



The Girl Who Broke The Sea

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DISCUSSION GUIDE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

After being kicked out of school for her destructive behaviour, troubled Lily agrees to an unusual fresh start: going with her mum to live on Deephaven, the world's first experimental deep-sea mining rig and research station located at the bottom of the ocean.

A mind-expanding thriller set in the ocean's depths, a terrifying struggle for survival - and the story of one girl's path to self-acceptance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *"I break things sometimes, on purpose, I don't know why."*
Why do you think Lily breaks things? What purpose does it serve for her?
2. *"I loved him, of course, but I'd known from a very young age that he was somebody you had to make allowances for."* Think about how growing up with a neurodiverse parent might affect Lily's experience of the world and her opinion of herself.
3. Lily's Dad describes a computer interface as a kind of translator between humans and computers. Think about the interfaces you encounter in everyday life (web sites, cookers, central heating timers, etc). What makes an interface *good*? What makes an interface *bad*?
4. Consider Lily's relationships with the other characters in the book, especially Ari, Ysabel, Evan, Jian, Alban and Jacob. What does this book teach us about relationships? About fitting in?
5. Deep-sea mining could cause untold damage to the last untouched habitat on the planet, but it could also provide a valuable source of metals necessary for decarbonisation. How do we manage that contradiction? Is deep-sea mining a good thing or a bad thing?
6. The euglenoid has evolved alone at the bottom of the ocean. Its only experience of the world comes from memories it finds in Lily's head. What memories would you bring to mind to help it understand what being human is?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Lily's Mum comes up with several outlandish research proposals in her attempts to stay on Deephaven. Write a proposal for the most ridiculous (or most important) research you might do at the bottom of the ocean?
2. Write a letter to your MP explaining what deep-sea mining is and why it's important to declare a moratorium until we have gathered more scientific evidence. Use [this video](#) (10mins) for inspiration.
3. Jacob, one of Lily's friends, grew up on a "seaweed ranch" in the Pacific ocean. Write a story about life on a seaweed ranch or a solar pontoon. (Note: These places *don't* actually exist in real life)