



The Female of the Species

By Mindy McGinnis

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2017 Tayshas List Selection * YALSA Top 10 Best YA Fiction of 2017 * School Library Journal Best of 2016 * Junior Library Guild Selection * The Globe and Mail Best Books of 2016 * Bustle's Best Young Adult Books of 2016 * Mashable's 8 Best YA Books of 2016 * Seventeen's 10 Best YA Books of 2016 * CCBC Choices 2017

Edgar Award-winning author Mindy McGinnis delivers a relentless and riveting contemporary YA novel that examines rape culture through alternating perspectives. A stunning, unforgettable page-turner.

Alex Craft knows how to kill someone. And she doesn't feel bad about it.

Three years ago, when her older sister, Anna, was murdered and the killer walked free, Alex uncaged the language she knows best—the language of violence. While her own crime goes unpunished, Alex knows she can't be trusted among other people. Not with Jack, the star athlete who wants to really know her but still feels guilty over the role he played the night Anna's body was discovered. And not with Peekay, the preacher's kid with a defiant streak who befriends Alex while they volunteer at an animal shelter. Not anyone.

As their senior year unfolds, Alex's darker nature breaks out, setting these three teens on a collision course that will change their lives forever.

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The Female of the Species By Mindy McGinnis Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up—After her sister was brutally murdered, Alex Craft sought revenge when her killer walked free. Alex cuts herself off from everyone in her small backwoods town, until Peekay, the shy preacher's kid, and Jack Fisher, the most popular guy in school, force their way into her life as friends, with unintended consequences for all of them. An unsettling and stark exploration of small-town life and the secrets that we all keep.

Review

★ “Each word has been specifically chosen, each character superbly and humanly sculpted, the plot line masterfully completed. To say more would be to dilute the experience. McGinnis plays with the readers and they are at her mercy.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) **(starred review)**)

★ “Whether a catcall, an unwelcome touch, or more, sexual aggression towards females happens daily; McGinnis explores how one teen uses violence for justice in this gripping story that should be read and discussed by teens, as well as those who work with them.” (Booklist **(starred review)**)

★ “McGinnis gracefully avoids the pitfalls of creating a teenage vigilante, instead maintaining a sense of piercing realism. Alex is a pained girl in dangerous free fall, whose fierce independence is challenged by newfound friendships, even love, though neither may be enough to stave off the inevitable.” (Publishers Weekly **(starred review)**)

★ “All three teens are haunted by the memory of Anna’s murder, and Alex’s inclination to both considering and exacting revenge with cruel efficiency leads them all inexorably to an explosive, terrible finale. An unflinching look at rape culture and its repercussions.” (Kirkus Reviews **(starred review)**)

★ “An astoundingly dark but beautifully written tragedy, brimming with sexual assault, violent murders, and accounts of animal abuse...but also tempered with glimpses of genuine human emotion and extremely touching displays of kindness that cross social barriers and species. Highly recommended for collections serving teenagers.” (School Library Journal **(starred review)**)

“It’s raw. Not ‘raw for YA.’ Real-deal raw. And violent. And unforgettable. McGinnis explores both and she goes there in a way no one really has before in YA. This is Kill Bill in high school, but with more nuance, bolder choices and a true female perspective.” (The Globe and Mail)

“Your heart may still be pounding after you’ve finished this book. It is uncannily well timed to our current political situation...McGinnis, who dedicates her book to ‘the victims,’ examines this dichotomy of hope and violence, love and hate, with dexterity and grace.” (The New York Times Book Review)

“The ending of this dark novel leaves much to be unpacked, and it would certainly spark heated discussion in a book club or classroom.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books)

“Holy crap is it good.” (Bustle)

McGinnis’s novel about a teenage girl who avenges her sister’s rape and murder and becomes a self-created human weapon is a gut punch that will leave you reassessing everything you thought you knew about the

lives of young women.” (NY Mag)

A Must-Read YA Book of Fall 2016 (Brightly.com)

From the Back Cover

Alex Craft knows how to kill someone. And she doesn't feel bad about it. Three years ago, when her older sister, Anna, was murdered and the killer walked free, Alex uncaged the language she knows best—the language of violence. While her own crime goes unpunished, Alex knows she can't be trusted among other people. Not with Jack, the star athlete who wants to really know her but still feels guilty over the role he played the night Anna's body was discovered. And not with Peekay, the preacher's kid with a defiant streak who befriends Alex while they volunteer at an animal shelter.

As their senior year unfolds, Alex's darker nature breaks out, setting these three teens on a collision course that will change their lives forever. Edgar Award-winning author Mindy McGinnis artfully crafts three alternating perspectives into a dark and riveting exploration of what it means to be the female of the species.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Celina Ziolkowski:

The experience that you get from *The Female of the Species* is a more deep you digging the information that hide into the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but *The Female of the Species* giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that *The Female of the Species* instantly.

Fran Short:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled *The Female of the Species* can be good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

John Collins:

Often the book *The Female of the Species* has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research just before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

Sharon Wilson:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book mainly book entitled The Female of the Species your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The The Female of the Species giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life in this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

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