

## **DRYLANDS: THE CLIMATE CRISIS OF NEAL SHUSTERMAN AND JARRODS.**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Most works of climate fiction (Cli-fi) have some kind of catastrophe, thriller, or apocalyptic setting while simultaneously tackling scientific or environmental concerns. The projection of the climatic transition in the biosphere and the promotion of awareness to the wider population via climate fiction is also a new development in the recording of literary materials brought on by the current climate change issue. This current research examines Neal Shusterman and his son Jarrod Shusterman's book *Dry*, which is set in the climate fiction genre. The environmental catastrophe that brought to California's terrible drought is front and center. This story for young adults is considered a compelling dystopian work because of the way it portrays the future world's water shortage. However, the heroine Alyssa Morrow and her friends take on the dreadful condition of people suffering from dehydration and how they manage to turn the situation around as it worsens in their nation. It shows a group of young people (the "Tap-Out") addressing the issue of a water shortage. The viewpoint of climate change and the significance of resource conservation are addressed in this book.

**Keywords:** Loss of Humanity, Desertification, Drought, Water Scarcity, and Climate Change.

People have high hopes for the safety of future generations despite concerns about the effects of global warming. The existential problem of a warming planet is already being revealed by climate change. As a result of climate change, natural resources have been depleted, air quality has deteriorated, and fresh water supplies have been threatened. The environment is undergoing rapid transformations that will eventually result in a catastrophic explosion on a massive scale. The term "Eco-disaster fiction" might also be used to this book. The book takes place in and around California, in the United States. The whole story takes place over the course of six days. The southern region of

California has been hit by a severe drought, and the state government has declared a state of emergency. Due to the terrible drought and high degree of water shortage in the metropolitan metropolis, the state's taps will not pour water for an indeterminate amount of time. Many residents have taken to using the term "Tap-Out" to describe the current water crisis, which refers to the full and total loss of access to municipally supplied drinking water. The story delves on the question of what would happen if humans suddenly stopped having access to water. The tale starts with Alyssa's mother unsuccessfully trying to fill the family kitchen sink with water from a dry tap. Her dad just puts off

fixing the faucet. What starts as a local problem in your home rapidly becomes a crisis for the whole state. This topic exemplifies the widespread lack of planning and naive confidence that characterizes human response to catastrophe, since the whole town is unprepared for the Tap-Out.

Alyssa Morrow, the protagonist, is a 16-year-old girl who lives with her family, who are more kind and tenacious than other people. She watched every television report on the unfolding situation with extreme care. She explains that a water issue cannot be seen on a radar screen. There are no waves or debris fields caused by the Tap-Out. Since there is nothing interesting to report, it is being ignored by the media.

23). Alyssa, her 10-year-old brother Garrett, and their uncle Basil go to the local Costco to stock up on bottled water after hearing the news on television. When they learn that the department store is running low on water, they begin to grasp the scope of the catastrophe. Alyssa has the spur-of-the-moment idea to load up their shopping cart with bagged ices, which, when melted, would provide them with potable water. Kelton McCracken, a neighbor and classmate of Alyssa's, helps cover the bags of ice with paste to keep them from melting in the tub. The McCrackens seem to be more cautious and ready for whatever disaster may come next. Kelton seems to be a survivalist adolescent, having been taught rescue techniques by his father. Preparations for the end of the world were already prepared by his family. They beefed up all of the safety measures, made sure there was enough water on hand, and set up a generator in case the main power source failed. This demonstrates the need of ensuring basic necessities are met and taking precautions to mitigate stress during times of crisis.

Every day, the situation becomes more dire, with devastating consequences for all forms of life. The McCrackens' neighbors have been a source of frustration despite the fact that they were prepared for the

worst. The locals gathered outside McCracken's home to beg for a drink from his emergency water supply. Kelton's father Richard, who has barely enough water for his own family during the drought, has no intention of sharing. The head of the homeowners' association personally visits their home and presents them with expensive gifts in return for a portion of their water supply. The significance of the word "water" is shown by this event. It has no equivalent among the available resources. Trying to picture a world without water is futile. In a word, no. It is the most valuable resource on the planet. Richard McCracken, wise to the value of water and the need of a strategic approach to survival, politely declined all offerings made to him. In fact, Richard used analogies, dividing humans into "herders," "sheep," and "others."

