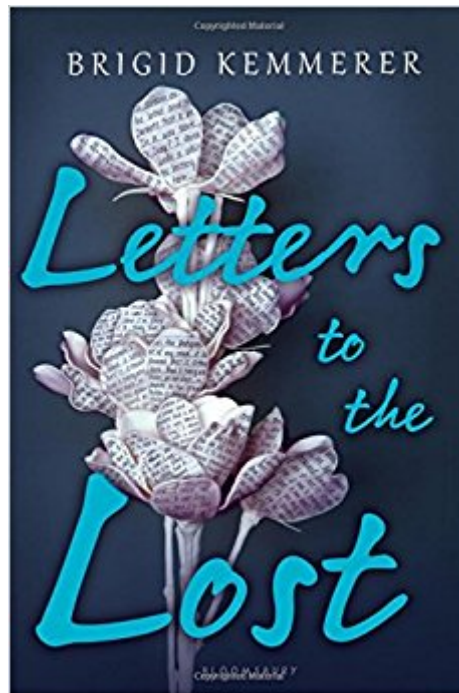




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# Letters To The Lost



## Synopsis

Juliet Young always writes letters to her mother, a world-traveling photojournalist. Even after her mother's death, she leaves letters at her grave. It's the only way Juliet can cope. Declan Murphy isn't the sort of guy you want to cross. In the midst of his court-ordered community service at the local cemetery, he's trying to escape the demons of his past. When Declan reads a haunting letter left beside a grave, he can't resist writing back. Soon, he's opening up to a perfect stranger, and their connection is immediate. But neither Declan nor Juliet knows that they're not actually strangers. When life at school interferes with their secret life of letters, sparks will fly as Juliet and Declan discover truths that might tear them apart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is going to fly off the shelves to all teens, but it will hold special interest for those looking for a tear-jerking romance and serious readers of realistic fiction." - VOYA "A great concept, delivered in a compulsively readable package . . . romance readers will stay up late to finish this very satisfying and heartfelt read." - Booklist "Explores the ideas of carving identity out of pain and the way perception colors expectations." - BCCB "Readers will find themselves rooting for the real Declan to win Juliet's heart the same way his online persona did. Consider this tale of modern star-crossed love as a first purchase for YA collections." - School Library Journal

Brigid Kemmerer is the author of *Letters to the Lost*, *More Than We Can Tell*, and the

YALSA-nominated Elementals series and the paranormal mystery, *Thicker Than Water*. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska, though her parents quickly moved her all over the United States, from the desert in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the lakeside in Cleveland, Ohio, with several stops in between. Brigid is now settled near Annapolis, Maryland, with her husband and children.  
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Sometimes a loss is so overwhelming that it is hard to move past it. Especially when you feel somehow responsible. That's the wrenching pain at the center of this lovely novel and Kemmerer writes with such compassion for her flawed characters that you cannot help but love and hurt for them, even when they aren't able to love themselves or face their own pain. But there's so much more happening here. This book is also about acceptance and appearances and the disconnect between expectation and reality—how we sometimes judge before we understand, or fulfill the expectations others have of us, without even wanting to. It's about how we see one another, and how we see ourselves, and it's about what happens when we come to know someone and ourselves when we remove all that baggage. Juliet and Declan are able to bare their souls to a stranger more easily than those who love them most—and it connects them at a level that is visceral for the reader. You root for Juliet and Declan as they create a safe place in their secret world, even while you bite your fingernails knowing it cannot last. What happens when their private world collides with real life will keep you on the edge of your seat and maybe, if you're a softie like me, shedding a few tears. (I wasn't yelling at the characters... YOU were yelling at the characters.) I tore through this book in less than a day. The pacing kept me racing through and ignoring a bunch of things I was supposed to be doing. But I'm not sorry. It's fantastic writing and even all the supporting characters are really well drawn and human. Any one of them could carry their own novel. (I'm very much hoping to see more from Declan's best friend Rev, soon.) If you're looking for a touching, fun and engaging story of love and redemption with characters that will have you thinking about them days later—this is a great book for you. Buy it!

I can't say enough good things about this book. Initially I was apprehensive because I didn't feel like I could face a story about death and loss, but it really went beyond that to illustrate how much easier it can sometimes be to connect to someone when you're not seeing them face to face; when you can anonymously pour out your feelings without worrying about the impression you're making during the give and take of a conversation. How you can see someone differently when you don't have a visual and how a person standing in front of you can be completely invisible under certain

circumstances. How there's more to a person once you scratch the surface. The story and plot were so well paced and intriguing that I read it in one night. I couldn't wait to see what the next letter said and how each character would respond and how the relationship between the two strangers would unfold and evolve. The main characters were complex and realistic and their journey had such a great undercurrent of suspense that I couldn't put it down. And just when I thought things were drawing to a close (they're going to figure it out and get together and kiss and stuff!), there was a TWIST! I gasped. Out loud. At 2 in the morning. So good! Highly recommend for teens and adults.

This book had everything I love about YA books. While the topic of dealing with death can be life altering to anyone, for it to happen while we are at such a young age like adolescence, it can change you in a deeper level. We feel it in our core reading Juliet and Declan tale of sorrow, frustration, anger and despair. The words on the page when describing their experiences are gripping and heartfelt. Yes tears will be shed, but so will closure and the feeling of hope and rebirth to some promise that one day of your life can not predict all the following days. One bad day does not a life make, but the promise of many happy tomorrows is something we all cling to. Hope. Gorgeous book.

Keep a box of tissues nearby for this one! This was such an emotional story. Juliet and Declan (two individuals with their own tragic pasts) are brought together as they anonymously exchange letters at Juliet's mother's gravesite. Because they don't know each other at that point, every letter they write to each other is vulnerable, honest, and at times incredibly heart touching. As they continue to open up to each other, their bond strengthens and you see them beginning to heal and finding the courage to go on. At times the story is heartbreaking, but the ending is full of hope for these two, making it a very enjoyable read. I highly recommend this one! Well executed, touching, characters with so much depth, and a storyline that you'll still be thinking about the next day.

Juliet visits her mother's gravesite practically every day and leaves letters by her headstone. One day, Declan, who is mowing the lawn for community service, finds her latest and writes back. "Me too." At first mad in her response, their letters back and forth (and later emails) become deep and personal. They both find comfort in the fact that neither of them know who the other is. It makes everything easier. Until one of them figures out who the other is. And everything gets complicated.

This was an amazing read! I got the sample of it first since I don't usually read YA contemporary. As

soon as I finished the sample, I HAD to get the rest of the book! Like most of the other reviewers said, the best part about this book was the deep, realistic characters. They were so real, so true, so complex that I felt like I knew them. The story itself had many thought-provoking themes and story lines that struck a chord with me. Please read if you want a unique, thoughtful, deep read!

Heartfelt story with friendship, understanding, and connection amidst tragedy. The characters felt real and the dialogue was great. The story deals with some hard issues but handles them in a light way. My only real negative was that the 2 mc's connection didn't feel as tangible as I think it could've been (until the end). Something similar to this is "tell me three things." That one got 5 stars by me.

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