



# This Love

*Anna Bloom*

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Amber's always planned to leave her overbearing mother and their stifling small town behind as soon as she graduates. That is until her car breaks down outside Bale and Son's mechanics and she meets Freddy Bale. A boy who'd rather live in the moment than make a five-year-plan.

Ignoring her friends' warnings, Amber puts all dreams for her perfect future on hold, and dives into the romance heart first. On their last day of school, however, Freddy decides to call off their relationship, and Amber does the only thing she can think of: Run away and never look back. Just like she'd always planned.

Ten years pass before Amber sets foot in town again, only returning to look after her ailing mother. While Freddy wants to make amends, Amber is confronted with her own wrong choices from ten years ago. Choices that could change the lives of everyone she's ever loved.

When first love is given a second chance and the secrets of the past come hurtling into the present, will Amber and Freddy be able to lay their mistakes to rest and make this love the strongest one of all?

## **This Love Details**

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Author : Anna Bloom

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## From Reader Review This Love for online ebook

### Love, Holly Xx says

I love second chance romances, I love books set in the UK, I love completely swoon-worthy guys, and I really love Anna Bloom, so it was an absolute no-brainer that I would devour standalone NA/Adult novel, This Love, at the very first chance I got.

And devour it I did! This was such a sweet, funny, at times sad, but overall beautiful book. Anna isn't the type of author to go with the crowd--you won't find sex-filled, angst ridden, love triangles or step-sibling love affairs in her books--so her books are always such a fantastically refreshing change to the romances we usually lose ourselves in.

As I said previously, this is a second chance romance, but where we would usually learn of the past through a series of flashbacks or confessions, the way This Love is set up, is in two sections. First Love, gives us the full story of Amber and Freddy in their late teens/early twenties, and This Love, skips ahead 10 years to when first love gets a second chance.

I loved Freddy and Amber then and I love them now. It was impossible to ever doubt that these two would end up together in the end. No matter what or who was put in their way, they were destined to be together. They just fit. How they managed 10 years apart, I have no idea, but they were stronger for it. No longer dependant on each other, just hopelessly in love.

Anna Bloom never fails to make me fall in love with her writing, her stories, and her characters, and I think that This Love, and the majorly swoon-worthy Freddy Bale, are my favourite yet. A dazzling, magical, 5 stars.

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### Sanzana says

\*\*\*Received an ARC in exchange for a review:

4/5 Stars!

Wow, I really loved this book. I loved how they met; unexpectedly and fast. This book manages to explain exactly how ones feels during our younger more reckless years of high school where we're confused and prone to make mistake. I'll be honest here, I don't really like flashbacks. For those of you who feel the same, This Love manages to tell you the entire story in the past before you get to the future. Kind of like a two part series.

Freddy is this very lovable guy who has his quirks and honestly, I couldn't blame Amber for falling head over heels for him. The separation between them for 10 years is...well, I can't spoil it. But we all like HEA's right? Anna Bloom's writing really 'blooms' (haha sorry, I had to) and I truly enjoyed reading about Amber and Freddy.

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## Malissa says

I really enjoyed this truly sweet story about love, growing up, forgiveness, and redemption.

Poor Amber and Freddy, they fell hard, they fell fast, and then they fell apart. I loved Anna's storyline for Amber during her last year of high school. She does an amazing job of putting down on paper what it is like to fall in love that young, how it pulls you and surrounds you in these amazing feelings and makes it hard to focus on anything else but the person you are with, especially for someone like Amber who is a challenging home life. Now you know from the onset of this story that Amber and Freddy don't make it through their young romance, the book opens with Amber rushing back after a 10 year absence to her small town home village to help her ailing estranged mother, running in to her high school best friend, and then the heart wrenching appearance of Freddy at her door.

I loved how we get the entire back story between these two, rather than just a flash back and then their current story. It was almost like reading two books of the same series in one and I am so glad it was just the one because if we'd been left with what I know would have been the stopping point for 'book one' I may have just thrown my Kindle across the room, haha.

Now I will say that there are a lot of choices made in the book, mainly by Amber, that make me want to shake the heck out of the characters. Even with that, I loved this group of characters. They were so real and refreshing. Amber's relationship with her best friend made me flash back to my high school best friend. I enjoyed how there wasn't this ugliness underneath their friendship that we seem to see in a lot of books. Was there trouble, was there jealousy, yes...but that happens, what is important is that they stick together. Even after years of separation there is still friendship.

