

Breath to Breath

Craig Lew

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17-year-old William lives in a world full of secrets, secrets that follow him even when he moves cross-country to live with the father he barely knows. When William meets an abused four-year-old boy, he learns of the child's devastating past, one that calls forth a torrent of his own memories.

Told in lyrical verse, *Breath to Breath* is a provocative, challenging read about a young man struggling for both revenge and redemption in a world laced with evil. From the haunting, disturbing opening, all the way to the riveting climax, Lew delivers a tale of a boy on the brink of both discovery and destruction, whose poetic voice shines forth from inner darkness. The experimental style is highly readable, though the topics covered, including child sexual abuse, can sometimes be unsettling. But the focus of the novel stays mostly on William's discovery of and response to his trials, without lingering unnecessarily on the disturbing details of his past.

STEPHANIE BUCKLIN (Winter 2016)

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