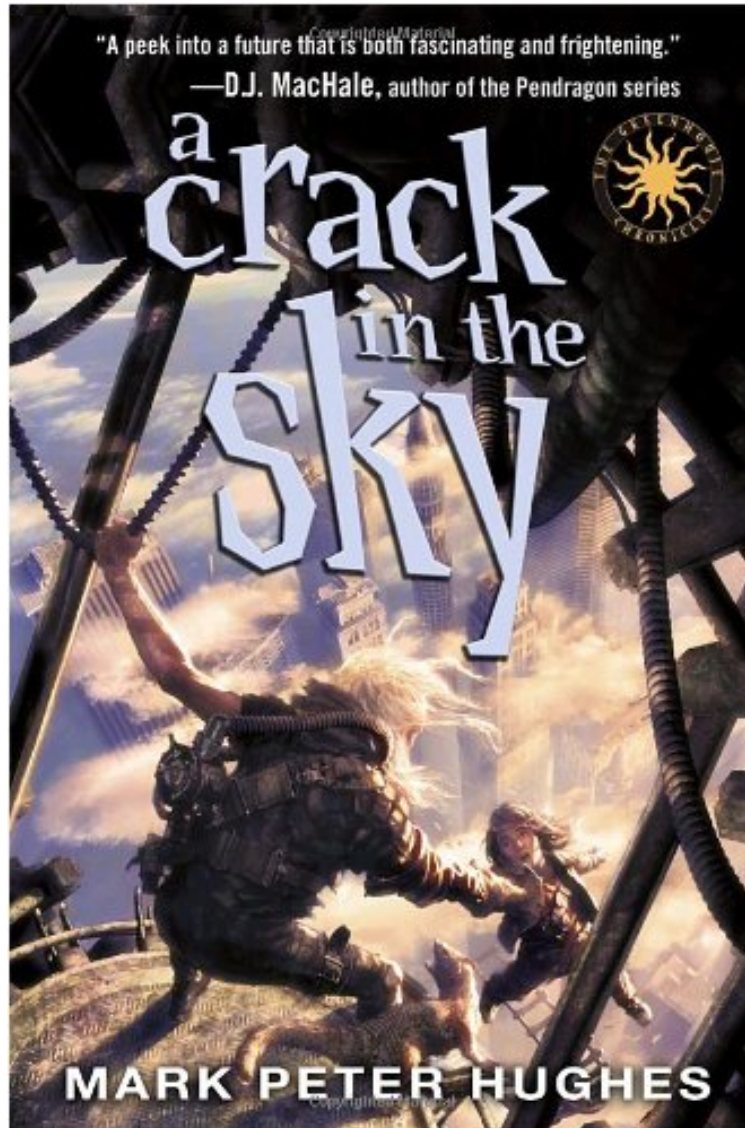


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A Crack in the Sky (Greenhouse Chronicles)

Mark Peter Hughes

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#3406083 in Books 2010-08-24 2010-08-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.51 x 1.42 x 6.071, 1.14
#File Name: 0385737084416 pages | File size: 52.Mb

Mark Peter Hughes : A Crack in the Sky (Greenhouse Chronicles) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Crack in the Sky (Greenhouse Chronicles):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It Can't End Here!By OpheliasOwnThe Greenhouse Chronicles: A Crack in the Sky by Mark Peter Hughes is the first book in a planned series about global warming, climate change, and how the population deals with the crisis. With so many post-apocalyptic, young adult books out there these days, it seems all new books to the genre suffer as heavy a comparison as new vampire and werewolf books do! It's stiff

