



Gregor and the Code of Claw

Suzanne Collins

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The stunning conclusion to the riveting Gregor the Overlander series.

Everyone in the Underland has been taking great pains to keep The Prophecy of Time from Gregor. Gregor knows it must say something awful but he never imagined just how awful: It calls for the warrior's death. Now, with an army of rats approaching, and his mom and sister still in Regalia, Gregor the warrior must gather up his courage to help defend Regalia and get his family home safely. The entire existence of the Underland is in Gregor's hands, and time is running out. There is a code to be cracked, a mysterious new princess, Gregor's burgeoning dark side, and a war to end all wars.

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From Reader Review Gregor and the Code of Claw for online ebook

~Tina~ says

Did I love this more than Harry Potter and Percy Jackson? Not quite, but I have to admit, I've really enjoyed myself with this entire series. Not only was it action packed, suspenseful and has some really great humor, but it's also a fun creepy world that you can't help but get lost in, even though reading about giant rats and bugs still gave me the willies here and there.

Gregor and The Code of Claw was an excellent ending to a wonderful series. It's not quite the happy ending that I admit I was hoping for, but let's face it, this is one of Collins' books so I guess I shouldn't have been shocked. I cried, and that's all I'm gonna say about that. Still, I thought the ending was very well done and it's something I can actually say I'll miss.

Gregor, his friend and his family are just amazing characters and I was thrilled to share their experience by reading these awesome adventures.

A must read for any fan of Collins and any fans of fun fantasy that is like no other!

My Applause!

Kübra Yaşmur Aslanhan says

Bu son neydi Suzanne? Oldu mu böyle? Hem Ares... ?

Serinin son iki kitabı kangren eden ?smek kayıtları'nı açılmaması beklerken okudum. Sitenin açılmaması'nı verdiği sinirin ve uykusuzluğun üzerine çekilecek bir final yazılmaması. Daha ayrıntılı ve uzun, geçitirimemi final yakırdı bu seriye.

Yazar her ne kadar son kitapta olayı çocuk kategorisinden taşır mı olsa da bu türde yazmaya devam etmesini can gönülden isterim. ?

Jo says

A very strong finish for this series. Honestly, I think that the first book was the weakest, and that's really a shame, because I fear it may turn some people away from finishing the series. One thing is for sure, this little series is not nearly as popular as it deserves to be. I hope to recommend it a lot in the future, because it has slowly made its way to one of my favorite fantasy series.

Of course, the fact that this is the last book in the series makes it difficult for it to be satisfying. There was so much more I wanted, and so many things I wished could be different. These feelings can mostly be chalked up to the pitfalls of being a last book. Upon reflection, the only true complaint I have is Collins's handling of the prophecies. I don't want to spoil anything, but I felt like she'd brought the readers along a certain path for the first four books, then overturned all our assumptions in the last one, expecting us to chalk everything to this point up to coincidence. Not cool.

Rather than reflecting any further upon this book, I'd like to comment on the series as a whole in this review. I think it has several elements that set it apart from standard fantasy fare.

First, the strong inclusion of family in each book. So many fantasy books conveniently get the family out of the way, by orphaning, or otherwise afflicting the hero, so he or she can go on adventures by himself. Collins, on the other hand, includes Gregor's family, and it ends up being one of the best elements of the series. It serves to show another side of Gregor, as someone who doesn't just slay monsters, but has the tenderness to take care of a three-year-old sister. This same sister, Boots, goes on almost every quest with Gregor, and she adds most of the humor to the book. This is something that is really needed to balance out the dark parts of the books. It's good to have a hero that is conscious of the responsibilities of family, and it adds a fresh element to the fantasy feel.

Another strength of these books is that they have such real conflict. Collins is not afraid to ask the tough questions. Like, what affect does all this killing have on the psyche of a twelve-year-old boy? And are these actions ever justified? Is war necessary to gain peace? These are things that Gregor struggles with all through the books, and there are no light answers. The asking of them gives a depth to this series that most fantasies lack.

The last thing I'll mention is that Collins does some pretty awesome characterizations. And boy, she has to in order to make us become fond of some of these characters. I mean, a giant cockroach? A rat? The path to liking them is sure to be an uphill climb. Yet, by the last book, I couldn't help but love them and want more of them.