Freddy and Amber fell into that insta-love that sometimes grates on my nerves, but in this instance it felt real, different, refreshing. And can I tell you how much I adore Freddy? I mean he just amazed me at every turn, seriously if I'd have been Amber I'd have been head over heels as well. Although I do question what he's done for 10 years while Amber was away. We basically know what happens with her romantically, but we don't get any of his romantic background for those 10 years. Now my romantic heart just wants to believe that he simply pined over Amber, working in his garage and never looking at another woman, but 10 years is a long time. It might have broken my heart to know it, but I think being able to see how he truly spent those years would have been nice, no matter if he did spend those years a hermit or a womanizer. The thing I love about Freddy though is he's not perfect and is never made out to be, but he is perfect for Amber and he's just an incredibly kind and sweet guy.

In the end the book is really about Ambers' redemption, about finding the love of her family and friends. About knowing that she was never given up on. They waited, everyone of them waited for her return and I love that. I love that she didn't come back to a place full of hate and had to fight for acceptance. I love that what she truly had to fight was herself and that everyone else was there loving her as they always had, except maybe Henry...and well just like everyone in the story we'll just ignore him \*wink\*.

This is a beautiful read for any Contemporary Romance fan. You'll want to snuggle up with this one, it's not overly emotional or painful read, just something you'll want to get comfy with and enjoy a wonderful HEA. I will say for any American readers you might want to have google handy, I had to look up a number of UK English words, haha, but they won't detract from the story.

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## **Sara Oxton says**

First Love by Anna Bloom a supreme four-star read. Anna Bloom writes characters that you can't help but fall in love with, and feel their pain and heartbreak. I couldn't help but love this story as its eerily similar to mine, but I was the heart breaker that ran away, to return 11 years later. It made the story so much deeper and more entertaining for me, but also a little scary that I could have caused some of the feelings. There were some circumstances that didn't affect us, but one that did my best friend, so I knew of the reasons why Amber made some of the decisions she did. Not everyone will like the story, and I can't say you will always like Amber, I know I didn't but it just shows us how good a writer Anna Bloom is that you can be so up and down about the main character and still love them in the end.

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## **Coco.V says**

?FREE on Amazon today (9/28/18)!?

Blurb:

Amber's always planned to leave her overbearing mother and their stifling small town behind as soon as she graduates. That is until her car breaks down outside Bale and Son's mechanics and she meets Freddy Bale. A boy who'd rather live in the moment than make a five-year-plan.

Ignoring her friends' warnings, Amber puts all dreams for her perfect future on hold, and dives into the romance heart first. On their last day of school, however, Freddy decides to call off their relationship, and Amber does the only thing she can think of: Run away and never look back. Just like she'd always planned.

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## **Jardine Clark says**

This is a Must read.

Absolutely enjoyed reading Amber and Freddy's story. A lot of emotions between these two characters really tugs on your feelings while reading.

Love the storyline and all the characters

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## **Kia Bunby says**

Anna Bloom was a new author for me. This will not be my last book I read by her!!!

I really loved the story, it was a second chance love story but with some emotional twists in it too. I have been off of romance books recently but this has rekindled my love of them.

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### **Angela says**

#### **True love never dies**

Freddie & Ambers story is so full of love & regret . At a young age they fell in love, hard & fast . Thinking he was doing the right thing for Amber , Freddie ended the relationship, but the love never ended .

A decade later Amber has to go home to care for her mother .....but she's not alone .

Such a great read

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### **Laura Nelson (Tangents and Tissues) says**

-->5-emotion packed stars<--

I am sitting here struggling to try and find the words to express how much I loved this story. I wanted to hug the s\*#t out of the author as I was such an emotional mess, but I had to settle for hugging my kindle instead. Don't judge!

For me, at the heart of this second chance love story is redemption. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, ain't it? Nobody is perfect, but if Amber and Freddy can face up to their mistakes and understand the decisions made, happiness that only comes along but once in a lifetime is theirs for the taking.

*"This love of ours wasn't meant to be easy, Amber, I get that now, I don't think any love is."*

As I've come to expect from the author's writing, I lived and breathed this story. I was right there with them. It spoke to the very heart of me. It is filled with love, laughter, and just life!

*"Tears spring down my cheeks as I look up at Freddy and find myself finally home."*

Nothing in life is easy, but if we're willing to fight the rewards will be great. And what is greater than this love!

