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Jump to ratings and reviewsWhen the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival.The droughtor the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it has been going on for a while now. Everyones lives have become an endless list of donts: dont water the lawn, dont fill up your pool, dont take long showers.Until the taps run dry.Suddenly, Alyssas quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents dont return and her lifeand the life of her brotheris threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if shes going to survive. 2627 people are currently reading52588 people want to readAward-winning author Neal Shusterman grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where he began writing at an early age. After spending his junior and senior years of high school at the American School of Mexico City, Neal went on to UC Irvine, where he made his mark on the UCI swim team, and wrote a successful humor column. Within a year of graduating, he had his first book deal, and was hired to write a movie script.In the years since, Neal has made his mark as a successful novelist, screenwriter, and television writer. As a full-time writer, he claims to be his own hardest task-master, always at work creating new stories to tell. His books have received many awards from organizations such as the International Reading Association, and the American Library Association, as well as garnering a myriad of state and local awards across the country. Neal's talents range from film directing (two short films he directed won him the coveted CINE Golden Eagle Awards) to writing music and stage plays including book and lyrical contributions to American Twistory, which is currently playing in Boston. He has even tried his hand at creating Games, having developed three successful "How to Host a Mystery" game for teens, as well as seven "How to Host a Murder" games.As a screen and TV writer, Neal has written for the "Goosebumps" and Animorphs TV series, and wrote the Disney Channel Original Movie Pixel Perfect. Currently Neal is adapting his novel Everlost as a feature film for Universal Studios.Wherever Neal goes, he quickly earns a reputation as a storyteller and dynamic speaker. Much of his fiction is traceable back to stories he tells to large audiences of children and teenagers -- such as his novel The Eyes of Kid Midas. As a speaker, Neal is in constant demand at schools and conferences. Degrees in both psychology and drama give Neal a unique approach to writing. Neal's novels always deal with topics that appeal to adults as well as teens, weaving true-to-life characters into sensitive and riveting issues, and binding it all together with a unique and entertaining sense of humor.Of Everlost, School Library Journal wrote: Shusterman has reimained what happens after death and questions power and the meaning of charity. While all this is going on, he has also managed to write a rip-roaring adventureOf What Daddy Did, Voice of Youth Advocates wrote: "This is a compelling, spell-binding story... A stunning novel, impossible to put down once begun.Of The Schwa Was Here, School Library Journal wrote: Shusterman's charactersreminiscent of those crafted by E. L. Konigsburg and Jerry Spinelliare infused with the kind of controlled, precocious improbability that magically vivifies the finest children's classics.Of Scorpion Shards, Publisher's Weekly wrote: "Shusterman takes an outlandish comic-book concept, and, through the sheer audacity and breadth of his imagination makes it stunningly believable. A spellbinder." And of The Eyes of Kid Midas, The Midwest Book Review wrote "This wins our vote as one of the best young-adult titles of the year" and was called "inspired and hypnotically readable" by School Library Journal.Neal Shusterman lives in Southern California with his children Brendan, Jarrod, Joelle, and Erin, who are a constant source of inspiration[Displaying 1 - 30 of 8,913 reviews]October 2, 2018 Only now do I see how dry his lips are. Not just dry but parched and chapped to the point of bleeding. None of these kids look right. Their skin is thin and almost leprous gray. The corners of their mouths are white with dried spit. And the look in their eyes is almost rabid.It's unsettling how utterly convincing this book is. Maybe it works so well because the concept is so relevant and believable - a severe drought in Southern California is hardly fantastical - but it also has a lot to do with the way the Shusterman duo writes. In a style somewhat reminiscent of storytellers like Stephen King, the authors paint this dystopian picture slowly, gradually, introducing a fairly large cast of characters along the way. The horrors creep quietly into a world that very closely resembles our own, making them easy to believe in. What is first a subdued desire for water becomes a pressing need, which in turn becomes an obsessive frenzy.You can tell a lot of thought has gone into how people would behave when their lives (or worse-- the lives of their families) become threatened by a lack of water. When the people in Dry become desperate, its amazing and terrible what can be seen as a source of water. And let me tell you: the authors and the characters in this book get VERY creative on that front. Could we be so desperate for drinkable water that we're willing to destroy the very machines that could create it, just to get that first sip?The way the characters are used to tell the story here might not suit everyone. The Shustermans bring in many different perspectives in order to capture all angles of the water craze rather than focusing on one or a few individuals. I can pinpoint the main characters as Alyssa, Kelton, Garrett and Jacqui (who is