Along with all these things, The Underland Chronicles also contains all the action, excitement, and battles scenes prevalent in other fantasy. It's just that there's so much more with it.

So count me as a big fan of these books. I would consider this a 5-star series. I'll be recommending them to any hapless children at the library who stumble over and want to know what to read after Percy Jackson, or Harry Potter, or any of those other guys.

Darren Hagan says

No spoilers

I always judge series endings way more harshly, otherwise it would've maybe been a 5 star. It was a great ending filled with action and battles and a large amount of bloodshed, but I personally think the battle between Gregor and the Bane was over too quickly. I also think they killed off someone else rather unspectacularly. The last chapter was nice, but not what I wanted to happen. Or perhaps a nice little epilogue with Gregor going back to Underland would've done it for me. I love me an end of series epilogue :)

I cannot stress enough how much I have loved this series as a whole though. It deserves a way bigger fanbase than it has. I dare say that I love it as much as The Hunger Games. I'd struggle to pick a winner of the two - it enthralled me that much. It has been a nonstop adventure from the first page of Gregor the Overlander and I will definitely reread this series.

Lastly, sh*t gets real with this quote from the penultimate page..."People all over the world were suffering, starving, fleeing, killing one another as they waged their wars. How much energy they put into harming one

another. How little into saving. Will it ever change? He thought of Luxa's hand pressed into Ripred's paw. That's what it would take. People rejecting war. Not one or two, but all of them. Saying it was an unacceptable way to solve their differences. By the look of things the human race had a lot of evolving to do before that happened. Maybe it was impossible. But maybe it wasn't."...I'm like dude you're 13, you're more deep and thoughtful than I am at twice your age :')

Alexa says

I think people would have been prepared for *Mockingjay* if they had read the Underland Chronicles first, especially this book.

And I remember people complained about the epilogue in *Mockingjay*, and well...at least it got an epilogue. :(

I had a couple of questions about the ending, and I planned on listing them in this review. But I think I probably just need some time to really think about it and figure it out. (Use my imagination. What Suzanne Collins would probably say to me if I asked her these questions. :p)

Anyway, great series! Wonder what her next book or series will be about.

Allison says

Instead of beginning back in New York, a few months after the previous novel, the fifth, and final, book in The Underland Chronicles takes place almost immediately after Marks of Secret. After declaring war against the rats and their hitler-esque leader, The Bane, the Underlanders are preparing for the mighty war that Sandwich predicted. Gregor, Boots and the gang (joined by a surprise member of Gregor's family) rush to decode the Code of Claw according to the final prophecy. Filled with nonstop action, Gregor and The Code of Claw is a wonderful and thought-provoking ending to the series.

I can honestly say that this book shook me. After spending so much time with Suzanne Collins' amazing characters, I was quite sad to see them go. I was perhaps more dissatisfied that for most of them, there was no happily ever after, no perfect ending. Despite all they have done, Gregor and Luxa are still preteens at the end of this book, so their stories cannot have an ending. They have growing up to do, new struggles to face, and as much as I crave a happy ending, I do respect Collins for not slapping it on there, because to do so would cheapen the novels. I believe that his experience with the Underland has made Gregor into a perceptive young man who is able to see beyond the traditional presentation of right and wrong. Being in The Underland allows Gregor to think more critically, and to make his own decisions, instead of just blaming fate or a prophecy. I also believe that reading this book has helped me to challenge some of the things I once believed and to more thoroughly explore both sides of any issue.

I highly recommend this series to young readers and older readers alike because I think it is a well-written, thought provoking series. I hope that Suzanne Collins will at least consider continuing the Underland Chronicles (perhaps through a prequel or spin-off series, I'm not sure a sequel to Code of the Claw would be wise), or, at the very least, work on a new series that captures some of the elements that made this one outstanding.

Nikki says

I liked this series a lot, and I liked this book for the most part. I think that I'd give it a 3.5 if I could. The ending didn't give me the closure that I'd like.

