



Heroine

Mindy McGinnis

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Heroine Mindy McGinnis

Three screws in her hip.

Two months until spring training.

One answer to all her problems.

Mickey Catalan is no stranger to the opioid epidemic in her small town. There are obituaries of classmates who “died suddenly” and stories of overdoses in gas station bathrooms—but none of that is her. No, Mickey is a star softball catcher—one part of a dynamic duo with her best friend and pitcher Carolina—about to start her senior season with hopes of college recruitment. Until a car accident shatters that plan, along with her hip and Carolina’s arm.

Now Mickey is hurting. She can barely walk, much less crouch behind the plate. Yet a little white pill can make it better. After all, it is doctor prescribed. But when the prescription runs out, Mickey turns to an elderly woman who pushes hot meatloaf and a baggie full of oxy across the kitchen counter. It’s there Mickey makes new friends—other athletes in pain, others with just time to kill—and finds peaceful acceptance, a place where she can find words more easily than she ever has before. But as the pressure to be Mickey Catalan heightens, her desire for pills becomes less about pain and more about want, something that could send her spiraling out of control.

Heroine Details

Date : Expected publication: March 12th 2019 by Katherine Tegen Books

ISBN :

Author : Mindy McGinnis

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Genre : Contemporary, Young Adult, Realistic Fiction

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From Reader Review Heroine for online ebook

Trina (Between Chapters) says

This was uncomfortable to read and I hated what was happening at times, but I have been discussing this book with people I know who with addiction recovery, which has really helped me process my feelings and form a deep respect for this book. It portrays addiction and withdrawal brutally, but without reducing the character to a stereotype. I believe the intent is to humanize people with substance use disorders to people unfamiliar with addiction.

Aside from how it handles the topic, I also really enjoyed the flow of the writing. I've read all of Mindy's books and while this isn't my favorite story, this has my favorite writing of her 3 contemporaries so far. It's easy to read and Mickey is a well developed character and you can really empathize with her hopes and worries.

tw: The book starts with this warning: *"This book contains realistic depictions of opioid use. Recovered and recovering addicts should proceed with caution."* PLEASE heed this warning. There is detailed use of pills, snorting, and needles. The drugs shown are Oxy and heroin. There is a car accident, injury, and brief hospitalization. There is also quite a bit of page time given to discussing poop, which felt appropriate due to the portrayal of withdrawal, but I know that's a squeamish thing for some.

An ARC was provided to me by the publisher. My opinions are my own.

Luke Reynolds says

Before Reading:

This book is gonna mess me up. I'm living for it. I need it.

Jessi ? says

well damn

Ashley says

"Sometimes it's hard to decide what's the worst thing I ever did."

This was a hard book to read. Mickey feels like any sports-obsessed high school girl, like she could be real and out there. And to a degree, she is. Addiction is an epidemic in America, and it's destroying people's lives every day. Books like Heroine give a face to a disease that is easy to dehumanize. You don't think it could ever be someone you know, or a relative, or even yourself. Mickey thought the same. Seeing her rationalize her growing addiction, making excuse after excuse... it hits home how someone can become so caught up in drugs that they change their whole life and personality just to chase that high. Plus this book is set in my

home state of Ohio, where heroine use kills people every single day. And this narrative makes it clear that it can happen (or be currently happening) to anyone - no one is safe when they can get drugs like these from their doctor's office. One character points out the fact that oxycodone has the same molecular structure as heroine. That a life-ending addiction can be started at the prescription counter is a terrifying and sobering thought.

Heroine is a book about how addiction isn't just relegated to people that the populace consider 'druggies' - it's happening in our parks and public spaces, to people who seem 'normal', and we all need to be aware. 4.25/5, well written and definitely worth your time.

Jennifer says

4.5/5 stars

Heroine is a Young Adult contemporary novel that I would classify as realistic fiction.

The narrator is Mickey Catalan (1st person POV). She is a high school senior and a star softball player (she is the team's catcher).

This book was so good. I read it in one day. It is not a particularly happy read. This book deals with a very serious and important subject. But it is a book that everyone should read.

The book starts with a prologue set a few months before chapter one. The prologue was haunting and sets the stage for the rest of the story.

Chapter one begins with Mickey getting into a car accident. She is prescribed pills. This is the beginning of the journey the author takes us on.

I liked the format of the story. The chapters were super short. But often a lot happened in each one.

This is a harrowing and powerful look at a very difficult subject. This is such an important book. It made me feel a lot of compassion for people who are in excruciating pain. They are being prescribed addictive pills. And it is easy to see how things could go wrong.

I have read a bunch of books by this author. She writes different and meaningful books. But they often have crazy endings. This one was different and meaningful. But it was much easier to relate to. This book was riveting. This story felt so real. While reading Heroine I could definitely see how it would be so easy for this story to happen.

