

## Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti

By Laura Rose Wagner

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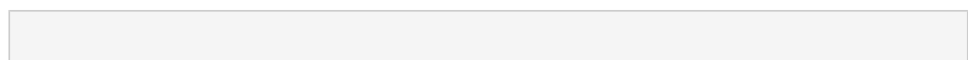
### Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti By Laura Rose Wagner

"Laura Wagner has managed to get a huge amount of Haiti into the pages of this book: the sun, the rain, the bottomless spiral of catastrophe, rage, despair and indomitable hope." —Madison Smartt Bell, author of *All Souls' Rising: A Novel of Haiti*

"In Haiti they say 'Kreyòl pale, Kreyòl konprann.' Speak plainly and honestly, and be understood. Laura Wagner does just that in this brave, beautiful book, bringing us the complex life of Magdalie, and a glimpse of a people's soul." —Jonathan M. Katz, author of *The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster*

"Haiti, already one of the poorest countries in the world, was devastated by the earthquake in 2010. This is a story of everything that comes after: from a candid depiction of the international response to a young girl's account of what a life of desperation can do to an individual and to a society. Magdalie's journey shows the importance of connections, of family and friends, during difficult times and the anguish that comes when those bonds are broken. In her debut novel, Laura Rose Wagner has managed to capture the devastation of loss while providing determined hope for the individual and the nation. An important read for anyone who wishes to better understand the reality of life in Haiti after the earthquake." —Ophelia Dahl, executive director of Partners in Health

Hold Tight, Don't Let Go follows the vivid story of two teenage cousins, raised as sisters, who survive the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. After losing the woman who raised them in the tragedy, Magdalie and Nadine must fend for themselves in the aftermath of the quake. The girls are inseparable, making the best of their new circumstances in a refugee camp with an affectionate, lively camaraderie, until Nadine, whose father lives in Miami, sends for her but not Magdalie. As she leaves, Nadine makes a promise she cannot keep: to bring Magdalie to Miami, too. Resourceful Magdalie focuses her efforts on a reunion with Nadine until she realizes her life is in Haiti, and that she must embrace its possibilities for love, friendship, and a future.



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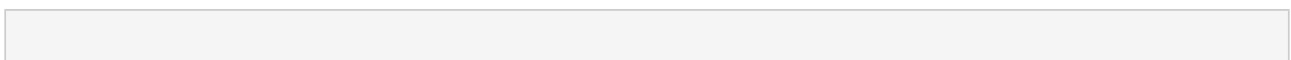
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## Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti By Laura Rose Wagner Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—When a natural disaster strikes, what happens after the telethons, after the donations, and after the media attention has disappeared? This powerful debut novel follows Magdalie in the two years following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti as she grieves for her manman, adapts to life in the tent camps, and tries to find a place and a community that feels like home. Magdalie seeks to live a normal life in an impermanent society where "my memories are out to get me." People she loves appear and disappear, her home is made of plywood and plastic tarps, she ducks for cover at the slightest sound, and she has no hope of returning to school. She faces the tenuous circumstances with her beloved cousin Nadine, but then must brave them alone after Nadine is granted a U.S. visa. Wagner creates a portrait of post-earthquake Haiti that is a study of contrasts—hopeful and bleak, warm and lonely. Magdalie searches for connections and solutions, but is also afraid of loving anybody when they might disappear at any moment. There have been literary works that highlight the devastation of the earthquake, but *Hold Tight Don't Let Go* is unique in that it highlights the two years after—what international aid really looks like, how temporary situations become permanent, and the how profound losses affect those who are left. Wagner also effectively highlights the nuances of urban poverty and rural poverty. The book ends with a sweet, optimistic epilogue that provides happy endings, but detracts from the power of the novel. Wagner provides a helpful glossary and brief history of Haiti. A worthy companion to author Nick Lake's *In Darkness* (Bloomsbury, 2012).—Susannah Goldstein, Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City

Review

### STARRED REVIEW

"An insightful disaster-survival story with far-reaching emotional resonance."

(*Kirkus Reviews* 2014-10-15)

### STARRED REVIEW

"Wagner's portrait of Haitian culture is particularly compelling, and her descriptions of the settings of the city and Tonton Élie's country hometown are lush, despite the nation's dire circumstances."

(*Publishers Weekly* 2014-11-10)

"[R]eaders will be buoyed by the hopeful future the author imagines for Magdalie and for Haiti."

(Amina Chaudhri *Booklist* 2014-11-15)

"There have been literary works that highlight the devastation of the earthquake, but *Hold Tight Don't Let Go* is unique in that it highlights the two years after—what international aid really looks like, how temporary situations become permanent, and the how profound losses affect those who are left."

(Susannah Goldstein, Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City *School Library Journal* 2014-12-01)

"Wagner paints a convincing picture of post-earthquake survival...Treatment of Haitian cultural traditions is fascinating and respectful."

(*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*)

About the Author

Laura Rose Wagner has a PhD in anthropology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She lived

in Port-au-Prince from 2009 to 2012, and survived the earthquake. She travels to Haiti often, and founded a creative writing group for young people there.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Leticia Nielson:**

The book *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the good thing like a book *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti*? Wide variety you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim in which book can give many data for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you may give for each other; you may share all of these. Book *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti* has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by open and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Joseph Bateman:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti* can be excellent book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

#### **Heather Robertson:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti* it is very good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

#### **Jose Coleman:**

You may spend your free time to learn this book this publication. This *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti* is simple to deliver you can read it in the playground, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not possess much space to bring the printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that

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