SPOILER ALERT - - - SPOILER ALERT - - -

I felt like Gregor's connection with the Underland after the final battle wasn't clear. You're not sure if he's moving, if he'll ever go to the Underland again, if he'll ever see Luxa again, how he'll handle trying to be a normal 12 year old again after all that he has been through and all the death/killing, how he's supposed to act normal and not like he's riddled with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and how he'll explain the fact that he's covered in scars from head to toe. Essentially, I didn't have to have all of that explained, but I needed to have a tad more closure than I got. Considering that this book is geared toward juveniles, I can't imagine them going with the "Cast Away" type ending that you got here.

All that being said. This series was totally worth reading!

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Gregor and the Code of Claw (Underland Chronicles, #5), Suzanne Collins

Gregor and the Code of Claw is a children's novel by author Suzanne Collins, best known for her Hunger Games trilogy. It is the fifth and final book of The Underland Chronicles, and was published in 2007. Scholastic has rated the book's "grade level equivalent" as 4.5 and the book's lexile score as 730L, making it reading-level-appropriate for the average fourth to sixth grader. The novel has been praised especially as a conclusion to The Underland Chronicles. In its description of the novel, as part of its "Recommended Books" award, the CCBC states, "Although Gregor and the Code of Claw works as a stand-alone story, readers will want to start with book one and work their way through to this final volume." An audiobook version was released in 2008, read by Paul Boehmer.

Only a few hours have passed since the closing of Gregor and the Marks of Secret, when Gregor returns from the Firelands to warn Regalia of an impending gnawer attack. As the novel opens, Gregor is numb with shock from the Prophecy of Time's apparent prediction of his death. He and his bond Ares disobey Solovet and return to the Firelands to find the terribly ill Luxa, Aurora, and Howard. Upon his return, Solovet orders Gregor locked in the dungeon as punishment for this insubordination. He is eventually released by Nerissa to help his sister Boots while the toddler works to fulfill the Prophecy of Time by deciphering the rats' "Code of Claw". ...

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Trina says

In this last book in the Gregor the Overlander series, Suzanne Collins achieves the impossible. She made me cry over the reported death of a rat. It is a testament to her skill at writing these characters in such a way that they seem so real, so believable, so sympathetic. She does a fantastic job of painting each creature in shades of gray. There is no one that is all good or all bad. Perhaps that is what makes them seem so real. I fought tears for the entire last half of this book. I'm sure part of it was because it did feel very final. But more of it was because I could feel the pain contained in the story and relate so easily to the suffering described. Gregor has grown from an impudent child to a mature emissary, struggling with issues of right and wrong; war and peace; justice and injustice. You can't help but like him.

I read the first Gregor book on a recommendation from my sister-in-law. I wasn't all that impressed with the first one, although it was entertaining enough that I wanted to give the rest of the series a chance. I am so glad I stuck with it. I didn't sob aloud for the tragedy in this book as I did when reading of a certain Hogwart's funeral, but I love these characters. I am so sad that there are no more stories about them. Collins' writing improved markedly with each book and I hope she continues to write many more.

Jessica says

A great ending to the series! Ripred rocks!

Kate says

This was the last of the 5 Underland books, and I enjoyed them all immensely. They were recommended to me by a 3rd grader who knows his stuff.

I would definitely place these up there among my favorite children's/fantasy series. They walk a really interesting line between being meant for children (the protagonist is 12) and being pretty violent. I'll have to compare them some to my other faves: The writing isn't as quick or cerebral as in the Lemony Snicket books, but I think it is generally better quality than Harry Potter. While the Underland is maybe not as instantly sexy as Hogwarts, the characters are just as immediately charming and prove to be much deeper and more realistic than those in the Potter books. The books are hilarious and generally "hipper" than the Potter's as well. The protagonist is a dork, to be sure, but he is from New York after all. Be forewarned that there is a great deal of dialects, and some baby talk, but the former is often humorous and the latter easy to look over. We're not talking Jar Jar Binks here. These books also aren't as deep as the Dark Materials series, but I do think that they are excellent for their lack of the Good Versus Evil dichotomy that Harry Potter tends to display. Also, along with Snicket, this shows children taking control of situations and not depending constantly on adults, as well as thinking for themselves despite what is told to them by figures of authority, both of which I find far more valuable to young readers than the classic Judeo-Christian bs you get from Potter and the like.

I recommend these highly. Ultimately a brilliant anti-war commentary, but without being preachy. They are humorous and earnest, which is hard to come by in these oh-so ironic days.