This book is haunting, disturbing and upsetting. But it is a must read Young Adult book.

Thanks to edelweiss and Katherine Tegen Books for allowing me to read this book.

Dylan says

DNF at 150/286.

I don't typically rate my DNFs, but dear god was this terrible.

Every other page, the main character brings up the fact that she's adopted when it has NOTHING !! to do with the story, the writing is incredibly clunky and needs to be edited down more, the dialogue is terrible, and I started to skim read because nothing at all interesting was happening.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

hey Mindy thanks for saving my life

Sana says

UGH, EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS COVER IS JUST :HEART EYES:

Also, no idea how she does it but I love the subjects she tackles in her books from a cli-fi about water scarcity to a historical YA about lobotomies to rape culture and now drug addiction. In other words, I stan one (1) Mindy McGinnis

Kai says

~~I'm so ready for this~~ I'm not ready for this

Ellen Gail says

Right now it's 3.5 stars, but I'm rounding up.

I have a LOT of thoughts on this one, only one of which I will say currently: Mickey's mother is one of my all time favorite fictional moms. I LOVE HER.

Full review with loads of thoughts coming in 2019!

Thanks to Edelweiss and Katherine Tegen Books for the drc!

Sarah {Literary Meanderings} says

♥ Find my reviews here: [Literary Meanderings](#)

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When I wake up, all my friends are dead.

Mindy McGinnis is an auto-buy author for me, and this book is a prime example of why. She knows how to grip me from page one and keep me hooked 'til the very last page.

Heroine blew me away. The book opens up with a glimpse into the future of the story, but chapter one starts out with a terrible car accident. Mickey and her best friend (and softball teammate) are severely injured—Mickey, our MC, gets the worst of it. She ends up with three screws in her broken hip and laid up in bed two months before spring training. Mickey is frustrated and feels as if her best friend, Carolina, blames her for the wreck. Mickey struggles with her relationships at home as well, and she feels as if she has no control over her own life. Mickey quickly turns to the one thing that makes her feel better; makes her feel as if she can make it to spring training, and numbs the physical pain as well as the emotional—**Oxy**.

I'm a map of pain, needle pricks you could connect all over my skin...

I'm not taking Oxy because it makes me feel good.

I'm taking it for other people.

Mickey quickly realizes her prescription is not enough and seeks out other—illegal—sources. She slowly, but steadily, tumbles down the rabbit hole of addiction. She finds new people to hang around with, and although she feels as if they are her friends, like they understand her, they only seem to be around when there are drugs involved. In no time at all, Mickey moves from Oxy to **heroine**.

This story is just amazing. I haven't read a teen addiction story that really gripped me like this one did. Mindy McGinnis is a fucking genius. I bow down to her storytelling. It's a slow-burn, but it holds onto you like nothing else. I LOVE HER BOOKS. This book was no exception. Watching Mickey fall down further and further as she tried to get up was an emotional experience for me, and this is because it's something people go through every single day; it's a *real* thing. Addiction is a disease and it doesn't discriminate. I think Mindy did a wonderful job of presenting a true look into what addiction can be like; it isn't a *decision* someone makes. I love love love the insight in this book, and in Mickey's journey.

I also appreciated that the end wasn't really a happily-ever-after. I won't give away the details, but it is, again, a true portrayal of addiction. You don't go to a rehab center and get “cured”. It is a lifelong struggle/decision to never go back to your vice, and that is reflected in *Heroine*. Amazing storytelling!

Overall, this book was perfection. Mindy McGinnis really *has* done it again, but I'm honestly not surprised. She does contemporary so very well. This book has highs and lows, and it has feeling and intensity. It is an honest look into what addiction can look like from many angles, and how it can happen to almost anyone, even if you've never even thought to expect it. I loved the characters and found them to be multidimensional. The story kept me on my toes and wanting more. There is some sensitive content, obviously, but this is still an important book. I recommend it for all!

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Book source: Via publisher for review

Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books

- For more of my reviews, check out my blog!

Kristi Housman Confessions of a YA Reader says

4 1/2 stars RTC

Thank you to the publisher and Edelweiss for my review copy.

Emily May says

ARC provided in exchange for honest review

Yellagirlgc says

From the cover to the writing I really liked this book. Mickey Catalan and her best friend are in a car accident where they're both seriously injured. Mickey doesn't expect her bleak prognosis and is determined to be back on her feet for softball conditioning. She just needed help from her new friend Oxy. Mindy McGinnis shows that good people can do bad things. After abusing all of her own medication new friends enter her life and some of her priorities change. I didn't want the book to end! There are few families not touched by some type of addiction these days. McGinnis tells the story from the addicts POV.

Thanks to Mindy McGinnis, the publisher and Edelweiss for my arc to review.

Madalyn (Novel Ink) says

Review TK!
