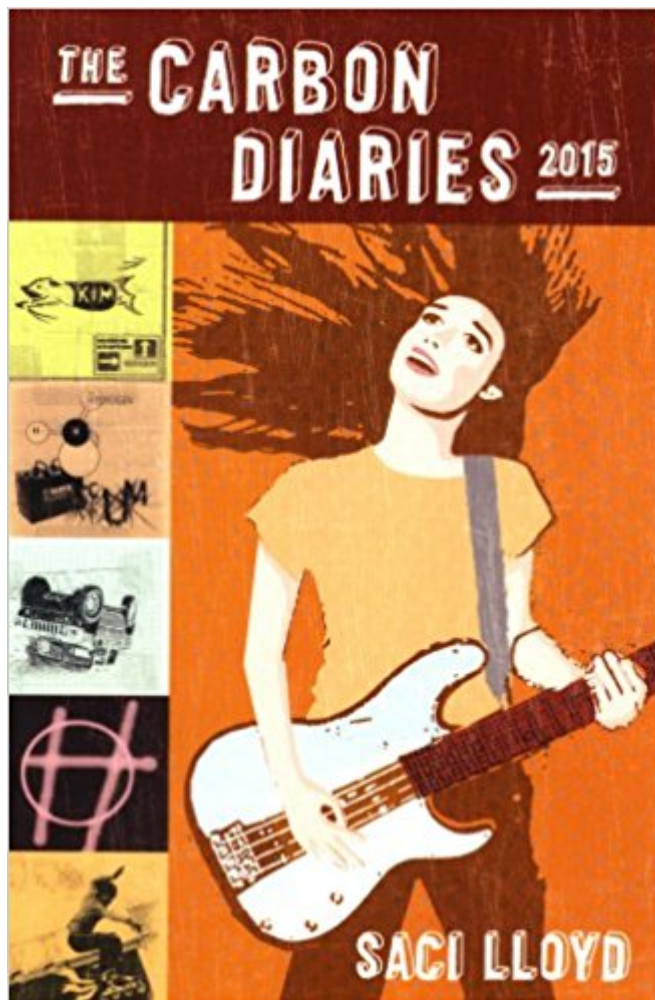


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# The Carbon Diaries 2015



## Synopsis

Told in short diary entries filled with scrapbook clippings, this riveting ecothriller is one girl's attempt to stay grounded in a world where disaster has become the norm. It's the year 2015, a time when global warming has begun to ravage the environment. In response, the United Kingdom becomes the first country to mandate carbon rationing—a well-intentioned plan that goes tragically awry. When her carbon debit card arrives in the mail, sixteen-year-old Laura is just trying to pass her exams, manage her ecopunk band, and catch the attention of her gorgeous classmate Ravi. But as multiple natural disasters strike and Laura's parents head toward divorce, her world spirals out of control. A severe drought sparks fires and deadly riots; then the highest-category hurricane in recent history strikes London. With the death toll in the thousands and climbing, Laura and her family face the unimaginable as her older sister clings to life.

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 8 Up "Laura Brown's diary of 2015 charts the first year of carbon rationing in Great Britain. The global climate has declined so precipitously that the country has made the unilateral decision to cut its carbon emissions by 60 percent. Everyone is issued a card that tracks their allowable use of carbon for the year. This limits utility usage, travel, and purchase of anything that has been transported over a distance, including food. Laura has to cope with limits to hygiene, cell phone use, and practice time with her band and listen to lectures on reducing energy consumption. Her father's job as Head of Travel and Tourism at a local college is eliminated. Freezing weather is followed by hot drought and flooding to finish off the year. Her family initially

