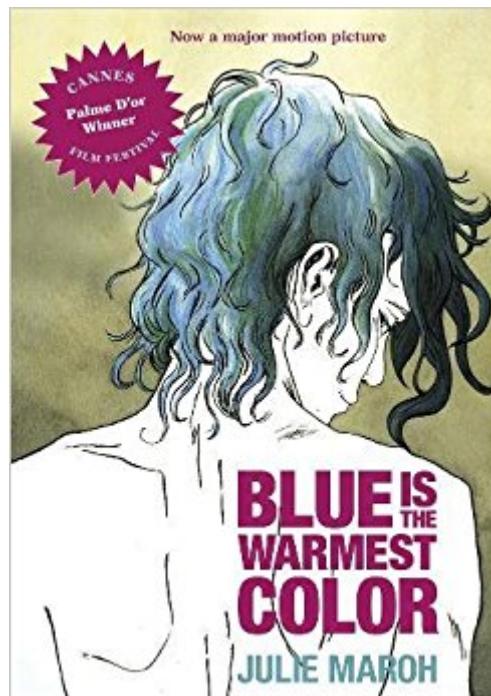


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Blue Is The Warmest Color



Synopsis

A New York Times bestsellerThe 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 SelectsIn 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

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Arsenal Pulp Press; 1st edition (September 3, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1551525143

ISBN-13: 978-1551525143

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 252 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #34,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Gay & Lesbian #54 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Literary #132 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Fiction > Lesbian

Customer Reviews

"Julie Maroh, who was just 19 when she started the comic, manages to convey the excitement, terror, and obsession of young love—and to show how wildly teenagers swing from one extreme emotion to the next ... Ultimately, Blue Is the Warmest Color is a sad story about loss and heartbreak, but while Emma and Clementine's love lasts, it's exhilarating and sustaining." *Slate.com*"A beautiful, moving graphic novel." *Wall Street Journal*"Delicate linework conveys wordless longing in this graphic novel about a lesbian relationship."

Julie Maroh is an author and illustrator originally from northern France. She studied comic art at the Institute Saint-Luc in Brussels and lithography and engraving at the Royal Academy of Arts in Brussels, where she still lives. After self-publishing three comics collections, her French-language graphic novel *Le bleu est une couleur chaude* was published by Glénat in 2010; it won several awards, including the Audience Prize at the Angoulême International Comics Festival, Europe's largest.

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.

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.

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.

This graphic novel by Julie Maroh brings to life Clementine, a teenager who grew up in the 1990s. She quarrels with her parents, questions her sexuality, and has a few great friends and some nasty enemies among her peers. Maroh takes this commonplace subject matter and elevates it through her words and pictures to a very high plane of tenderness and thoughtfulness. The story is told through the eyes of Clementine's lover Emma who has come into possession of Clementine's diary following her death. In mostly black and white flashback Emma reads the story of her life as she has a first, tentative and unfulfilling relationship with a boy she meets at school, followed by a sexually charged encounter with a female student. Then there is her fateful meeting with Emma, an Art student with blue hair. What follows is an exciting, charged love affair not acceptable to everyone in Clementine's life, not even at first accepted by her. Their relationship ripens into something of the utmost importance to both of them though it is not without conflict. Everything is portrayed in a romantically tinged realistic light. Maroh skillfully sketches out relationships, events, and emotions using minimal text and simple drawings. Much of the book uses no colours but blue in order to mark off the events of the past in black and white. The blue of Emma's hair and Clementine's journal clearly highlights the person and thing that were most important to Clementine. The artwork is adept at portraying everything from the joyous fun of teenaged parties to the awkwardness and beauty of sexual encounters, both happy and unhappy. Short passages quickly bring into sharp focus Clementine's troubled relationship with her parents. There is a message subtly put forth here that we do not choose those we fall in love with and there are many types of love. But Clementine's coming of age story depicted through her explorations of sexuality and social development doesn't feel like a vehicle for that idea. She is a fully realized character with longings and psychology heartbreakingly portrayed by the words and art in this book. With an autumnal tone of nostalgia and deep humanity Clementine's story is here made both fascinating and universal.

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