freaking awesome, by the way) but I would still say this is more a book about the bigger picture, which includes many people's perspectives across the course of the novel. The characters are left racially ambiguous, some described as "olive-skinned" but of indeterminate race.It's a standalone and so a whole lot is covered in these 350 pages. We see how a survivalist family first thrives but then becomes a target; we see how kind neighbours become enemies; we see an entrepreneurial few try to capitalize on the new hot commodity; we see the ugliness that can quickly rear its head when people are desperate.I thought it worked really well at creating a sense of desperation and paranoia. It made ME want to go stock up on emergency supplies (I swear I'm not even joking. I found myself on this page after reading it.) Very convincing and discomfiting.Blog | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | Youtube2018 arc dystopia-utopia Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunniesOctober 3, 2018This book is about Southern California running out of water. The situation is dire, but good fucking god, the main (female) character in this book is so mind-numbingly dumb that I don't want some water after drinking book, I want some fucking vodka, dammit. Yeah. I know the kids in this book are teenagers, but OH MY GOD THEY ARE SO STUPID. I am not exaggerating. I was literally gritting my teeth at the questionable decisions that were made in this book.First off, the premise. I liked it. This near-future situation is pretty damn terrifying. I've lived in SoCal for almost all my life. First Orange County, now Los Angeles proper. For the past...10? years or so, we've had terrible droughts. People make fun of Southern Californians because we freak out at:1) cold weather (read: less than 60 degrees)2) rainHere's my bunny in a raincoat. He has never actually needed it because, again, we don't get rain.I'm not kidding. I love it here but it is absolutely hilarious how all the TV stations are like STORM WATCH every time a dark cloud rolls in. Every damn winter. But in any case, we freak out so much over rain because WE DONT GET ANY OF IT. We've been under a water conservation order for so long now I can't even remember. Our lush green hills have been brown for the better part of a decade.SO yeah, the threat of NO WATER is very, very real, and very, very terrifying. I feel like the situation in the book could actually happen, down to the riots for water. BUT THE CHARACTERS IN THE BOOK ARE SOOOOOOO STUPID. I absolutely abhorred the idiotic main character, who just so conveniently lived next to a dorky next door neighbor whose entire family are hardcore survivalists, who talk like this... Then he meets my gaze, but rather than his typical bone-chilling glare, his eyes are different. Shimmering and glassy. Vulnerable. An honest display of emotion that Ive never seen before. And in this single look I feel as if Ive opened his personal .zip file; suddenly years of compressed emotional information comes bursting out, and Im hit with an overwhelming truth.OH MY GOD PERSONAL ZIP FILE!!!!!!!!!!!! REALLY?But he wasn't terrible. The main character is terrible. Her entire POV is a series of regrettable situations that put not only her, but her friends, and neighbors in danger. I wanted to strangle her. Yes, I have many feelings about this book. I cannot stand an annoying, stupid narrator. So as much as I liked the premise, this book is not for me.Virginia Roman Herondale May 31, 2020As a precautionary measure, all county and municipal water districts in Southern California are temporarily rerouting all resources to critical services. But I cannot stress enough the need to keep calm. Id like to personally assure everyone that this is a temporary situation, and that there is nothing to be concerned about.They said right before all hell broke loose! > < Im not going to lie, when I started to read this book I wasnt all too sure if I wanted to continue with it. Not because it was bad, quite the contrary, but because the beginning of it reminded me so much of the things that happened at my country and probably every other country in this world when Covid-19 hit us. The government making an official statement, their attempts to contain a mass panic, their reassurance that this was all just temporary and the fact that people still went to the grocery stores and were panic buying like crazy! Hell, I think we can all agree that every country ran out of noodles, toilet paper and sanitizers for a while. XD So I stand, body trapped in the doorway, stuck between the threshold of what my life once was and what it will soon be, staring into the dark, a hundred eyes glowing back in the night.And Im scared to the bone, because right now I cant tell if Im looking into the eyes of sheep, or wolves.Still, regardless of the similarity to our own situation at the beginning of the book (yes, I found myself relating to Alyssas mom and her stress cleaning "lol"). Dry ultimately developed into an entirely different direction. It was water the MCs of this book craved for and therefore this particular doomsday scenario took a completely different turn. Ive to admit its kind of tough to imagine a world without water, especially when you come from a country like mine. I mean its pouring buckets right as I type this review and the irony of this isnt lost on me. Of course we also have droughts in summer that sometimes even last for weeks and become a problem for our farmers, but when things get really tough they just use their sprinklers and try to water their plants as good as they can. So, yeah you might say we can deal with draughts when they appear and more often than not our actual problems stem from having too much rain. Flooding, mudslides, avalanches