„wolves“. He boasted that he was the herder who had successfully kept his herd together.

requirements and in a position to steer those oblivious to impending danger, like sheep, whereas wolves were seen as traitors or as those who preyed on sheep.

Meanwhile, Alyssa's uncle Basil packs up his vehicle and drives away to a new location, citing a desire to avoid using up the family's remaining supplies as his justification. On the third day, Garrett accidentally pours bleach into their ice-filled bathtub. Since he is just a child and does not understand the gravity of the situation, his parents did not punish him. He's under pressure to grow up soon despite his tender age. Garrett runs away from home and takes refuge at one of his friend's abandoned properties because he feels guilty. Kelton accompanies Alyssa on her quest to locate her missing brother and the two end up tracking him down. At the same time, the Morrows are packing to leave their children behind and move to Laguna Beach, where desalination machinery has been erected to convert saltwater into drinkable water. Desalination, the process by which the

salinity (i.e., salt content) in sea water is filtered and cleansed to transform it into drinking water, is a particularly bleak method in which the author conveys the severity of water shortage.

Alyssa, Garrett, and Kelton, three teenagers, band together to assess their chances of survival. Kelton goes out of his way to assist her out, including cleaning their sewage drainage system, since he has a crush on her and wants to make sure she and her family are safe. So, he approaches his father with a plea to share the family home. The boy's request is granted by his kind father. Kelton's willingness to serve others and share his resources despite the dire circumstances he found himself in is evidence of his selflessness. The gang is later joined by Jacqui Costa, a 19-year-old woman who is both the strongest survivor and the most aimless of the bunch. Kelton administers first aid by slathering some antibiotic cream on her cut hand. Jacque agrees to transport the other three to Kelton's house in exchange for refuge.

In contrast, the author paints a vivid picture of the inhumane methods used by individuals to steal water from one another. You feel like you've left your regular self behind and are experiencing something new. Act in a different way. What happens, therefore, when all around you are a sea of water-crazed zombies, each of whom is also parched? You merge into oneness" (128). He even went so far as to dub the assembled masses "Water Zombies." It's a devastating blow to those who neglected to bring their morals along. The intended definition of zombies is common knowledge. These are tales in which the dead are brought back to life and fed upon by the living. In a similar vein, the author referred to persons who gamble for water as "Water Zombies." They seemed to be little more than a dead corpse, drained of all color, roaming thirstily. Their spit has dried and become white at the corners of their lips. The intensity of their expression verges on ferocity. This book imagines possible futures in which modern civilization has

completely disintegrated. This is because of how intrinsically intertwined the notions of humanity, natural law, and civilization are with one another. Most of the people are so desperate to stay alive that they'll risk their lives for something as little as a drink of water; Henry is one of them because he betrays his pals in order to ensure his own life. After claiming to have a large sealed case of Agua Viva bottles, Henry sneaks into Alyssa's squad. In reality, it's just a bunch of Agua Viva pamphlets. To protect himself from the other members of the organization, he decided to join them.

But Charity's camp shows that individuals may work together for the benefit of many. Charity is presented as a nurturing lady who runs a service camp to help the needy during times of need, earning her the nickname "Water Angel." When the teenagers find themselves near Charity's camp, she generously provides for their needs. Charity really refuses to give Jacqui any water since she has "elastic" skin and the other residents of the commune, including a newborn, have more need.

child. The others agree with us that the commune would fail in the long run due to people's inherent selfishness. Charity, on the other hand, is convinced that teamwork is essential for human survival. Teens thirsty for water move about looking for a source. Their way around the dense forest becomes engulfed in flames, leaving them tired on the edge of the cliff with nowhere to go. They had no strength left to fight and had given up hope. Suddenly, they see a miracle unfold as a chopper dumps water on the blaze. It satisfies their thirst and prevents them from becoming dehydrated. Finally, this research has emphasized the value of natural resource conservation.

"water" and the consequences of global warming. It portrayed the intensity with which humans suffer from severe thirst and dehydration. When you're young, you look up to your parents as if they were God. but then there's that second

If you think they're heroes or villains, you'll be disappointed. They embody all the shortcomings and frailties of being human, to the point that it hurts (p. The author defines the truth of humanity as the fact that no superheroes will appear to save the day. As a species, we'd look to conservation of natural resources as a means of addressing these problems. The tale also shows how climate problem might be true in the future.

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