



BOOK RESUME: POSTSCRIPT

BOOK SYNOPSIS

From Stonewall Honoree Cory McCarthy, a heartbreaking, joyful, read-it-in-one-sitting YA novel about the last of us.

"I'm not sure the *how*-pocalypse changes anything. I don't think about it; *this* is hard enough."

This is a depopulated archipelago off the coast of Massachusetts, home to a tiny handful of sapiens sifting the remnants of civilization for scraps of comfort and joy.

Title: Postscript

Author: Cory McCarthy

Imprint: Dutton Books for Young Readers

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: February 17, 2026

ISBN: 9780593618240

Format: Hardcover

Age Range*: 14 Up

Grade Range: Gr 9 Up

(Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

There's no sense in trying to figure out exactly how humans got to this place of endless gray skies and so many mass graves—that's a very long letter no one has the heart to read again. What matters is this fleeting postscript, a strangely joyous house of bones built by an unlikely quintet of survivors.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★"Simultaneously tragic, existentially terrifying, heartwarming, and sensual, the narrative blends these contradictions into a compact, beautiful, and well-wrought whole.... McCarthy's striking black-and-white illustrations adorn the text and offer more content for readers to ponder. A deep story to read on an overcast afternoon while contemplating existence."—*Kirkus*, starred review

★"Evokes Francesca Lia Block.... Give this to fans of Marcus Sedgwick, Margaret Atwood's MaddAddam Trilogy, and *The Last of Us*."—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Deeply meditative.... A beautiful exploration of humanity."—*Booklist*

"A radical and defiant celebration of bliss in a time and place where that should be impossible."—*BCCB*

"Luminous . . . a poetic apocalypse narrative that explores grief, found family, and healing through community."—*Publishers Weekly*

REVIEWS, PRAISE, AND AWARDS FOR *Man o' War*

A Stonewall Honor Book

An Autostraddle Best Book of the Year

A BookPage Best Book of the Year

A BuzzFeed Best Book of the Year

A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year

A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year

Updated 3.31.2026

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

★ "A beautiful and relentless current of emotion."—*Kirkus*, starred review

★ "A thoughtful, nuanced exploration of what it's like to feel trapped—and how to make it out."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "McCarthy engages with every aspect of River's life to create an extraordinary story with incredible depth.... [F]erociously resists the idea that coming out is a simple or straightforward process."—*BookPage*, starred review

★ "In this intimate and deeply character-driven story, the exceptional writing exquisitely captures River's cutting but self-protective voice. McCarthy makes it clear that there is joy and love to be found in moving from the captivity of anger and pain to the liberation of being able to be exactly who you are. Equal parts heartbreaking and heartwarming, this is a poignant, affirming story."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"This gorgeous story of self-discovery is a triumph."—*Buzzfeed*

"Cory McCarthy has written a triumphant trans coming of age novel with depth, nuance, heart and humor."—*Ms. Magazine*

"McCarthy deftly presents the humor and heartbreak of River's journey, avoiding easy answers and embracing nuance. Readers will root for River through the pain, anger, and swim meets and be rewarded with a love story destined to make a splash."—*Booklist*

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