

 Based on

The House of the Scorpion

By Nancy Farmer

**About the Book:**

Matt is different. He struggles with whether he is human or not. He has been told by many that he is lower than an animal; he is not fit to live in a house. Matt is the clone of the powerful El Patron of the Alacran family. He lives in El Patron’s house and has the best of all material possessions, yet he is barely tolerated by the rest of the family. He is totally isolated from the outside world. Matt is loved like a son by Celia, the family cook. His body guard, Tam Lin, teaches Matt many life lessons. The only friend he has close to his own age is Maria, the daughter of a powerful United States senator, who visits the Alacran family during school holidays. As Matt grows older, he begins to realize that El Patron controls an entire country called Opium that produces and sells drugs. He begins to see the evil that exists in his little confined world. As El Patron lies on his death bed, Matt finally sees the obvious; he has been created to provide body organs for El Patron. With the help of his few friends, Matt escapes Opium and flees to Mexico, which is now called Aztlan. There he experiences great hardships and dangers as he attempts to make his way to the convent where Maria now lives. Once at the convent, he learns that things have changed greatly in Opium since El Patron died. He is the only one who can return to Opium and set the evil right. Through his many trials and his interactions with others, he now knows that he is human and valuable. By changing Opium, he can change the world.