

Wow! What an amazing book! Breathless is about Claude, an 18 year old who days before her graduation has her whole world shaken up. Her parents are separating and has to spend her final summer being a "teenager" on an island with her mum, instead of being with her best friend Saz. She is completely cut off from the world, with limited cell service and WiFi. With all this change, she is lost and overwhelmed. Claude slowly begins to open up to new including love. It brings up a lot of emotions which were very real and the story itself was so intriguing and well written, I could not put it down.

This is a story which was very relatable for me growing up. While none of the above actually applied me to, the points around self discovery and worth was something which struck a nerve with me. It's a book I wish younger me could have had the chance to read. Romance aside, this is something I think all young people should read. It normalizes those sometimes difficult topics of virginity, loss, anxiety and just feeling overwhelmed and lost. Many emotions we all struggled with growing up. It also encourages you to be open about all the possibilities that life will throw at you (both the good and bad). My only negative is I craved more backstory from Saz, Wednesday and the rest if the crew.

It is quite clear this is a very personal book to Niven and one which I feel like all young people, especially women can relate to. I would highly recommend this to anyone who loved All The Bright Places or needs a bit if help discovering themselves.

- Piper (@piperhatbooks)