



Reapers

by Bryan Davis

Reapers is a dystopian tale with a supernatural twist. Taking place in a futuristic, urban setting, this first book in a planned trilogy will appeal to readers of *The Hunger Games* and similar fast-paced stories for young adults. Along with a blend of real life and imagination, it delivers action, danger, and suspense through the adventures of three teenagers—Phoenix, Singapore, and Shanghai—Reapers who collect the souls of the dying or already dead and transport them to the Gateway where they will travel to their final destination ... or so they are told.

Phoenix is a Reaper. He was born with a gift that allows him to collect souls, whether they have recently died or have been dead for a long time. Reapers are recognized early in their lives by a glow that a birthmark emits under ultraviolet light. Each Reaper wears a cloak woven from a blend of materials that includes his or her hair, so Reapers shear their hair throughout their childhood and save it for weaving. Once they reach the age of 13, they are shorn for the final time, their cloaks are finished, and they become Reapers, living alone in urban quarters in the midst of an assigned, soul-collection district.

People who die without a Reaper to collect their souls wander as ghosts until a Reaper finds them and collects them. Often invisible to everyone but Reapers, some ghosts want to be collected so they can go on to the afterlife, while some become entrenched in the world and prefer not to leave. The longer they stay, the more difficult it is for a Reaper to collect them.

Members of the Resistance believe that when the Reapers leave the souls at the Gateway, the souls are imprisoned by the Gatekeeper, who feeds off their energy, which allows him to live beyond a normal lifespan. Because of this longevity, he has laid claim to a deified standing, and he rules the world.

Phoenix becomes a reluctant partner with Sing (short for Singapore), a female Reaper whose territory borders his. They are the same age, though she is newer at reaping. Since her father was black and her mother was Asian, Sing has dark skin and thick dark hair, delaying the discovery of a birthmark on her scalp until she was fifteen.

Phoenix and Sing, along with a third Reaper named Shanghai, attempt to go beyond the Gateway to learn whether or not the legends are true and to uncover the secret to the Gatekeeper's power and long life. Dangers abound at every turn, and the specter of death lurks in the every shadow as the Reapers search for the truth that could bring light to their darkened world.

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You may order it at <http://www.daviscrossing.com/ReapersPreOrder.html>.