna: dogs stop to stare at her, birds circle her head. Then, she and her friend Deeba find themselves in an alternate reality where obsolete objects such as old typewriters eventually "seep" and strange people and creatures dwell, including sentient "unbrellas." The girls learn that Zanna is the chosen one, the "shwazzy," of UnLondon. However, her first fight with the nefarious Smog isn't what was predicted in the book of prophecies. The girls soon end up back in London with Zanna unable to recall their time away. Alone in the memory, Deeba pieces together the Smog's plot and finds a way back to UnLondon via library stacks. Readers soon realize that sometimes the chosen one doesn't get to save a city, and that sometimes steps in a preordained quest don't come out as planned. Miéville's fantastical city is vivid and splendidly crafted. Who would have thought a milk carton could make such an endearing pet? Or that words, or utterlings, could have a life and form of their own? Fans of Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* (HarperCollins, 2002) or Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Knopf, 1961) will love this novel. The story is exceptional and the action moves along at a quick pace. Given that the girls are 12, older readers might be put off, but it is well worth selling to them.—Nancy Kunz, *Tuckahoe Public Library, NY*

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Award-winning author China Miéville (*King Rat*; *Perdido Street Station*; *The Scar*; *Iron Council*, HHHH Jan/Feb 2005) claims that he meant *Un Lun Dun* for younger readers, but, like the Harry Potterseries, the novel will appeal to a wide range of ages. While it includes the basics of the genre—magic, monsters, quests, heroes—it breaks the mold in many ways. An urban adventure with a strong environmental message, the novel harkens back to London's Great Smog of 1952, which bridges the real and the fantastical. Miéville's playful, clever language and plot, reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's, also impressed most critics, though a few thought them contrived and tedious. "Finding it as a grown-up may not be the optimum way to stumble into UnLondon," concludes *Salon*, "but it's pretty miraculous all the same."

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Review

"Mieville's compelling heroine and her fantastical journey through the labyrinth of a strange London forms that rare book that feels instantly like a classic and yet is thoroughly modern."

— Holly Black, bestselling author of the YA novels *TITHE* and *VALIANT*

"A book which shows the world as it truly is: full of marvels and monsters and unexpected opportunities for heroism and magic. *UN LUN DUN* is delicious, twisty, ferocious fun, a book so crammed with inventions, delights, and unexpected turns that you will want to start reading it over again as soon as you've reached the end."

— Kelly Link, author of *STRANGER THINGS HAPPEN* and *MAGIC FOR BEGINNERS*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Scott Anderson:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each book has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man feel need book if they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you should have this Un Lun Dun.

Charles Owens:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive boost then having chance to remain than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a new book, we give you this kind of Un Lun Dun book as basic and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Daniel Gordon:

Now a day people that Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources included can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How individuals to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading through a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information mainly this Un Lun Dun book since this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Harvey Sanchez:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book mainly book entitled Un Lun Dun your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Un Lun Dun giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

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