Its only a few months since Gregor and Boots returned from the Underland, leaving their mother behind to heal from the plague. Though Gregors family receives frequent updates on her condition, they all know Gregor must return to fulfill his role as the warrior who is key to the Underlanders survival. Accompanied by his now-talkative, potty-trained little sister Boots, still considered the honorary princess, Gregor joins forces with another princess -- 12-year-old Luxa -- and Ripred the rat to defend the Underlanders and the vulnerable Nibblers or mice, from the rat army led by (contd)

My Personal Review:
...who is hopelessly obsessed with the Gregor series? The only one who puts signs up all over her bedroom announcing RIPRED RULES? The only one who has a bat drawn on the mug-coaster next to her bed? The only one who painstakingly drew computer backgrounds of Hazard and Thalia, Luxa and Aurora, Gregor and Ares, Vikus and Whatshisname, and all the other bats and humans? (I also did a wallpaper of Boots and Temp, since she doesn't have a bond). The only one who would willingly wear a self-made RIPRED RULES or OFF RIDING MY BAT T-shirt to school if the said school didn't have uniforms? The only one who even cares that Gregor and Luxa like each other, that Ripred the greatest rat EVER -- am I the only one who is completely head-over-heels obsessed with this series?

But even through my highly unscientific lenses of obsessed reader, this book was marvelous. Ripreds pitiful condition but eternal sarcasm and hysterical remarks, and Gregors awkward relationship with Luxa were all great, but I think my favorite part was at the end, when Ripred notices Gregors feelings about Luxa. (This is paraphrased, forgive me if a words misplaced.)
Dont bother, said Gregor. I know what youll say. The whole things stupid. Quite the contrary, said Ripred. I was going to say that life is short. There are only a few good things in it, really. Dont pretend that one of them isnt happening.
It was absolutely the most un-Ripred-like thing Gregor could have imagined.

Yeah, that was my favorite part. I also really liked how the author incorporated the horrors of the Holocaust into the story, to give us Overlanders, who could easily feel nothing for the nibblers as there were never any prominent mice characters, some sort of parallel.

Rating: Very Good

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