



## The City of Gold and Lead

*John Christopher*

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Will, Beanpole, and Henry have managed to escape the Tripods. But instead of living in safety, in the small community of free people, they have chosen to embark upon a mission that may cost them their lives.

### **The City of Gold and Lead Details**

Date : Published April 2003 by Simon & Schuster Simon Pulse (first published 1967)

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Author : John Christopher

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## From Reader Review The City of Gold and Lead for online ebook

## **Mohsen M.B says**

## **Scott Anderson says**

The second in the Tripods series, this book follows Will and Beanpole as they leave their mountain home and try to win a competition of games that will allow them to enter the mysterious city of the tripods. While inside the city, they learn about their captors the Masters and look for a way to defeat them.

Very imaginative, told in the style of Jules Verne with a particular knack for describing alien science and technology. It's a great story with a focus on the action, I loved these books as a kid and I still do today.

## **Evelyn Woagh says**

Instead of putting my notes into a nicely-organized review, I'll just post my notes. This book is horrible. Here's why.

- continues to be disempowering toward children - particularly toward boys.
- increases the victim-blaming, with the author repeatedly making the characters accept blaming themselves for the violence of others.
- how are the capped still violent when the caps pacify all emotion and interest? Plot hole to assure his creepy victim-blaming.
- starting to feel repetitive, with how horribly things continue to go wrong, and how they get out of it and continue on. It has less and less a sense of sci-fi adventure, and more regularly a sense of normalness and easily-expected plot conflict.
- the series fixates on men, boys, and 'mankind', in a cult-personality sort of way. I can't quote directly, but I recall the author suggesting that men have stronger and more independent minds and bodies than women, which 'proves' itself in a horribly ugh way. Gross!
- any women characters are cardboard cutouts of potential-yet-meaningless romance subplots, or are victimized by the tripod creatures in horribly disgusting ways. It isn't the women who have the weaker minds and bodies, it is the sexist and insecure author and his male characters.

**Kiri says**

This was always my favorite from this trilogy. Maybe it's because the terror is so immediate and the danger is distilled to its essence. The aliens are terrifying and real, their city has a personality of its own, and Will remains a fascinating and flawed hero.

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### Ashley says

My favourite of the series. For me, it seemed the author was drawing a correlation between the aliens (called the Master's) and human beings. Very good character development for a kids book. I liked that the protagonist was flawed and pointedly so - I thought that was unusual for a kids book OR for that matter an adult book.

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### George K. says

"Η Π?λη του Χρυσο? και του Μολ?βδου", εκδ?σεις Σ?μωσι.

Δε?τερο βιβλ?ο της εφηβικ?ς σειρ?ς επιστημονικ?ς φαντασ?ας "Τρ?ποδες", με την ιστορ?α να ξεκιν?ει σχεδ?ν απ? το σημε?ο που τελε?ωσε η ιστορ?α του πρ?του βιβλ?ου της σειρ?ς, με τον τ?τλο "Τα Λευκ? ρη". Π?ρυσι τον Μ?ρτιο ξεκ?νησα την σειρ?, ?πρεπε να περ?σουν τ?σοι μ?νες μ?χρι τελικ? να την συνεχ?σω. Π?ντως θυμ?μουν αρκετ?ς λεπτομ?ρειες!

Ο δεκατετρ?χρονος πρωταγωνιστ?ς μας, ον?ματι Γου?λ Π?ρκερ, ε?ναι πλ?ον μ?λος της οργ?νωσης των ελε?θερων ανθρ?πων που αγων?ζονται εν?ντια στους Κυρ?αρχους εξωγ?ινους που κατ?λαβαν τον πλαν?τη μας. Μαζ? με δυο φ?λους-συντρ?φους του θα αναλ?βει μια επικ?νδυνη αποστολ?: Να καταφ?ρει να μπει μ?σα σε μια απ? τις π?λεις των εξωγ?ινων και να μ?θει πως ε?ναι, πως λειτουργο?ν και ποια ε?ναι τα τρωτ? τους σημε?α. Ο κ?νδυνος για τον ?διο και τους φ?λους του θα ε?ναι τερ?στιος. Η ιστορ?α κινε?ται στο ?διο μ?κος κ?ματος με αυτ?ν του πρ?του βιβλ?ου, ?τσι γεμ?τη με δρ?ση και ηρωισμο?ς ?πως ε?ναι, η γραφ? παραμ?νει καλ?, ευκολοδι?βαστη και αρκετ? περιγραφικ?, εν? υπ?ρξαν και κ?ποιες ενδιαφ?ρουσες αποκαλ?ψεις για τους κακο?ς της ιστορ?ας.

Το βιβλ?ο απευθ?νεται σε νεαρ?τερες ηλικ?ες, σ?γουρα ?μως διαβ?ζεται ευχ?ριστα και με ενδιαφ?ρον και απ? μεγαλ?τερους και ?μπειρους αναγν?στες στο ε?δος της επιστημονικ?ς φαντασ?ας. Προσωπικ? π?ρασα καλ? και με αυτ? το βιβλ?ο, που μου φ?νηκε ελ?χιστα καλ?τερο απ? το πρ?το. Λ?αν συντ?μως (αυτ? την φορ? το εννο?!) θα πι?σω και το τρ?το βιβλ?ο.

