



Given to the Earth

Mindy McGinnis

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Duty, fate, desire, and destiny collide in this intricately wrought tale, perfect for fans of Sarah J. Maas.

Although she was born to save the kingdom by sacrificing herself to the rising sea, Khosa's marriage to King Vincent has redeemed her. As the Queen of Stille, she's untouchable. But being Queen hasn't stopped her heart from longing for the King's stepbrother, Donil. And it hasn't stopped her body from longing for the sea itself, which still calls for her.

While Khosa is made to choose between loyalty and love, Dara is on a mission for vengeance. Years ago, the Pietra slaughtered the entire Indiri race, leaving only Dara and her twin, Donil, alive. Now, spurned by King Vincent, Dara has embarked on a mission to spill the blood of Pietra's leader, Witt, and will stop at nothing to show his people the wrath of the last Indiri.

As the waves crash ever closer to Stille, secrets are revealed, hearts are won and lost, and allegiances change like the shifting sand.

Given to the Earth Details

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Author : Mindy McGinnis

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From Reader Review Given to the Earth for online ebook

Megan says

I hated how this ended. I hated how the stupid romance came together.. if you can even call it that. I finished this early this morning and I have had time to calm down but still hate it. Im just not upset enough to rant out a review.

Danielle says

The slow decay of magic in the book was pivotal in the book, Khosa is still having fits and being called to the sea, the earth is growing quieter and quieter. Khosa finds a possible way to save the people of Stille, but would they agree knowing that what is proposed has never been done before?

This book did not suffer from the “Sophomore Syndrome” when it comes to books in a series, I found this book to be better than the first one to be honest, it may be because the pace was already set by the end of the first book and it was easy to get back into, Khosa was not really the main focus in this one, I saw this as more of Dara’s story and her quest for vengeance on the Pietra and the Lithos.

I wasn’t sure what to make of Khosa in this book, yes she married Vincent to save herself by marrying, but her mental state in the book just bothered me. She did not seem happy with her choice and how she felt that she needed to wear her crown everywhere as a constant reminder of her choice. She couldn’t allow herself to be happy, despite her situation. Khosa spent most of the book back in the library going over the histories of the kingdom, and she finds out quite a few well kept secrets about the people around her, which makes her question her own choices.

It was interesting to see how Witt has changed between the 2 books, he seems to question himself as the Lithos and if he really is meant for the role along with slowly chipping away at that stone facade he was showing his people and internally. Should he remain as the Lithos despite some of his people questioning his choice, should he step aside and let someone who is more vengeful and blood-thirsty lead the Pietra?

Dara the most interesting part of the book, her quest for vengeance was so focused. Her emotions felt so raw at this point, seeing the man she loved but knew she could never be with marry the woman she tried to kill. Her drive to survive, knowing that her and her brother are possibly the last 2 Indri alive and wanting to keep the bloodline alive somehow. Accepting the choice to leave the kingdom and her brother behind even though he was her equal and balanced her earth skills out, pushing herself beyond her normal limits, and finding peace at last in the least likely place she ever expected.

I was not ready for the end of the book, it was not what I expected, but it was well worth having my heart ripped out for. Even for a duology I felt that there was a great story here with multiple points of view that wrapped up in a clean way.

Laney says

Ugh. Why do I have to be a finisher and need closure!? Given to the Sea's ending bothered me some. Given to the Earth bothered me a million times more. First, Khosa didn't have to marry Vincent. He was her friend and they could have gotten past his feelings. Dara was sulking and brought her own fate upon herself. It was too convenient that she fell in love with Witt. Donil and Khosa - so annoying. Adding Ank as a POV was weird and then finding out Madda is his mother AND Vincent's was forced. Ank is old so how did it work out that Verrick is his father when Vincent is only 17-18? Timelines don't fit. Donil abandons his love and lovechild to go save his sister who is killed by the keeper!? Seriously!? And then Donil is killed!? The way the first book ends is all happy and the 2nd just doesn't fit. Too much drama.

Lekeisha The Booknerd says

Well, I wasn't expecting to like this more than its predecessor, but it took away the dislike for that god awful love triangle! I am pleasantly surprised by whom is "given to the earth". It does make sense in the end. And I found myself liking Khosa more in this sequel.

Together, these two books are good fantasy for your fodder. Okay, that sounds totally dirty. LOL! Seriously, if Given To The Earth was just a standalone, I'd have probably given it 5 stars. But, it's a damn solid sequel that I think readers, who didn't like Given To The Sea, should definitely read. I had some reservations myself, but this is Mindy McGinnis here. I'll read any book she writes.

Kaka_shi says

For me? The way i know i loved a series is when i want more.

So even though im unhappy and gosh darn pissed ? about more then a few events in this last book.

