

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The word "Broken" is centered in the upper half of the image.

Broken

Written by Lauren Layne

Published by griefconvention

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Broken

Broken

By Lauren Layne

Broken Heart

Lauren Layne's New Adult novel tells the story of a girl with secrets, a guy with scars, and a love that could save them both... or destroy them.

Broken Toe

When Olivia Middleton abandons the glamour of Park Avenue for a remote, coastal town in Maine, everyone assumes she's being the kind do-gooder she's always been. But Olivia has a secret: helping an injured war veteran reenter society isn't about charity—it's about penance. Only, Olivia's client isn't the grateful elderly man she's expecting. Instead, he's a brooding twenty-four-year-old who has no intention of being Olivia's path to redemption . . . and whose smoldering gaze and forbidden touch might be her undoing.

Broken Record

Paul Langdon doesn't need a mirror to show him he's no longer the hotshot quarterback he was before the war. He knows he's ugly inside and out. He'll do anything to stay in self-imposed exile, even accept his father's ultimatum that Paul tolerate the newest caretaker for three months or lose his inheritance. But Paul doesn't count on the beautiful twenty-two-year-old who makes him long for things that he can never have. And the more she slips past his defenses, the more keeping his distance is impossible.

Broken Arrow

Now Paul and Olivia have to decide: Will they help each other heal? Or are they forever broken?

FIVE REDEMPTION STARS.

"Not so long ago, I was a bona fide romantic. I believed in true love and happy endings. And then I grew up."

It's been around a year now, maybe less since I discovered my addiction to Lauren Layne. It was a whirlwind example of love at first read and since that first book by this author I haven't once looked back. Everything this author puts together suits my tastes perfectly and I've made it no secret that Ms Layne is one of my most treasured favourite authors. Those who know me will tell you that I have an unhealthy obsession with love, whether it's music about love or a TV series with characters falling for each other or those movies where there are those scenes that get your heart pounding, everything about love I can't help but be a little bit addicted to. Lauren Layne must know the secret to writing stories that fit right in with my love vice because she writes romance so perfectly I can't help but be swept up into her world of affairs of the heart. As for this novel, yet again I was glued to my kindle and predictably I fell straight into love with a story that rivals Disney's beauty and the beast. Readers get ready to meet one tortured hero and a loveable pampered princess because Lauren Layne has delivered once again.

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What's it all about?

Olivia Middleton is a pampered princess with a Heart of Gold. Living her life as the child of wealthy parents she has never had to worry about her future or security but when a mistake clouds her path of happiness she makes the decision to change the direction of her life and volunteer to assist a war veteran and leave behind her education and wealth. Expecting to be spending her days caring for an elderly war hero, Olivia is shocked to find that she's faced with caring for a moody, broody but exceptionally gorgeous twenty four year old left with scars inside and out from his time serving his country in the war. Paul Langdon is angry, he's angry at the world, his life, his situation and most of all

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he's angry that his father has recently assigned him a new carer who just happens to be a beautiful girl, a girl who is just another reminder that he can no longer be involved in a world that he once thrived in. But as defences drop and a friendship forms between this duo they may just be the answer to each other's hurt and the key to moving forward but before that can happen they both have to be willing to let go of what is broken in order to find their happy ending together.

What did I love?

From page one I was hooked by this story, nothing appeals to me more than a beauty and the beast storyline and this novel showcases that trope down to an art. For such a harrowing story it felt more romantic and emotional rather than dark and depressing and even though the author included some heart breaking themes I always felt that the healing and love was in the spotlight throughout the storytelling, all of which added to my enjoyment of the book. I've said before in other reviews that a tortured, borderline unlikeable hero is one of my favourites to read about and it's probably a good idea to mention that this hero does some questionable actions throughout the book but i couldn't help but fall for him in all his broken ways. Olivia was thoroughly likeable she was the perfectly relatable and she had a strength of character that was needed to balance out this books hero and all his demanding ways. The dual point of view was written so well, Lauren did an amazing job at keeping the characters voices true to their gender and personality and to top it off the sexual chemistry and build up to a relationship was sexy as well as heartfelt. As you have already guessed I adored this book, from the front cover to the acknowledgements I was won over by themes of healing, forgiveness and love but most of all I fell undeniably in love with one broken man and his story of a love of a lifetime.

Final thoughts ...

Admittedly this story did have a little bit of back and forth drama that may be a little much for some readers tastes but for me it all added to the anticipation of what I knew would be a glorious finale to a romance that had captured my heart. Lauren Layne could fill my reading time up with a book a day and id never tire of her writing style, there's not a release from the author that I'd miss and my only complaint now is that I have read all there is to read by this author and so the wait continues for more. I'm hoping that readers who are as addicted to romance and love as I am will fall in love this novel as much as I have and in addition if you have a penchant for a tortured hero who needs an opportunity to redeem himself then you don't want to miss out on meeting the irresistible but at times disagreeable, Paul Langdon. Finally Lauren Layne a thank you to you, you write stories that make me fall in love over and over again and I simply can't get enough. Go grab it on release day readers ... Enjoy.

