



## This Census-Taker

By China Miéville

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**This Census-Taker** By China Miéville

For readers of George Saunders, Kelly Link, David Mitchell, and Karen Russell, *This Census-Taker* is a stunning, uncanny, and profoundly moving novella from multiple-award-winning and bestselling author China Miéville.

**NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR**

In a remote house on a hilltop, a lonely boy witnesses a profoundly traumatic event. He tries—and fails—to flee. Left alone with his increasingly deranged parent, he dreams of safety, of joining the other children in the town below, of escape.

When at last a stranger knocks at his door, the boy senses that his days of isolation might be over.

But by what authority does this man keep the meticulous records he carries? What is the purpose behind his questions? Is he friend? Enemy? Or something else altogether?

Filled with beauty, terror, and strangeness, *This Census-Taker* is a poignant and riveting exploration of memory and identity.

**Praise for *This Census-Taker***

“China Miéville is a magician . . . who can both blow your mind with ideas as big as the universe and break your heart with language so precise and polished, it’s like he’s writing with diamonds.”—**NPR**

“The book haunts the reader; *what actually happened* seems always just out of reach, glimpsed in shadow as it rounds a corner ahead of our vision.”—**Los Angeles Review of Books**

“[Miéville’s] been compared to Karen Russell and George Saunders, and rightfully so.”—**The Huffington Post**

“Marvellous.”—**The Guardian**

“Lingers in the mind like an unsettling dream.”—*Financial Times*

“A thought-provoking fairy tale for adults . . . [*This Census-Taker*] resembles the narrative style, quirkiness, and plotting found in the works of Karen Russell, Aimee Bender, or Steven Millhauser.”—*Booklist*

“Brief and dreamlike . . . a deceptively simple story whose plot could be taken as a symbolic representation of an aspect of humanity as big as an entire society and as small as a single soul.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

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## **This Census-Taker By China Miéville Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

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#### From the Inside Flap

A boy ran down a hill path screaming. This running, screaming boy has witnessed something terrible, something so awful that he cannot even properly articulate it. All he can do is run. His story is investigated, but no evidence is found to support it, and so in the end, he is sent back. Back up that hill path to the site of his terror, to live with the parent who caused it. The boy tries to escape. He flees to a gang of local children but they can't help him. The town refuses to see his danger. He is alone. Then a stranger arrives. A stranger who claims his job is to ask questions, seek truth. Who can, perhaps, offer safety. Or whose offer may be something altogether different, something safety is no part of. In *This Census-Taker*, multiple award-winning writer China Miéville offers a story made of secrets and subtle reveals, of tragedy and bravery, of mysteries that shift when they appear to be known. It is a stunning work, full of strangeness and power.

#### About the Author

**China Miéville** is the author of numerous books, including *Three Moments of an Explosion*, *The City & The City*, *Embassytown*, *Railsea*, and *Perdido Street Station*. His works have won the World Fantasy Award, the Hugo Award, and the Arthur C. Clarke Award (three times). He lives and works in London.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Kelley Thornton:**

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the e-book untitled This Census-Taker can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

**Robert Sanders:**

Often the book This Census-Taker has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research prior to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

**Karen Garcia:**

This This Census-Taker is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it facts accurately using great manage word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having This Census-Taker in your hand like getting the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no reserve that offer you world inside ten or fifteen small right but this guide already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt in which?

**Jane Pelley:**

Don't be worry for anyone who is afraid that this book will certainly filled the space in your house, you can have it in e-book means, more simple and reachable. That This Census-Taker can give you a lot of close friends because by you checking out this one book you have point that they don't and make anyone more like an interesting person. That book can be one of one step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that perhaps your friend doesn't know, by knowing more than various other make you to be great men and women. So , why hesitate? We need to have This Census-Taker.

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