



Keys To The Sun

Marcel Feldmar

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In a city built on legends, the truth is hard to find.

There is a song about a certain house located somewhere in New Orleans. A house that holds a secret that could shift the balance between good and evil. A secret discovered by three teenagers who find themselves on an adventure that takes them through the French Quarter, from magical playgrounds to mysterious cemeteries.

On vacation in New Orleans with their parents, Lucas and Parker Chance meet Nicole Wells, a new friend who will be staying with them in an old mansion in the Garden District. After exploring the house during a thunderstorm the adventurous trio finds an old map and strange runes that could point the way towards that legendary house. Before they realize what's happening they find themselves caught between the darkness and the light as they begin to search for the keys that supposedly can open the door of the House of the Rising Sun.

Unfortunately there are malevolent forces looking for the same thing, so with the help of their enigmatic Aunt Ruby, the three must follow a trail of clues while avoiding the sinister Trista Cillian and her colleagues. Aunt Ruby, who has been involved in this struggle for far longer than anyone realizes, helps as much as she can while the youngsters race to complete their quest before it's too late.

The path the three friends have chosen is dangerous, and as they race to complete their quest they learn to trust each other and accept the help of strangers that appear along the way. They learn that there is a difference between what is real and what is seen, they discover the magic that flows along the streets of New Orleans, and they realize that some mysteries are not meant to be solved.

Keys To The Sun is a Young Adult novel that will delight fans of mysteries, the supernatural, New Orleans, Vampires, adventure, and really good beignets.

Keys To The Sun Details

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Author : Marcel Feldmar

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From Reader Review Keys To The Sun for online ebook

Jodi says

This review was originally posted at Fanbase Press .

Every youngster wants the chance to be chosen for an incredible quest to save the world, but what if you sort of stumble into it thanks to a wacky family friend, a mysterious house, and a vacation in one of the US's most haunted cities? Lucas and Parker Chance's family vacation to see their 'Aunt' Ruby in New Orleans introduces them to Nicole "Cole" Wells and a quest to help preserve the balance between good and evil. There are clues to find, puzzles to decode, nefarious villains to evade, and, of course, more than a few beignets to enjoy in this fun YA romp that doubles as a love letter to a sultry city of the Deep South! Marcel Feldmar's first YA novel, *Keys to the Sun*, is a fun read that definitely has elements of both the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew, both referenced in the cover blurb. The dash of the supernatural and setting the story in New Orleans create an adventure with catnip for a wide variety of readers. Admittedly, it took me between 30 to 50 pages to really get drawn into the story, but when I did, I found myself trying to find time to read for long periods.

All three protagonists are a lot of fun, but I especially appreciated Cole's characterization. She's smart, resourceful, strong, and the most knowledgeable about their environment. While there is a hint of attraction between Cole and Parker, it definitely doesn't dominate the story...and why should it when there are potential vampires and pirate treasure? She gets plenty of opportunities to explore without the boys, and she never gets treated as a lesser contributor to the entire process. Mixing the protagonists' genders also helps make this book more accessible to a variety of young readers, since at least one of them should be relatable to almost any reader.

Feldmar obviously adores the history of New Orleans and blends it well with his mystery. While portions are obviously fiction, I could see the way he tied the real city's background into the fantastical bits. The locale is central to the adventure, too, and the three teens experience iconic parts of New Orleans like the famous cemeteries and a jazz funeral throughout the course of the novel. Clearly, the author loves the history of the city, and the affection flows onto the page and, even if the statement is cliché, makes New Orleans another character in the plot.

The ending of *Keys to the Sun* may feel too open ended to some readers, but it opens the door for Parker, Lucas, and Cole to continue to have adventures. It wasn't what I expected, but the thought of reading more tales of their sleuthing and partnership excited me. If you love mysteries, New Orleans, and epic tales of good and evil, this book probably will speak to you, and if you have a YA reader in your life who likes the same, I would definitely get them a copy!

4.5 Ancient Runes out of 5

Karen • The Book Return says

Read this review and more on my blog [The Book Return Blog](#)

'Keys to the Sun' tells the adventures of two brothers, Lucas and Parker Chase. They are in New Orléans to visit a family friend 'Aunt Ruby'. While there they and a new friend, Nicole(Cole), find a map that leads them on a treasure hunt around the French Quarter.

