

Maberry, Jonathan. **Rot and Ruin** 458pg.

Recommended for Grades 7-12

Fantasy

Rot and Ruin by Jonathan Maberry is about a boy named Benny who lives in a world that is experiencing an apocalypse. His small town of Mountainside is where most of Earth's remaining humans live. The fence around Mountainside is the only thing that keeps the zombies away. People blame the existence of the zombies on the technological advancements humans have made, but nobody really knows for sure, or is even interested in finding out. People are too afraid to learn the truth or do anything about it. Benny, who is about to turn 15, will have his food rations cut unless he works. The only job he can do is to be an apprentice bounty hunter. Benny learns a lot from the people around him, like his brother Tom, and other bounty hunters, both good and bad. His beliefs are altered throughout the story.

Jonathan Maberry has written an imaginative and thrilling story in Rot and Ruin. This story is from the character, Benny's point of view. Whenever I put down the book I could not get it off my mind. It was interesting and kept me wanting to read to find out what happens next. There are sequels to this book that I am definitely going to read. I can't wait to find out what happens in the next book. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes to read thrilling science fiction stories that will keep you on the edge of your seat. This is an excellent book for teenagers to read. I think that the story and the way it is written is too advanced for younger readers.

-Carlo