



# The End of the Wild

Emma Patton

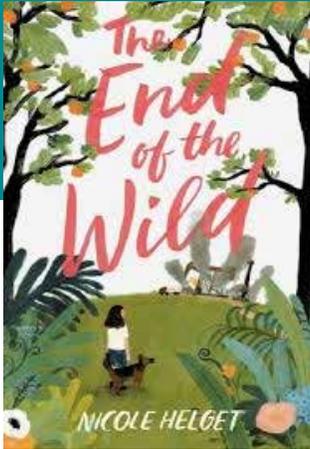
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### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Patton, Emma () "The End of the Wild," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 1 , Article 73.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss1/73>

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## Book Review

### The End of the Wild

#### Author

Nicole Helget

#### Illustrator

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#### Reviewer

Emma Patton

#### Rating

Excellent

#### Level

Intermediate

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#### Pages

266

#### Year

2017

#### Publisher

Little, Brown and Com-

#### ISBN

9780385744478

Fern is only in sixth grade, but she already grows gray hair. That makes sense, in a way, because she has a lot to worry about. Her mother and baby brother died in a car accident two years ago, so Fern takes care of her two little brothers and stepfather. Armed with her mother's cookbook and all the ingredients she can find in the forest near her house, she works to put food on the table, keep her brothers out of trouble, and impress her teachers. It's tricky to balance it all, but Fern's wealthy, bossy grandfather wants Fern and her brothers to come live with him, and Fern knows that if she can keep everything under control, her grandpa won't be able to break the family apart. But when unfamiliar trucks rumble into the forest, Fern realizes that the forest that she forages to feed her family, where she can always feel her mother's presence, might be in danger. And if she loses the forest, maybe everything else will fall apart too.

The End of the Wild is a story about a girl who navigates adult spaces while longing for the whimsy of childhood. Though some of Fern's experiences may be tough topics for younger readers, the book focuses more on Fern's internal struggles than on the external issues themselves. Fern experiences an impending custody battle, the loss of a parent, the strain of severe poverty, and the politics surrounding big oil companies. But her story is more about the internal impact of conflicts like these. Fern must forgive those who have wronged her, find ways to keep her mother's memory alive for her family and herself, and learn how to love and take care of herself. This is an accessible, well-written story for middle readers. Though some of the conflicts in the book are wrapped up far too neatly to be realistic, the story ends with an acknowledgment that Fern's struggle is still valid, even if some things do work out. This understanding, along with the book's underlying hopefulness, makes it a thought-provoking but also enjoyable read.