



2010

This World We Live In

Lauren McMullan

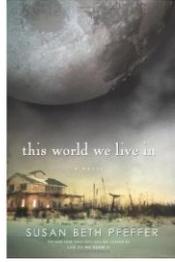
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Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *This World We Live In*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. ISBN 9780547248042. \$17.00. 239 p.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction; Science Fiction;

Subject: Survival--Juvenile literature; Family Life--Juvenile literature; Diaries--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Imagine ash so thick that it has blotted out the sun for over a year. Sixteen-year-old Miranda Evans lives under that ash. Ever since a meteor collided with the moon—knocking it closer to the earth and causing an Armageddon of sorts—ash and cold and fear are all Miranda, her two brothers, and her mother know. They spend their days trying to survive in a vastly forsaken world. Life is one terrifying uncertain day after the next and becomes even more so when Miranda's father and step-mother, with infant and three strangers in-tow, appear on the Evans' doorstep. As the family finds answers to the new and pressing survival questions created by the new arrivals, Miranda finds herself falling in love with one of them—a boy her age named Alex.

This drama, told in diary format, and the third installment in Pfeffer's Last Survivors series, is a post apocalyptic tale from a coming-of-age perspective. The reader finishes *This World We Live In* as the Evans family is forced to search out a life elsewhere. This development feels like it is a long time coming and could have served the book better if it had been more towards the middle of the book. Despite this, Pfeffer has put together an intriguing story of love, loss, and the power of familial devotion. *This World We Live In* is a valid choice for the middle school reader interested in a morbid twist on the coming-of-age love story.

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