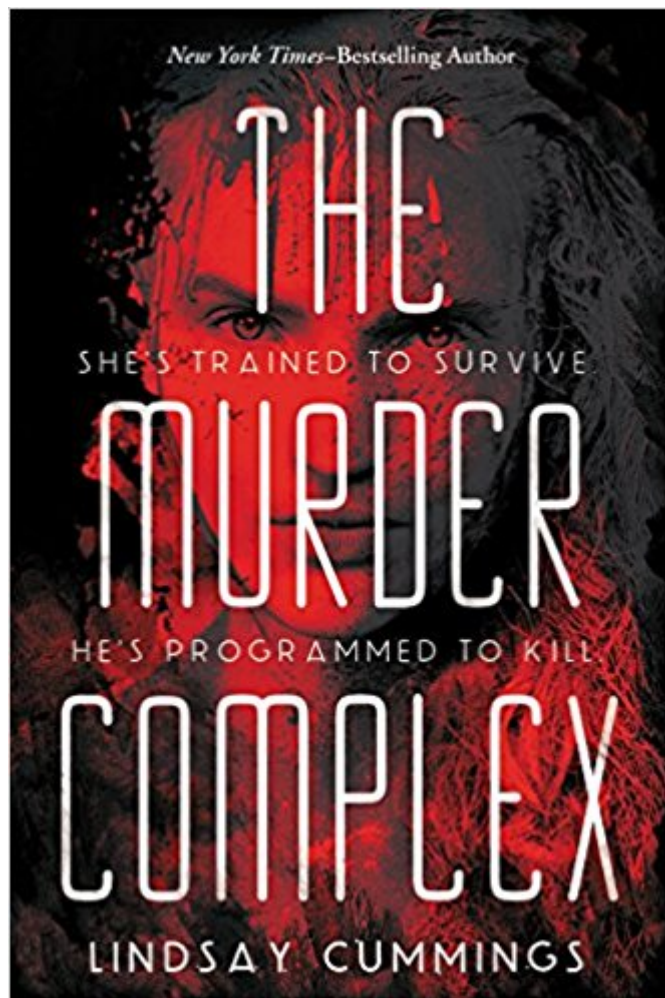




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The Murder Complex



Synopsis

An action-packed, blood-soaked, futuristic debut thriller—set in a world where the murder rate is higher than the birthrate—by Lindsay Cummings, co-author (with Sasha Alsberg) of the New York Times #1 Bestseller Zenith. "Legend meets La Femme Nikita in this dark and dangerous bloody thriller. The nonstop action of The Murder Complex kept us guessing at every twist and turn. It's a must for fans of action-packed dystopians like The Hunger Games and Divergent."—Justine Magazine Meadow Woodson, a fifteen-year-old girl who has been trained by her father to fight, to kill, and to survive in any situation, lives with her family on a houseboat in Florida. The state is controlled by The Murder Complex, an organization that tracks the population with precision. The plot starts to thicken when Meadow meets Zephyr James, who is—although he doesn't know it—one of the MC's programmed assassins. Is their meeting a coincidence? Destiny? Or part of a terrifying strategy? And will Zephyr keep Meadow from discovering the haunting truth about her family? Action-packed, blood-soaked, and chilling, this is a dark and compelling debut novel by Lindsay Cummings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—A cure for human disease has been found, and overpopulation sets in, causing the society in this bleak dystopian novel to create an official murder compound. Cummings builds an intense, distinct world full of rogue pirates and government commandments. Meadow's main

concern is taking care of her family, and her father has trained her to survive in any situation, making her a tough fighter. Zephyr is an unhappy ward assigned to carry out the Initiative's violent commands. After a chance encounter brings the two together, they form an immediate bond, though the reasons for their desire are not set up beforehand, which leads to a forced romance. The point of view alternates between the teens, but it is difficult to distinguish between their narrative voices. This dismal look at the darker side of humanity raises interesting questions of wealth, power, and privacy, yet none of them is fully explored. An additional purchase for those still looking to bolster their dystopian collections. --Carrie Shaurette, Dwight-Englewood School, Englewood, NJ --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In the Shallows, once known as the Everglades, hard-to-earn Creds are traded like old-fashioned money, kindness is punishable, and the mantra is kill or be killed. Everything is controlled by the omnipotent Initiative, and life matters little since overpopulation was facilitated by the Cure. Meadow, on the verge of 16, murders to secure a job in the rations department, while Zephyr, a 17-year-old ward, spends his mornings cleaning the streets of the dead. Through a chance meeting, they find they are made for each other despite the fact that he is programmed to kill, and she is trained to survive. Nevertheless, they join forces to find out who Meadow's mother was and who Zephyr really is. Chapters alternate between the duo's points of view, dovetailing into an explosive, mind-bending quest to stop the oppression. This debut is a carefully crafted, chilling look at how unbridled control over citizens' lives leads to fear, anger, and blind trust, while raising many important questions about playing God and its long-term consequences. Grades 9-12. --Jeanne Fredriksen --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ridiculous insta-love, unbelievable science, and a poorly imagined premise- mix them together, and you get The Murder Complex. Clearly, the author has never taken a science course and believes fiction shouldn't have a scrap of it to make it credible. We readers can tell because she glosses over her explanations, hopeful no one will notice. To hide it further-Dr. Lark-the brilliant mad scientist-tosses out to her daughter Meadow-"you're not smart enough to understand it." The premise of a society that has children robot killing machines because no one can die is laughable. It made no sense and was a poor attempt at originality. The insta-love was also concerning-Meadow and Zephyr- their relationship's start-she has waist length blond hair and he has dark green eyes. As Isaac Asimov, the greatest science fiction writer said, "Anyone who writes about science must know about science, which cuts down competition considerably."

