



***The Female of the Species* by Mindy McGinnis**

Katherine Tegan Books, HarperCollins, 2016 (Hardcover), 2022 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9780062320902 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 14 up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9 up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Edgar Award-winning author Mindy McGinnis delivers a 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.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "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)

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★ “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)

★ “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)

“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 Magazine

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2019 & 2020 Choose to Read Ohio Booklist
- 2018-2019 Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Nominee
- 2017 Tayshas List Selection
- CCBC Choices 2017
- YALSA Top 10 Best YA Fiction of 2017
- School Library Journal Best of 2016
- 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
- Brightly, A Must-Read YA Book of Fall 2016
- Junior Library Guild Selection

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MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Official Book Trailer: The Female of the Species](#)
- [PBS Interview at the Miami Book Fair](#)
- [Toolkit for The Female of the Species](#) (created by the State Library of Ohio)
- [Bookshanks Interview](#)
- [Columbia Missourian Interview](#)
- Click [here](#) to see author Mindy McGinnis' resource kit, specifically her most banned book, *Heroine* (2019)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that 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 age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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