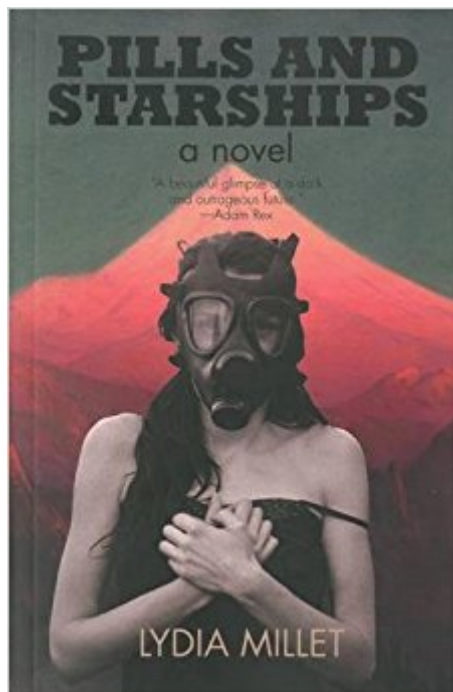


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# Pills And Starships



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2015 Paterson Prize for Books for Young People  
Named a 2015 Green Earth Honor Book by the Nature Generation  
"Pills and Starships, the first young adult novel by Lydia Millet, offers one thrillingly scary scenario...There is much here to enjoy."--Washington Post  
Named a Best Book of 2014 by Teaching for Change  
One of The Independent's Best Books for Children This Christmas  
"A deep read, but fast; it lingers in your mind long after it's been read."--New York Journal of Books  
"In the remaining wilderness of the Big Island, though, lurk people and terrain that may or may not spell constructive revolution and optimism for Sam, Nat and the planet's leftovers. Risk-takers both, they have decisions to make."--Center for Fiction, Junior edition  
Named a "Book that Buzzed at ALA" by Library Journal's Barbara Hoffert  
One of The Airship/Black Balloon Publishing's 50 Must-Reads for Summer!  
One of Missoulain/Corridor's Summer Reading Guide picks!  
"Millet's dense novel has more in common with philosophy than with fantasy...Millet, never a writer to settle into predictable patterns, manages to find beauty in ugly places...this is the best thing about Millet's work: it makes you notice the small details of the natural world, makes you recognize those details as holy."--The Rumpus  
"Lydia Millet offers a brilliant dystopian novel that eclipses all others written for Young Adults with this beautifully written, dark but ultimately hopeful tale."--The Buffalo News  
"If your summer goal is to start taking better care of the environment (a goal inspired, perhaps, by a trip to one of New York's trash-laden beaches), grab a book that explores a world devastated by global warming: Pills and Starships by Lydia Millet."--The Airship/Black Balloon Publishing  
"Dark apocalyptic reading at its best...vivid, moving saga that will attract mature teen fans of Divergent, Hunger Games, and similar apocalyptic survival stories."--Midwest Book Review  
"The details are terrific...and as the tension mounts it becomes a real page turner."--The Independent (UK)  
In this richly imagined dystopic future brought by global warming, seventeen-year-old Nat and her hacker brother Sam have come by ship to the Big Island of Hawaii for their parents' Final Week. The few Americans who still live well also live long; so long that older adults bow out not by natural means but by buying death contracts from the corporates who now run the disintegrating society by keeping the people happy through a constant diet of "pharma." Nat's family is spending their pharma-guided last week at a luxury resort complex called the Twilight Island Acropolis. Deeply conflicted about her parents' decision, Nat spends her time keeping a record of everything her family does in the company-supplied diary that came in the hotel's care package. While Nat attempts to come to terms with her impending parentless future, Sam begins to discover cracks in the corporates' agenda and eventually rebels against the company his parents have hired to handle their last days. Nat has to choose a side. Does she let her parents go gently into that good night, or

does she turn against the system and try to break them out? But the deck is stacked against Nat and Sam: in this oppressive environment, water and food are scarce, mass human migrations are constant, and new babies are illegal. As the week nears its end, Nat rushes to protect herself and her younger brother from the corporates while also forging a path toward a future that offers the hope of redemption for humanity. This page-turning first YA novel by critically acclaimed author Lydia Millet is stylish and dark and yet deeply hopeful, bringing Millet's characteristic humor and style to a new generation of young readers.

