

The History of Love - a novel by Nicole Krauss.  
Penguin Viking 2005

This is a moving, inspirational and touching book with an intricate plot that is hard to review without giving away too much of the contents and spoiling the voyage of discovery on which it takes the reader.

The History of Love is about several apparently unconnected people who are actually all closely linked by a book manuscript called 'The History of Love'.

The story is told through the voices of its main protagonists: Leo Gursky, deeply troubled Shoah survivor, and Alma, a fourteen year old girl and her brother Bird, coming to terms with life without their father. The major subsidiary characters also play a most important role - Bruno, Leo's closest companion, Leo's lost love and the mother of his child, Alma's mother and father, and the writer Zvi Litvinoff and his wife Rosa.

To say more would be to begin to unravel an intricate yet beautifully told narrative that grips the reader intensely from the first page and clings on even when the story is over.

But don't waste any more time trying to understand the review - just go out and read the book - it'll stay with you for years!!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh