

Urbantasm is a magical teen noir serial novel inspired by the author's experiences growing up in and around Flint, Michigan.

Thirteen-year-old John Bridge's plans include hooking up with an eighth-grade girl and becoming one of the most popular kids at Radcliffe Junior High, but when he steals a pair of strange blue sunglasses from a homeless person, it drops him into the middle of a gang war overwhelming the once-great Rust Belt town of Akawe.

John doesn't understand why the sunglasses are such a big deal, but everything, it seems, is on the table. Perhaps he accidentally offended the Chalks, a white supremacist gang trying to expand across the city. Maybe the feud involves his friend Selby, whose father died under mysterious circumstances. It could even have something to do with O-Sugar, a homegrown drug with the seeming ability to distort space. On the night before school began, a group of teenagers took O-Sugar and leapt to their deaths from an abandoned hospital.

John struggles to untangle these mysteries while adjusting to his new school, even as his parents confront looming unemployment and as his city fractures and burns.

"Imbues a neglected part of America with an azure luminescence."

— Jeffery Renard Allen, author of *Song of the Shank*

"A compelling blend of noire and Rust Belt magical realism."

— Gordon Young, author of *Teardown: Memoir of a Vanishing City*

"A vivid and utterly authentic world of adolescent angst, yearning, fear and love."

— Jan Worth-Nelson, author of *Night Blind*

Connor Coyne is the author of *Hungry Rats*, *Shattering Glass*, and *Atlas*, a short story collection. His work has been published in *Vox.com*, *Belt Magazine*, *Santa Clara Review*, and elsewhere. He lives in Flint, Michigan.

URBANTASM

Book One:
The Dying City

CONNOR COYNE



URBANTASM

a novel

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The Dying City

"A novel of wonder and horror."

— William Shunn,
author of
The Accidental Terrorist

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