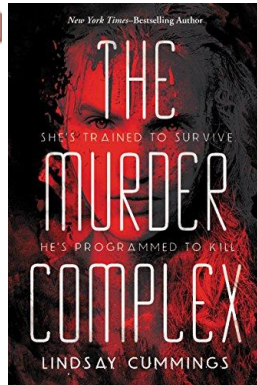


Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - Science Fiction



The Murder Complex.

Cummings, Lindsay (author).

June 2014. 400p. Greenwillow, hardcover, \$17.99 ([9780062220004](#)).

Grades 9-12.

[REVIEW](#). First published

May 15, 2014 (*Booklist*).

In the Shallows, once known as the Everglades, hard-to-earn Creds are traded like old-fashioned money,

kindness is punishable, and the mantra is “kill or be killed.” Everything is controlled by the omnipotent Initiative, and life matters little since overpopulation was facilitated by the Cure. Meadow, on the verge of 16, murders to secure a job in the rations department, while Zephyr, a 17-year-old ward, spends his mornings cleaning the streets of the dead.

Through a chance meeting, they find they are made for each other despite the fact that he is programmed to kill, and she is trained to survive. Nevertheless, they join forces to find out who Meadow’s mother was and who Zephyr really is. Chapters alternate between the duo’s points of view, dovetailing into an explosive, mind-bending quest to stop the oppression. This debut is a carefully crafted, chilling look at how unbridled control over citizens’ lives leads to fear, anger, and blind trust, while raising many important questions about playing God and its long-term consequences.

— *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *The Murder Complex*

- *The Hunger Games*
- *Passenger*