



Razorhurst

By Justine Larbalestier

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"Vivid and bloody and bold and fast—I feel like *Razorhurst* is in my bones now."

—#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Gilbert

The notoriously bloody history of a mob-run Sydney, Australia neighborhood is fertile ground for this historical thriller with a paranormal twist: two girls' ability to see the many ghosts haunting Razorhurst.

Sydney's deadly Razorhurst neighborhood, 1932. Gloriana Nelson and Mr. Davidson, two ruthless mob bosses, have reached a fragile peace—one maintained by "razor men." Kelpie, orphaned and homeless, is blessed (and cursed) with the ability to see Razorhurst's many ghosts. They tell secrets that the living can't know about the cracks already forming in the mobs' truce.

Kelpie meets Dymphna Campbell, Gloriana's prize moll, over the body of the latest of Dymphna's beaus to meet an untimely end—a string that's earned her the nickname the "Angel of Death." Dymphna can see ghosts, too, and she knows that Gloriana's hold is crumbling one henchman at a time. As loyalties shift and betrayal threatens the two girls at every turn, Dymphna is determined to rise to the top with Kelpie at her side.

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Razorhurst By Justine Larbalestier Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1261908 in Books
- Published on: 2015
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- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 8.52" h x 1.06" w x 5.75" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Larbalestier's latest features gritty historical fiction with a paranormal twist. The grim tale takes place in 1932 in a fictionalized version of Surry Hills neighborhood of Sydney, Australia. The neighborhood is dominated by two rival gangs, but because guns are illegal, violence is done using razor blades and gruesome scars are a common sight. The novel takes place over the course of one day and tells the story of two very different young women: Kelpie, a feral child raised by ghosts, and Dympha, a prostitute with a violent past who seems older than her years. *Razorhurst* introduces a historical period with which many North American readers may not be familiar. Though some of the events and character backstories border on improbable, the short chapters and multiple viewpoints keep things interesting. The ghosts are mostly peripheral to the story, though their presence emphasizes the bloody nature of the time period and provides occasional humor.—Eliza Langhans, Hatfield Public Library, MA

Review

Praise for *Razorhurst*

Sisters in Crime's 15th Davitt Awards Longlist
A Bank Street College Best Children's Book

"Vivid... lavishly imagined. Larbalestier's elaborate world is sure to linger."
—**Los Angeles Times**

"A day full of bloody confrontations, secret alliances and unexpected romance . . . fascinating setting, colorful names, and sharp, peppery dialogue."
—**The New York Times Book Review**

"Larbalestier weaves the history of Surry Hills into a story that is full of violence, sex, crime, corruption, nobility, love and lust, bringing a lost place to life even as she grabs us by the lapels and drags us through a fantastic supernatural caper story . . . This one takes [Larbalestier's] storytelling to a whole new level."
—**Cory Doctorow for BoingBoing.com**

"*Razorhurst* is both fast-paced thriller and noir but with a paranormal twist . . . Larbalestier's most compelling character isn't a person or even a ghost but rather a place."
—**Boston Herald**

"*Razorhurst* by Justine Larbalestier takes readers down a dark and dangerous story of mobs and those that desire power."
—**Fresh Fiction**

"Vividly characterised and completely immersive, this unusual mix of noir, horror and historical fiction is engaging from the first line."
—**Ethel Turner Prize Judges**

"[*Razorhurst*] is a grisly, teasing, frightening, beautiful book . . . The chase-and-caper plot comes in fast, staccato bursts . . . Still, unexpected kindness wells up through the cracks in story and style, showing how varied lives on the edge of desperation can find some kind of compromise that allows for hope."

—Rain Taxi Review of Books

"The novel is edgy and bloody, and readers of gangster stories will love the dangerous situations that the characters experience. The added level of the supernatural gives this story another dimension, literally."

