



# The Fly Guild

*Todd Shryock*

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## **The Fly Guild** Todd Shryock

Star Gleam City was once the destination for thousands of immigrants from the eastern lands looking for a promising future. But the only promise the city holds now is of oppression and death as the opportunities for a better life are long since past.

The city is now divided by a great wall. On one side, the working class toils under the brutal reign of The Fly Guild, headed up by a common criminal by the name of Fist, while on the other side, the wealthy enjoy the safety and protection of Lord Wren and his soldiers. An uneasy truce exists between the two as both Wren and Fist profit from the illicit trade that goes on between both sides.

But when Quinton, a young member of the guild, secretly stabs Wren's son in an act of revenge, the truce is broken and the city is plunged into violence as both sides fight for control.

Now Quinton is on the run from both the guild and Wren's soldiers, longing to be free of his indentured life of crime. As both sides close in on his identity as the attacker, Quinton must make a desperate attempt to break free of the city and the guild once and for all.

## **The Fly Guild Details**

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# From Reader Review The Fly Guild for online ebook

## Jay Merin says

The Fly Guild is a fast paced, action packed novel that reminds me somewhat of Bernard Cromwell's Harlequin mixed with quite a bit of Oliver Twist. The world of the novel is a fantasy one, where orcs, elves and magic exist, but such fantastical elements are very rare in the narrative as the focus of the story is on Quinton and his tough scramble from desperate boy on the street to competent member of The Fly Guild. There is far more attention paid to poverty, corruption, violence and hopelessness of the lower classes than there is on dwarves or magic swords... and this is in the work's favor as it is both more absorbing and compelling by the more magical aspects of the novel's world always being on the periphery.

Todd Shryock's characterizations are excellent; he does a wonderful job of setting up rivalries and new antagonists while always coming back to tie up loose ends and see all conflicts resolved, save perhaps a few near the end that seem clearly intended to be "stories for another time." His descriptions of the city are so deep and well-written that it is very easy to visualize and feel like it is a real living, breathing place. I highly recommend The Fly Guild to anyone interested in fantasy stories with coming of age or the hero's journey style narratives, especially to those who are fans of thieves guilds, medieval-ish city settings, and even those who like anti-heroes who aren't squeaky clean but still are people you can root for.

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## T Coakley says

### Really good read

New and different, had trouble putting it down, hope there a sequel I would keep this if it was a paper book

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## Joe Cobb says

Fantastic read, More than worth the cost of the kindle download and hours of good fantasy. Very talented author, I'm currently into the second book and it is also well written and very entertaining in my opinion. Support this Ohio author!

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## Vegard says

Great book and I liked it a lot! Especially if you like stories around thief guilds as I do! Don't want to tell to much more as I then usually get into writing spoilers so I'll just quote Michael G. Thomas

"I've read a number of great books recently and this one stuck out as being something extra special. It is an exciting fantasy tale that mixes the best elements of Ladyhawke, Dungeons and Dragons and Prince of Persia"

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## **pdarnold says**

I really wanted to love this story, but found I only like it. I am guessing this is geared for the YA market, and this market seems to be getting darker and darker in content as time goes by. This is a rather dark, grim, almost hopeless story. There are bits of brightness here and there, bits of hope and kindness, but not much. It grabs you by the throat and won't let go, and at the end I found myself feeling like I had been holding my breath and was finally able to exhale. Nearly all victims are children from rather young to bridging adult in age. There is a hint towards sexual abuse... but only innuendo, no details whatsoever. I truly thank the author for not giving details (several authors deem it necessary to add graphic details of child abuse, and that sickens me.) Rereading my review thus far, it would seem I didn't like it, however, I do. There is a lot going on, the atmosphere is medieval, even Oliver Twistian but darker, the main character is likable and I was rooting for him throughout. There is much rivalry (loser usually ending with a horrible punishment or dead) and there is some comradery... to a point. Since you really shouldn't trust anyone!

Thievery, guild, orphans, rivalry, subtle magic, competition, Masters and maggots (the kids shanghaied into the guild), a lot of fighting, death, apprehensive friendship, "some" slightly gory descriptive details of wounds received, fearing for life as well as when or what you'll eat next, betrayal, boyish description of the female anatomy, prostitution - but without any detailed description, hoping for a better future, hoping for freedom.

I will continue the series.

One last thing: LOVE the cover art!!!

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## **Sue says**

An interesting book, shows the horrors of the age.

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## **A.G. Claymore says**

Todd Shryock spins a fine tale.

His setting puts me in mind of George R.R. Martin's free city of Braavos, only it seems to be built on the ruins of something even grander and more mysterious. Whether it's the people or the surroundings, he knows when to leave off on the details and let the reader fill in the rest.

This is the type of style that I love to read. The mind is free to supply some of the smaller details, letting the reader immerse themselves into the story. The Fly Guild takes the protagonist on a satisfying arc of development, leaving us to wonder what new adventures he will face in the next installment.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story and will keep an eye out for 'The Deepening Reach'.

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## **Mark says**

I'm very upset right now, this book has been out for several years and it has never come across my Amazon recommendations??? One of the best thief books I've ever read. Book was darker then I expected, which only added to how much I enjoyed the read.

Starts like most other books of this nature, orphaned boy is taken in by a thief guild in a city where the rich and poor are divided by a wall. There is a kind of "agreement" between the two sides, the guild has run of the poor side, while leaving the rich side alone.

I've read similar stories, but what I loved here was how Quinton really changes, in the beginning he's a skinny boy who's taken in because of his skill in climbing. By the end, while he's still a little naive and trusts the wrong people - he's a force to be reckoned with. And using the Laws of his Guild, he's able to rise quickly and acquire some nice "items" along the way.

The end was a explosion of action as well, I loved it and bought book 2. Can't wait to start it.

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