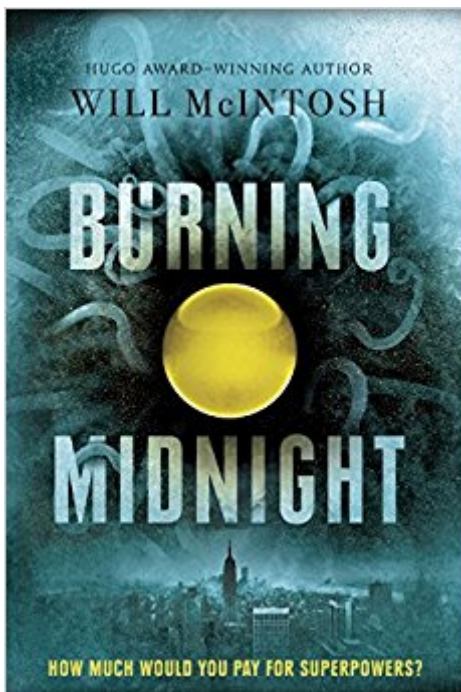


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# Burning Midnight



## Synopsis

For fans of *The Maze Runner* and *The Fifth Wave*, this debut YA novel from Hugo Award winner Will McIntosh pits four underprivileged teens against an evil billionaire in the race of a lifetime. No one knows where the brilliant-colored spheres came from. One day they were just there, hidden all over the earth like huge gemstones. Burn a pair and they make you a little better: an inch taller, skilled at math, better-looking. The rarer the sphere, the greater the improvement—and the more expensive the sphere. Sully is a sphere dealer at a flea market. It doesn't pay much—Alex Holliday's stores have muscled out most of the independent sellers—but it helps him and his mom make the rent. When Sully meets Hunter, a girl with a natural talent for finding spheres, the two start searching together. One day they find a Gold—a color no one has ever seen. There's no question the Gold is priceless, but what does it actually do? None of them is aware of it yet, but the fate of the world rests on this little golden orb. Because all the world fights over the spheres, but no one knows where they come from, what their powers are, or why they're here. Chosen as a 2017 Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers “Burning Midnight is for (1) adrenaline junkies and gamers, (2) obsessive collectors, and (3) people who can't get enough of crazy endings. I'm all of these things, and I loved it.” Margaret Stohl, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Black Widow: Forever Red* and coauthor of the internationally bestselling *Beautiful Creatures* series

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Burning Midnight*: "In an impressive YA debut, adult SF author McIntosh spins an action-packed adventure. . . . An engaging cast and thought-provoking premise help fuel this thriller. Publishers Weekly "A quick read with likable characters, the story is well paced with a quirky view of the future. A great addition to YA sci-fi shelves. SLJ "[With] a film-ready action climax . . . this fast-paced urban quest wears its agenda on its sleeve, but it's conveyed with verve and an endearing sense of justice. Kirkus Reviews "With an inventive premise, this sci-fi adventure offers a scavenger hunt story with layers both political and emotional. The detailed backstory and underlying logic are clearly conveyed without dragging down the pace, and the plot manages to twist and surprise. . . . Ultimately a winning story of friendship in the face of easy money and power, this novel has much to offer the reader who's up for something new. The Bulletin "Burning Midnight is for 1) adrenaline junkies and gamers 2) obsessive collectors 3) people who can't get enough of crazy endings. I'm all of these things, and I loved it." Margaret Stohl, author of *Marvel's Black Widow: Forever Red* and co-author of the internationally bestselling *Beautiful Creatures* series Praise for Will McIntosh Winner of a Hugo Award for Best Short Story Nebula Award Finalist "This is speculative fiction at its most personal and powerful, extrapolating current social and technological trends and exploring how they would affect future people. . . . Intriguing, quirky, perversely charming and definitely affecting. Kirkus Reviews on *Love Minus Eighty*, Starred Review "[Love Minus Eighty] manages to deliver a light, romantic story without ever sacrificing its dark vision of the future. i09.com "McIntosh is without a doubt one of the most underrated science fiction authors writing today. *Defenders* is an emotional, action-packed story. . . . McIntosh's cautionary near-future tale, told from multiple perspectives, serves as a brutally honest portrayal of how humans carelessly exploit, destroy and in this case create other species. RT Book Reviews (Top Pick)

Will McIntosh is the author of several adult speculative fiction novels and is a frequent short-story writer. His first novel, *Soft Apocalypse*, was a finalist for the Locus Award.

"Bridesicle," a short story published in *Asimov's Science Fiction*, won a Hugo Award for Best Short Story and was later expanded into his novel *Love Minus Eighty*, which was an ALA-RUSA Reading List selection for science fiction. His newest novel for adults,

Defenders, has been optioned for film by Warner Bros. Burning Midnight is his first novel for young adults. Will lives with his wife and twin children in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he is working on his next young adult novel. Â Check out willmcintosh.net and follow him on Twitter at @WillMcIntoshSF to learn about his other sci-fi adventures.

I was not expecting to like this book as much as I did--it didn't get much press in the YA communities and I only bought it on a whim. But it was fantastically creative and had some great characters. I am thoroughly impressed by not only the totally innovative SFF concepts but also by the portrayal of diverse, down-to-earth characters who really seem like they're from a run-down section of NYC. I read it in two days and will be very happy to seek out more of McIntosh's work. Nicely done!

This was really a fun and fast YA novel. I loved the idea of these spheres containing unique abilities which spark a hunting craze. And the economy that springs up around it - the idea that some spheres are rarer than others - well that appeals to the comic collector in me. A super rare sphere, found by a lower middle class kid - well, they wouldn't ingest it to get the powers but sell it for millions to help their family. The children of the upper middle class and wealthy would gain very unique advantages due to their ability to buy a lot of these spheres. I enjoyed the characters of Hunter, Dom, and Sully quite a bit. The author gives them each a unique feeling and voice. While Sully is the POV character you could say that the novel is actually more about Hunter (a young girl and person of color) than anyone else. I was pleasantly surprised by the ending, that this was a done-in-one novel, although the world & setting could be used for another story.

I bought this for myself but encouraged my 12-yr-old son to read it. He would normally rather play xBox games but he agreed to give it a try. He is devouring this book! The writing has engaged him, and I can only say "Thank you!" to the author for writing a book that grabs my son. Any book that will do that gets five stars from this dad!

One of the things I love about science fiction is where truly unusual premises can feel plausible and lead characters to grow and develop in real and believable ways. The premise here is great, the characters sympathetic, the stakes mindbendingly high. This story was an adventure I was glad to take. I hope these characters appear again, in another story.

Terrific story, imaginative, unique. Builds suspense nicely. Claims to be Young Adult, but I'm 60 and loved it.

A fast delicious read -- killer premise, great characters and an awesome adventure from start to finish.

Good story and better written than many YA novels.

The novel is redeemed by its last 50 pages or so. That's when I stopped skipping over paragraphs and started reading every word. I agree with some of the other reviewers that this is just another YA novel (except for the last 50 pages...) Then things become clearer, it's no longer magic, there's an explanation that makes sense. I don't want to spoil the book for others, so pretend you didn't read anything I wrote...

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