



The Last Place on Earth

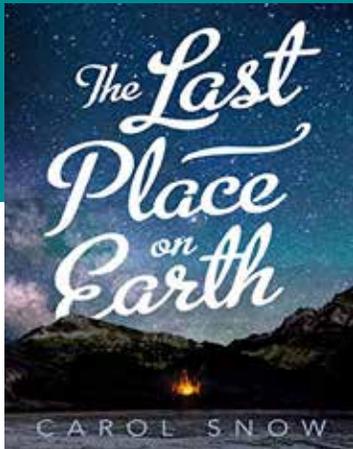
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Heaton, Melissa () "The Last Place on Earth," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 1 , Article 16.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss1/16>

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Book Review

The Last Place on Earth

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Illustrator

Reviewer

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Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

298

Year

2016

Publisher

Henry Holt and Compa-

ISBN

9781338118667

Henry Hawking is missing, and Daisy Cruz seems to be the only one who is concerned. Daisy breaks into the Hawking's house where she discovers a cryptic note left by Henry. This leads Daisy on a desperate search to find her best friend. Another strange text from Henry leads Daisy to the mountains of Southern California where Henry's family and other doomsday preppers have gone into hiding, terrified of the recent outbreak of the Madagascar Plague. After enduring a week of quarantine and not being allowed to go back to her family, Daisy is forced to call the strange community of the compound her home until a cure is found for the pandemic or society crumbles to extinction. Luckily, a cure is found, and Daisy is reunited with her family.

The Last Place on Earth is another doomsday story that follows the popular dystopian and apocalyptic novel trend but with more of a realistic twist. The plot moves quickly, jumping from normal to serious to the end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it in just a few chapters, leaving a lot of unanswered questions. Once characters are reunited and removed from the chaos of the pandemic, the plot slows way down. Learning about the humdrum life of the compound is less exciting than being in the thick of a serious outbreak. The lull in the plot makes it a challenge to continue reading. Eventually, the plot is revived after an arsonist sets fire to the compound and forces the characters back into society. The idea of an outbreak in a suburban American community is intriguing and scary, but the plot leads to too many dead ends with no suitable resolution.

*Contains mild language and mild violence.