This is a long overdue review. I was given an ARC of this book last 2014 but because I went into a long reading slump and blogging hiatus, I haven't had the chance to read it. But it's better late than never, right? ;) This book is set in a Dystopian world where the death rate is higher than the birth rate. It's also told in dual POVs of Meadow and Zephyr. Meadow, one of the main characters of this book, is a total badass female character. I liked how she doesn't second-guess herself and that she's not whiny (which was so refreshing for me because most Dystopian novels that I've read always have whiny main characters). And we also have Zephyr, the other main character of this book. Well, I have an on-off relationship with him. Sometimes I liked his character, but sometimes I do not. He's quite the opposite of Meadow. If Meadow is all rough and headstrong, Zephyr is kind and mellow. But I find his character more intriguing and interesting than Meadow's because his character is very mysterious. In the book, Zephyr would have this occasional blackout. He would suddenly find himself with blood on his hands and a dead body beside him and he would have no idea how he got there or why he's there. And that's one of the mysteries in this book. I also liked how fast-paced this book was. Lindsay did a great job in explaining the world in this book. It's very natural and it doesn't drag the story. It's easy to digest the world-building of this book. One of the things that I always look for in a Dystopian novel is that I shouldn't have a hard time understanding it. It should be easy to dive into its world. Because when I read books, I always imagine myself in that world. It helps me understand and appreciate more the characters in the book. So I always look for that characteristic in a book especially in Dystopian novels because I love Dystopian novels. And I could say that The Murder Complex has that. I gave this book a 4 stars rating because I did have a problem with it. And the reason why I only gave it 4 stars was because of the insta-love. Don't get me wrong, I'm okay with insta-love (I guess? Haha) but it depends on its execution. I liked their characters individually, but I hate it when they're together. They would turn into these bumbling idiots whenever they're together. Honestly, I would prefer if the author didn't add a romance in this book. It can survive without it. Overall, I enjoyed reading this book. The Murder Complex is a gritty and gory novel that will make you cringe (and enjoy in my case) at its gruesome scenes. If you're looking for an action-packed and full of badassery book, then this is the perfect one for you.

This book's writing is rudimentary at best; draft-like at worst. Choppy sentences are employed to tell a story that isn't compelling; sentence structure varies only slightly; & for all the talk of this book being fast-paced, I found it to be tedious & a sawdust dry kind of book. I can't truly say, because I DNF'd this book at 13% (Page 54). This book doesn't follow the classic plot structure; in fact, I'd venture to say this book has no plot at all, though it tries to be plot-driven. Let me break this book down further. This book's writing allows little room for character depth; we're told everything that happens, but we're never shown. We don't see that the Initiative is evil; we simply are told it is.

The Murder Complex by Lindsay Cummings Book Review: Murder is the new normal in this visceral YA novel! What would our world look like if murder became a way of life? How would two people who were born and raised in that bloody world survive? That's the question answered in the first novel of New York Times bestselling author Lindsay Cummings series, The Murder Complex. First, the plot: A cure for human disease has been found, and overpopulation sets in, causing the society in this bleak dystopian novel to create an official murder compound. Cummings builds an intense, distinct world full of rogue pirates and government commandments. Meadow's main concern is taking care of her family, and her father has trained her to survive in any situation, making her a tough fighter. Zephyr is an unhappy ward assigned to carry out the Initiative's violent commands. After a chance encounter brings the two together, they form an immediate bond, though the reasons for their desire are not set up beforehand, which leads to a forced romance. The point of view alternates between the teens, but it is difficult to distinguish between their narrative voices. This dismal look at the darker side of humanity raises interesting questions of wealth, power, and privacy, yet none of them is fully explored. This was a fantastic and heart-pounding read. The brutal reality of a world where the law of the land is murder, readers are able to get a great look at two very different perspectives. One is ruled by hopelessness and humor, the other by ruthless survival and family. The way these characters are introduced and the plot which brings them together is an incredible journey that is not to be missed, so be sure to pick up your copies of author Lindsay Cummings book, The Murder Complex, today!

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