What I loved

I loved the idea of a hidden map that gives clues to a hidden treasure. I also loved that the story incorporated a lot of New Orléans history. An example of this is the haunting story of the casket girls who arrived in the city with casket trunks and then promptly disappeared.

I found the prose well done and easy to read. I did also love the characters of Cole, Parker, and Lucas and I loved brother's interaction with each other.

What Left Me Wanting More

First off, this book read like a middle-grade novel but with there were a few words that would be inappropriate for this target age. The clues and the treasure hunt around the city left me often confused. The descriptions of the layout of 'Twilight Oaks' was very intricate and really didn't add much to the story. I also didn't understand how the kids figured out many of the clues they found.

I was not at all ready for the paranormal elements of the story. They felt out-of-place and as if they were part of another book. I would have enjoyed the story more if the paranormal elements were just left out.

The clueless and self-absorbed behavior of Parker and Lucas' parents made little sense to me. They never seemed to care much what their teenagers were up to. I also just never really understood 'Aunt Ruby's' behavior throughout the story.

My Final Verdict

'Keys to the Sun' explores a fresh and interesting premise of a treasure hunt in NOLA. The story has a fascinating premise and incorporates some great NOLA history into the adventure. This review was originally posted on The Book return...

Kaylin Beach says

"Once a key-seeker, always a key-seeker."

This is the first book I have read by Feldmar Marcel and I must say that it will not be my last! I was so surprised by this book. It really impressed me and It had my complete attention until the very end.

Keys to The Sun is about a pair of brothers, Lucas and Parker, who stay with their Aunt Ruby for the summer. There, they meet a bunch of new people and a girl named Cole. Together the kids explore Ruby's creepy old house. Ruby lives in Twilight Oaks, located in New Orleans. Twilight Oaks is said to be the home to vampires, along with many stories and myths. The children find something unexpected in the attic one day. The children do not realize that this discovery will forever change their lives. Shortly after this discovery.. people are breaking into Ruby's house and following the children. What could they want with them? The children soon learn what they have in their possession and that is when their story really begins. You will not want to miss out on their adventures! Who would want to miss out on a Norse Map, vikings, vampires, weird stones, legends, pirates and treasure? I know I definitely wouldn't want to!

"There are good and evil people. There are good and evil monsters. There is a balance."

Keys To The Sun is filled with mystery, excitement, suspense, betrayal, friendship, and bravery! There was never a dull moment and this book left me on the edge of my seat until the very end. I was constantly trying to put the pieces together the whole time and was always on the look out for new bad people! I was so caught up in this book that it almost felt like I was in it. I love when I am able to read a book and put myself into the story and the pages. Feldmar allows the reader to run around the streets of Twilight Oaks with the children while trying to solve the mystery.

Feldmar created an amazing town with lots of wonderful characters. I love the way he portrayed New Orleans and the creepy vibe. As I said before, When you can relate to the characters and bring yourself into the book with them, you know you are reading a really good book. I really enjoyed Feldmar's writing style! I highly recommend this book!

Majanka says

Book Review originally published here: <http://www.iheartreading.net/book-tou...>

The Keys to the Sun reminds me of a fun mix of Scooby-Doo meets The Originals. The Originals because it features vampires, the supernatural, and New Orleans, and Scooby-Doo because the main characters are self-proclaimed sleuths who want to find a long lost pirate's treasure. Three teens and aunt Ruby face off against the powers of good and evil, as the treasure turns out to be much more than they could've ever imagined.

So, I have to admit, I was kind of jealous. Lucas and Parker Chance get to stay in an awesome, ancient house, along with their new friend, Nicole Wells, and then they get to go treasure hunting. Isn't that every kid's dream? It sure was my dream when I grew up, to find a treasure, and then suddenly find myself on a quest to saving the world.

Either way, the story is imaginative and creative, and the author did a great job describing the characters and making them feel like realistic human beings. I also loved the explorations of the city, New Orleans, and the French Quarter in particular. I've always wanted to visit the city – and now I could, in my imagination, at least.

I would recommend this book to just about anyone who enjoys the supernatural, and everyone who's ever wanted to go on a treasure hunt.
