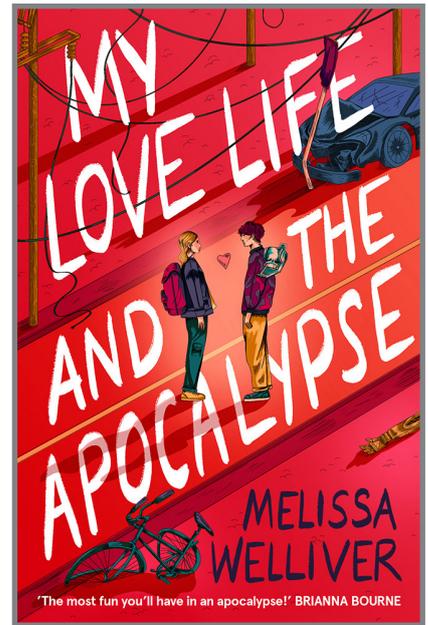


My Love Life and the Apocalypse

AUTHOR
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Secondary
(Language, Sexual References)

SYNOPSIS

Planet Earth Sucks.

Humans have gone and cities are empty, looked after by bots.

But not all robots are machines. Echo is part-human, his heart ruled by an unreliable E-Mote chip which means he's pretty much a normal boy surviving on canned beans. Living his best life.

Then a space-pod crash-lands in his neighbourhood with a girl on board. Pandora.

She's his last hope, and apparently he's hers—if they really are all that's left alive . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melissa Welliver writes speculative fiction about how the end of the world is never really the end of the world. After studying Creative Writing at the University of Manchester, she went on to complete Curtis Brown Creative's Writing for Children course. Her work has listed in Bath Novel Award, Mslexia, the Hachette Children's Novel Award and the Wells Book for Children Competition. Melissa lives in the North of England with her doodles, Maude and Zelda. Follow Mellissa at her Twitter on [@melliver](https://twitter.com/melliver)

THEMES

- Dystopia
- Found family
- Climate change
- Big corporations
- Humanity and empathy
- Robotics and future tech
- Hope and starting over
- Mental health
- Discrimination

STUDY NOTES

- *My Love Life and the Apocalypse* is set in a post-apocalyptic, yet fully maintained New York City due to the destruction of Earth. As a class, discuss the importance of this messaging today—is the possibility of the slow degradation of our planet something we should be considering in our everyday actions? What types of things can we do to help prevent this?
 - After your discussion, split your page in half and make a list of all the daily things you do to help the planet, and on the other side, make a list of things you think you could do going forward. Once this is done, read your list out to the people around you. Do you have any of the same things on your list? As a class, come up with what you think are the five easiest ways to make a daily difference.
 - Technology is constantly evolving and developing, with new devices, machinery and medical advances being made every day. As a class, discuss if you think this is a positive or a negative thing. What effect does this have on the environment, our mental health, and our social relationships?
 - Invent a brand-new piece of equipment that you think would be beneficial to have in today's world, labelling it with all its features. Think about what the purpose of it is and how it might be used by its owner. After this, create a class display of all your inventions and try to create a 'mega-machine', taking all of the best parts of each person's work to create something that will provide a better future. Draw this out and turn it into a diagram, just like you did with the individual task. Use this as an opportunity to discuss why each asset was chosen and how this could benefit someone's life.
 - 'I woke up in Hell.
Well, it felt like Hell. It was boiling, so hot that I was already soaked in a sheen of sweat. The first thing I did was try to sit up and I instantly regretted it as I bashed my forehead on the glass panel above me. 'Ow,' I rasped. My mouth was dry, like I hadn't had a drink in a month. The window in front of me was covered in condensation. I tried to wipe it away but my arm was sealed tight next to my waist. My whole body was confined, and I couldn't even see my legs. Panic started to constrict my throat. Was this . . . a sleeping pod? No. This wasn't just a sleeping pod, it was a coffin.' (p 15)
- We first meet Pandora as she crash-lands into Earth inside of a pod, right in the centre of New York City. She wakes up disoriented, unaware of where she is or what has happened to her. On your own, re-write this introduction as if you were waking up after a crash landing on Earth—what would you be feeling? What could you see? Use as many senses as possible to help describe your surroundings and the way you could be feeling in that moment. Try to be as detailed as possible to make the reader feel as if they are right there with you. Then, read this out to the person sitting next to you.
- Which of the two protagonists do you relate to more and why?
 - What do you think about the New Republic? Do you think herd mentality happens today? If so, why?
 - Do you think it's fair that only those who could afford it were able to be cryogenically frozen? Discuss this and what it says about big corporations.
 - Pop culture references are laced throughout this novel. Why do you think these are important to include for the readership? Which one relates to your own life the most?
 - Do you think it's fair that Echo is treated poorly for being a robot? What kind of commentary do you think this is making about contemporary society?
 - In what ways do you think this book comments on mental health? Give some examples.
 - Do you think that the new world will prevail? Why/why not?
 - What do you think will happen next, after the end of the story?