



Heir Ascendant

Matthew S. Cox

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Heir Ascendant

Matthew S. Cox

Heir Ascendant Matthew S. Cox

In the aftermath of World War Three, the most famous face in the world belongs to a nine year old girl.

Maya Oman is the daughter of the woman who controls what's left of civilization, the CEO of Ascendant Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Her smile is as ubiquitous as air, selling everything from vital medicine to vanity drugs with risky side effects. Lifelike android clones reside in over a dozen homes, shielding her from the violent resentment of a population straining under her mother's boot heel.

Ascendant's power comes from Xenodril, a drug capable of reversing the effects of Fade, a disease some claim came from aliens or from the governments that predate the war. Only Ascendant sells it, and at a price only Citizens can afford. The rest are left to die.

Maya's earliest memories are of living alone in a penthouse apartment, desperate for the attention of a mother who never visits. Forbidden to go out except to record advertising video, her only friend has been the 'net. When she is taken for ransom by a group of mercenaries with nothing left to lose, she discovers her life may not be what she thought it was--or wants.

Heir Ascendant Details

Date : Published October 5th 2017 by Curiosity Quills Press

ISBN :

Author : Matthew S. Cox

Format : ebook 300 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult

 [Download Heir Ascendant ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Heir Ascendant ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Heir Ascendant Matthew S. Cox

From Reader Review Heir Ascendant for online ebook

Montzalee Wittmann says

Heir Ascendant (Faded Skies) by Matthew S. Cox is a book I grabbed as soon as I saw he had a new one out, on Kindle Unlimited. He is one of my favorite authors and I was so excited I stayed up all night again reading. The cover is misleading, I thought it might have some fantasy or paranormal in it but alas, no, :(. But I love sci-fi and that is what this is. After WW3, and boy does it sound just like what it would be like realistically, he describes a world and who is in control. Again, sounds too realistic. Some of what he talks about sounds real today. The cause of the problems, the solution and how to get it, yep, I can see it now...part of that is NOW! He is so farseeing, is that a word? Anyway, this book had me and didn't let me go, it is super charged and suspenseful. So much is going on in the book, all the while I am thinking, is this going to really happen? Could it happen? Is parts of it happening somewhere, somehow in a different situation/condition/scenario now? This is a book that is an adventure into the future with high and low tech, with disease and solutions, with hate and love, greed and corruption, compassion and care..it is android arms, drones that kill, soldiers that care, soldiers that don't. I loved this story, it made me think and it entertained me. It was so good for my brain and my heart. I loved this story and I loved Maya...the girl with a giant heart who was brave and loved despite the odds.

Pike Perrie says

Matthew Cox wound a dark tale around a beacon of light in his protagonist, Maya. Maya is a young girl in search of what we all want...love, family, and a place where we belong. His development of characters and his cunning little heroine, Maya make you feel like you want to step in and help her in her journey no matter the risk you might face. Matthew Cox displays a way with words that draws you into his world and you feel the heartache, loneliness and desire in the heart of this young girl.

Mel (Epic Reading) says

I'm not sure I've ever been in a situation with a book where I adore, admire and am adversely conflicted by a nine-year-old protagonist. Matthew S. Cox has managed to do something that most authors struggle with; given an authenticity to the voice of a young girl. And all the while Cox is able to bring the reader into an intriguing dystopian future that could be our own with only a few missteps.

Nine Years Old

I cannot possibly say enough good things about the construct and characterization that Cox gives to one little girl. We see the story through her eyes and learn as she learns; yet all the while being a little bit smarter than her (as we know what a McDonald's arch is, and perhaps how to play Magic: The Gathering). This nine-year-old girl, Maya, is smarter than the average nine-year-old but it's in a believable and concise way. She spends all her time being a doll for advertisements; or studying online. Therefore she knows little of socialization and a lot about random things that are not all that helpful if you end up on the run from (what feels like) everyone. Maya has genuine relationships with others and like many children falls instantly into trust with some people. Children seem to have an innate sense of who to trust when they are not taught to fear everyone; and as Maya has not had to fear anyone in her life she falls easily into the hands of others. Luckily for her, most of the people she ends up with are not out to get the ransom money they expect she is worth.

