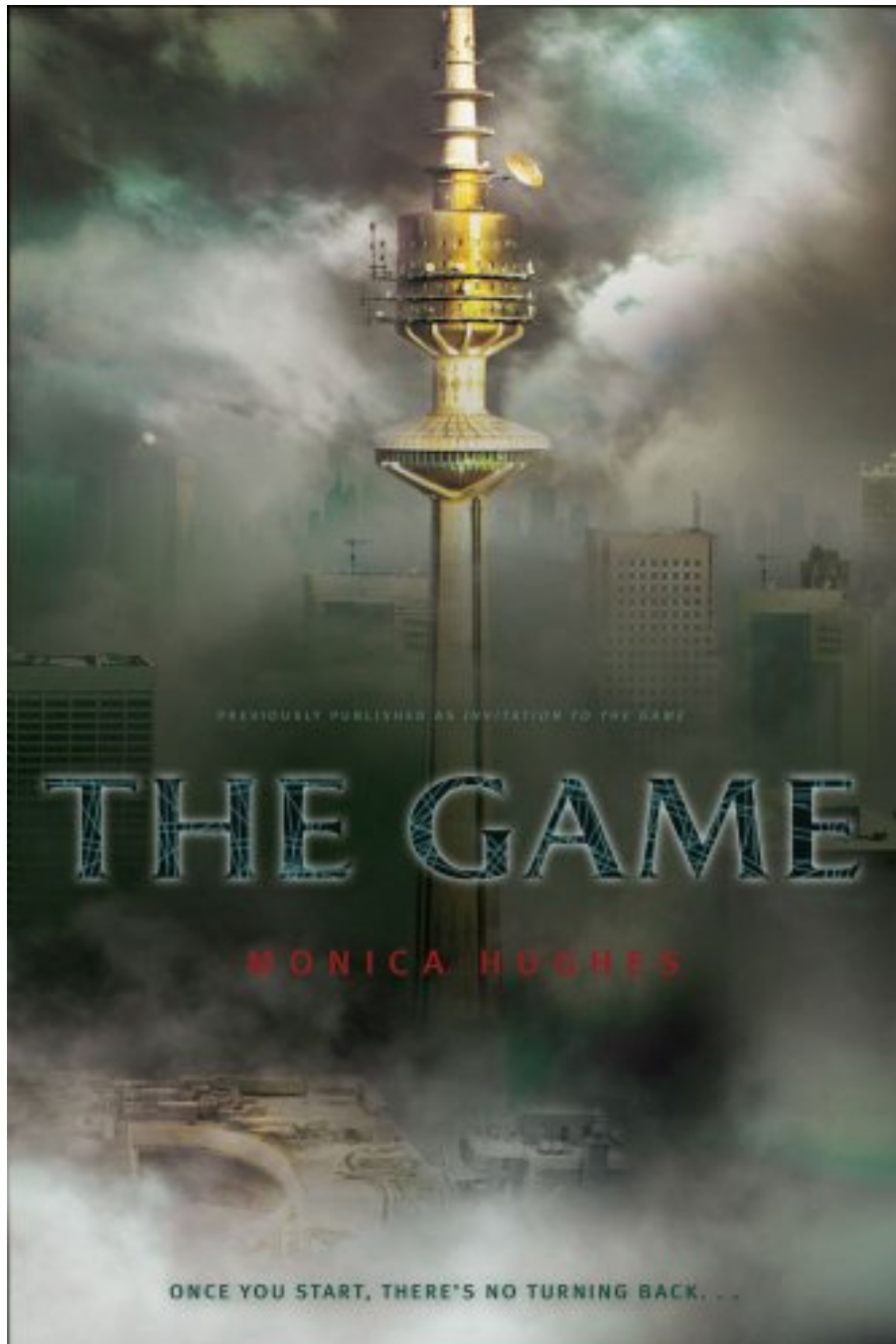


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MONICA HUGHES was the author of over thirty-five books. She received numerous literary awards, including, in 1982 and 1983, the Governor General's Award (then known as the Canada Council Prize) for Children's Literature. In 2002 Monica was made a member of the Order of Canada. She passed away in March 2003.

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# THE GAME BY MONICA HUGHES PDF

The Game is just the beginning...

It's the year 2154. Lisse and her friends have been deemed unemployable in the eyes of society. Now they must scavenge the disintegrating city for food and shelter, just to make ends meet.

