

Words in Deep Blue by Cath Crowley

Rachel has always loved the ocean, and Henry has always loved Amy. The two had been best friends for as long as they can remember, but for three years they've drifted apart as Rachel has moved far away. But when tragedy strikes, Amy leaves Henry yet again, and Rachel moves back to the city, Henry seeks to reconnect with his best friend while Rachel seeks to forget. In Henry's family bookshop, a place stuffed with words, love letters, and memories, the two wonder if they can find reconciliation and hope, even in the darkest times. Unique and brilliant, breathtaking and beautiful, *Words in Deep Blue* explores what love looks like: between friends, families, and lovers in good times and bad.

After reading the library's copy of this book, I want it for myself. There are lines that dance around each other, and the story is realistic without losing its tragedy or hope. One of the most unique parts of the book comes in the form of the bookstore's Letter Library, a place where anyone can come and write letters to anyone else within the pages of a book. As the story progresses, we get little snippets of the stories unfolding within the pages, which adds so much depth to the book and absolutely sucked me in.

This book breaks your heart and puts it back together over and over again. Love is lost, found, shattered, and healed in many forms. It's not a book that seeks a happy ending, but a peaceful one. It's a quiet celebration of loving others and the power of words in more ways than one. It's a stunning book anyone would do well to read.

An Abe Lincoln Award winner for 2020, *Words in Deep Blue* is a must read for teens. I rate it B-MA, for frequent strong language, as well as some sexual references.