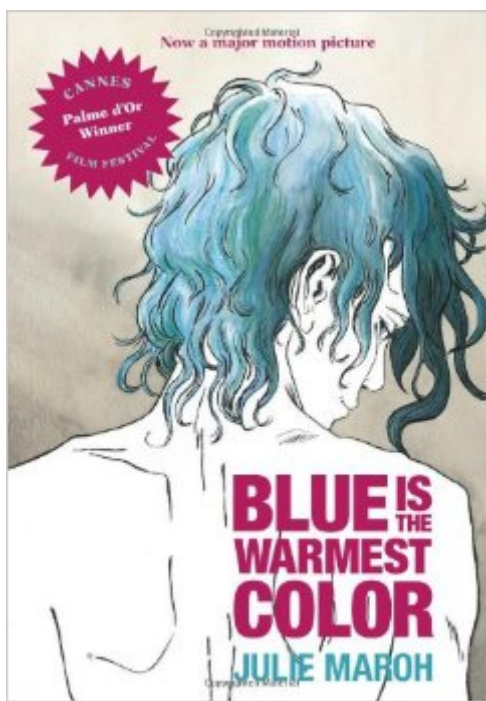


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Blue Is The Warmest Color



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller The original graphic novel adapted into the film *Blue Is the Warmest Color*, winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival; released in the US this fall by IFC Films/Sundance Selects In this tender, bittersweet, full-color graphic novel, a young woman named Clementine discovers herself and the elusive magic of love when she meets a confident blue-haired girl named Emma: a lesbian love story for the ages that bristles with the energy of youth and rebellion and the eternal light of desire. First published in France by Glénat, the book has won several awards, including the Audience Prize at the Angoulême International Comics Festival, Europe's largest. The live-action, French-language film version of the book, entitled *Blue Is the Warmest Color*, won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2013. Directed by director Abdellatif Kechiche and starring Lea Seydoux and Adele Exarchopoulos, the film generated both wide praise and controversy. It will be released in the US through Sundance Selects/IFC Films. Julie Maroh is an author and illustrator originally from northern France.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Now that Julie Maron's *BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR* is coming to theatres in a feature film that not only won the very prestigious Palme D'or at this year's Cannes Film Festival, and that it was smacked by the MPAA with the dreaded NC-17 rating for its explicit sexual content, and that there is an ongoing war of words between the film's two leads and its director, it should generate enough publicity for not only people to see the film, but to also hopefully discover this remarkable graphic novel. Simply enough, the novel, written and drawn by Maron, is about a fifteen-year-old girl

Clementine who is doing her best to be a "normal" young girl. She dates a senior at her high school, she studies for her exams, and she has the "right" friends. Until one moment of one day, as she's walking down the street, she passes a beautiful older girl with dyed blue hair, and she cannot get this girl out of her mind. The blue-haired beauty invades her dreams with shocking sensual and sexual imagery, and Clementine can't understand what these feelings mean. She just CAN'T be gay. She refuses it, and in that refusal, her passion for this mystery girl grows. As she sneaks out one night to be with her best friend, Valentin, who is a young gay man, they go to a gay bar, and Clementine meets the mystery girl. Her name is Emma. And from then on, Clementine, no matter how hard she tries, she can no longer deny the feelings of love and lust she has for Emma. But once they finally realize who they are to each other, all the other parts of Clem's life start to spiral out of control. Her parents refuse to accept their daughter's deviant lifestyle, as do her straight friends. Soon, all she really has is Emma, and for a even a short time, that's more than she ever thought possible. But time catches up to all, and it catches up to Clem in a tragic way that is certain to leave everyone in tears. Maron gives Clementine such a realistic voice that any adolescent or someone who survived adolescence and the awakening of desire for love and sexuality can immediately relate. You feel your heart lift when hers does, and even more so, you feel your heart break when hers does. The art and particularly her use of color is excellent. The writing is so strong that you really feel that you're with these characters, and even though you may find some of them despicable, you understand them. Maron never makes the mistake of painting stereotypes of any of the characters, so that even when they do or say something terrible, you understand where they're coming from. And this is the only other graphic novel, aside from Art Spiegelman's MAUS, that has ever made me cry. Again, though, we must go to the place that I hate to go to, which is the argument of Art Versus Pornography. This book, which I'm sure is probably banned in more than a few libraries, has a sequence of graphic sex between Clementine and Emma. This will be objectionable to many parents of adolescents who may receive comfort from the emotional realism of the book, but it is NOT pornography. Pornography is meant for the sole purpose of sexual stimulation, and is not intended to show realistic portrayals of sex. And believe me when I state that there is nothing resembling that in the least in this book. Is it erotic? Yes. Is it art? Yes. Is it pornography? Absolutely not. BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR is an extraordinary graphic achievement, and it's something that I would recommend to anyone with a love for great storytelling and an open mind.