The Action

There is so much action (especially at the beginning) of this book that it's hard to believe that along the way Cox is able to also tell a charming story focusing on family, love and friendship. In and amongst the bombs going off, death defying drone flights and other equally terrifying (and deadly) shoot-outs we manage to find a connection with each character that Maya encounters. Heir Ascendant reads very quickly because of this action and is likely to keep readers on the edge of their seat. From the opening sequence to about 50 pages in you will have a good sense for this book and it's style. I'd say if you don't enjoy it at that point you can safely put it away and not finish it. But I dare you to not want to know more about Maya and her plight after those first 50 pages.

Dystopian

It's not a mystery for my regular followers that I love dystopian books. The only genre I value above dystopia is fantasy. And give me a messed up fantasy world anyway and I'll be thrilled. The technology in Cox's dystopian world is interesting. It's beyond what we have today; but not so far beyond that it's hard to relate to or believe in. I really appreciate this link back to today's world that Cox makes so that we feel like this dystopian world is very plausible. The easier it is to relate to a dystopian book the better we are at feeling connected to the story and it's characters.

Overall

I really, really enjoyed this story and cannot wait to get my hands on the second book. I know it's a bit harder to find but I encourage you to seek it out if you love dystopian stories that feature children. There are so many wonderful themes in Heir Ascendant I couldn't possibly list them all. Cox jumps from the meaning of motherhood, or what makes a mother; over to what makes a bad guy bad? Are all people who fight to stay alive bad? Or are they only bad when they cross a line? And thus, of course the question is, where is that line?

Regardless of how you answer the above questions there is one thing for sure in Heir Ascendant; you will be cheering for Maya to 'win'. Even if you are not sure what 'winning' might look like for Maya you'll want her to be happy, safe and loved because she's just that loveable. But watch out because she's a little daredevil that is willing to steal your heart and jump off a cliff with it. Action, family, love and dystopian values all mix together in Heir Ascendant to give it a rounded out story, characters and setting.

For this and more of my reviews please visit my blog at: [Epic Reading](#)

Please note: I received an eARC of this book from the publisher via NetGalley. This is an honest and unbiased review.

Sue Plant says

would like to thank netgalley and the publisher for letting me read this strange book
vanessa a powerful ceo in charge of a company that sells all forms of drugs to help combat fade..a new deadly disease.....or does she....

maya is vanessa daughter who helps advertise her mothers drugs and she is 9 years old, and one day she is kidnapped and thats where the story begins because for most of her life she has been kept in solitary condition in an apartment with no mother to keep her company just computers

maya is held to ransom by these people but vanessa has other ideas about paying and so the story continues at quite a pace

my only bugbear about this story is that the hero...maya is 9 years old and what she has to go through ,so in my mind i thought of her as older and really enjoyed the story from then on...

plenty of action though in some places hard to believe with maya again being 9 but who wouldnt want to ride on a drone to save her would be mom

Jo says

[Instead of hair and a prince she's abducted by a rough group who intend on using her to acquire a ransom or medication for the killer illness called Fade. Through her wits and determination she rescues herself while obtaining a replacement mother and causes a

Melinda says

I received an ARC courtesy of Netgalley for my honest review. I read this book although it's not in my usual genres of books. The premise sounded interesting although it ended up going in a different direction than I anticipated. The story involves a nine year old girl who is the daughter of an executive of a large pharmaceutical company. Her mother has little to do with her and Maya mostly takes care of herself. The only interaction she has with her mother is when she's needed for photo shoots promoting company products. The real story begins when Maya is abducted and held for ransom. The story takes some twists and turns that I did not see coming. The book was filled with a lot of adventure and I enjoyed it a lot. I will look for future books by this author.

Bruce Blanchard says

The Key to Change is a 9 Year Old Maya Oman

The future, dystopian worlds where corporations run practically everything, where the rich are rich and the poor struggle to survive, where the criminal element plies it's trade, where Authority is all and bought, where conspiracies real and false have their day, this is the future world and the main character is usually a disgruntled hero or the promised messiah of a teen. You'll find those galore, but not here. The heroine in Heir Ascendant is a 9 year old spoiled "princess" whose life is that of a bird in a gilded cage - Maya Oman. Mama Vanessa brings her out for photo ops. Life for Maya changes when she's kidnapped and held for ransom. Enter a new life on the other side of the tracks with real struggling people who care and a new adopted mama Genna. To say anymore would be cheating and leaving it at that.

