



## The Forever Court

*Dave Rudden*

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## **The Forever Court** Dave Rudden

The second book in the brilliant Knights of the Borrowed Dark trilogy, perfect for fans of Skulduggery Pleasant.

Life is returning to normal for Denizen Hardwick. Well, the new normal, where he has to battle monsters in quiet Dublin bookshops and constantly struggle to contain the new powers he has been given by Mercy, the daughter of the Endless King. But Denizen may need those powers sooner than he thinks - not only are the Tenebrous stirring again but the Order of the Borrowed Dark face a new threat from much closer to home...

## **The Forever Court Details**

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Author : Dave Rudden

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Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Adventure, Young Adult, Magic

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## From Reader Review The Forever Court for online ebook

### **Matt Pavloff says**

This sequel to Knights of the Borrowed Dark takes place a few months after the events of the first novel, and continues the story of Denizen Hardwick, his friends, and the Knights. While the story takes readers back to the familiar halls of Seraphim Row, the events of the first novel have left Denizen and the Knights changed and scarred in many ways. On top of dealing with these changes, the war with the Tenebrae continues—until the Endless King does the unthinkable and offers the Knights a chance at peace. But this tentative treaty between sides is nearly upended when a rogue faction, the mysterious Croit family, emerges and seems bent on destroying the Knights.

Those who read and enjoyed the first novel will clamor for this next installment, and for good reason. Rudden proves himself wonderful storyteller with a strong grasp of language and pacing, and introduces some fascinating new heroes and villains. Fans of fantasy will enjoy seeing some familiar tropes turned on their heads, as well as tongue-in-cheek nods towards common fantasy clichés. Educators and librarians should try to get this book into the hands of as many fantasy fans as possible. However, new readers should be sure to start with the first novel, as The Forever Court is short on exposition which could leave readers with the feeling that they are missing some important details.

\*\*Originally published in VOYA, July 2017\*\*

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### **Cindy Mitchell \*Kiss the Book\* says**

Rudden, Dave. Knights of the Borrowed Dark: The Forever Court. 416 pages. Random House, 2017. \$16.99. Sexual Content: G. Violence: PG. Language: G (2 swears).

The second book in the Knights of the Borrowed Dark series, takes place a few months after the last book. Denizen is still struggling to connect with his mother who left him in an orphanage for thirteen years to pursue a suicidal revenge mission. Denizen has over seventy cantus in his mind, words with magical power that seem to want to be used. But every time magic is used—there is a cost. Mercy, the daughter of the Endless King, who Denizen helped rescue wants to meet with the Knights of the Borrowed Dark to talk peace. The Palatine sees it as an opportunity. Denizen sees it as a chance to see the girl he fancies.

A new character is introduced named Uriel Croit. He is the narrator of every other chapter. His family lives on a hidden island and worships the Redemptress. His twin sister Ambrel and he are both blessed with powers. The Redemptress awakens and Uriel is disturbed at the changes in his sister. The Redemptress wants to take over the world and doesn't care who she hurts to do it. The Croit family kidnaps Denizen and Uriel must pick a side to fight for.

Magic, mystery, knights, and a hint of romance. What more could a middle-schooler want from a fantasy adventure book? The plot moves quickly and the twists and turns all come back neatly together at the end. Author, Dave Rudden has excellent world-building in both books, but this second one expands the reader's understanding of the existence and the history of the Endless King, his daughter, and the Tenebrous. Denizen continues to be a likeable character. Uriel's character development is the heart of his story. How can he do what is right and still be loyal to his family? A great book for boys (and girls). This is the perfect series to recommend to Rick Riordan fans.

### Fiona says

Second books are often not as satisfying but this one bucks the trend. Fast paced with a bit of horror and so many twists and turns, as well as a whole Family of new characters to come to grips with.

Denizen Hardwicke is trying to get used to having all the magical Cants in his mind, trying to not use these even though they push at his mind. The Palatine of the Order is coming, and he absolutely cannot find out about this, or the strange, unusual and undefined 'relationship' between Denizen and Mercy, the Endless King's daughter.

And who or what are the Croits, and exactly what is their Redeemer, and what happens when she finally wakes?