Jessica says

I loved this series! Suzanne sure has a way with her characters and I loved so many of them here. Especially Ripred - I cried when I thought they had lost him. Deep down I figured he would make it out okay. And the ending - It left me wanting more, but that's because I wasn't ready to let these characters go. I do feel they will be alright and that Gregor will return to the Underland some day. I just can't see him not going back to Luxa and his friends. Great story! :)

Laura says

I plan on owning this entire series. I want all my kids to read it. I loved the 5th book SO MUCH...I give it 5 stars!!! The combination of humor, tragedy, suspense, adventure, mystery, drama, and romance had me glued to each page, staying up WAY TOO LATE because I couldn't put it down. I'm so sad the series is done. I would LOVE to see some more books about Gregor and his Underland friends.

The ending was my favorite kind: Bittersweet. Lots of sadness and tragedy (I admit I cried several times throughout the book!!!) but lots of sweetness and hope as well. The ending was terrific, it really pulled everything together fabulously. I was just so sad that Gregor and his family didn't stay permanently in the Underland, but everything the author did was well done; it all had a concrete purpose. My opinion of her writing and her storylines just sky rocketed! (This gave me great hope for a spectacular 3rd installment in the Hunger Games Trilogy)

The ending really made me think. The themes of this book are war and peace, revenge and forgiveness, hope and despair...submission, service, and self-sacrifice. Luxa and Gregor's memories, hopes, dreams, and nightmares will haunt me for a while. It's the kind of haunting I like, though. I like endings that really stick to you, really make you feel deeply. It's this kind of ending that makes the entire series so great. To me, it's a classic.

Tara says

I enjoyed the plot and characters just as much as the previous books, but I was a little disappointed in the ending.

It's an ok ending for a book in the middle of a series, but not complete enough for the end of a series - I'd be much happier if she'd write another book to answer the questions she left at the end. I mean, she makes such a big deal about Gregor and Luxa not being able to stand the idea of being separated earlier in the book, and then at the end it's like, oh we'll just go our separate ways after all, hum de dum? They didn't work through the issue at all. (Although isn't 12 a little young to be in love anyway?) And is Gregor's family moving or not? Because it seems like it'd be a pretty big deal if they'd still live close enough to access the Underland. And Collins points out how Gregor no longer fits in the Overland, and then oh well, in the last couple of pages she just wraps up the story and he'll just figure out how to move on with his life even though we don't see how he does it? Why not just leave him in the Underland if there's not going to be any denouement?

Oh, and one other complaint - it was a little too convenient how Gregor had a whole new theology introduced to him right before he's going off to face what he thought was his death. We've got the whole book predicting his death, he's trying to resolve himself to the fact (even though we all know he's not really going to die), and now conveniently Ripred says, by the way, you don't really have to believe Sandwich's prophecies. Here's a nice, non-messy way out of a contradiction the author has been stringing us along with the whole while - Gregor's death. Not quite believable.

All right, I'm done with my rant, but other than these two complaints, seriously, I did enjoy the rest of this book as much as I enjoyed the earlier ones - it was still a fun read.

Carie says

Okay, I'm not sure what to rate this...maybe 4.5? It was just as wonderful and thoughtful as all of the books in the series, but the ending was SO unsettling and disturbing to me. I can't help but be plagued by the question: "What happened next?" There was also quite a lot of violence and sadness (neither of which was unexpected, given the way the series progressed). I would love to have had an epilogue or revisiting of the characters several years after the events of the book. I didn't feel quite satisfied at the end of the series not knowing what happened next, although I can definitely see why the author would think a neat, tied-up, happy ending wouldn't work for this sobering series.

SPOILER:

I was near tears through much of the last section of the book, but I think the saddest thing of all was the state of Gregor at the very end. Yes, he was more grown up and had learned some important lessons, but, although he had been bad off at the beginning of the series, he seemed SO MUCH worse off emotionally and physically at the end. At least his family was together, but how would they manage? Would health and happiness return for them? Would they ever be able to get by financially? Would Gregor EVER see the friends he loved in the Underland again? Was it fair (or healthy) for Gregor to fight so hard for the Underland and then never know what happened to his friends after he left? Gregor was such a good, decent kid throughout all the horrific events that unfolded in these books--didn't he deserve a little peace and happiness at some point?!