reacts badly to the strainsâ "her parents fight, her dad starts drinking but then tries his hand at home agriculture, her mom joins the Women Moving Forward club, and her sister, Kim, disappears for days at a time and almost dies when a cholera epidemic hits the city. The book refers to itself as an eco-thriller but it doesn't present the usual over-the-top characters and hardly believable events of so many books in that genre. It works so well because of all the normal craziness of life that has nothing to do with the environmental disaster. The family crisis, the colorful supportive neighbors, the crush on the cute boy next door, and the triumphs of Laura's band lend the story verisimilitude that will give it appeal far beyond the usual thriller for doom-and-gloom junkies.â "Eric Norton, McMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, WI Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** In the way that Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother* (2008) was a tale of national security run amok, this is a similar cautionary look at global warming. Laura Brown, a 16-year-old Londoner and punk rocker, documents a year in the very near future, 2015, in diary form. She refers to recent massive storms brought on by climate change that have ravaged the planet and led Britain to be the first country to try carbon rationing. Each person is allotted a prohibitively small measure of carbon points to be used each month, essentially obsoleting such luxuries as air travel or even heating one's home. Laura navigates the increasingly punishing circumstances with a perfectly intoned half-bitter, half-astonished teenager's voice, complete with strains of near-future slang, and punctuates her diary with newspaper clippings and other taped-in bits of cultural detritus. As she weathers staggering uncertainty, kill-me-now family crises, and a timelessly confusing dating scene, she finds a release valve in music and her mates. Lloyd's immersive first novel, if a bit overlong, is transformative without ever being didactic and teases out information with remarkable restraint that never feels like withholding. While the book ends without a clean resolution, that only adds to a realism that, while certainly alarmist, could well be prophetic. Deeply compulsive and urgently compulsory reading. Grades 9-12. --Ian Chipman

Fascinating and frightening story of what could happen in the very near future. Excellent young adult read that is just as scary for adult readers.

Who knows what the future will hold for planet Earth? This novel should be read by all teens through adults from all walks of life. The voice of the main character, Laura Brown, is true to form for a modern teen living in a major metropolitan city. As I read this book, I laughed out loud, but at other

times I felt tremendous sadness and empathy for the situations that the characters encountered. I hope that those situations never ever happen on Earth. As a public school science teacher in the U.S., my only reservation is some of the language used in the book. I couldn't use this novel in my school, but I'm certainly going to buy and donate this book to the local library! You won't be able to put this book down for very long!

L. Fullen  
Bridgeport, WV, USA

A bit far-fetched (the author was bold to suggest that climate change induced storms would kill millions in 2015), but well-written. As an older person, it reminded me of how I saw the world as a younger person. The book shows how different kinds of people would react to such a sudden, world-changing event.

My son needed the book for school. Found it easily. Price was right. Ordered it. It came in a timely manner.

I gave it 4 stars because it was a good story but difficult to get into because of the terminology used. I will probably read the sequel *Carbon Diaries 2017*.

The book has a great message, the writing is heavily geared towards a young adult audience.

This is a great book & it was received in nearly perfect condition. You all should get around to reading this book! Perfect for all ages

In 2015 the UK becomes the pilot country for a program to ration carbon in an attempt to stave off the catastrophic climate change that has already led to superstorms and other natural disasters. Laura Brown uses her diary to make sense of the chaos and keep herself sane in this strange new landscape with minimal heat, carbon ration cards, blackouts and worse. With everything changing so quickly, will Laura and her family make it through their first year of rationing? Will the country? Only time will tell in *The Carbon Diaries 2015* (2008) by Saci Lloyd. *The Carbon Diaries 2015* is Lloyd's first book about Laura Brown's experiences with carbon rationing. The story continues in *The Carbon Diaries 2017*. Originally published in 2008, *The Carbon Diaries 2015* has only become more timely and plausible in 2015. That said, there is something very on the nose in reading a "futuristic" book during the year in which it is set (or after). Because *The Carbon Diaries 2015* is written as Laura's diary it is sometimes hard to get a sense of her character. Generally,

Laura reads very young although that works in the book's favor as it has fairly broad age appeal. Lloyd does an excellent job of bringing Laura's eerie world to life with all of the madness and troubles that come with carbon rationing. It is this evocative prose that save the novel from being relegated to nothing more than a message-driven allegory for readers used to living in a world of chronic over-consumption. Although *The Carbon Diaries 2015* is a slight read beyond the obvious ecological messages, it's still an entertaining read. Recommended readers looking for something new after reading all the bigger name post-apocalyptic novels. Possible Pairings: *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi, *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow, *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* by Mary E. Pearson, *Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer, *A Long, Long Sleep* by Anna Sheehan, *Empty* by Suzanne Weyn

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