competition out there, but this planned series seems to have the guts to stand up with the others! Eli lives in one of many domed cities run by InfiniCorp. In fact, Eli is sort of royalty in the domed cities since his grandfather was one of the leading people to make them a reality as the face of the world changed drastically. The domes include climate control, air conditioning, and something called CloudNet- an ever-present mix of mindless ads, games, and other things for the citizens of the domes to watch. What the people don't know, though, is that the CloudNet is also a means to keep its citizens docile, mindless, and pliable. It is a type of mind control the people living in the dome either don't know about or don't care about. Eli continues on, living his life as normal, when his grandfather gives him an odd pet, a mongoose named Marilyn. Marilyn may seem like your typical mongoose, but she was implanted with a chip that makes her super smart and telepathically able to communicate with Eli. When there is an attack on the dome by Foggers- outside crazies who want to destroy life in the domes- Eli can't help but investigate with Marilyn in tow. When he starts to investigate, he realizes life in the dome might not be as ducky as InfiniCorp wants the people to believe. In fact, there is a very real possibility the domes may be breaking down little by little. Although InfiniCorp, including Eli's scary cousin Spider, wants Eli to stop his digging into the failure of the domes, he can't help but continue. When he gets too close to the truth, Spider has him put in the closest thing InfiniCorp has to a jail- a "rehabilitation" facility in an off-shore oil rig. There, surrounded by a dying ocean, Eli is having a hard time fighting the CloudNet. What InfiniCorp doesn't know, though, is that another prisoner on the rig is ready to help Eli find his way past the controlling CloudNet. Tabitha knows Eli is more than he seems, and she suspects he is the one the legends talk about that will save people and help them escape the scorched earth and dying or mutating world. Tabitha and Eli must risk everything to get out and spread the word of the dying domes, but can they escape? Climate change is a very real, very scary scenario. Unfortunately, it is also the subject of much debate. Some people work hard to discredit the theory, some work very hard to inflate or exaggerate what is happening. Basically, we have a whole lot of conflicting and confusing information that no one can agree on. One thing we can agree upon though? That we are doing irreparable damage to our planet slowly but surely. This book not only fictionalizes a possible outcome to our damage, the author also takes the time at the end of the book to explain which parts of the new world are fiction and which are steeped in fact. I find this refreshing, as the author clearly wants kids to read this book and know where his new world came from. He isn't trying to hide his exaggerations, just showing his creative license with the story. Hughes also clearly wants to encourage kids to know more about their world, challenge what is told to them, and always ask questions. I really find it hard not to love a story that encourages children to be aware of the world around them and to not just accept what authority spoon feeds them! Sure it might be easier with dull, docile, mindless young ones, but how boring would "easy" be?! The book has a relatively moderate reading level. It would be fine for any high skilled middle school student through high school. While it appears to be a series and does end with the possibility of continuing, it isn't a huge cliffhanger that leaves the reader hanging. The scenarios are scary, but not gory. This is a great book to start discussions about our climate, our government, and our lives. The end notes by Hughes also lead to great research opportunities for teachers and students on climate change. I am looking forward to the next story, Mr. Hughes!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Crack in the Sky-Awesome Sci-Fi Read for Teens and Tweens! By S. Leggat Mark Peter Hughes's *A Crack in the Sky*, his third novel and the first in a new trilogy from Delacorte, is a well crafted balance of truth, humor, science fiction and coming of age, all set within a future American dystopia. Major US cities lie beneath constructed domes protecting citizens from effects of environmental abuse that have ruined our planet... and from those dissident outcasts living outside those domes. Love of and responsibility to protect earth's natural resources, drive Eli, the thirteen-year-old hero, as he deals with conflicts of family relationships, loyalty, deception, hope and the responsibility to seek truth he knows both in his mind and heart. Teen and preteen readers connect with Hughes's musical and lyrical knowledge as words, themes and Grandfather's music box mirror Eli's dome and the dysfunctional world. While writing *A Crack in the Sky*, Hughes could not possibly have known of the Gulf Oil Rig Disaster of 2010, and it is eerie reading how the novel's outcasts and freethinkers who defy the government are dealt with after banishment to a defunct oil rig towering alone in the middle of the hopelessly contaminated, Gulf of Mexico. Prophetic? Let's hope not! As an author, Mark Peter Hughes's books are both compelling and clean. Words, characters and ideas draw teen readers in, yet his language and ideas are never offensive, making these books appropriate for bright 4-5th graders as well as their intended middle or high school audience. Hughes closes with, of course, a hero who is true to himself and his friends, and leaves a powerful message of hope and responsibility to our modern day youth. An excellent read from a fairly new author we'll be demanding more and more from in the future! Shauna Leggat, Media Specialist, MLS-NBCTP.S. You can't beat 's price on hardbacks, either.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Apocalypse Wow! By Alan G Move over, Aldous Huxley. Your seminal *Brave New World* just got a twenty-first century face-lift from Mark Peter Hughes. His new novel, *A Crack in the Sky*, imagines life in the future if we don't control excessive greenhouse gases today. It's not pretty, but it is gripping. Hughes' future Earth is wracked by storms and intolerable heat and drought, yet "Insiders" survive in city-sized "Domes". The irony; the long term solution to excessive greenhouse gases is to live in overgrown greenhouses. The ultimate Big Brother (or is it Big Grandfather?) is looking after these Insiders: the ubiquitous company which built and runs the Domes, proclaims "Don't Worry! InfiniCorp is taking care of everything!" Life is

comfortable, especially if--like 13 year old Eli Papadopoulos--you're the grandson of the apparently benevolent man who designed the Domes and thereby saved the world. What more could he ask for? With a bright future planned and an electronically enhanced mongoose as a pet, who cares if your robot teacher is dull? Yet cracks soon begin to appear in Eli's world. He soon has grounds to question InfiniCorp and his own family. It becomes harder to ignore the flaws in the Domes, even with senses dulled by CloudNet (TV on steroids.) Not everyone is an Insider. Are the mysterious Foggers really terrorists? Can Eli be the real hero who creates a brave new world? It is well worth reading Mark Peter Hughes' book to find out!

