



2019

Words in Deep Blue

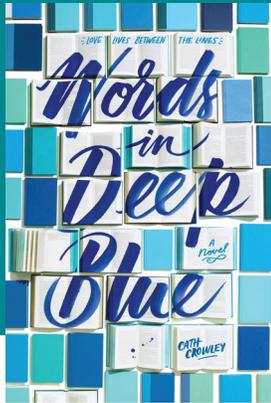
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Book Review

Words in Deep Blue

Author

Cath Crowley

Reviewer

Emma Patton

Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

288

Year

2017

ISBN

9781101937648

Publisher

Knopf Books for Young Readers

Rachel's life is crumbling. She flunked out of year twelve, her mom is a mess, and it's all because her little brother unexpectedly drowned, even though he was a great swimmer. Being in the same town where the tragedy happened is too much, so she goes back to the town where she grew up, hoping she can remember who she used to be. The only problem is that Henry is there, too. He was her best friend, but when she wrote him a love note and he never responded, they fell out of touch. Now that she's no longer in love with him, they could be friends, and she does miss having him in her life. But when her aunt tells her that she got her a job at the local bookstore, which Henry's family owns, Rachel knows that things are about to get pretty awkward. As she grapples with her grief, it doesn't seem like she has room for any other emotions anymore, but emotions come whether you want them to or not.

Words in Deep Blue follows some of the same patterns of most young adult romances. But as predictable as some of it is, the book is still a fun read, and the familiarity of the story line is not unpleasant. The narration switches off between Rachel and Henry, and author Cath Crowley manages to create a unique voice for them both, making the transitions between chapters very smooth and the character development clear. In this book, reading and words are a major motif, as relationships are forged through the written word. Throughout the book, the characters reference various books, including classics as well as popular contemporary young adult novels, so any reader will be able to recognize familiar titles which they may have read as well. This is the kind of book that would appeal to fans of John Green, but instead of featuring teen American characters, it takes place in Australia and offers a look at the ways that the lives of Australian teens are similar to those of American teens.

*Contains severe language and mild sexual content.