A great read and now I have to wait a year until book three...

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### Bentley ★ Bookbastion.net says

**Knights of the Borrowed Dark:** ★★★★☆

Consider my hype levels after finishing the first book effectively dashed.

I had such high hopes for this one too! I was really excited to see where Denizen's story, and the exploration of the world of the Tenebrae was going to go next, but the last place I expected or wanted the story to go was backwards. Which is exactly what happened here. **New characters and points of view were introduced here that dragged the focus off of Denizen in a way that made it difficult for me to feel emotionally connected with the material.**

One of the things about Middle Grade is that it's meant for younger audiences. Tweens and young teens who are just getting invested in reading full novels. **I wrote about some concerns I had with the previous book feeling a bit overwritten, considering its audience. Well, consider that complaint redoubled here**, as brand new characters start introducing a storyline about the history of magic in the world, as ancient goddesses start betraying each other, while a cult is rising and a magical summit between the Knights and the Tenebrae is threatened. It was just way too much.

**I was totally lost for roughly 60% of the book, trying to figure out what was going on with the cult and all the new characters.** If I got lost, I can only imagine how difficult it would be for younger audiences to connect to the material.

I don't mean to diminish Dave Rudden's talent, because he's got an exquisitely lyrical writing style that I quite enjoy, but I have to rate the book in consideration of the genre it's been placed in. This might work better if it had been an adult series, geared towards adults that are ready to scour the material for hidden connections to ancient Gods and wars, but **for Middle Grade it's just overly complicated.**

Not to mention that my complaint about the darkness of the first book still stands and perhaps becomes more poignant with this entry in the series. Again, this is a book written for tweens and young teenagers, but the stuff going on is pretty horrific. **There are themes of religious fanaticism, cultish behavior and child abuse that didn't sit well with me, coupled with a few overtly violent scenes and the threat of decapitation at one point too.**

I don't know if kids are just built from more hardy stock these days or what, but even if they were I don't necessarily think we need to throw total darkness at them in story form either. One issue I took with this book is that **there are no happy, uplifting moments** to celebrate in here. It's all gloom and doom and quite frankly, depressing. At least the first book had Denizen's introduction to the magical world to keep things exciting and uplifting. Here, that's been stripped away and what's left behind feels needlessly devoid of hope.

I really think that if Rudden were to shift and start telling stories about adults living in this universe, *written for adults* I would absolutely love it. The dark imagery is cool, and I still enjoy the monsters in this world but I don't really feel connected to it anymore.

★★☆☆☆ = 2.5/3 stars, rounded up for Goodreads

*Thank you to Netgalley, and Penguin Random House UK Children's Puffin for an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review!*

See this review and more like it on my blog: [Bookbastion.net](http://Bookbastion.net)

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### **Eloise - BookPolar says**

The Knights of the Borrowed Dark & The Forever Court by David Rudden

The story centers around Denizen, a 13-year-old orphan living at Crosscaper Orphanage. Denizen has been at Crosscaper for 11 years with absolutely no knowledge of his parents; Battling everyday through the grim and dank orphanage with only his best friend, Simon for company. Until a stranger arrives...

...and Denizen is thrown head first into a world of secret societies, super powers and other world monsters. Denizen is such a well written character. Rudden does a brilliant job of describing the emotions and thoughts that would have been rushing a terrified 13-year-old mind, having being told that not only does a whole other world full of horrific creatures exists but that you are a direct descendant of The Order of Borrowed Dark, a secret society sworn to protect the Earth from said horrific creatures. Denizen, his Aunt and the rest of The Order must fight to keep this world safe from the beasts and creatures creeping in from another world.

I really enjoyed this book and it was definitely a refreshing change to the usual YA Fantasy book that have been on the scene in recent months. The story line was great, characters believable and enough action to keep me gripped through-out.

I was lucky enough to be selected by the NetGalley team to review the second installment of The Knights of the Borrowed Dark series as well as the first. And I jumped at the chance to dive straight into The Forever Court.

