



City of Refuge (The Fifth Sacred Thing Book 3)

By Starhawk

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City of Refuge (The Fifth Sacred Thing Book 3) By Starhawk

Every city needs three things: a plaza, a hearth, and a sacred tree...

In the violent, desperate world of 2048, eco-catastrophes and societal breakdown have left the country splintered. Yet amidst the ruins stands a green and flourishing city where four things are sacred—Air, Fire, Water, and Earth. When the ruthless Stewards of the Southlands invade, the people of Califia defeat them using nonviolence and magic. But they'll be back, unless the northerners can liberate the Southlands first.

Healer Madrone struggles to repair the wounds of war and deprivation.

Soldier/defector River leads an Army of Liberation to the south. Bird, musician turned guerrilla, longs to return to the fight, but now he's pledged to deeper powers. How can they build a new world when people are so deeply wounded by the old?

Madrone has a dream... Build a city of refuge in the heartland of the enemy.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Sensual and erotic, meticulously detailed, intellectually satisfying -and also action packed, intense, and incredibly touching all at once. In a word-visionary... Starhawk has written the story we have been waiting for, absolutely a must-read." - Vicki Noble, co-creator of Motherpeace Tarot, author of *Shakti Woman* and *The Double Goddess* Change is coming. Scientists offer statistics, politicians offer promises. But what will the changes, and the choices that are before us, mean? In *City of Refuge*, Starhawk demonstrates that the novelist makes the human impact of change real in a way that no report or speeches can. In this sequel to *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, she continues her saga of the conflict created by opposing values through the lives of the vividly portrayed characters who struggle to build a new world in all its complexity. Even in an egalitarian ecotopia people have issues, and even those brainwashed by the dystopian enemies of the City can heal. *City of Refuge* is a worthy addition to an emerging sub-genre of post-cataclysmic survival that includes *The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler and *Star's Reach* by John Michael Greer, offering inspiration to respond to change by creating a new harmony. Diana L. Paxson, author of the *Chronicles of Westria* From Amazon reviews: "City of Refuge is not just a wonderful piece of fiction and the sequel to a great book, it offers the reader opportunities to explore different perspectives on how to accomplish complex challenging goals of liberation in a world where there are destructive, greedy cruel-intentioned people in power."

"Highest recommendation for this grand, inspirational adventure which could make a big positive impact on the future of the world. Top of my criteria is that a read releases emotions and opens my heart. Many fine books make me cry once, at the climax, but *City of Refuge* is multi-orgasmic. The 1st 2 chapters brought healing tears to my cheeks 3 times already, whether in empathy with characters or tears of joy." "An evocative, descriptive, thrilling look at an alternate future - let's not call it a dystopian novel since it allows so much more room for hope than most of that genre...City of Refuge is a novel for anyone concerned about our future, hopeful for the promise of community solutions to climate change and ready to be inspired by a visionary look at what is possible. Not just theoretically possible but actually possible, especially with solutions like permaculture, water reuse, alternate forms of energy and different methods of sharing power and responsibility. This book is a GREAT read!"

About the Author

Starhawk is an author, activist, permaculture designer and teacher, and a prominent voice in modern Goddess religion and earth-based spirituality. She is the author or coauthor of thirteen books, including the classics *The Spiral Dance* and *The Fifth Sacred Thing*. Her latest nonfiction is *The Empowerment Manual: A Guide for Collaborative Groups*, and forthcoming in February, 2016 is *City of Refuge*, the long-awaited sequel to *The Fifth Sacred Thing*.

Starhawk directs Earth Activist Training, teaching permaculture design grounded in spirit and with a focus on organizing and activism. "Social Permaculture"—the conscious design of regenerative human systems, is a particular focus of hers.

She lives on Golden Rabbit Ranch in Western Sonoma County, CA, where she and ranch manager Charles Williams are developing a model of carbon-sequestering land use incorporating food forests and savannahs, planned grazing, and regenerative forestry.

Starhawk travels internationally, lecturing and teaching on earth-based spirituality, permaculture, and the skills of activism. Her web site is www.starhawk.org.

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