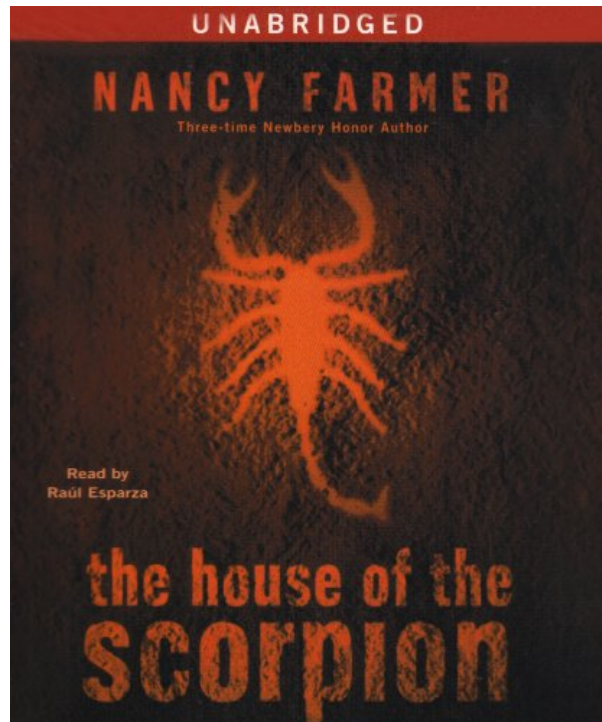
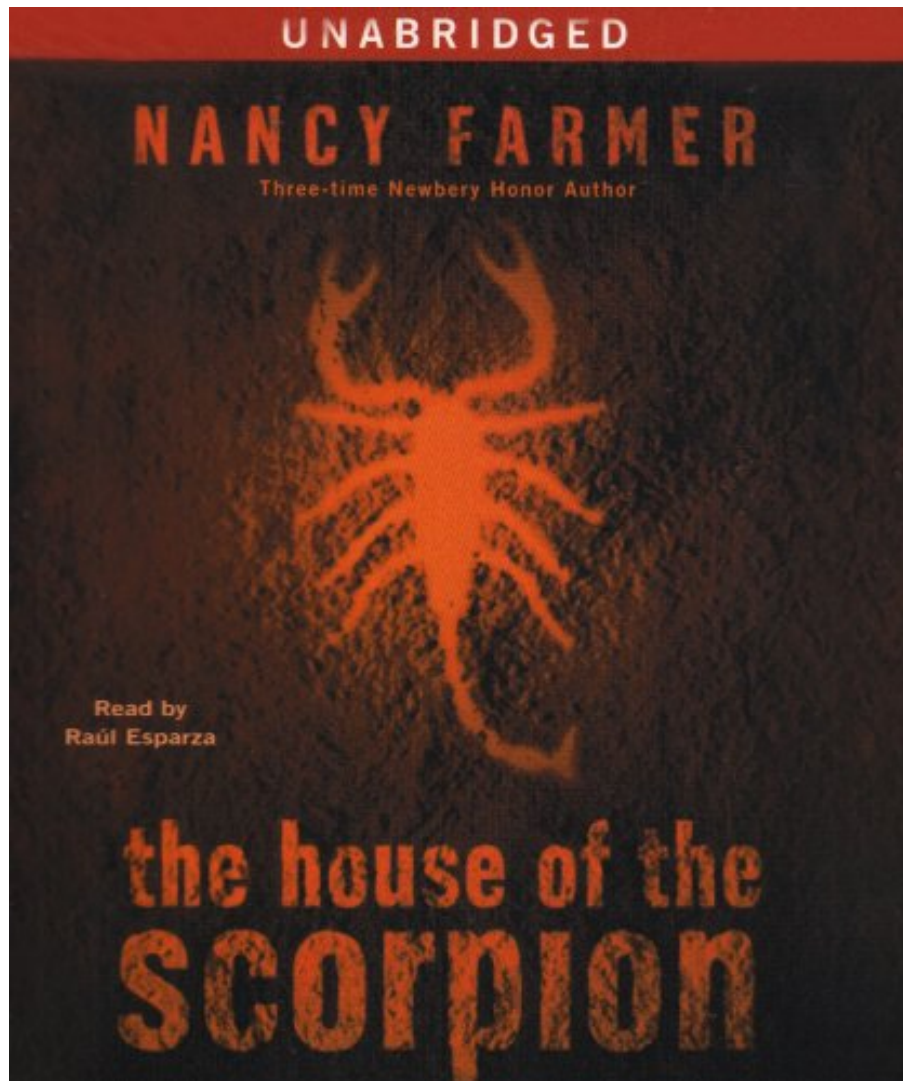


THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION BY NANCY FARMER



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Amazon.com Review

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THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION BY NANCY FARMER PDF

Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium -- a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster -- except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself.

As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters, including El Patrón's power-hungry family, and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But escape from the Alacrán Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn't even suspect.

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- Binding: Audio CD
- 9 pages

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Amazon.com Review

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8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

A parent's review: Wow

By Leib Gershon Mitchell

That's all I can say for this book.

I am a parent who has been going through a number of books so that when my sons are of age, I can have a reading list of suitable books for them whose content I am comfortable with. (Books written for adolescents have way too much anguish and sex in them for my [Orthodox Jewish] taste.)

This is one of those books that passes that test. (And I have to say that I was reluctant to give Nancy Farmer a second chance after her AWFUL, babbling book *A Girl Named Disaster*)

1. The prose is good and at the level of a reasonably intelligent adolescent;
2. The plot is gripping and the book was/ is hard to put down (I finished the whole book in two settings);
3. The character is something that would make sense to an adolescent boy;
4. There are several great topics for discussion, among them:
 - a. Dystopian societies
 - b. The Ethics of cloning/ genetic engineering/ stem cell harvesting (said topic can be pared down to an adolescents level and expanded as necessary)
 - c. Drug use and abuse
 - d. Questions about what is suffering. (p. 197: "What is suffering but knowledge of suffering?")
5. The book is also, in addition to being on par with the finest dystopian novels (1984 (Signet Classics) and *The Giver* (Giver Quartet)) and authors (George Orwell) was also two such novels in one. (The character went from one dystopian society to another.)

For the reason that the topics can work for a prescient adolescent, they could be also expanded and put to use for adults.

Verdict: Highly recommended.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Awesome. Loved it.

By Thomas

Great book. There was always a twist around the corner, and the storyline was so great, I ended up reading the second book, which, I loved. There is a wide variety of characters, each with their own unique personalities. Characters such as Tam Lin, Celia, and María influence the protagonist by being caring, thoughtful, and teaching him some sort of important lesson, which is usually given as a hint to what he must do toward the end of the book, which is escape. The story is about how Matt, the clone of a Mexican Drug Lord, is mistreated in the secluded country of Opium, which the Drug Lord owns. The whole country is immune to the horrors of the outside world, holding many extinct species, and practically taking place in the past due to the Drug Lord's nostalgia. As Matt grows older, he makes new friends, and enemies, and eventually the true purpose of his existence is revealed. This leads to his escape. Overall I thought it was a great book, and I would recommend it to anyone who likes anything, because whatever it is, it's on here.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Thought provoking

By Tony

Others have written mostly what I would have said about how the plot is and the quality of the writing so I really can only add that I enjoyed this book and can highly recommend it, no matter your age.

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