I really enjoyed the characters first time round and couldn't wait to see where the journey had taken them. Rudden writes the characters in such a way that you feel although you know them and genuinely care about

them, especially Simon, I found him particularly endearing and I am so glad that he has joined Denizen.

While desperately struggling for peace and attempting to co-operate with an unlikely and not all together trust worthy source, The Order face a much deadlier battle from a completely unexpected opponent; forcing both The Order and Forever Court to work together.

Although the story line was much more complex than the previous book, it was equally enjoyable to read. I was overjoyed to hear that there will be another installment in the series.

What great reads! Definitely the next big thing to come out of the YA Fantasy genre.

Thank you NetGalley and David Rudden for the opportunity.

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### **Sinead says**

I could kiss whoever it was on netgalley who approved this for me...absolute stunner. I couldn't put this book down, much like the first one. Dave has a very unique voice which stands out between these pages. The words flow and enthrall making it an absolute pleasure to read. I could easily sit and compare this to HP/Miss Peregrine's/Patrick Ness but it wouldn't be doing this enough justice. This is one author to watch out for!

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### **Elizabeth Emily Browne says**

I don't know why but i just couldn't connect with this book. Much like the last book I was lost for about 75% of it and then by the time I'd figured it out a little it was basically over. I don't know whether it's because I'm ridiculously simple but I just found it far too complicated.

I hate to give it two stars as I was really hoping that I'd enjoy these books but it just didn't have the same feeling as the first which I liked slightly more than this one. Maybe if it was developed a little more and aimed at adults it could have given it a little more sparkle.

I thought that this book might focus on Denizen and Grey mainly as of how the last story ending. But there wasn't enough of them for my liking. I'd like to have seen more from Grey and what becomes of him but there wasn't enough for me.

Overall I just wished I'd enjoyed it more.

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### **Vi ❤️ Inkvotary says**

Finally got to the end. Doesn't mean that the story was bad, no. This novel shows the unique style the author has. It was only that I couldn't read it the way I had planned.

Denizen has to learn a lot of things. About his mother, about himself, about everything. He feels very old is yet a little boy who is at the beginning of his teenage years. Hormones are flying high, his voice cracks

whenever she wants and only his best friend Simon is able to help him in certain situations.

But the new life both are living now isn't exactly what they thought it would be or could be. And it took quite some time to figure out what Uriel's role in this novel was. Because the author takes an awful long time to bring both strands together -which is almost at the end of this book.

This book or trilogy is a great way for boys to use their own imagination to see what Denizen is seeing. Dave Rudden has a fantastic way to let come scenes alive, to describe how he sees some things and let them tell their own story. So, for all boys 12 up in the world, this is definitely for you \*smile\* And girls, of course, too. But be aware that the tone in this book is that of a little boy \*double smile\*

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### **Lazybee says**

Decent plot, but book was finished way too fast.

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### **Aelvana says**

Uriel Croit has spent his entire life waiting for the Redemptress to awaken. The Croits train and prepare for the War that will come when they will take over the world. But when Uriel's fondest dreams are realized, he finds the world isn't as simple as he thought . . .

Denizen Hardwick is in training to become a Knight who kills the Tenebrous who invade the world from some outer dimension. Too bad he's absolutely fascinated by Mercy, the Tenebrous he saved, the Tenebrous who granted him knowledge of ALL of the Cants the Knights use to control their magic. And when a message comes from the Tenebrous asking for Denizen by name, no one knows what to think. Could peace even be possible, or is this some elaborate scheme? And even if it is a genuine offer from the Tenebrae, will the Knights risk it, or try to sabotage it themselves?

I adored the first book, and was happy to find this one was just as good. Uriel's sections are important, but Uriel isn't as funny as Denizen, so I tended to prefer Denizen's commentary about basically everything.

Like the first, this has a good dose of horror, humor, and fantasy. Denizen is exploring his first crush---and amusingly enough it's Mercy. Which gets him into no end of trouble with everyone.

#### ***We will see each other again, Denizen Hardwick.***

Denizen had assumed that was the kind of thing magical glowing girls said all the time, to promote an air of mystery. He hadn't realized it was something she was going to go and organize.

And:

He'd read enough fantasy books to know that diplomacy didn't mean honesty and conversation.

