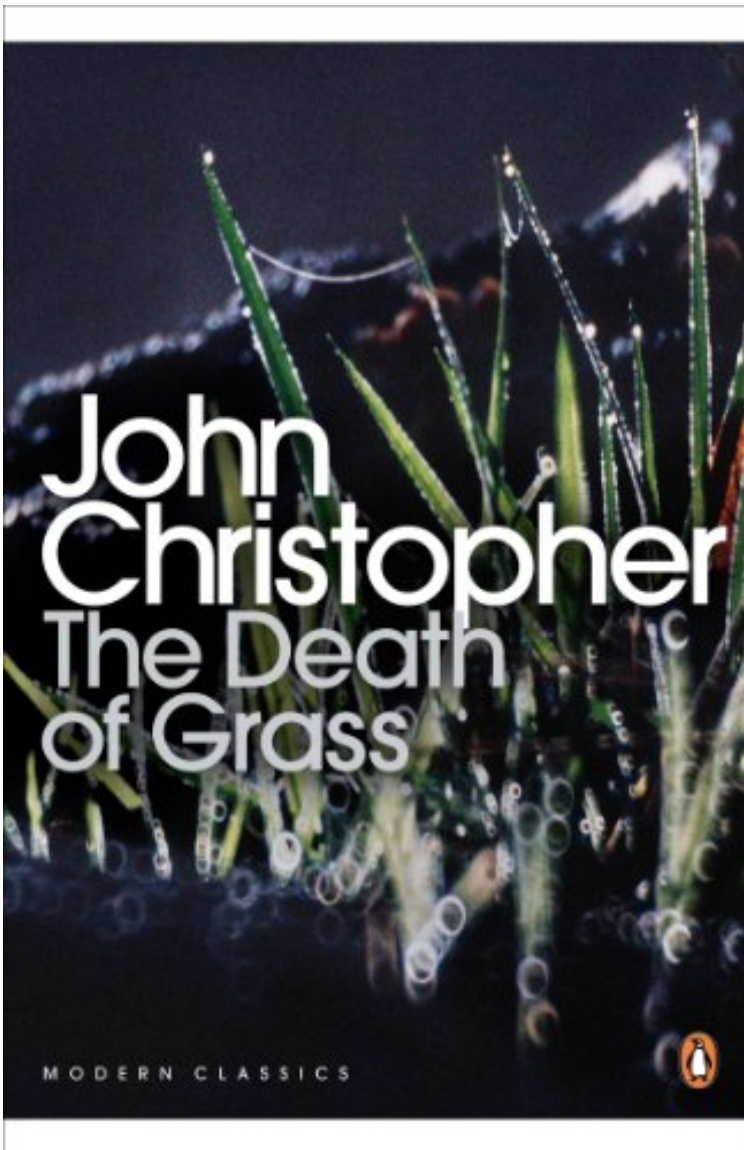


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The Death of Grass



Par John Christopher
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Prsentation de l'diteurA thought experiment in future-shock survivalism' Robert MacFarlane'Gripping ... of all science fiction's apocalypses, this is one of the most haunting' Financial TimesWITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ROBERT MACFARLANEA post-apocalyptic vision of the world pushed to the brink by famine, John Christopher's science fiction masterpiece The Death of Grass includes an introduction by Robert MacFarlane in Penguin Modern Classics.At first the virus wiping out grass and crops is of little concern to John Custance. It has decimated Asia, causing mass starvation and riots, but Europe is safe and a counter-virus is expected any day. Except, it turns out, the governments have been lying to their people. When the deadly disease hits Britain, society starts to descend into barbarism. As John and his family try to

make it across country to the safety of his brother's farm in a hidden valley, their humanity is tested to its very limits. A chilling psychological thriller and one of the greatest post-apocalyptic novels ever written, *The Death of Grass* shows people struggling to hold on to their identities as the familiar world disintegrates - and the terrible price they must pay for surviving.

John Christopher (1922-2012) was the pen name of Samuel Youd, a prolific writer of science fiction. His novels were popular during the 1950s and 1960s, most notably *The Death Of Grass* (1956), *The World in Winter* (1962), and *Wrinkle in the Skin* (1965), all works depicting ordinary people struggling in the midst of apocalyptic catastrophes. In 1966 he started writing science-fiction for adolescents; *The Tripods* trilogy, the *Prince in Waiting* trilogy (also known as the *Sword of the Spirits* trilogy) and *The Lotus Caves* are still widely read today. If you enjoyed *The Death of Grass*, you might like John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids*, also available in Penguin Modern Classics.

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Biographie de l'auteur
John Christopher (pen name of Sam Youd) was born in 1922 in Liverpool. His novels were popular during the 1950s and 1960s, most notably *The Death Of Grass*. In 1966 he started writing science-fiction for adolescents. *The Tripods* trilogy, the *Prince in Waiting* trilogy (also known as the *Sword of the Spirits* trilogy) and the *Lotus Caves* are still widely read today. Robert Macfarlane is the author of *Mountains of the Mind* (2003), which won the Guardian First Book Award and the Somerset Maugham Award, and *The Wild Places* (2007), which won the Boardman-Tasker Award. Both books have been adapted for television by the BBC. He is a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and writes on environmentalism, literature and travel for publications including the Guardian, the Sunday Times and The New York Times.