What makes this book so good is the ability of Matthew Cox to see life from the eyes of Maya and yet keep the plot and the action adult. Maya is many things. A highly intelligent 9 year old. A princess learning to deal with other people and their troubles in an uncertain world where life can be cheap. Learning to live as a real person and brave enough to take on big challenges. Something has to change in this world; she can be instrumental. This book is nothing short of good and comes highly recommended.

Nina says

Usually I read books in one to three days, but it took me two weeks to finish Heir Ascendant. Two freaking weeks! Not because it was bad, but because I had a hard time getting into it.

Maya is a very smart nine year old who gets kidnapped. Maya is very strong, knows a lot of information about her mothers company and the society she's living in. She's also very determined to find her mother. I liked Maya, but why oh why did the author made the main character nine years old? She was way too smart for a nine year old and that made the story quite unbelievable. So, to read further I made her older in my mind. I just couldn't picture a nine year old doing all the things Maya did in the story.

The plot was interesting. It did take me a few tries to really get into, but when I finally did it was good. There was a lot going on, but the 'adventure' Maya is undertaking to find her mother was very entertaining to read. I wanted someone to hug her and say that everything was going to be alright and I was super happy that some characters on her journey weren't all evil.

Heir Ascendant was entertaining to read and it made me want to add more books in this genre to my to want read list. That's always a good thing.

If you need a nice adventure story set in a dystopian world, you should read Heir Ascendant.

Lou says

This was my first book I read by Matthew S. Cox and is the one that started my love of his stories. I plan to work my way through the rest of his series' and if they turn out to be as compelling and imaginative as "Heir Ascendant" was, I will be a very happy (reading) bunny! I hope people begin to pay more attention to indie authors and publishers as there are some truly spectacular titles out there just waiting to be discovered. I always remind myself that some of my favourite books of the last year were from small, indie publisher and there are countless times when I can say I was truly blown away by an indie author's work. I do hope people consider reading them more and find out for themselves that indie books have the same potential as conventionally published ones to absolutely blow you away. "Heir Ascendant" is a perfect example of this!

Maya Oman is a fantastic protagonist - she is smart, sassy, wise beyond her nine years and you really root for her in the dire situations that she finds herself in. She helps to balance out the dark dystopian setting by being positive and a force of nature. It would be difficult for even the most hard-nosed person not to admire her with what she endures and all at such a young age. Despite only being nine, she has a deep inbuilt sense of morality and this leads to her having a large problem with her biological mother who is both ruthless and useless. The author does use some of those dreaded tropes but this didn't have an impact on my reading experience as the book is so damn good, it would have taken some real deep flaws to put me off. Cox has an accessible and easy writing style which whisks you into the story and grips you quickly. He also knows how to hold your interest with an unpredictable and thrilling plot. Basically, everything just worked and came together in a magical way. Cox has created an intriguing and dangerous dystopia that is a difficult place in which to live for anyone let alone a younster who is more or less looking after herself owing to her mother's neglect and narcissism.

All in all, this is a book that I will remember for a long time to come, this is partly thanks to the wonderful Maya - I couldn't have loved her more if i'd tried! I look forward to the third book in the series and will be checking out which of the author's other series' to try out next. I am optimistic that I will appreciate them as much if not more than the wonderful "Faded Skies" series. If you are wondering whether to give this a go then what you waiting for? You're in for a treat let me tell you!

Many thanks to Curiosity Quills Press for an ARC. I was not required to post a review and all thoughts and

opinions expressed are my own.

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

Heir Ascendent was one weird book. Following Maya, the 9(!) year old daughter of the CEO of the only pharmaceutical company that provides an antidote towards the poisons in the atmosphere, as she gets kidnapped, decides she likes her kidnappers better than her mother and quickly turns into a rebel leader. All of this at the tender age of 9!