It meant fancy dinners, watching betrayal flash behind people's eyes, and not trusting Grand Viziers.

Naturally, the situation is way more complicated than anyone realizes. I liked the rough relationship between Denizen and his newly-discovered mother. He thought of himself as an orphan for so long he's not sure what to do with family. And honestly, he almost feels like an orphan still, because the way Vivian runs the Sanctuary is more like a barracks and less like a home. He's much more a novice Knight to her than her son.

It was an occupational hazard of being a bookworm. You stopped thinking in terms of reality and started thinking of nick-of-time rescues and the power of a dramatic speech. It couldn't be over because it shouldn't be over.

And I liked how Denizen is an absolute wildcard in this whole mess. His knowledge of the Cants makes him extremely dangerous---but he doesn't have the training to use them properly, or the physical ability to back them up. Cants are supposed to be a last resort, because of the Cost. He's the only one who believes Mercy is telling the truth and that peace between the Knights and the Tenebrous is even possible. But is he right about her heart, or have those older and wiser Knights who see only monsters spotted something he missed? Just because a happy ending would be a nice story doesn't mean it's actually the truth.

Overall, I was thrilled to finally get a copy of this in my hands, and I can't wait for the next installment. I really need to start a quote file to save off my favorites---the above are only about half the places that had me laughing so hard I had to put the book down. I rate this book Highly Recommended.

More quotes because I can and I want to remember these:

Mercy gave a passable approximation of Frown No. 12---Here Is Some Sympathy I Am Not Sure You Deserve.

And:

Jack shrugged. "There's no point to revenge. You either don't get it, in which case the want grows until it collapses your world around you, or you do get it. And then you have it. Great. Show me something you can build from revenge that you can't build from acceptance."

And:

*I want a form, Denizen thought. I want everyone to have a form, and you have to fill out your intentions and list why you're doing what you're doing. And you're not allowed to lie.*

And:

He'd feel like a right idiot if all this was happening and he died from smoke inhalation.

And:

Denizen didn't think he was claustrophobic, though he had avoided small spaces up until now precisely because he didn't want to find out. He had the sneaking suspicion he was home to a whole plethora of phobias he hadn't discovered, simply because he hadn't been exposed to them yet.

And:

She gave Denizen a half-smile. "Hardwicks aren't great with emotion. We're our own worst enemies, really." She paused. "Which, considering our vocation, is actually rather impressive."

See my reviews and more at <https://offtheshelfreviews.wordpress....>

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### **Jodie "Bookish" Cook says**

Second books are often not as satisfying but this one bucks the trend. Fast paced with a bit of horror and so many twists and turns, as well as a whole family of new characters to come to grips with.

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I adored the first book, and was happy to find this one was just as good. Uriel's sections are important, but Uriel isn't as funny as Denizen, so I tended to prefer Denizen's commentary about basically everything. I feel like there's so many things I have to say about these books but on the other hand I feel like anything I say about them will fall short of even beginning to describe how awesome they are, so I'll just end my review by encouraging everyone to give them a go. Also, while the orphan suddenly becomes a hero or has their entire world change drastically is an overused storyline, these books are nothing like all other books with that kind of storyline that I've read so don't let that put you off.

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## **Liz says**

Absolutely non-stop action and adventure from page one and written with an elegance of language I very rarely see in "kid's" books. This is by far the most fun book I've read in ages!

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## **Ashley says**

THIS BOOK WAS JUST AS AMAZING AS THE FIRST!

Honestly, not a moment where the plot isn't thickening or propelling. Denizen's character development is gorgeous, his struggles with love in all its corners were so real and heartfelt. The new characters brought depth to the world without taking away what had happened in the previous book. Second book it is who?

SUCH A GOOD JOB. Rudden, my man!