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### Ahmad Sharabiani says

??The city of gold and lead (The Tripods #2), John Christopher

The City of Gold is the name given to the dwelling places of the Masters in the novel The City of Gold and Lead (1967), the second book of John Christopher's trilogy, The Tripods.

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### **B. Reese says**

This was my favorite book in the series.

It gives us our first glimpse into the lives of the Masters, and what an unusual glimpse it is. The world building for the city is one of the most interesting takes on an alien society I've seen yet, even after having seen many since. The visuals conjured in my mind by the author's word are something I can still recall 20+ years after reading it.

I think this book is also interesting in that it reveals that the evil alien overlords aren't all completely evil. The one the main character is stuck with is actually halfway decent. As far as alien slave masters go.

One of my favorite, early sci-fi reads.

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### **Laura says**

The second book of the Tripods Trilogy, *The City of Gold and Lead* continues the science fiction adventure that began with *The White Mountains*. The world has been taken over by aliens who rule in large, three-legged machines. Humans are controlled by metal caps, which are melded to their skulls at the age of 14. Will, the main character, is a young man who is part of a small group of free men, who have escaped the capping process and live secretly in the mountains. In *The City of Gold and Lead*, Will and another boy are sent to be slaves in the city of the alien "Masters," as they call themselves, to gather information and report back. The dangerous journey provides a frightening look at the dark reality that the Masters have created for the humans.

Much like *The White Mountains*, I found this book to be an exciting and engaging read. The plot is adventurous and fast paced, but the themes of humanity and freedom are still just as evident, making this book stand as something that is filled with thrilling adventure and a thought provoking depth. The biggest difference in *The City of Gold and Lead* is that it is much more rooted in the science fiction genre than *The White Mountains* was. We learn much more about the alien Masters, their city, and their technologies in this book, although Christopher manages to inject enough plot movement to make sure that it never becomes too slow.

Recommended for children and tween readers who enjoyed *The White Mountains*. Those who enjoy adventurous page turners, especially boys, will enjoy these timeless thrillers. I also think that, although this is a children's book, the combination of action and depth makes this an enjoyable read for teens and adults who are open to reading younger people's literature.

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### **Space says**

The second in the White Mountains trilogy, this is the book where the rebel children must infiltrate the enemy complex and learn the aliens' weaknesses. Don't read this one without first having read *The White*

*Mountains*, and likewise, don't read it without finishing the story off with *The Pool of Fire*. All three books are very important to the set. And you must read the set! This was one of the best sets of books I've ever read.

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### **mlady\_rebecca says**

*One enjoys friendship most when times are good, when the sun shines and the world is kind. But it is the sharing of adversity that knits men together.* (p 164)

Second book in the Tripod trilogy. Enjoyed this one as much as the first. Some interesting transitions. The first book was kind of vague on where we were - was it Earth or some alien Earth-like planet? The second book clears this up. Definitely Earth. The other big change was from seeing the tripods as this unknown quantity - were they intelligent machines or just means of transportation? - to a very up close and personal experience with them.

Spoilers ....

The tripods were just the means of transportation. The aliens themselves were roughly pyramid shaped with tentacles. This may be TMI, but I think I've found another source of some of my adult kinks. The tentacle thing wasn't meant to be sexy, but ....

On a more intellectual level \*g\*, "The City of Gold and Lead" showed us how different mankind was from these aliens. The aliens didn't have close family or friendship bonds. They lived isolated lives. Yet their culture had never been divided as ours is by language and culture.

Just realized this series is a baby dystopia, probably my first. \*g\*

Enjoying the childhood reread. It's nice to revisit books like this and see where we've come from.

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### **An Odd1 says**

One foot follows another, steady, against gravity, hardship. Overall sad struggle for boy. Hero plods, writing does not. Friends, old and new, are killed by aliens. In few years, Earth will be converted to poison.

Fate of mankind looks bleak. We suffer events to see impetuous boy grow patient, cross bridge for sequel. How else will we know if reckless lazy selfish child learns qualities demonstrated by fellows, matures? (Spoilers have another reason.)

Will, trained as boxer, narrates being chosen by rebel leader Julian, with pal 'Beanpole' Jean-Paul jumper, and taciturn Fritz Eger p 16 racer. Winners of Games in Germany enter City adapted to alien invaders, who conquered Earth 100 years ago by mind control. Subjects, temporarily hypnotized via televised entertainment, forced others to wear metal Caps. Now rapturously obedient, Capping is celebrated at age 14 ritual.

Under dome of gold, breathers on faces filter toxic air for Game winners, but oppressive gravity ("lead" of

title), heat, humidity, whippings, overuse, wear slaves out. Only nourishment is dry tasteless wafer and powder to mix with water. After year or two, Capped gladly suicide at Place of Happy Release.

(view spoiler)

At the Pyramid of Beauty, Will finds girls, and his sweetheart Lady Eloise, Queen of the Tournament. Masters live long to human 'mayflies'. In four years, the Plan, ship from their home planet brings machines to change Earth environment for them and kill all present living things.

