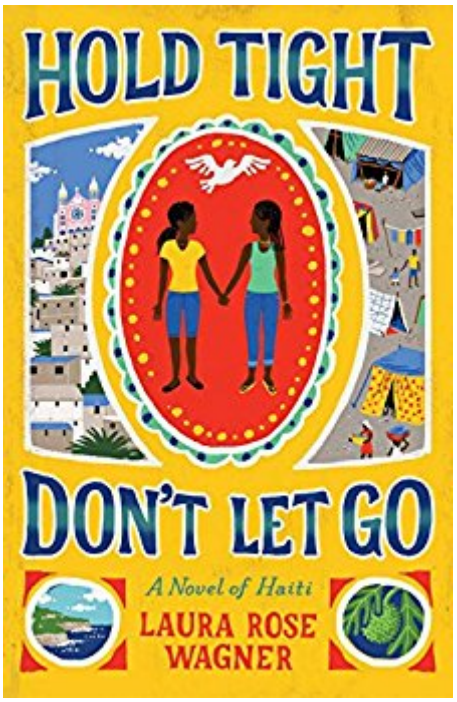
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Hold Tight, Don't Let Go



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Synopsis

Hold Tight, DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t Let Go follows the vivid story of two teenage cousins, raised as sisters, who survive the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. After losing the woman who raised them in the tragedy, Magdalie and Nadine must fend for themselves in the aftermath of the quake. The girls are inseparable, making the best of their new circumstances in a refugee camp with an affectionate, lively camaraderie, until Nadine, whose father lives in Miami, sends for her but not Magdalie. As she leaves, Nadine makes a promise she cannot keep: to bring Magdalie to Miami, too. Resourceful Magdalie focuses her efforts on a reunion with Nadine until she realizes her life is in Haiti, and that she must embrace its possibilities for love, friendship, and a future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having worked in Haiti for over 30 years I can say this book gives the best understanding of the day to day struggle of life in Haiti, of any book I have read. It is beautifully written. I cried, I laughed, and learned even after 30 years. For a 1st book Ms Wagner, you hit a bases loaded home run!

Excellent, excellent, excellent!!

Experienced the earthquake and read the book on a mission trip in Haiti. It was interesting to read the story of one in the worst of it.

Very intense beginning and the description in the days following the quake riveting. A must read about a harrowing time.

A wonderful look into life in Haiti.

Good book. Good condition

Love

Hold Tight, Don’t Let Go is a fictional story based on the earthquake that occurred in Haiti in 2010. Magdalie, our main character, resides with her aunt and her cousin, Nadine, whom she has lived with majority of her life. At the start of the story, the earthquake hits and Magdalie’s aunt is instantly killed. (This is not a spoiler, it literally occurs in the first two pages.)Magdalie not only has to deal with the death of her aunt, who raised her as a daughter, but now Nadine’s father has sent a visa and wants her to come and reside with him in Miami.Laura Wagner did a great job with this story. She used Magdalie to show readers the aftermath of the earthquake and how the people of Haiti, especially those affected by the event, attempted to put their lives back in order. As many know, this catastrophe destroyed many homes, many lives were lost and many were left desperately searching for food and means of ridding themselves of the illnesses that were claiming lives quickly, due to the sanitary conditions.Wagner was very colorful with descriptions: the dialect of the characters, their emotions, and the scenery- were all captured very well and instantly will draw the reader in. What many may not know is that Wagner was working in Haiti on her PhD when the earthquake occurred and she sustained severe injuries. I am positive, her experience helped to bring life to the characters in this story.Many themes are covered such as: separation anxiety, depression, and even rehabilitation and survival. It is pretty emotional at the beginning, but will definitely be one of those stories that when you finish, it will continue to pull at your heart. After reading this story, I felt like I was boarding a flight and leaving behind the inhabitants I had come to know and like.I gave this book 4 stars, and I only deducted one star because there was a part in the story that became

confusing because of the use of nicknames for the characters that were not introduced earlier on. Apart from that, the story line is easy to follow and there is growth for some of the characters.If you liked American Street by Ibi Zoboi, then you will like this book. I highly recommend it.

HOLD TIGHT, DONÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢T LET GO by Laura Rose Wagner is an unforgettable young adult novel set in Port-au-Prince Haiti during and after the devastating 2010 earthquake.The story begins with a chilling description of the Haiti earthquake through the eyes of a fifteen-year-old girl named Magdalie. As she searches through the rubble of her home, the stark aftermath of her collapsed world soon becomes clear. The chapters are named with months and years beginning with the earthquake on January 12, 2010 through 2011. The story concludes in January 2020, ten years after the disaster.Wagner does a masterful job describing life for Magdalie including her frustration, resourcefulness, and hope. The author was working on an ethnographic study when she experienced the 2010 Haiti earthquake. Her experiences led to this compelling and realistic portrayal of Haitian culture.While MagdalieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s experience with a vodou priestess and the funeral of her Manman may seem alien to readers, teens will empathize with her frustrations about lack of cell phone access and feelings of jealousy when her cousin leaves for America.This beautifully written coming-of-age work of historical fiction would serve as an excellent focal point for a discussion of the human-impact of natural disasters. Consider building a literature circle containing books related to other recent disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.For background information, go to Encyclopedia Britannica at http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1659695/Haiti-earthquake-of-2010. Wikipedia also has an excellent article about the 2010 Haiti earthquake that provides background information for readers. Go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake.Time Magazine also has an excellent series of articles. Go to http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/0,28757,1953379,00.html.Based on ARC NetGalley

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