Ultimately... i confess im head over feet in love. ?

i think what it really is. Is the writing?

Nothings repetitive. Everythings described in a way where it's detailed without.... details? Hmm? yup that sounds weird. I dont rally know what im trying to say. Except this book got me. The love triangle or quadrangle whatever was shit. And a whole heap other dumbshit happens. But i blasted through this Duet like a cat that saw a cucumber.

Jill Criswell says

In Given to the Sea, readers were introduced to five tragic characters. Vincent, the reluctant heir to the throne of Stille. Khosa, a young woman raised to be sacrificed. Indiri twins Donil and Dara, the last of their race. And Witt, the leader of the Pietra, a young man who must pretend to be heartless to keep his people safe. Given to the Earth follows them to the end of their journeys. As the earth beneath them crumbles, so do their loyalties, their fates becoming entangled in ways that are often unexpected yet feel inevitable. Together, they must search for lands beyond the only one they've ever known before their island sinks into the sea.

McGinnis's characters are complex and fascinating; they feel much more like real people than crafted protagonists: making choices they know will destroy them, following paths that can only end in heartbreak and devastation. The finale is beautifully tragic (in ways that are reminiscent of George R.R. Martin at his best), yet still realistic and satisfying. This story will haunt you long after you finish the final page.

Cassie says

Given to the Earth follows a few months after the captivating ending of Given to the Sea. Also, told in multiple points-of-view like its fantasy duo, this book focuses on how Khosa's thought-to-be tragic sacrifice to the sea has now turned into a chance to live and be queen. But with these new changes in motion, the Earth begins to literally crumble beneath them and the loyalties among the characters are challenged. Love becomes a triangle of complexities—trust and forgiveness are tested. McGinnis writes a beautiful epic story, where lives at social and cultural classes are pushed to survive. She takes each of her flawed characters, and gives them a chance to save themselves, their family and friends, and in some cases, their own people and kingdom.

What I loved about this book the most was the many shocking secrets that are revealed. We delve into an action-packed book that is filled with tragic traditions, political gain, and secretive histories. In Given to the Earth, we are thrown into layers of political intrigue, betrayal, heartbreak, and some tragic endings. And in the end, I loved the last chapter, which brilliantly and beautifully provides a heartfelt conclusion.

Christina says

Wow! Excellent sequel to the amazing Given to the Sea. McGinnis writes books that you have to slow down and savor; these are the most literary fantasy books I've ever read, very different and memorable. The stories of Khosa, the Given who is now The Redeemed, King Vincent, the Lithos Witt, and Dara and Donil the Indiri, continue in this volume to be as intertwined and interdependent on each other as the land and sea of the kingdoms of Stille and Pietra where they live. There are loves found and lost, family secrets revealed, pride at stake, and looming over everything the urgent rush of the sea that may doom them all--oh, and there are giant killer cats, did I mention the giant cats?! So. Cool.

My only quibble is with the changing POV, that two characters' chapters are in first person and the other two are third person and so you're always switching back and forth; that just bugs me for some reason. But it's soooo minor, and I suppose I just don't have sophisticated enough tastes, I do tend to read fast and so it's easier to go through a book that's all written the same way. I can appreciate just how much work it must be to write this way, my goodness.

I read an advance copy of this book.

Nina van der Kooij says

This book had such a sad ending, which I won't talk about too much to avoid spoilers.

What I liked: The great and varying cast of characters, with many people on different sides of a conflict where neither party is right or wrong. There were two characters I absolutely didn't expect to even like each other who got together, and I liked that development. It didn't come out of nothing, in a way they made sense together.

What I didn't like: In the beginning, the chapters varied a bit too much. We have a few pages from Dara, then Witt, Vincent, Khosa, Donil and Ank, and it was constantly switching back and forth between different

storylines, which made it difficult to get into the book. This gets better later in the book, where we have several chapters after each other following the same storylines (perhaps from different characters, which occasionally confused me, but it was better than the beginning).

The world building of this book was another problem. There was a full, rich world inside of Mindy McGinnis' head, but it doesn't always translate well into the books. It was a bit vague, especially in the first book, but here too. I had to figure out so much on my own and I think there should have been a map and a better explanation of the different people and creatures living on the island, because I was confused a lot. Overall, I liked the Given Duet, but I think these two were my least favourites of Mindy McGinnis' books.

Ky says

Tbh I'm only really putting this on my to-read shelf because I want to know how things turn out. Can't leave the story unfinished lol

Jenny Jo Weir says

Ah Mindy. How you screw with my head and heart! Seriously, this woman is a beast at writing. I have nothing but respect for her and her talent (I'm also a little bit scared of her).