Note: Copy kindly received from author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Kathleen Matthys says**

I really liked this book. It touched me on a few different levels from dealing with a difficult parent growing up to then caring for that parent when they turn ill, walking away from a first love that cut so deep, and finding yourself surprisingly not alone anymore. I totally connected with Amber. I fell for Freddy immediately. I loved their banter. Well done!

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## **Wendy Livingstone says**

This is the story of Amber and Freddy, who have an instant love connection, until things fall apart. This is a beautifully written storyline, which is emotional, humorous, sweet, fate, forgiveness, second chances, romance, and finding your soul mate.  
Anna had me intrigued and captivated throughout this book, and what a rollercoaster journey it is!! Great job Anna!

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## **Trina Raven says**

### **OMG Loved it**

Absolutely brilliant book ,love these second chance romances great character's and even greater story ,proper page Turner this one EXCELLENT

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## **sraxe says**

I enjoyed this book a lot in the beginning. I liked reading their Before story (about a third of the book) but I didn't much feel the magic of it in the After part (present day).

I felt this book had so much potential but just fell short of it. I enjoyed Amber's voice (in the Before part) and found her relatable in some ways. Amber and Freddy was kind of adorable when they first met and got into a relationship. Freddy gets into an accident and is almost paralyzed and, because she doesn't want to leave him, she pushes the thoughts of her own future aside. He urges her to go to university and she placates him even though she has no real intention of sticking to her original plan and enrolls in a university close by. Freddy doesn't want to be the millstone around her neck -- the reason/cause for her to stay and not pursue anything past high school because she's too busy caring for him. I was glad that their separation wasn't a result of some ~youthful mistake~ cheating BS that is so often seen.

I also liked watching her friendship with Danni because I thought theirs was a cute and believable BFF friendship. Amber's mother, too, I liked because I understood where she was coming from. Yes, it was cruel of her to tell Amber she was a mistake, but I completely understood her fears.

In the After part of the story, I felt that Freddy and Amber fell into a relationship far too quickly. I expected them to hold out on one another but that's not what happens -- she's back in town and they're pretty much circling one another from that moment onwards. It also didn't help that she suffered from chronic weak-in-the-knees syndrome when it came to him.

I actually really liked Freddy in the beginning -- I really, really did. However, there was one point in the novel (that I don't think is meant to be a big deal but I still didn't like it) that they're having ~The Conversation~ (mentioning past lovers). Freddy tells her he's only been with one other person previously. I was so ready to give props to this author because I was glad to see that, for once, the male character wasn't

some big manwhore (particularly because he's good-looking/beautiful according to Amber). I was even more elated that, even though he's the male and he's older than Amber by two years, she's the more experienced of the two (she tells him two but then a couple of sentences later she says three -- editing error, I think). It was such a nice change!

Then. *Then*. Just over halfway through, they have a second ~Conversation~ (post-reunion) and Freddy says that she misunderstood him that first time and there had actually been more girls. And, you know, I know it's stupid to be angry about something so small and to rant about it, but I felt so deceived and tricked and it tainted the beginning and soured the the rest of the book (and Freddy) for me. Honestly, I guess I should've known better than to expect that an author would actually allow the woman to be the more experienced lover. Amber laughs about it and it's never brought up again but it still left a bad taste in my mouth.

It pissed me off even more that, around the time he has that original conversation with her, he tells her about his parents and how his father fell apart after his mother died because she was ~the one~. He tells her that, unlike his brothers, who don't care for relationships, he wants to find ~the one~ as well, wants to have that sort of all-consuming love. It was just such an unnecessary and straight-up lie, and not in the unreliable narrator-twist kind of way. Why couldn't Amber have been left as the more experienced one? Did Freddy have to have had other lovers? Come to think of it, was the original lie even necessary to begin with? I would've preferred for him not to be as experienced, as was originally hinted, but it probably wouldn't have even registered to me if we'd just been told in the beginning that he'd been with other girls rather than it being a lie combined with the story about his parents.

This actually lead into uncertainty when it came to other parts of the book for me and with Freddy's character. When Freddy breaks it off with Amber, I thought he was doing it for her sake so they don't turn into her parents, hateful and feeling as if they'd trapped one another. On prom night, he says that he wants to play the field before settling down with her. I was sad for Amber but my sympathy was also with Freddy because I thought he was just saying that to break her heart. However, after reading about his lie, it made me wonder if he really lied to her on prom night, as I'd originally thought. It made me wonder if he really did want to go out and see what (or who) else was out there.

I won't lie -- the book and the author lost points with me here.