Thirteen-year-old Eli Papadopoulos is worried. Even though he's a member of the most powerful family in the world. Even though his grandfather founded InfiniCorp, the massive corporation that runs everything in the bustling dome-cities. Even though InfiniCorp ads and billboards are plastered everywhere, proclaiming: DON'T WORRY! INFINICORP IS TAKING CARE OF EVERYTHING! Recently, Eli noticed that there's something wrong with the artificial sky. It keeps shorting out, displaying strange colors and random images. And though the Department of Cool and Comfortable Air is working overtime, the dome-city is hotter than it's ever been. Eli has been raised to believe that the dome-cities are safe, that the important thing is to keep working and consuming, and that everyone is secure and comfortable in InfiniCorp's capable hands. But now he begins asking questions. All of a sudden, operatives from a dangerous band of terrorists keep contacting him. The Friends of Gustavo Foggers want to tear down everything InfiniCorp has created. They promise Eli that they have the truth he seeks if he's brave enough to handle it. Eli isn't convinced. And he's about to find out that in the dome-cities, being a Papadopoulos isn't enough to save a rule-breaker like him from being sent far away to learn right-thinking. In his new home, the Tower, Eli meets Tabitha, once at the top of her Internship class, now a forgotten slave. Together, and with help from Eli's beloved pet mongoose, Marilyn, they just might be able to escape . . . and try to make a life for themselves in the scorched wilderness outside the domes. This sweeping, high-concept eco-thriller recalls Disney/Pixar's *WALL-E* and Lois Lowry's classic *The Giver*, yet it is completely original, a remarkable, fully realized fantasy that will change the way you look at how we live.

From School Library Journal Gr 6-10 In this first installment of a planned series, 13-year-old Eli lives in a postapocalyptic domed city run by InfiniCorp. The world has been suffering from global warming, but the corporation insists there is no reason to worry. It uses the power of the CloudNet to distract its citizens from signs that all is not as it should be. Because Eli is one of the few who can resist the CloudNet's power, he is accused of being a Fogger (those who are accused of anti-InfiniCorp sentiments) and is sent to a reeducation facility where he is imprisoned and forced to work assembling T-shirts. He meets Tabitha, who is the only other slave who can fight the power of the CloudNet. Together they plot to escape. Taut pacing and interesting characters are offset by flawed world building. A map does add visual clarification to settings that aren't fully fleshed out in the text (though, oddly, the location of the re-education facility is not indicated). Eli's microchip-implanted pet mongoose functions as a *deus ex machina*, another symptom of sloppy world building. While this is a decent example of dystopian literature, it is not likely to win over those who aren't already enthusiastic readers of the genre. Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. From Booklist Hughes' *ecocrisis* dystopia follows a familiar formula yet marks the beginning of a thought-provoking series. Thirteen-year-old Eli is expected to secure an important position in the family company, InfiniCorp, which created dome-cities to protect humanity from the ecological disasters Outside. When he notices worrisome problems with the artificial sky and weather, his concerns are dismissed. Unable to simply toe the company line, Eli meets the Friends of Gustavo, who claim they know the truth about the Final Days, and ends up marked as a terrorist. When he is sent to be reeducated, he meets Tabitha, another Friend, and with her and his telepathic pet mongoose, Eli intends to escape and bring change. Hughes takes on digital realities, mind control, corporate conspiracies, climate change, religious mania, and evil family members in this action-packed adventure. Although Eli doesn't spur the plot forward so much as react as it happens, readers will relate as he ends up in trouble just by being inquisitive and observant. The author's note includes a reading list and intelligent examples of how real science informed the story. Grades 6-10. --Krista Hutley About the Author Mark Peter Hughes was born in Liverpool, England, and grew up in Barrington, Rhode Island. Mark Peter Hughes' first novel, *I Am the Wallpaper*, was a Children's Book Sense 76 Summer Pick and a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. His second, *Lemonade Mouth*, was a Book Sense Children's Spring Pick, a Richies Pick, a Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year (Outstanding Merit), an ASTAL Rhode Island Book of the Year Award winner, and a Boston Authors Club Award finalist.