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## **Monica says**

Bycie nastolatkiem jest – wed?ug m?odych ludzi – k?opotliw? i niekiedy bolesn? spraw?. Oczywi?cie nie mo?na tego bagatelizowa? i licytowa? si?, kto ma ci??ej, bo ka?dy wiek niesie ze sob? problemy wi?ksze i mniejsze. Dla m?odzie?y jest to trudno?? w porozumieniu si? z rodzicami, ch?? zaimponowania r?wie?nikom, (co nie zawsze ko?czy si? dobrze) czy pierwsze mi?ostki wprowadzaj?ce w ich ?ycie prawdziwy zam?t. Jednak nie ma tego z?ego, co by na dobre nie wysz?o i z czasem najwi?ksze nawet problemy wydaj? si? ma?o istotnymi b?ahostkami. Chyba, ?e jest si? bohaterem Wiecznego Dworu – w?wczas pewne jest tylko to, ?e Mrokory dybi?ce na ?ycie owej osoby mog? sprawi?, ?e do zaszcztytu, jakim jest doros?o?? mo?na po prostu nie dotrwa?.

Uratowanie ?órki Bezkresnego Króla i pokonanie Mechanicznej Trójki przez Denizena Hardwicka nie sprawi?o, ?e ch?opiec sta? si? pewnym siebie trzynastolatkiem maj?cym wszystkich u swoich stóp, a wr?cz przeciwnie – utrata przyjació?, brak porozumienia z matk? i siedemdziesi?t sze?? Kantusów w jego g?owie sprawi?o, ?e ostatnim, co mo?na by?o o nim powiedzie? to to, ?e jest szcz??liwy. Gdy z Wiecznego Dworu przychodzi pro?ba o spotkanie z wybawc?, wszyscy wokó? w?sz? podst?p nie dopuszcza?c nawet do my?li, ?e po latach wojny pokój naprawd? jest mo?liwy. Tymczasem na odleg?ej wyspie w?adanej przez starodawny ród Croitów budzi si? z wiekowego snu pradawne z?o. Dwie rodziny, dwie walki, jedno z?o. Kto tym razem zwyci??y w starciu?

Dave Rudden po raz drugi zaprasza?c do stworzonego przez siebie ?wiata Rycerzy Po?yczonego Mroku w ?adnym razie nie zwolni? tempa z poprzedniej cz??ci, dzi?ki czemu czytaj?cy maj? mo?liwo?? nie tylko ponownego spotkania z ulubionymi bohaterami i wci?gni?ciem si? w kolejn? pasjonuj?c? histori?, ale równie? poznania nowych, nie mniej charakterystycznych postaci, które sprawiaj?, ?e jest nie tylko o wiele ciekawiej, ale przy tym równie? mroczniej. Uriel i Ambrel przypominaj? dwa anio?y zemsty, dla których nie liczy si? nic i nikt poza samym faktem jej dokonania. Sk?d u dwóch m?odych umys?ów tak silne pragnienie vendetty? Maj?c Dziadka, który od najm?odszego lat robi? im swoiste pranie mózgu trudno si? dziwi?, ?e oboje maj? do?? spaczone psychiki, ale czy faktycznie oboje? Pisarz w doskon?y sposób pokaza?, co fanatyczne oddanie sprawie potrafi zrobi? z cz?owiekiem i jak ten fanatyzm potrafi wp?yn?? na ca?e jego

otocznia. Książka stricte fantastyczna, a przesąnie ma jak najbardziej rzeczywiste i aktualne.

Całej recenzji na: <https://www.bookhunter.pl/recenzja/26...>

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### **Jamie Cayley says**

I received a copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I would like to thank Dave Rudden and Penguin Random House UK Children's for this opportunity (this review is for both book 1 and 2).

I started reading Knights of the Borrowed Dark without having ever heard about either the author or the book and having no more information than what the synopsis provides. Having finished the books I can't believe I'd never heard of them before! I absolutely loved them and they rightfully earned the top spot on my list of favourite books. My only complaints are that Spring 2018 is too long a wait to get to read the third book and that none of my friends have read them so I have no one to spend hours talking about it with.

I feel like there's so many things I have to say about these books but on the other hand I feel like anything I say about them will fall short of even beginning to describe how awesome they are so I'll just end my review by encouraging everyone to give them a go. Also, while the orphan suddenly becomes a hero or has their entire world change drastically is definitely an overused storyline, these books are nothing like all other books with that kind of storyline that I've read so don't let that put you off.

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