I liked that the author tried to parallel both Amber's relationship with Freddy and Amber's parents relationship. However, I felt that the author took it too far and it got to be a little much. I can understand Amber seeing Freddy's features in Isaac the way her mother always saw her husband's in Amber. That was fine. THEN, Amber's mother says that her husband, Amber's father, was "magic" -- something Amber constantly says about Freddy. I just had a "really? *REALLY*???" moment because it felt far too heavy-handed to me.

I think this book would've benefited from having some scenes from Freddy's POV, too. I wanted to see how important scenes played out when it was just him. I wanted to see how he reacted when he found out Amber was back in town. Danni says it took him all of five minutes before he was out the door and coming to her. How about when he breaks her heart? I wanted something from his POV, too. How about when cycling back to when they first meet -- Freddy knows who she is already. Why? How? It's never explained. In fact, I would've liked to see bits of the entire ten years they spent apart. The characters make references to it here



and there but there's no real detail. I felt there were a lot of missing parts of the book. When did Amber disappear? Prom night? Or afterwards? How did she sort herself out when she up and left without a word to anyone? Did she take anything? Where did she go once she got to London if she had nothing? She says she supported herself and Isaac by writing, but writing takes time...how did she manage before that? There was just far too much unanswered and way too many loose threads.

I did not like skipped scenes. At one point, Amber suddenly has a locket but we're not told until after when and where she got it and what it symbolizes. She merely iterates it to the reader -- that the night he gave it (his mother's locket) to her, it was the night he first said I Love You (though he prefaces it with a *maybe*) but we don't actually get to see the scene play out. SO, when he's awoken after his accident and says "*It's not maybe*," it had no emotional impact for me and left me confused. I actually backtracked to see if I'd maybe missed a question she'd posed.

This book has a decent base but everything else needs an overhaul. This is a book that *needs* an editor. Along with general grammar errors, there are a ton of tensing mistakes and the author constantly and inconsistently mixed up the possessive, plural and contracted -s/-'s. There are times when quotations aren't closed after lines of dialogue (which was especially irritating in a first-person novel). Sometimes, single quotation marks are used to open dialogue and are then closed by double quotes. The errors galore, combined with all the holes I mentioned above, give the impression of an early draft and didn't feel at all like a final or even a penultimate draft, much less a final, published version.

- we are sat
- those evening must be
- that most business were
- not now I've felt this
- I am stood on the
- lifts of the floor
- I'm sat on a boat
- I'm about be
- (pronoun) and I (in places that *I* should be *me*)
- Jack Russell's running
- "Sure, something's, occasionally"
- dads fault
- lets/let's
- your/you're
- its/it's
- buts in
- lungful's
- Dani/Danni

And those mistakes were just ones I caught in the *first quarter* of the book (they were every few pages). I stopped noting them after that point because it was just ridiculous.

Lastly, this wasn't an error but I felt the need to point it out.

The oriental influence of Bailey's mother is all over him

I think the author used it in ignorance so I'm not going to call for my pitchfork and scream racism, but I wanted to point this out. Straight up, describing those from East Asia as "oriental" is offensive (and some would even argue racist). Oriental is used to describe **objects** not people. It is used to exoticize and other those from East Asia. The author later elaborates on Mai, Bailey's mother, and says she's Japanese. She should've just used Japanese here instead of "oriental." Just as you shouldn't describe someone as an Exotic Indian Princess, don't call them or describe them as "oriental."

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## **Zarmie says**

### **Sweet**

Just absolutely loved it couldn't stop reading till I finished it. My daughter wasn't home so I got to read it in one sitting.

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## **Gia says**

I was skeptical at first. Because I know this sounds awful but when you live in the UK and explored most every nook and crannies of this kingdom, you kinda you know bleh. That really does sound awful and I'm awful for saying that. But I imagining where it's set, so you know, Suffolk ,Lowestoft. I was abit..eeek dreary.

But I was awful, and the book was amazeballs. There were some grammar errors but that did not phase me because I was all too consumed in the book. I'm a fast reader and I had to actually slow down to enjoy every word.

Freddy, O my lawd, he is an awesome person. Yes his decision was poops but hey, young love. And I completely understood why he did what he did. If its meant to be, it will always find it's way back. Freddy is just the sweetest lad ever. And he sure is magic. He was just chill guy with no unnecessary drama.

For me, it was a light read of emotions and characters growing up (or not). The dynamic of the two BFFs was just hilarious, reminds me of my teenage self.

I would 100% recommend.

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