At times I thought it was difficult to follow. The world building was rather sparse, which was in line with Maya's limited knowledge of the world. However, it made her quick and young transformation in a leader of the rebels rather unbalanced. It was a quick read, but I was never completely buying the story. I haven't decided yet whether I will continue the series.

Thanks to the publisher for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Crittermom says

Heir Ascendant surprised me, it is far from easy to write a science fiction novel where a 9 year old girl is the central figure. No matter how intelligent she is, she is still a child. Matthew Cox did a superb job of making Maya authentic. Though she is intelligent, she is naive and starved for affection and that makes her vulnerable. Some may question her sudden deep attachment to Genna, but in a way it's realistic. Genna may have been one of her kidnappers, but she also protected Maya, and Maya being starved of any kind of female attention was drawn to that and what Genna represented - a strong but emotional female figure.

I won't be giving too much away by saying that the majority of the novel focuses on Maya's attempts to find and rescue her new mother. She doesn't intend to be a hero or an agent for change, she is just a little girl, but Matthew Cox proves just how powerful the desire for an ideal can be.

Cox's world is far from friendly. Most people live in crumbling ruins, living a hard existence. Lucky ones go to the city to work during the day. The city is where citizens live and everything you dream of can be found for a price. Drones patrol and the police are little more than corporate enforcers. Worst of all is the Fade, a deadly disease leftover from the war. Noone is safe from the disease, and the treatment is only available to those with the means to pay.

Heir Ascendant is an impressive science fiction novel, richly imagined with a large cast of characters. At its heart though is one 9 year old girl determined to find her new mother. I look forward to reading the next novel in the series.

5 / 5

I received a copy of Heir Ascendant from the publisher and Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

-RadioactiveBookworm- says

Goodreads Synopsis:

In the aftermath of World War Three, the most famous face in the world belongs to a nine year old girl.

Maya Oman is the daughter of the woman who controls what's left of civilization, the CEO of Ascendant Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Her smile is as ubiquitous as air, selling everything from vital medicine to vanity drugs with risky side effects. Lifelike android clones reside in over a dozen homes, shielding her from the violent resentment of a population straining under her mother's boot heel.

Ascendant's power comes from Xenodril, a drug capable of reversing the effects of Fade, a disease some claim came from aliens or from the governments that predate the war. Only Ascendant sells it, and at a price only Citizens can afford. The rest are left to die.

Maya's earliest memories are of living alone in a penthouse apartment, desperate for the attention of a mother who never visits. Forbidden to go out except to record advertising video, her only friend has been the 'net. When she is taken for ransom by a group of mercenaries with nothing left to lose, she discovers her life may not be what she thought it was--or wants.

My Review:

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Before I even picked this book, I thought, wow that's a really nice cover. Then I went to the first chapter and was blown away by more beautiful art. It's just so detailed and interesting and unlike the chapter art in other books. I love it.

In the apocalyptic future, sometime after WWII, nine year old Maya Oman is neglected by her mother. The owner of a massive pharmaceutical company called Ascendant, she doesn't seem to even have time to come home much less answer her daughter's calls. The only thing she actually sees her for anyways is commercial shootings. So when she gets kidnaped from her bed in the middle of the night, she doesn't expect to hear anything from her mom, like usual.

A world where an alien virus has taken over, Xenodril is the only solution. Overwhelmed by the price, most people can't even afford a single dose. There's a local war going on between the rich and the poor. Vanessa Oman doesn't care about her daughter, and proves it when she has a replacement on hand for the camera's after she goes missing to prove to the country that the rumours are just that. Maya is nothing more than an actor for the company, a slave. Not a daughter. But she's smart, and sneaky, and isn't afraid of herself. She's not against blackmailing people to getting what she wants. She's strong and unlike any other nine year old I know, but what else would you expect from someone who's been locked up with a computer for the entirety of her short life?

I absolutely loved this book from the moment I started it. The world they live in is one filled with tech and mechanical limbs and homeless people, junkies and moldy apartments. The ground is littered with who knows what, and most people only have the clothes on their backs. It adds a harsh reality to the book, and it's easy to imagine. In my head it reminded me of the Fallout games. Although the main character is under ten years old, I didn't feel too old to be reading this book. The story is exciting and takes turns I never expected. Usually little kids say things they don't mean, but Maya meant everything she said. Everything wrapped up nicely. I definitely recommend checking out this book if you get the chance and I can't wait for the next in

the series!

