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# More Than This



## Synopsis

"Books are often described as "mind-blowing," but this is one of the few books in which, while reading it, I have exclaimed aloud, "Oh. My. God." on multiple occasions. I won't tell you anything else about it. Just read it." • John Green

Seth drowns, desperate and alone. But then he wakes. Naked, thirsty, starving. But alive. And where is he? The street seems familiar, but everything is abandoned, overgrown, covered in dust. He remembers dying, his skull bashed against the rocks. Has he woken up in his own personal hell? Is there more to this life, or perhaps this afterlife? From the acclaimed author of the Chaos Walking trilogy and *A Monster Calls* comes one of the most provocative teen novels of our time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up *This haunting and consistently surprising novel raises deep questions about what it means to be alive, but it doesn't try to console readers with easy or pat answers. As the story opens, teenage Seth is experiencing his own death in painful detail. In the next chapter, he wakes up physically weak, covered in bandages and strange wounds, and wonders if he is in Hell or the future or somewhere else entirely. As he tries to survive in and make sense of his strange yet familiar surroundings, he is plagued by intense flashbacks of his life before he died: his guilt over the tragedy that befell his little brother, his burgeoning romance with another boy in his small town, and the events that led to his (dubious) death. Upon discovering two other young people in the blighted place he's landed, Seth begins to learn the Matrix-like truth about what has happened to*

the rest of humanity, how he can escape, and whether he even wants to. The intense themes in this novel make it more appropriate for older teens, but the language and sexual scenarios are clear, relevant, and neither graphic or gratuitous. A delicate balance between dystopian survival and philosophical grappling means that many different kinds of readers should appreciate the story. *He Dies* by *Kyle Lukoff*, Corlears School, New York City © Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“He dies.” So ends the first chapter of Ness’s latest meld of genre fiction and soul-searching prose, wherein 16-year-old Seth violently drowns in the ocean. There is, of course, a catch: Seth wakes up in his former England home, suffering near-total amnesia and covered in metallic bandages. The neighborhood appears long deserted, and so Seth begins to scrounge empty stores for food and clothing. It’s as when he sleeps, however, that pieces of his past come rushing back: his culpability in the kidnapping of his little brother eight years earlier, his bespoiled sexual relationship with a boy from school, and even hints at how on earth he ended up here. Edging any further into plot is a minefield of spoilers, as the book’s chief propulsion tactic is the turning of unexpected corners. Ness’s knack for cliff-hangers, honed in the *Chaos Walking* series, remains strong, while the spare, gradual, anytime, anyplace quality of the story recalls *A Monster Calls* (2011). Repeated, similar battles with an antagonist feel like a distraction; nevertheless, Ness has crafted something stark and uncompromising. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Ness is in the midst of a major critical and commercial hot streak. An author tour and more will seek to extend it. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

More Than This is more than you would think. Sorry, I just had to say that. But seriously though, picking this book up a few months ago, I would’ve never expected it to end how it did. When you read the summary, you know straight off the bat? back? that Seth dies. And he literally dies in the first chapter. And not only is it a very vivid and detailed death, the why he dies is like my biggest fear so there was that. But Seth wakes up in this death-like-limbo-hell. You’re just as confused as he is. You have every question he has. The book even ends with many questions not asked and I think that’s the point of it. It kind of makes you reassess your life. The ambiguity is what this book required. You can’t have an answer or *closing all ties* ending. It

wouldn't do it justice. Throughout the book, Seth encounters two other people. The setting is in England, and one of them has broken English, and you can tell that he does because of the way that Ness wrote his dialogue. He didn't overdo it though. It was a nice, even amount of broken English. Each character had a voice of their own. I knew who was speaking without the tag behind it. The book is just brilliant. It deserves more awards. Patrick Ness continues to amaze me with all his works. I haven't disliked a single one yet and I don't think I will. I mention this book all the time because I want everyone to suffer the beauty that is A Monster Calls. Please, do yourself a favor and read this book. Read all his books. Especially A Monster Calls. 5/5

This book was very intriguing. The way the book starts leads into a very engaging story. Also having a gay character is nice, as a queer person, I thought the character was very well written.

I love Patrick Ness, so it's a given that anything he writes, I'll most likely love it. He completely blew me away with the Chaos Walking Trilogy, and he did not disappoint with More Than This. The premise of this novel is a bit strange, but isn't life a bit strange? You might not know what to expect, but all you can do is go in fighting. Read this novel, and you'll understand where I'm coming from. Patrick Ness, as always, writes flawlessly. I'd definitely recommend this book (and all the others he's written).

This book ends in the worst way- right in the middle of the story. It goes beyond cliffhanger, it just stops. Beyond that, the start is very rough. The writing is abrupt and disjointed and this goes on for entirely too long. In between, it's a pretty good story. Good story telling. Good characters. It starts to get a bit repetitious though. And just when it actually starts to evolve, it just ends. I don't like it.

I am perplexed by this book but found that you just have to go with it. Interesting characters. Twisting plot. Plenty of action. Important questions. And it's better if you just roll with it and don't try to make logical sense of it. I continue to be a fan of Ness and the risks he takes. Dr. Tracy Brower, author of Bring Work to Life by Bringing Life to Work

ok

Wow! This book was a thriller, very suspenseful, and at times, agonizing to me as I worried

endlessly about Seth, Tomasz and Regine. I couldn't put this book down and I was compelled to read it (this book kind of reminded me of the angst I felt with Grant's Gone Series and Dashner's Maze Runner) so you know what I am talking about right? The book begins with a very vivid description of Seth's death and proceeds to him waking up with no injuries...and alive. Where is he? In Hell, an afterlife of some sort? The reader is compelled to follow Seth as he tries to figure out where he is and what is going on. I also listed this book as horror because Seth finds himself in some burned out world that looks like the neighborhood where he grew up with layers of dust, no food, no people and closed up houses and businesses. When he meets Regine and Tomasz and also "The Driver" that is where the horror really settles in and what wild ride!!!Ness' characters, his descriptions of the worlds Seth explores and his hope/hopeless worlds are food for thought, a great read!

I love this book so much, it really makes you think about what comes after death and what life really is.

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