Will's Master is ususually indulgent. He studies archives that describe friendship, pets. Lying is a human trait, so he questions Will for truth. He orders Will to be his friend, treats him like a puppy, finds journal intended for rebels.

(view spoiler)

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### **Karissa says**

This is the second installment in the Tripods trilogy. It is my favorite book of the trilogy and is still as much fun 20 years from when I first read it.

Will, Beanpole, and Henry are training for the games in hopes that one of them will make it into a city of the Tripods and be able to escape to provide vital intelligence to the human resistance.

The description of what happens in the Tripods city is amazing and interesting. I remember reading this when I was younger and finding it absolutely fascinating. The end of the book leaves you hanging and wondering what will happen. It is a fast-paced book with amazing detail as to the Tripod race

This is a wonderful creative series; that still inspires curiosity of the unknown. It is a trilogy that seems to withstand time. I can't wait to read the last book in the series.

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### **Miriam says**

Having by the skin of their teeth survived a cross-continental walk to freedom from the mind-control of the Tripods, Will and his friends now volunteer to risk their lives by joining those who enter the alien city as slaves of the Masters. First they must make another arduous journey and then triumph at an athletic competition designed to select the best and strongest specimens to serve the invaders. But getting into the city is the least horrible of the dangers that wait for the boys... Tense and creepy.

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??? ?????? ?????????? ?? ??? ?????? ???????!

## J.M. Hushour says

This some badass, excellen' sci-fi, hee-ya. Book Two of the trilogy about a century from now when mankind is slave to the Tripods, giant war machines that control men through Caps which are ritualistically affixed to their skulls at adolescence. The three teenagers from the first book who make it to the White Mountains, where a small band of free people are trying to free the earth are at their zany hijinks again! This time they enter a pseudo-Olympics thing fake-Capped and get inside one of the cities of the Tripods where they discover the horrible shit that is actually happening: the real rulers are these fucking hideous and weird aliens called The Masters. Humans are their slaves in the city whose artificial gravity and sweltering heat (hence the title) kill you after about a year of glorious servitude to your Master. The narrator, Will, figures out all kinds of shit and offers that neat fish-in-the-frying-pan wide-eyed view of this most alien badassitude.

**Robert says**

I have re-read these books several times over the years, and they have stood up quite well. They're quite suspenseful and interesting, without being over-the-top preachy, which a book like this easily could be. What stood out to me this time was their amazing economy. They're only around 100 pages each, yet they don't feel like slight books in any way.

## Philippa Dowding says

The cover of this book still makes me shivery with fear and delight. I found the entire trilogy at the bottom of a bookshelf in a recent office clear-out, the originals from my childhood. They're first editions too, which made me briefly think I shouldn't be reading them which I quickly dismissed, what are books for if not to be read and enjoyed? Anyway, I remember this book even more clearly than the first one, *The White Mountains* (review link at bottom), because the terror and fascination of the boys' captivity in the Masters' city was my first introduction to true science fiction, and I loved everything about it: the slave's way of life, the description of the deliciously alien Masters, the sense of danger as Will and Fritz must pretend to be willing slaves, one of the Capped, when in fact they were free thinking boys. All really fascinating to me at 11 and stands up now, 40+ years later. If you like middle-grade dystopia, I'd say this is one of the first (1967) and best of the genre. There's some rampant 60s sexism (for instance none of the resistance fighters are women which seems odd, even the French Resistance had lots of women, so a big precedent there), but overlook it for the sake of a great story. You shouldn't miss it if you love the genre.

Find my review of *The White Mountains* here: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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### **Iris Penfield says**

This book was even more satisfying than the first of the trilogy. I read through it very quickly. You get to find out what a tripod really is and my assumption was all wrong. This book brings out many emotions in the reader as the young teen boys go through cruel and demeaning treatment in the city of the tripods.

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### **D.M. Dutcher says**

Second book of the Tripods trilogy, where the plot thickens in darker ways.

For all their resistance, the people of the White Mountains barely know anything of the tripods. Who they are, what their plans are, and how they can fight them. So they devise a plan, win the annual games of the Capped, the games where Will lost Eloise to the tripods in the first place. Get taken, spy on them, and come back alive.

Will, Beanpole, and a boy named Fritz are chosen, and after several dangers, they arrive at the games. While Beanpole is left behind, Will and Fritz are chosen, and taken inside a tripod.

They wake up in a hellish city of gold and lead, where the heat is oppressive, and gravity crushes them. They are now servants of the Masters, and Will and Fritz soon become aware the Masters of the tripods have a much darker plan than they ever thought.

John Christopher set the standard for children's dystopia books with this series, and this book is no exception. It's brief, but every word is well chosen, and it's not serious or cute. It feels a little bleaker than the first book, with the capped no longer being entirely cheerful, and the ultimate plan of the aliens for the future of mankind being very grim. But it's not one-sided, and that adds to the horror: Will's very sympathetic Master is the vessel of many of the horrors in the book.

Definitely recommended, and finish the series with the Pool of Fire.

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