

# HOLIDAY HOUSE

425 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017

212-688-0085

FAX 212-421-6134



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kathleen M. Morandini

Publicist • 212-688-0085 • [kmorandini@holidayhouse.com](mailto:kmorandini@holidayhouse.com)

## **A tale of derring-do in a richly imagined fantasy world inhabited by a society of remarkable rats, written by an exciting new talent**

New York, NY—June 28, 2010. Lose yourself in **NIGHTSHADE CITY**, a fantasy adventure by a talented new novelist featuring a memorable cast of rats—both heroic and villainous—in an exciting tale of intrigue and adventure (Holiday House / October 1, 2010 / \$17.95).

***“Fans of Redwall and the Warriors series will love this heroic tale of good versus evil in a subterranean society of rats. . . . Expect great adventures in Nightshade City.”***  
**—Rick Riordan, author of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series**

Deep beneath Trillium City, a modern metropolis, lies the Catacombs, a kingdom of rats of extraordinary intelligence and ability. The once peaceful and democratic colony has become a harsh dictatorship ruled by the High Minister Killdeer and his henchman, Billycan, who runs the Kill Army and collects weekly Stipend from the terrified subjects. The two of them rule with iron fists. With most of the adult rats wiped out in Killdeer's Bloody Coup and the subsequent great flood, orphaned young male rats are forced into the army and the females into servitude—or worse. But change is coming. . . .

Two orphan brothers, Vincent and Victor Nightshade, sons of a hero killed in the Bloody Coup, manage to escape from the Kill Army and meet up with Juniper Belancourt, leader of a rebel group seeking to overthrow their oppressors and restore peace and democracy in a new city. The brothers are quickly caught up in Juniper's cause: "We survive by cover of night. We live in the shadows, waiting for our redemption! Our name must symbolize our burning spirit. . . . Tonight and forever, we are Nightshade City!"

*continued . . .*

Juniper's plans are complicated by many factors. His lovely young niece Clover has been picked by Killdeer to be his next Chosen One, so the rebels and their allies—the Earthworms—must work fast to save her. Can the rebels locate their enemies' War Room? Can Juniper's former love, now holding a position in Killdeer's Ministry, be trusted? Will the rebels be able to execute their plans without the aid of a young Topsider (human)? And how will Vincent and Victor fare in battle—will they honor their father's legacy of courage?

**NIGHTSHADE CITY** is rich with memorable characters: Vincent, who comes of age in this time of change; his worshipful younger brother, Victor; beautiful, intelligent Clover; Mother Gallo, a canny survivor who discovers her lost love only to risk losing him again; the charismatic Juniper, a kind and courageous leader whose vision carries the rebels into great danger; Killdeer, a decadent narcissist with surprising depth; and Billycan, a truly demented former lab rat, brilliant, vicious, and Juniper's sworn enemy.

This enthralling animal fantasy, in the classic tradition of *Redwall* and *Watership Down*, encompasses timeless themes of honor and loyalty, family ties and lost love, alliances and betrayals. Readers will respond enthusiastically to this surefire page-turner, set in a brilliantly imagined world filled with easy-to-root-for heroes and villains they'll love to hate.

**HILARY WAGNER** graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in fine art. Her paintings have appeared in numerous galleries and exhibitions in the Chicago area, where she lives with her husband and their two children. **NIGHTSHADE CITY** is her first novel.

# # #

**NIGHTSHADE CITY**  
**by Hilary Wagner**

Holiday House • October 1, 2010  
Ages 9 up • Young Adult Fiction • 272 pages • \$17.95  
ISBN: 978-0-8234-2285-2

HOLIDAY HOUSE  
1935–2010  
SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PUBLISHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

