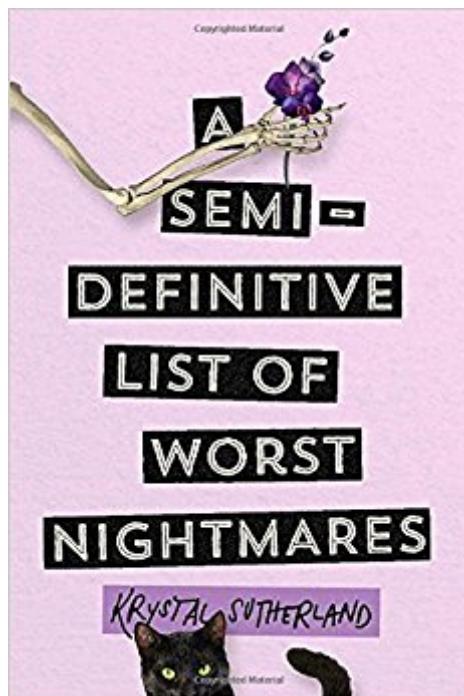


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# A Semi-Definitive List Of Worst Nightmares



## Synopsis

From the author of Our Chemical Hearts comes the hilarious, reality-bending tale of two outsiders facing their greatest fears about life and love—â•one debilitating phobia at a time. Ever since Esther Solarâ•s grandfather was cursed by Death, everyone in her family has been doomed to suffer one great fear in their lifetime. Estherâ•s father is agoraphobic and hasnâ•t left the basement in six years, her twin brother canâ•t be in the dark without a light on, and her mother is terrified of bad luck. The Solars are consumed by their fears and, according to the legend of the curse, destined to die from them. Esther doesnâ•t know what her great fear is yet (nor does she want to), a feat achieved by avoiding pretty much everything. Elevators, small spaces and crowds are all off-limits. So are haircuts, spiders, dolls, mirrors and three dozen other phobias she keeps a record of in her semi-definitive list of worst nightmares. Then Esther is pickpocketed by Jonah Smallwood, an old elementary school classmate. Along with her phone, money and a fruit roll-up sheâ•d been saving, Jonah also steals her list of fears. Despite the theft, Esther and Jonah become friends, and he sets a challenge for them: in an effort to break the curse that has crippled her family, they will meet every Sunday of senior year to work their way through the list, facing one terrifying fear at a time, including one that Esther hadnâ•t counted on: love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for A Semi-Definitive List of Worst Nightmares: A bewitching book . . . Sutherland's fertile imagination makes this book a deep dive into the intricacies of family, friends, and personal

history. . . . A fresh and compelling look at mental illness.â••Kirkus Reviews

â•“[A] darkly ironic tale about an offbeat dysfunctional family.â••Publishers Weeklyâ•“Rainbow Rowell devotees, John Green junkies, and fans of *This Song Will Save Your Life* by Leila Sales will find a lot to love here.â••School Library Journalâ•“[I]mmediately hooks readers . . . Libraries should purchase this for readers looking for something quite out of the ordinary.â••VOYAâ•“Praise forâ•“Our Chemical Hearts: Indies Introduce Summer 2016 PickAutumn 2016 Kids' Indie Next Listâ•“"Inspired Recommendations for Kids from Indie Booksellers"â•“The most romantic read of the seasonâ•“is an arguably anti-YA storyâ•“Itâ•“„cs theâ•“complexâ•“chemistry between Henry and Grace thatâ•“ touches the heart and doesnâ•“„ct let go.â••USA Todayâ•“The author pulls no punchesâ•“|â•“emotionally engaging.â••Kirkus Reviewsâ•“Eloquently conveying the complexity of love and grief, debut novelist Sutherland creates a storyâ•“ filled with intriguing and memorable characters.â••Publishers Weeklyâ•“Thisâ•“much-buzzed-about debutâ•“captures the messy, awkward, all-consuming emotions of a teenâ•“„cs first love.â••Entertainment Weekly, Fall Books Previewâ•“Emotionally complex, funny, filled with well-realized and diverse characters and realistic motivations,â•“ Sutherlandâ•“„cs debut will stick with readers.â••Booklistâ•“Thisâ•“magnificent debutâ•“from 26-year-old Australian author Krystal Sutherland tracks the unlikely romance of Henry Page and Grace Town, two very different teens chosen to edit their high school paper togetherâ•“|You could probably learn a thing or two from [Henryâ•“„cs] and Graceâ•“„csâ•“emotional odyssey.â••Teen Vogue, â•“Octoberâ•“„cs Best New YA Booksâ•“|â•“This book delves far deeper than the typical high school romance, and itsâ•“savvy wordplayâ•“ and Henryâ•“„csâ•“self-deprecating charmâ•“ will win over fans of Stephen Chboskyâ•“„csâ•“The Perks of Being a Wallflowerâ•“ and John Greenâ•“„csâ•“The Fault in Our Stars.â••School Library Journalâ•“Henry is surrounded by well-drawn friends and family, and Grace is a fascinating cipher, in a book thatâ•“„csâ•“ anything but a predictable romance.â••B&N Teen, â•“Most Anticipated October YA Booksâ•“|â•“I'm sorry to have to do this to you, but the love story of Henry and Grace isâ•“ going to kick you in the emotional gut.â••Bustle, â•“Best New YA Novels Coming in Octoberâ•“|â•“Perhaps one of the most entertaining features of the novel is theâ•“irreverent and funny teen banterâ•“ that masks their

deeper feelings. Best of all, though, is the engaging story that unfolds at just the right pace, drawing the reader in as the stakes get higher and decisions must be made. VOYA's first language is clever, angst-driven wit, and this pair is as sharp and quippy as John Green's Hazel and Gus. Fans of romance driven by stylized narration are the audience for this.

Krystal Sutherland was born and raised in Townsville, Australia—an inhospitable land where crocodiles, snakes, and jellyfish are always on the prowl. She grew up living directly across the road from the local library and spent almost every day after school (and weekends, too) having adventures between the pages of books (mainly because it was too dangerous to go outside). She moved to Sydney for college (and safety), where she cut her writing teeth as the editor of the student magazine at the University of New South Wales. She kept gathering tales as an exchange student in Hong Kong and as a foreign correspondent in Amsterdam. Her first book, *Our Chemical Hearts*, was released in 2016, and was published in over twenty countries. Her three greatest fears are heights, dark caves. and (perhaps worst of all) frogs.

I was super torn reading this book. Jonah and Esther's relationship didn't hold my attention. It all seems a bit too stereotypical and immature. But the storyline relating to the Grandfather and Death kept me reading. I am a big true crime fan and the elements of that within were interesting. I also wish there was a bit more within the story about Esther's father but the family were unique and written well. The way the author writes about mental health is spot on. I received a copy of this book from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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