I have never been so in love yet so heartbroken by the same story. It really is a poetic story about a girl accepting herself. And the hopes of an eternal love. Perfection. Really I recommend it to

anyone, lesbian or not. It helps you realize love is not something defined by gender, but by what is in your heart.

My only complaint is that it's too short, but only because I burned through those pages incredibly quickly. The artwork is so well done, and the simple techniques Julie Maroh uses to carry the emotion and the unfold of the story keeps you glued to the pages. The romance between the two main characters is so palpable. Recommended for anyone seeking an LGBTQ read, or an amazing story about the ups and downs of coming of age love and passion.

Buy. The. Hard. Copy. You're going to want this for your bookshelf, and as others have said the Kindle version is wonky. I don't write reviews for my purchases often, but I had to make an exception for this one. Far too short of a story, but every panel is just masterful - you'll be hanging on to every word and carefully-drawn gesture by the first couple pages. Julie Maroh takes you on an emotional, heart-rending journey like no other graphic novel I've read ever has, and when you close the cover you'll be wondering when it was exactly that you got sucker-punched in the gut. This book brought emotions - both painful and wonderful - to the surface for me that I haven't felt in years, and for that I'm both astounded and eternally grateful to the author. Regardless of how you identify yourself, you will feel this story in your bones. I already know the new movie won't live up to the book (because when do they ever, really?), but it's reassuring to know that Maroh's work is getting proper respect and recognition internationally. Outstanding.

It's a complex coming of age story about a high school junior who discovers a love that she cannot understand, and it shows how freaking difficult it is to understand your emotions when you're teenager. So as a teenager myself I could really relate to it. Regardless of your orientation, you will find this book interesting. It makes a point about love, relationships, and society, without being preachy since it's a graphic novel. Great read!

I thought Blue was one of the best books I've read in years. Pretty recently I saw a trailer for the film version at my local arthouse theater and was intrigued. A week or so later I discovered that it was actually a graphic novel at first and that it was available on my Kindle. The art style depicted on the cover also pulled me in and so I decided to drop the money and buy it. It's been a long time since I felt so moved by a story. Half the time I was reading it (especially during the beginning and the end) I was left in tears. It's amazing to see Clementine's constantly conflicting emotions and mentalities

about what is right and what is wrong and the passion of her relationship with Emma...but it's equally painful to see the consequences of such a relationship. The movie hits my local theater next week and I've rarely ever been so excited to go see a movie because the book was simply spectacular. Some minor nitpicks about this version, though: while the story is an instant 5-star in my book, the kindle version deserves probably a 3-star rating...maybe 3.5 to be a little generous. I've read other graphic novels on the Kindle before and never really had issues. However the text style plus the way they frame some of the panels makes it difficult to read at times. Likewise, there's times in it where it jumps around in panel order. Like for example, rather than starting from the first panel to the last, there's one page that opens with the last panel and then goes back to the top. This marred the experience just a tiny bit for me. That said, though, the art itself still shows itself beautifully and the story is still as good as ever.

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