Here's a link to the book on Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Heir-Ascendant-...>

Thanks for reading! Check out this review and more at my blog.
(Radioactivebookreviews.wordpress.com)

Geoff Strayer says

Matthew Cox giveth, and he taketh away. This was an odd sensation, as I read Silver Light and Heir Ascendant back to back, and have the opposite reaction to each.

Sorry, but this was just too much to take. Especially once I read the afterward.

So, Heir Ascendant is the tale of Maya Oman, the daughter of the woman who controls what's left of civilization, the CEO of Ascendant Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Maya is used as more prop than child, selling everything from vital medicine to vanity drugs with risky side effects. Lifelike android clones reside in over a dozen homes, shielding her from the violent resentment of a population straining under her mother's control. The evil drug company's power comes from a drug called Xenodril, a drug capable of reversing the effects of Fade, a disease some claim came from aliens or from the governments that predate the war (a WWII event that is only loosely explained). Only Ascendant sells it, and at a price only those who can afford to live in the walled cities can afford. The rest are left to die.

Maya lives alone, with no companionships except computers and the smart apartment, and is only allowed out to promote the company in ad shoots. Until a group of...hard to say, since they are alternately described as mercenaries (blurb), freedom fighters, revolutionaries, or terrorists...kidnap her for ransom. And this was where it stopped, originally, with the interactions between Maya and the kidnapers.

That part of the story is really well done. And works, regardless of the outcome that was originally there. I liked that, even though it comes at you very quickly, and without any real setup. That's ok, it still works.

But that isn't where it stops. And this is where I start shaking my head. Maya is nine. Nine. And she is engineered to be smart, yes, and all the other things, but she is still nine. She spends the whole book (or close enough) barefoot in a nightgown. And winds up in multiple firefights, crossing miles and miles of broken, ruined, city, and so on and so forth (no spoilers, right?). It leaves believable quickly, and moves into the realm of sub-par fan fiction. Sorry, but this is just not something I can buy into.

I do want to point out that at no point is the very real threat (in the modern world, much less this dystopian version) of sexual assault realized. So you won't face that. It is discussed, and there is some off-camera abuse of a side character. It was in the past, so while it informs character actions, it is not happening in the time frame of the book.

I do think that Cox's instinct was correct - he needed to age the character more. A mid-to-late teen would have helped a lot, even without any real plot changes. A more believable set of circumstances would have helped. Shoes. Damn, just some shoes would have helped.

The messages here are clear - evil pharma companies, exploiting child actors, bad parents. That was also a

bit heavy, especially when the full scope of the actions of Ascendant come to light. It just all piled on, and defeated itself. There are bits to like, plot points that could work, I just didn't feel it this time.

I will say this - Cox is a good author, and no one is perfect. So while this one book is not recommended, keep an eye out for his other work - they are very much worth your time and money.

Jennifer Jamieson says

A tale of kidnapping and a dystopia where human lives aren't worth the cost of the drugs made to keep them alive. An interestingly told story.

G. Miki says

In a dysfunctional future, nine-year-old Maya leads a life of luxury--but only sees her mother one hour a week when starring in TV commercials for her mother's company. Her life is a lonely, unhappy one, but she's smart as a whip and learns everything about her society on her computer. In fact, the only time she's able to leave her apartment is when making company appearances. Until she's kidnapped. Then her life changes utterly and she reaches out for the love of a mother that she's always yearned for and surprising friendships with other kids her age.

The most beautiful girl in the world is frightened but brave, with a heart for justice, and she's resourceful. She embraces a new existence of poverty and squalor and steams over her mother's lack of heart. The one-time heir to the Ascendant company fortune is going to make the world a better place.

From the moment we readers find the child living alone in her grand apartment, through her discoveries of life for those who have next to nothing, we are taken in by the authenticity and depth of her portrayal. We share her experiences of a culture in disarray. We're hooked by her honesty and her understanding beyond her years, by her courage and her desire to live a meaningful life in relationship with others. We can't turn away from reading this book because we can't turn away from Maya. Definitely an engaging journey for readers to take.