—The Historical Novel Society

"Larbalestier packs plenty of danger into the single day this novel covers, but frequent interludes of backstory keep things from feeling rushed. The narrative also benefits from a colorful, well-rendered cast, human and ghost alike. While the writing style calls to mind fiction of an earlier era, this story's interwoven intrigue and empathy make it feel timeless."

—Publishers Weekly, STARRED Review

"Characters both living and dead reveal crucial pieces of the plot slowly over the course of one harrowing day. Larbalestier pulls no punches with the gruesome, gory details about the violence of poverty, and the result is a dark, unforgettable and blood-soaked tale of outlaws and masterminds."

—Kirkus Reviews, STARRED Review

"Larbalestier's latest features gritty historical fiction with a paranormal twist."

—School Library Journal, STARRED Review

"Reading like a detailed painting in novel form, this haunting, gorgeously rendered supernatural/historical novel captures the rough and tumble world of gangsters and molls in all its bloody, vicious glory... The novel is as much about the place and time as it is about the young women, and readers interested in immersing themselves completely in an unforgettable setting will revel in this well-researched, true-to-life adventure."

—Bulletin of The Center for Children's Books, STARRED Review

"The sheer unusualness of the narrative's makeup and blend of genres render it interesting. Readers fascinated by the gritty world of organized crime will find much to like here."

—Booklist

"Yoking paranormal thriller, roman noir, and historical fiction, *Razorhurst* teems with precisely realized period details and an expansive cast of unsavory characters, as well as numerous allusions to the film noirs and Sydney history that inspired Larbalestier . . . intensely lucid and sharp."

—The Horn Book Magazine

"Vivid and bloody and bold and fast—I feel like *Razorhurst* is in my bones now."

—#1 New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Gilbert

"Sure, it is shiny and chilly and bloody and sharp, like the razor of the title, but Larbalestier's book is also magical and glamorous. Everything comes together in a surprising, gory, inevitable ending from one of the smartest writers in YA fiction."

—E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars*

"*Razorhurst* by Justine Larbalestier is a bloody masterpiece (pun intended)—the kind of book that feels classic and timeless and sharp with characters that live and breathe off the page. In short: wow."

—Courtney Summers, author of *This Is Not a Test* and *All the Rage*

"*Razorhurst* is magnificent—beautiful prose and good storytelling."

—Amber Benson, author of *The Witches Of Echo Park* and star of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

"A timeless tale of love and violence in long lost Razorhurst with characters I truly cared about."

—Melina Marchetta, author of *Jellicoe Road*

"A bloody and evocative novel, written in clean and lively prose."

—The Sydney Morning Herald

Praise for Justine Larbalestier

-

"Has everything it takes to be an instant classic."

—Cory Doctorow

-

"Loaded with brilliant, witty characters and stacks of invented slang, this is a fun, fresh read as well as a satirical study of society."

—Sun Herald

-

"A well-paced novel with a masterfully constructed unreliable narrator . . . Readers will be guessing and theorizing long after they've finished this gripping story."

—Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

-

"In this fierce, hypnotic novel, character, story, and the thrumming forces of magic strike a rare, memorable balance."

—Booklist, Starred Review

About the Author

Justine Larbalestier is the Australian-American author of many novels, including *Liar*, which received four starred reviews, and *My Sister Rosa*. Justine lives in Sydney, Australia, and New York City, though not at the same time. You can find her on Twitter @JustineLavaworm and her website, justinelarbalestier.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nathan Marker:

Book will be written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A e-book Razorhurst will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or acceptable book with you?

Roseann Flowers:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand up than other is high. To

suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you that Razorhurst book as basic and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Todd McCrea:

Hey guys, do you want to find a new book to read? Maybe the book with the subject Razorhurst suitable to you? Typically the book was written by well known writer in this era. The particular book entitled Razorhurst is a single of several books in which everyone read now. That book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimension that you ever know just before. The author explained their idea in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to recognise the core of this publication. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world within this book.

Paul Horn:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got college students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. So you know that little person similar to reading or as reading through become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to include your knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update concerning something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them are these claims Razorhurst.

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