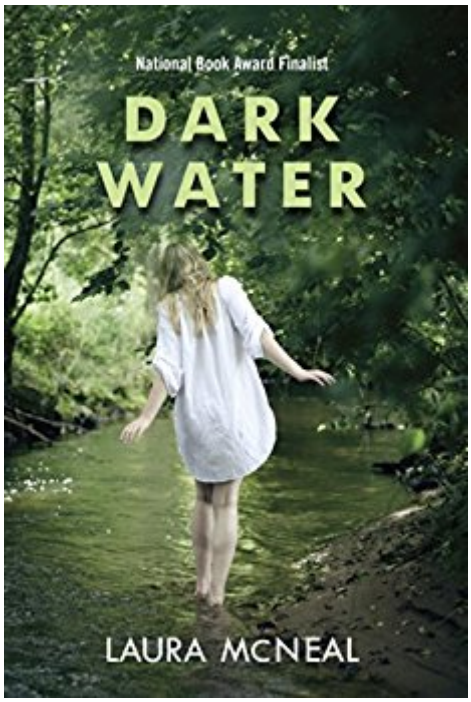
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Dark Water



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Synopsis

A National Book Award FinalistA Kirkus Reviews Best Books for TeensFifteen-year-old Pearl DeWitt lives in Fallbrook, California, where it’s sunny 340 days of the year, and where her uncle owns a grove of 900 avocado trees. Uncle Hoyt hires migrant workers regularly, but Pearl doesn’t pay much attention to them...until Amiel. From the moment she sees him, Pearl is drawn to this boy who keeps to himself, fears being caught by la migra, and is mysteriously unable to talk.Then the wildfires strike.From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 2992 KB

Print Length: 306 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0375849734

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (September 14, 2010)

Publication Date: September 14, 2010

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375897208

ISBN-13: 978-0375897207

ASIN: B003F3PMIY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #257,558 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm & Ranch Life #19 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #25 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty

Customer Reviews

Dark Water is a wonderful book for fans of We Were Liars, Even In Paradise, and any of Melina

Marchetta’s novels. It is a short,emotional story tale of personal growth and yes- tragedy."The breeze that carried you off is lifting me Gently;and I shall follow those who loved me in my exile."-Victor HugoReading this book again after two years was an interesting experience. I found myself appreciating McNeal’s vivd imagery and the complex, interesting characters: our main character lives on a farm in FallBrooke, where it is sunny most of the year with her enigmatic french aunt, her kind uncle, genius cousin, and divorced mother. McNeal also did a great job preserving the narrators age in her writing.....Pearl DeWitt sounded like Pear DeWittt. I really appreciated that.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Tu’ eres de dos mundos."He was wrong, of course. You can only belong to one world at a time.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•The plot, if it in fact does "fail"- it fails because McNeal only let’s minimal amount of darkness in. Much like in Even In Paradise, most Dark Water’s characters get off easy. It’s not realistic. However, I am willing to let this slide because it is such a beautiful story

I will read more of Laura McNeal’s books. She holds my attention throughout her book, especially because of her strong characterization.

Laura McNeal’s new novel for middle grade/young adult readers, Dark Water, is an exceptionally well-written and traditional novel. You won’t find occult romance, trolls, vampires, or other paranormal characters or settings, just a great story, well told. Readers of McNeal’s other novels know she’s a great prose stylist and writes believable dialogue, but in DarK Water, McNeal sustains a tone of foreboding and unease that forces the reader to keep turning page after page. With the introduction of the mute Amiel, McNeal effortlessly builds a complex tale of forbidden love between Pearl, the niece of a orchard owner, and a young migrant farm worker. But the novel is more than a modern retelling of Romeo and Juliet; Pearl must cope with her father’s infidelity, their family’s descent into near poverty, the complex relationships between farmers and their laborers, and the unpredictable forces of nature. Overall, an engrossing novel and one I will recommend to all of my nieces and nephews.

Suspenseful plot

Wonderful character development, and a very interesting plot. A page turner at points. Would Recommend this book highly to anyone.

This is one of the most intense and intelligent young adult novels I’ve ever read. The "dark" in the

title foreshadows the darkness and loss that brackets the story: the novel is both subtler and riskier than I'd expected; its strange, complicated themes and recurring images (from raising silkworms to adultery, race relations, cultural and class divisions, passion, and guilt) are woven so deftly and beautifully throughout. I couldn't put the book down, my heart was in my throat, and I found myself underlining something on every page. This author has a way with simile that's simply astonishing, and a deep, abiding sense of what it feels like to be a teenaged girl. Just lovely.

"Dark Water" is a true rarity: it is susepenseful, beautifully written, and very funny. When is the last time you could say that of a book? I found that, as the book went along, I was reading faster and faster and faster: the suspense mounts, and the reader is taken on a beautiful ride. Terrific.

Since I'm from San Diego, I was drawn to the local aspect of this story. I liked reading it, but I think it's because I was familiar with the location. The story itself is a little juvenile. Romeo and Juliette Fallbrook, CA-style.

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