Book Talk: Hunter by Mercedes Lackey

Mercedes Lackey was born on June 24, 1950 in Chicago and graduated from Purdue University in 1972.

Not only is she a fantasy writer but she has also written lyrics and recorded science fiction folk music.

Talking about how she constructs her fantasy worlds: “… I try to construct my fantasy worlds with all the care of a 'high-tech' science fiction writer… in my worlds, magic is paid for, and the cost to the magician is frequently a high one. I try to keep my world as solid and real as possible; people deal with stubborn pumps, bugs in the porridge, and love-lives that refuse to become untangled, right along with invading armies and evil magicians.”

<http://www.mercedeslackey.com/biography.html>

**Summary**

Joy Charmand has been a Hunter living in the mountains since she was a child when she gets called to Apex City. There she experiences the luxuries of the city, while reevaluating what a Hunter means to her. Joy realizes that the city’s leaders are making Cits(citizens) believe they are save when it’s becoming more dangerous and monster attacks are more frequent.

**Quote#1**

“…that was when I knew for certain-sure that there was nothing more important than being a Hunter…” (5)

This is in the beginning when Joy talks about what being a Hunter means to her and when she realized that was what she wanted to be.

**Quote #2**

“Suddenly my palms were damp and I was more nervous than I’d been facing down that Mage. After all, the only thing he could do was kill me horribly. These people… they could make me look stupid.” (66)

Joy gets to the city and realizes how different being a Hunter in the mountains is than being in the city. They are recorded everywhere they go and are treated like superstars. Editing, and gossip can make them look a certain way to people and Joy is scared of that.

**Quote#3**

“That’s just downright spooky, and I felt more than a tad bit on edge. And just plain… way, way, way out of my depth. There was more wealth in one of those dresses than any of those settlements on the Mountain saw in a year! And I felt unsettled. Except… nothing ever came out of nothing. People didn’t get given things like this,unless they inherited money, and even then, somebody for it. Right? …” (185)

Joy starts thinking about the luxuries in the city and the children and people starving in Spillover. They could have many meals for the price of the dress she is wearing. This is where Joy starts thinking about what darkness the city is hiding.

**Text Complexity**

Lexile Score: 910L (Age range 11-17)

New Dale-Chall Readability Index: Grades 5-6

**Category of book:**

From the Adolescents in the search for meaning, this book would fall under Chapter 6, for struggles with decisions.

**Why should teens read this book?**

Fantasy includes a lot of action, adventure and situations that couldn’t happen in real life, and that’s part of the appeal. It’s easier to escape your daily live when you’re riding a broom with Harry Potter or trying to win a place in the Court with Jude in The Cruel Prince by Holly Black. And fantasy books have shown to help readers become more empathetic.