## Book Information

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Literature & Fiction > Literary #813 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family

Issues > Family > Parents #951 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues

> Family > Siblings

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7â "10â "Earth reached its ecological tipping point some years ago, and corporations now manage all aspects of life. No more babies are being born, the elderly must purchase contracts to die, and drugs ("pharma") control a dwindling human population. Natalie's parents have purchased a death contract, and they have one final week together. The 17-year-old must keep a journal, which she addresses to an unknown space travelerâ "the only place where starships come into the story. As the Bountiful Passing approaches, Nat and her rebellious younger brother, Sam, begin to make plans to save their parents, or, at the very least, to rescue themselves from the tyranny of the corps and their Death Math. A predictable plot and strained teen voice distract from the very beginning and with 90-plus pages of backstory, the real action doesn't begin until well into the book. The ecological theme, clearly a passion of the author, unfortunately comes across as too heavy-handed and didactic in tone. An additional purchase only.â "Katherine Koenig, The Ellis

School, PA --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"I'm the first to admit that dystopia isn't usually for me, but this one got right under my skin."--The School Librarian"[A] rare gem of a book."--Paperboat Sails"Killer first lines are like gold dust and this is a doozy: There was a time, not long ago, when it was illegal to kill people."--LitReactor"By no means is [dystopia] composed of only novice authors. We can't wait for Pulitzer Prize-nominated Lydia Millet's upcoming novel, Pills and Starships, set in a world where babies are illegal."--Glamour"A YA novel that runs counter to nearly every YA trend...You'll laugh--until you realize it's too late, and the world has crumbled around you."--Brazos Bookstore"Millet presents environmental issues she's dealt with before, but embeds them in engaging story, and sympathetic characters, lively voice, and a little, satisfying 'ick.'"--Tuscon Weekly"We recommend checking out this novel--which manages to be both frightening and hopeful--whether you're young or old."--Endangered Earth OnlineIncluded in Teen Librarian Toolbox's list of forthcoming CliFi (climate fiction) titles"Gripping...how the future is likely to be for our younger generation if the current situation of environmental degradation is allowed to continue."--Greener Ideal"In this too-possible dystopia, global warming has changed weather patterns, babies are now illegal, and new diseases mutating weekly make face-to-face contact rare...I loved the book."--Books YA Love"Millet's prose is strong, her neologisms are fun, and the story caught me right up."--M. Fenn"An engaging epistolary novel that's part science fiction and part cautionary tale."--Joe Follansbee"Millet's YA debut is a gem: unnerving and luminous in equal measures....Pitch-perfect...This is a smart, soulful book."--The Adventures of Cecelia Bedelia"This is a fantastic futuristic dystopian novel that every teen and adult should read!"--Jenn's Review Blog"Lydia Millet has constructed a landscape of horror against a typically beautiful backdrop, making the Huxley-esque society all the more disturbing...Sci fi readers looking for a new twist on classic themes are sure to enjoy this new novel."--Write All the Words!"A good, worthy book...with a memorable voice and an important message."--Christopher East"If you want to think, and you want to know what it truly would be like living in a realistic dystopian society, read this novel."--With Her Nose Stuck in a Book"Wow. Just wow...If you like postapocalyptic, dystopian, or just beautiful writing, check this book out. It will blow your mind."--Cherry Blossoms & Maple Syrup"A dystopian novel that paints a horrifying realistic future by exploiting the truths of today."--Becoming Books"Pills and Starships feels very much like the spirit of our time."--Online Eccentric Librarian"Nat and Sam were both characters that were a joy to read....Can be enjoyed by people of all ages."--Twin Spin"This is not a slow book and is very hard to put down."--Pub Writes"Fascinating and thought provoking! Pills and Starships is a chilling look at

an ecologically damaged future where big business and the government have not only seized control of the surviving population through drugs, but have taken charge of death itself. Lydia Millet has raised questions that will resonate with readers for years to come."--Joelle Charbonneau, author of *The Testing*"A beautiful glimpse of a dark and outrageous future--utterly confident and terrifying and exciting for readers of any age. You'll read it with the lights on and then you'll turn them off because you're wasting electricity."--Adam Rex, author of *The True Meaning of Smekday*

This book was so well written, I felt like I had tumbled down a hole as I read it. And I did not want to get out of that hole! Not that I long for the future painted by Lydia Millet! This wonderful story, told in a perfectly toned narrative by character Nat, kept me riveted and wondering what would happen next. I thought about how fear is the worst enemy and the isolation it brings. Yet, things are often more hopeful than we think, if we can find a way to see differently. Brava to Lydia Millet for this fine work. Maybe meant for YA, but as someone much older than YA, I loved it.

Though this book is delicate in explaining what might happen in our future, it still impacts your senses and scares your being. So much drug dosage and global destruction are already a fact in every day life, our animal population is declining at an unstoppable pace and yet we still are not panicked. We need to awaken. This book is a warning.

Makes one think we should take care of what we have now. The great plastic vortex, bigger than South America description, chilled me. Also the big Pharma, only communicating on social media, and being a passive participant in one's own life. Adults and teens should read this.

Well no Starships so only 3 stars

brutal prediction of where we are going on the earth .....unless. The one percent won't like this scenario though, they get off scott free. Hope this not my grandkids future.

well written, good characters...my only disappointment, I wish was longer with more story development...keeping my review short + sweet...hope you enjoy!

Couldn't finish. It couldn't keep my attention long enough to get into it.

It's not the stiff grim thing that you expect, but it's a great take on this kind of world.

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