in winter, you name it. Austria has seen it all. During our hot summer days that can reach between 35 40 degrees (Celsius scale) even I get thirsty though. :-). People can be played, moved, and sacrificed. So in that way I guess you could say Im a people person. This said, I dont recommend reading Dry during a heat wave in summer. \*lol\* Before I started to read this almost every comment on my pre review warned me to keep a bottle of water close to me and what can I say? You guys werent kidding when you told me this book would make me thirsty. XD By the end of it I was so thirsty, I immediately went to my tap and drank a huge glass of water. And after living alongside the characters of this book I really appreciated to be able to do this!! Which brings me right to the crazy bunch of kids thats making their way through the dry land of their state, all in the hope to find some water and to survive. People might do whatever they can to survive, but once they dont have to worry about that, theyre different.I cant really say that I liked those characters, but then again they were supposed to be human and to have their flaws. The person I could relate to the most was probably Alyssa, because she still believed in humanity and held tight to it no matter what. When everyone around her seemed to lose it she still tried to do the right thing and thats something I really liked about her. Even though I really didnt understand why she gave Kelton hell for watching her with his drone when he was what? - nine years old? Yes, it was wrong to do it and Im totally with her on this, but the way she reacted was blown out of all proportions. Youd think she would have had bigger problems than a guy who watched her dance in her room when she was a kid. Plus he apologized and knew that it was wrong. Jacqui and Henry were both opportunists and did whatever they had to in order to ensure their survival. Kelton? Well, he might have been a creep but he had his heart at the right place and Im saying this even though he compared girls with deers at the beginning of the book. \*shudders\* Lets hope he learned something from their trip. The character that shocked me the most was Garrett though. Alyssas little brother. For him it all seemed to be a game and he had no trouble to do the worst thing without thinking about the consequences first. Which is so typical how kids act but turned out to be really drastic in those circumstances. His childish naivety of if this kid takes away my toy Im going to punch it easily turned into if this kid takes away my toy Im going to kill it. If you ask me this showed how much children learn from us, how we already influence their social competence and soft skills when we teach them that they have to make compromises and cant just punch another kid because it wants to play with their favourite toy too. (If you havent read it already I recommend reading Lord of the Flies because it plays with the idea of how children would live and act if they were left to their own devices with no adults to teach them right from wrong.)But theres that moment when you realize theyre not superheroes, or villains. Theyre painfully, unforgivably human. The question is, can you forgive them for being human anyway?This is something I really appreciate about Neal Shustermans books. He knows how to raise issues, he always poses important questions and hes obviously familiar with a lot of philosophical and political theories. (I just loved the fact that Machiavelli, Hobbs, Rousseau and Maslow [indirectly] were mentioned in a conversation between the characters! My inner geek was really happy! \*lol\*) Dry made me think and wonder about a world without water and how easily things can escalate when were deprived of the one thing we all need in order to survive. Take away food and we can survive up to 60 days (of course it all depends on the person, their health, physical strength and other factors) take away water and we can only survive about 3 days. (7 days if youre exceptionally lucky and all the circumstances are in your favour) Water is essential for our survival and if you ask me I dont even want to imagine a world without it. I wont take it. Because even though Ive seen everyone around me lose their humanity today, I realize that in this moment, I have finally found mine.Conclusion-Dry was a really suspenseful read and definitely managed to keep me at the edge of my seat. I always wanted to know what would happen next and whenever I thought things couldnt get any worse, Shusterman seemed to make it a point to prove me wrong. If there is one thing I didnt like about the book then it was the fact that the ending seemed to be a little rushed. The mystery about their parents didnt really persuade me and when I closed the final page of the book my only thought was: No way! Then again, its such a realistic ending and no matter how much I dislike the idea, I still think that things would actually end like that. I couldnt believe they all went back to normal after this. I mean how could you just live like this week never happened? But people forget so easily and it was eerily realistic that it would end that way. All told Dry was a great book and Im glad I gave it a chance! Happy reading! =)\_\_\_\_\_Jeez Louise!!!You guys werent kidding when you told me that this book makes you thirsty! \*lol\*The first thing I did after reading this was to check my tap and to drink a huge glass of water. I really enjoyed this and even though it made me thirsty as hell this was great!Im pondering to read Wolfgang Hohlbeins Flut as a balance now. Joking! XDAnyway! Full RTC soon! Right now all I want to do is treat myself to some water. :-).PP.S: A world without water though?! I don't even want to think about it! >