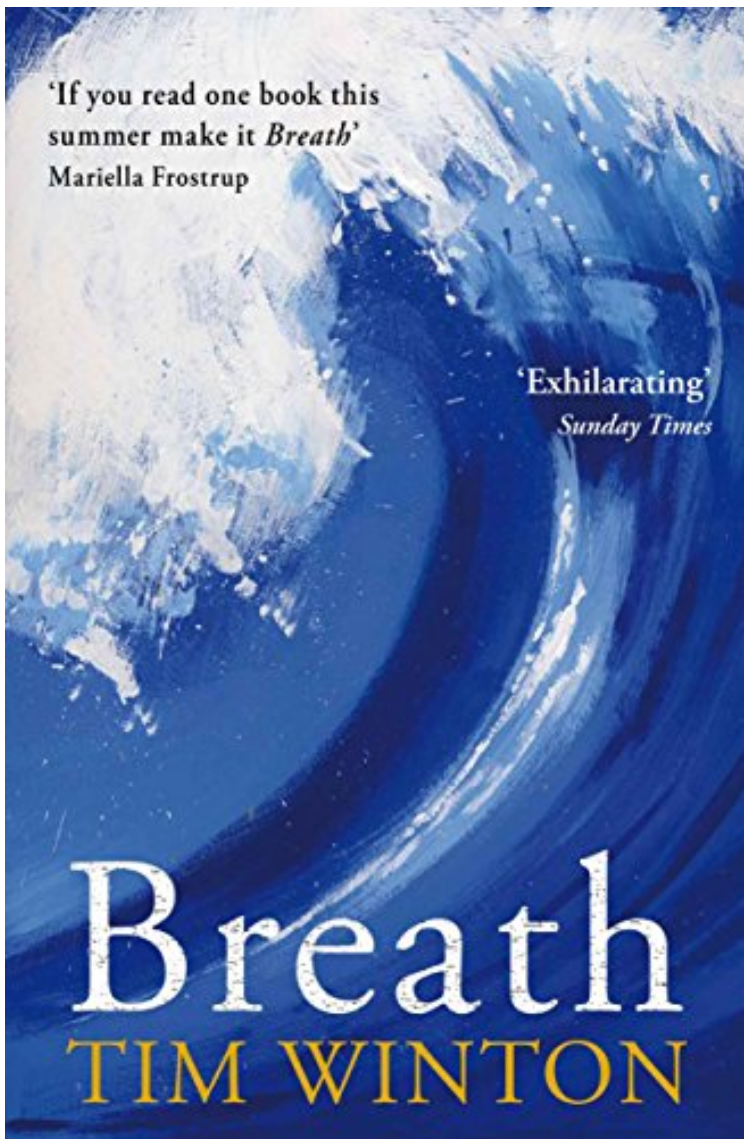


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# Breath (English Edition)



*Par Tim Winton*  
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**Par Tim Winton : Breath (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breath (English Edition):

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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteur Bruce Pike can hear the sea at night and longs to go to the shore. When he befriends Loonie, his small towns wild boy, that dream is realized. Together, intoxicated by the treacherous power of the waves and by the immortality of youth, the two boys defy all limits and rules. Pikelet learns what it is to be extraordinary, feels exhilaration for the very first time, and caught up in love and friendship and an erotic current he cannot resist he understands the true meaning of fear. These are experiences that will far outlast his adolescence. How, then, to mask the emptiness of leaving such intensity behind? An absorbing, powerful and deeply beautiful novel Observer A love letter to the sea and a moving coming-of-age story . . . Rapturous Sunday Telegraph Breath has the sensibility and reach of an epic Scotland on Sunday Full of fizz and a vital poetry of sun, sand, sea and air Independent on Sunday Breath has the urgent clarity of a story

that needed to be told GuardianFrom Publishers WeeklySignature ed by David Maine This slender book packs an emotional wallop. Two thrill-seeking boys, Bruce and Loonie, are young teenagers in smalltown Australia, circa the early 1970s. Their attraction is focused on the waterpods, rivers, the seabut they do little more than play around until they fall in with a mysterious, older man named Sando. He recognizes their daredevil wildness and takes it upon himself to teach them to surf. As the boys become more skilled, their exploits become more reckless; narrator Bruce (nicknamed Pikelet) has doubts about where all this is heading, while the aptly named Loonie wants only bigger and bolder thrills. This mix of doubt and desire intensifies when the boys make a discovery about their mentor's past.Surfing isn't the only dangerous game in town. As Sando's attentions and favor flip-flop from one boy to the other, the rivalry between the two, present from the beginning, grows stronger and more sinister. Sando's American wife, Eva, becomes more of a presence, too. She walks with a limp, has plenty of secrets of her own and becomes increasingly involved in Pikelet's life, in ways that even a 15-year-old might recognize as not entirely appropriate. Winton's language, often terse, never showy, hovers convincingly between a teenager's inarticulateness and the staccato delivery of a grown man: So there we were, this unlikely trio. A select and peculiar club, a tiny circle of friends, a cult, no less. Sando and his maniacal apprentices. The language manages to summon up both the uncertain teenager and the jaded adult: It transpired that I was not, after all, immune to a dare, Pikelet tells us at one point, with both the breathtaking unawareness of the boy and the irony of the man.Told from the perspective of the narrator's present life as a paramedic, *Breath* aims to recapture a long-passed episode in a boy's life and show how this shaped the man he grew into. The story contemplates what it means to be less ordinary in an era when extreme sports hadn't even been recognized. (The fear of being ordinary is one of the terrors that drives these daredevils to push themselves ever further.) The author of 13 previous books, Winton is well-known in Australia and should be here. He touches upon important themes, of death, life, breathing and its absence, while looking dispassionately upon the relentless pursuit of thrills, pleasure, sex, status: the mundane obsessions of the ordinary and extraordinary alike. David Maine is the author of *Fallen*; *The Book of Samson*; and, most recently, *Monster*, 1959. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From *The New Yorker*Bruce Pike, a middle-aged paramedic, is adept at distinguishing a suicide from an error in judgment; his own turbulent adolescence accounts for this grim bit of wisdom. Growing up in a conservative Australian mill town not far from the coast, he and a daredevil buddy are swiftly drawn by the call of the big wave: "I couldnt take my eyes from those plumes of spray, the churning shards of light." The youngest surfers on the beach, they are tutored in the more arcane aspects of the sport by a charismatic older man named Sando. Sandos wife, meanwhile, represents another sort of danger: once a freestyle skier, shes now housebound with a mangled knee, and hungers for the thrills that once sustained her. Wintons latest novel is both a hymn to the beauty of flying on water and a sober assessment of the costs of losing ones balance, in every sense of the word.

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