



***Heroine* by Mindy McGinnis**

Katherine Tegan Books, HarperCollins, 2019 (Hardcover), 2020 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9780062847195 (Hardcover), 9780062847201 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 14 up (Suggested by Publisher)

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

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A captivating and powerful exploration of the opioid crisis—the deadliest drug epidemic in American history—through the eyes of a college-bound softball star. Edgar Award-winning author Mindy McGinnis delivers a visceral and necessary novel about addiction, family, friendship, and hope.

When a car crash sidelines Mickey just before softball season, she has to find a way to hold on to her spot as the catcher for a team expected to make a historic tournament run. Behind the plate is the only place she's ever felt comfortable, and the painkillers she's been prescribed can help her get there.

The pills do more than take away pain; they make her feel good.

With a new circle of friends—fellow injured athletes, others with just time to kill—Mickey finds peaceful acceptance, and people with whom words come easily, even if it is just the pills loosening her tongue.

But as the pressure to be Mickey Catalan heightens, her need increases, and it becomes less about pain and more about want, something that could send her spiraling out of control.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “Intense pacing propels the gripping story... This powerful, harrowing, and compassionate story humanizes addiction and will challenge readers to rethink what they may believe about addicts. From the horrific first line to the hopeful yet devastating conclusion, McGinnis knocks it out of the park.” —[School Library Journal](#) (starred review)

★ “A compassionate, compelling, and terrifying story about a high school softball player’s addiction to opioids. The writing is visceral, and following Mickey as she rationalizes about her addiction is educative and frightening. A cautionary tale that exposes the danger of prescription medications by humanizing one victim of America’s current epidemic.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#) (starred review)

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HarperCollins

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“[A] realistic portrayal of how easy it is to develop an opiate addiction and the very real consequences of addiction. A timely and important message for teens everywhere.” —[Booklist](#)

“There is never a moment in this harrowing but compassionate account that feels either unbelievable or melodramatic as it illuminates the terrifying ease with which people from all walks of life can fall victim to opioid addiction.” —[Cooperative Children’s Book Center](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2020 YALSA Best Books for Young Adults (Top 10)
- 2019 SLJ Best Books
- 2020 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers (Top 10)
- 2020-2021 Virginia Readers’ Choice List
- 2020 Texas TAYSHAS list (Top 10)
- 2019 Kirkus Best Books
- 2020 YALSA Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults (Top 10)
- 2019 Maine North Star YA Award – final list
- 2020-2021 Florida Teen Reads – final list
- 2020 Ohioana Book Award – finalist
- 2021-2022 Indiana Eliot Rosewater High School Book Award – winner
- 2021-2022 Missouri Gateway Readers Award – winner
- 2021-2022 South Carolina Book Award – nominee
- 2023 & 2024 Choose to Read Ohio Booklist
- 2024 Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award – nominee

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Heroine Animation](#)
- [Author Mindy McGinnis Book Talks "Heroine" at Marquette](#)
- [Q&A With Mindy McGinnis](#)
- [Toolkit for Heroine by Mindy McGinnis](#) (created by the State Library of Ohio)
- 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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