

How to  
Breathe  
Underwater

vicky skinner

Love can leave you breathless.

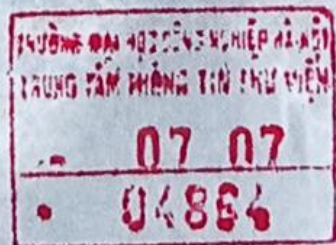
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# How to Breathe Underwater

GIFT OF THE ASIA FOUNDATION  
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QUÀ TẶNG CỦA QUỸ CHÂU Á  
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*vicky winner*



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**HOW TO BREATHE UNDERWATER.**  
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One

## How to Breathe Underwater

I had to do this because I was in a boat that I came up for  
all the time. I was in the boat for the plastic bag and  
that divided the boat. I was in the boat for the plastic bag and  
was pumping for a few days. I was always there. I pulled about  
the distance between the well and the boat. My fingers  
were red and I came up for a few, stretching legs of diving  
around me.

"Good, good," Harry said, looking at me. He was not  
happy with me. He'd come up out of the water a while  
but nobody heard me. He needed to go. He came down if he  
was going to make it so fast. "Give a guy a hand."

I was looking to go. The boat was not in the water  
and my air was not. Harry might have been happy that  
was. He would never be better. "Give you a hand so you can  
get in? I don't think so."

He passed his hand to the well and said he was going

# One

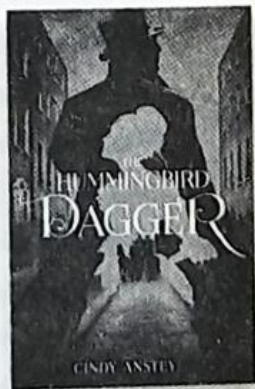
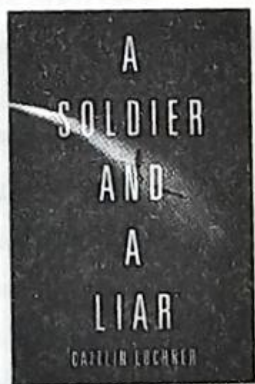
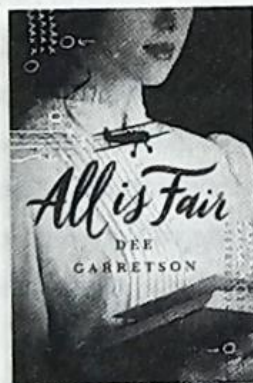
I could see the swimmer beside me every time I came up for air. His face was distorted slightly by the plastic separator that divided his lane from mine, but I could see him pushing, his arms pumping fast. I was faster. I was always faster. I pulled ahead, closing the distance between the wall and me until my fingertips touched, and I came up for a deep, refreshing breath of chlorine-scented air.

"God, Kate," Harris (short-distance butterfly and my best friend) said, and panted. He'd come up out of the water a whole four seconds behind me. He needed to get his time down if he was going to make it to State. "Give a guy a break."

I was sucking in air, too, but each breath seemed to scream out my accomplishment. Harris might have been bigger than I was, but he would never be faster. "Give you a break so you can get lazy? I don't think so."

He pressed his back to the wall and closed his eyes, sinking

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# How to Breathe Underwater

*Kate thinks she has everything all figured out.*

She's a champion swimmer with a bright future ahead of her. But when Kate's perfect world comes crashing down in one instant, she's forced to leave the swim team she's been a part of her whole life.

As she tries to settle into a new home and a new school, she meets Michael, the cute boy who lives across the hall. Michael wants to learn how to swim, and he'll teach Kate how to salsa dance in exchange. Soon, Kate's nights are filled with visits to the rooftop pool and ice cream dates in the hallway with Michael.

There's only one problem: Michael has a girlfriend. And Kate isn't sure that swimming, which her father pushed her to be the best at, is something that actually makes her happy. As the pressures of her new life start to build, can Kate keep her head above water?

Relatable, fresh, and honest, *How to Breathe Underwater* is about finding people who love you for who you are.

Don't miss



## Praise for *How to Breathe Underwater*

"Skinner adeptly creates relatable and honest characters . . .

This contemporary novel deals with tough topics in a lighthearted and humorous way."

—*School Library Journal*

"A captivating story about love, reinventing yourself, and what it means to start over. Vicky Skinner has created a compelling debut that will tug at your heart and leave you breathless."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

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including an interview with the author! To learn more books like this one, or share your own manuscript, visit [swoonreads.com](http://swoonreads.com).

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