But their dismal existence starts to look up when Lisse and her friends are invited to participate in The Game, an experience highly regarded in their society. The Game is a virtual reality experience where they are challenged to survive. But as they spend more time in The Game, the line between reality and fantasy starts to blur. What started as a simple exercise quickly becomes a test of endurance, trust, and their will to live.

- Sales Rank: #348045 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Simon Pulse
- Published on: 2010-10-05
- Released on: 2010-10-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .60" w x 5.50" l, .40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

## Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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## Most helpful customer reviews

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful.

An Incredibly Vivid Dystopia

By Ana Mardoll

Invitation to the Game / 0-671-86692-3

I read this book as a little girl and spent the next ten years looking for it in book stores because it stuck with me so strongly.

"Invitation to the Game" is in some ways standard science fiction fare: the earth is overcrowded with

unemployed people, none of whom can find a job because robots can accomplish most tasks more cheaply and efficiently than humans can. When a group of young adults are dumped directly out of their high school graduation into the government run slums to "enjoy their leisure years" as unemployed adults, they despair that they will ever be happy again. Their "leisure years" are anything but, as they stave off simultaneously crippling boredom and the perils of extreme poverty in their "Designated Area" where gangs roam free at night and the other unemployed adults party themselves into an eternal stupor to dull the pain.

When a mysterious organization offers the group a chance to participate in a virtual reality game for a mysterious prize, they leap at the chance, anxious to do anything to brighten their existence and bring meaning to their lives. Yet as the year goes by and their visits to the gaming center become more frequent, they speculate as to the true motives of this organization and what the real meaning of "The Game" truly is.

"Invitation to the Game" is a fascinating exploration of a future where inertia prevents the necessary changes to society that are so terribly needed, and where brilliant young minds are in danger of being wasted in order to allow the system to continue unchallenged. This is not "action scifi" - much of the book is devoted to daily scrounging and survival without the help of adults (a sort of futuristic "Boxcar Children", if you will) and to periods of discussion over the nature of society and their own uncertain fates and futures. Hughes does a remarkable job moving the story as a fast clip, and her contrasting drab future society and vibrant virtual reality escape are wonders to behold.

While the story sounds depressing and frightening, the Hughes maintains a light touch, providing nurturers among the group to act as a surrogate mother and father, and the young adults are remarkably self-sufficient and dedicated - teaching themselves karate and instituting a fun and healthy exercise regimen to protect themselves both within and without "The Game". While their world has hardships and privations, these are seen as challenges to be overcome rather than impossible burdens. While the individual members of this thrown-together group often do not get along, they nevertheless learn to respect each other and they solve conflicts realistically. The end result is that the reader relishes in their small victories and the privations of the world around them only make the victories that much sweeter. And when the prize of "The Game" is revealed, we see that the solution to their problems is both bitter-sweet and exquisite.

~ Ana Mardoll

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Predictable yet refreshing

By Gard E Abrahamsen

I first picked up Invitation to the Game by Monica Hughes during my 1997 bicycle trip from Montreal to Toronto. A local museum was having a fund raising used book street sale, and I picked this book up for [a song]. It took me until now to actually pick it up and read it.

While the book is quite fitting for early-teen readers, I might have been stretching it a bit at the age of 29, as I found the book quite predictable. On several occasions I wanted to grab hold of the characters and shake some sense in them. "What are you thinking? Are you dense or what?" Since I could not do this, I just had to suffer my way through twenty more pages before the characters caught up with the obvious.

That being said, I did not realize the end of the book from the beginning, but only through the last 3 chapters. And apart from the last chapter, which was too sweet for my dentist to approve, the conclusion was quite refreshing for a children's book.

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Invitation to the Game

By A Customer

This book was very interesting, because of its ideas on where our world is heading. In the year 2154, the

government controls everything. They decide what you do and where you live. Most people, found themselves unemployed and restricted to a designated area (DA). Now, nine unemployed young adults, right out of a government school, must work together to survive their DA. At first, they have trouble getting along and finding things to do. Then they stumble on something that will change their lives, "The Game." They're not sure what to make of it at first, but that it's a simulated paradise where they are to look for clues or answers to the game so they can receive the prize of their desire. But what do they truly desire? I gave this book four stars because it was a little slow, but mostly it was very fascinating science fiction story on the future.

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