Oh Dara and Donil. Sweet Vincent...and Witt. Even Ank and Khosa.

Every time anything Dara came up I would immediately think of that line in Pride and Prejudice: "I never saw such a woman. She would certainly be a fearsome thing to behold." I mean really, when you think of a strong female character, there are none stronger than the ones Mindy creates in her writings and of all her characters I find Dara to be the most fearsome of them all.

Then there's Donil. And Khosa. My heart does indeed go out to them but not as much as my sweet honorable Vincent. He is my Darcy. His strength of character is as admirable as Darcy himself. The selflessness and self-sacrificing nature of the boy who never wanted to be king is most certainly something noteworthy and worth mentioning. My heart went out for him and I honestly had a hard with the things he struggled with.

And Witt! Where to begin? He's hard as granite and infallible and yet we end up seeing his humanness. I loved getting to see his heart open slowly and will forever carry the unraveling of him with me.

Beautiful characters! All of them. I can't say enough about this book. I truly love Mindy's work and will continue to be a loyal devoted fan of hers. High five Mindy! You rock!

Abby Pechin says

Although this book took me a while to get into at first, I was not disappointed! About halfway through I didn't want to put it down! I hope she makes a third book to this series but the ending was sufficient.

Trina (Between Chapters) says

Good and brutal ending. Some things I didn't enjoy in book 1 were either absent or much less in this book. I really like Mindy's worldbuilding, especially the language. The curse words the characters use all reflect their world - it's a world where the ocean is threatening to swallow their land so their curses are like 'filthy fathoms!' or 'tides!' There are other phrases that are unique to this world and such a small detail as the language really made it feel real.

Potential triggers: cheating, mention of abortion, brief mentions of rape.

Kels Fidler says

Title: Given to the Earth

Author: Mindy McGinnis

Age Group: Teen/Young Adult

Genre: Fantasy

Series: Given to the Sea, book two

Star Rating: 5 out of 5 Stars

The author gave me an advance reader copy of this book at a library visit in August—she even signed it for me—thank you so much, Mindy, it means so much to me!

When I heard that Mindy McGinnis, one of my favorite Ohio-based authors, was coming to my local library to discuss the book club book, Not a Drop to Drink, I was so excited. I'd never been to an author meeting before, much less a local one! Plus, she was an author, just like me, and I was looking forward to picking her brain about our shared profession. I'd just finished her new book, Given to the Sea, right before she came to the library and I was excited to discuss it with her. As soon as she came into the room, I spoke to her about Given to the Sea, and how sad I was that I couldn't afford to buy a book for her to sign for me. She thanked me and told me that since I was the first person to ask about her brand new book, she'd give me the sequel and sign it for me! It's been sitting on my shelf since the summer, and since it was almost time for the advance reviews to come out, I figured I'd push it to the top of my stack and read it! Given to the Earth was a meaty, exciting sequel, full of political intrigue, secret, shifting alliances, heart-melting romance, and twists and turns that had me gasping, cheering, and screaming! I feel so very lucky to have had the chance to read it early, and I can't wait until the rest of the world gets their hands on it!

Given to the Earth picks up where Given to the Sea left off, a few months after the first book ended. I don't want to give any spoilers, as the book comes out in April, so I'm going to say as little about the plot and its happenings as possible. I can't give away all the crazy surprises that Mindy put in here! But I will say that as far as sequels go, this one was incredibly satisfying. All the loose ends were tied up neatly, and the book had me endlessly turning pages, desperate to know what was going to happen. The pacing was breakneck, though it took me a little bit to remember everything that had happened in the first book. I was immediately drawn into Mindy's beautifully wrought, dangerous world, rife with political intrigue, betrayal, secrets and lies, heart-pounding action, and bittersweet romance. I adored every painful moment of it, even though there were several times that I had to walk away to spare my feelings and recuperate. All I can say is that this sequel satisfied me totally, and I loved it; I simply can't wait to hear what others think about Given to the Earth! The bottom line: A treasured gift from one of my favorite Ohio authors, I loved Given to the Earth, and it's left an indelible tattoo upon my heart that will never go away! Next on deck: Thunderhead by Neal Shusterman!

literatureobsessed.blogspot.com

Beccy says

True rating; an incalculable amount of negative stars, whose collapse would cause enough supermassive black holes that the universe would cease to exist

At some points this book is actually offensive - there are a colony of rejects who are completely stigmatized and ostracized, but surprising are more accepted than the indigenous population. Go figure.

At other points it is ridiculously stupid - I could not tell you why some character perspectives are in third person perspective and other are in first person, or begin to speculate if it's meant to serve a purpose to make us like the first person characters more (if so it doesn't work).

The rest of the book is inexcusably dull and I'm surprised I survived it to be honest.
