



Not a Drop to Drink

By Mindy McGinnis

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Fans of classic frontier survival stories, as well as readers of dystopian literature, will enjoy this futuristic story where water is worth more than gold. *New York Times* bestselling author Michael Grant says *Not a Drop to Drink* is a debut "not to be missed." With evocative, spare language and incredible drama, danger, and romance, Mindy McGinnis depicts one girl's journey in a frontierlike world not so different from our own.

Teenage Lynn has been taught to defend her pond against every threat: drought, a snowless winter, coyotes, and most important, people looking for a drink. She makes sure anyone who comes near the pond leaves thirsty—or doesn't leave at all. Confident in her own abilities, Lynn has no use for the world beyond the nearby fields and forest. But when strangers appear, the mysterious footprints by the pond, nighttime threats, and gunshots make it all too clear Lynn has exactly what they want, and they won't stop until they get it. . . .

For more in this gritty world, join Lynn on an epic journey to find home in the companion novel, *In a Handful of Dust*.

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Not a Drop to Drink By Mindy McGinnis Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—In the not-too-distant future, water has become scarce. Those who carve out their lives in the wilderness will fight to the death to protect the water on which they've staked their claim. Lynn and her mother are good shots, picking off stray travelers who are tempted by their pond. Cholera outbreaks throughout the world mean that even when water is available, it could be deadly, and the 16-year-old and her mother spend their days purifying the pond water, hunting for food, persuading meager crops to grow, and standing sentry on their roof to guard against strangers. After her mother is killed by coyotes, Lynn tries to be self-reliant, but she knows that in time the men from a nearby settlement will attempt to seize her land. When her taciturn neighbor Stebbs offers help, she slowly opens herself to his friendship, and her lifelong solitude is further fractured when she meets a family that is trying to survive on the banks of a nearby stream. Lynn grows attached to the little girl and takes her into her home when Lucy's mother, who is starving and in labor, is unable to care for her. Lynn finds herself drawn to Lucy's uncle, who is about her own age. Things come to a head when Lucy becomes deathly ill and the band of men from the nearby settlement attack Lynn's house. An overreliance on expository dialogue leads to clumsy and unnatural-sounding exchanges. The story might appeal to teens who can't get enough of dystopian survival stories, but in a crowded field, this one offers nothing new.—Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Schools, VAα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

When a cholera epidemic reduces quality of life to times not unlike the wild frontier days—filled with isolation and self-reliance—Lynn and her mother work hard days purifying water from their pond. It's a life-giving resource that they protect day and night in shifts, shooting any bold strangers who might stumble across it, while tending to other chores like chopping wood and growing crops. When her mother is killed by coyotes, Lynn is truly alone. With the threat of dangerous men to the south and families to the east, Lynn is forced to reach out and find people she can rely on. McGinnis creates quite fine groundwork in the beginning, capturing the closeness of Lynn and her mother with deft exposition and intense character building. Where this debut runs aground a bit is with the passage of time as some elements of the plot tend to drag. But once the final stream of action ramps up, it's a sprint to the finish. Those in search of fierce female survivalist characters need look no further than this. Grades 9-12. --Courtney Jones

Review

A high-quality survivalist story for readers who enjoy internal story arcs as well as external dangers. (Kirkus Reviews)

The intensity of action moves the story forward, but not at the expense of character development. The complex, authentic characters are neither fully evil nor unbelievably good. The honest and hopeful ending—while not “happily ever after”—will resonate with readers and leave them asking for more. (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))

Those in search of fierce female survivalist characters need look no further than this. (Booklist)

In an understated but gripping debut, McGinnis paints a stark picture of a world not far removed from our own, concentrating on Lynn's gradual emotional growth as contrasted against the physical harshness of her existence. (Publishers Weekly)

A brutally beautiful debut, not to be missed. NOT A DROP TO DRINK is an unwavering story with incredible drama, danger, and power. This writer is for real. (Michael Grant, New York Times bestselling author of the Gone series)

I can't say enough good things about the writing, and the characterization. If you're looking for grit, realism and heart, you found it. (Kendare Blake, author of Anna Dressed in Blood)

Deftly written, Mindy McGinnis's NOT A DROP TO DRINK is a frightening picture of a potential future without fresh water, which left me ridiculously grateful for my working faucet. This post-apocalyptic survival tale is about so much more than just survival. I loved it. (Jodi Meadows, author of the Incarnate trilogy)

Set against the grim backdrop of an all-too-possible future, McGinnis's very fine coming of age novel doesn't stint on life's hard lessons—or its triumphs. Lynn's story is what Laura Ingalls Wilder might've penned if she'd traveled a frontier imagined by Cormac McCarthy. (Ilsa Bick, award-winning author of the Ashes trilogy and THE SIN-EATER'S CONFESSION)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kathy Donnelly:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get large amount of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not just a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is usually Not a Drop to Drink.

James Smith:

Not a Drop to Drink can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Not a Drop to Drink nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may draw you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

Peter Christensen:

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Sandra Easley:

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