ARC generously provided by random house publishing via netgalley in exchange for an honest review. ...more

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Broken Lyrics

**** 4,5 stars ****

Once again Lauren Layne delivered wonderful love story with wonderful characters. As much as I loved *Isn't She Lovely*, I didn't think this one would be as good, mainly because of Olivia. I didn't have much sympathy for her after what happened with Ethan in the first book and was very sceptical about her redemption. But oh man, was I wrong, because this book was beautiful.

This is a story story about rich, spoiled, fed with a silver spoon her whole life, preppy princess from
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This is a story story about rich, spoiled, fed with a silver spoon her whole life, preppy princess from Manhattan and about broken, broody, grumpy, scarred inside and out ex-military.

Olivia has it easy her whole life, until she makes a big mistake, she is looking for forgiveness and ends up taking up a job as a caretaker for war veteran. What she doesn't expect is him to be this young, arrogant and though scarred, extremely handsome, she didn't expect for him to have this pull on her.

Paul is angry and mad, he is no longer star quarterback with beautiful girlfriend on his arm, no, he is a broken man who after having returned from Afghanistan became reclusive and didn't want anyone around. He definitely doesn't want another caretaker in his life. What he doesn't expect is Olivia to be this young and gorgeous, with no bullshit attitude.

They have three months together, and while Paul makes it hard to be around, Olivia never gives up on him and slowly breaks his walls and encourages him to open up. Although Paul had really cruel moments and sometimes I wanted to smack him, I couldn't help but like him. Olivia did very well on redemption, when I started a book, I wasn't a fan, but at the end, I can say, she was very likeable character.

They are both attracted to each other and there is great chemistry there. The sexual tension is very much present. I also enjoyed the pull and push and back and forth. Their relationship was difficult and

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intense, but oh so beautiful. The ending was sweet and satisfied me, though I wouldn't mind some kind of epilogue. Another great book from LL, which I recommend. Enjoy!

Updated 04/14/2015

We have that epilogue that I was missing and you can find it here:

Broken epilogue ...more

::: FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED ::: 4.5 STARS :::

"...the story of a girl with secrets, a guy with scars, and a love that could save them both..."
SQUEE!!!! Fun, sexy, and heart-wrenching, with a unique modern-day "Beauty & The Beast" twist to it, this was exactly the kind of book I was looking for!! A story of redemption, forgiveness, healing, and love. With its brooding, tormented, and scarred hero (LOVED him!!) and strong, sassy heroine who would NOT take any of his shit (LOVED her too!!), ::: FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED ::: 4.5 STARS :::

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You know that feeling when you just connect with a book? Yup, well, that happened here. We bonded, the book and I. Instantly. I fell in love with it on the first page, and by the second, I was already squeeing.

While I definitely chuckled my way through many chapters, I also was genuinely intrigued by the deeper story as well. What was this girl's secret? What had made her run from her privileged life? Who was this guy? What kind of person was hidden beneath his scars? What was his story? And why did he come off as such an asshole? And, why was he also making my heart melt? In every way, I. WAS. HOOKED.

I'm getting a little ahead of myself here...

Paul Langdon, once a popular, hotshot quarterback, was now a 24-year-old ex-Marine, permanently wounded and scarred both on the inside and outside by a war that also claimed the life of his closest friend. Angry, brooding, and utterly closed off, he wanted nothing more than to retreat from the world, but was forced into an ultimatum by his wealthy father: if he wanted to get his inheritance, he had to play nice and put up with his new caregiver. If it was just for him, he would have walked away in a heart-beat, but he needed the money to help someone else dear to him so he stayed, begrudgingly.

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I'm no longer Paul Langdon, hotshot quarterback and all-American hero off to war. I'm Paul Langdon, disfigured recluse and of no use to anyone. Hell, I can't even be of use to myself. I can't even fucking walk.

Olivia Middleton was born into a wealthy family and lived a life of privilege. But just short of graduating with her degree, she suddenly decided to leave her life of privilege and accepted a job in Maine as a private caregiver to an injured war veteran. For her, this was about penance and redemption.

When Olivia showed up at Paul's house, he was the last thing she expected...

I haven't even seen the guy in full light yet and I'm about fifteen seconds away from asking if his offspring would like to take up residence in my uterus.

I should run. Instead, I move closer.

"Let me guess. You were expecting an old dude in a smoking jacket?" he said gruffly.

... and there she was. Beautiful. Gorgeous. Free to live her life however she pleased. She represented everything he no longer was and everything he was trying to get away from.

This girl is exactly the sort of person I exiled myself to Maine to avoid. She's tempting. Not just in the sexual way! But with that briefest of glimpses, she tempts me with something worse: she makes me long for normal.

Every scene just drew me further and further in. Everything from the addictive writing, to all the secrets, to their explosive chemistry had me desperate to keep flipping the pages and see them fall in love.

He growls and moves closer, pinning me against the door with his body as his tongue slips into my mouth.

I totally loved Paul!! Gah, he was just so grouchy and tormented!! A "golden-boy-meets-jaded-war-hero" with PTSD. He was angry on the outside, seemingly dead on the inside, and yet Olivia sensed something more in him. I loved the way she shook up his world, threw him off his guard, and pulled him out of his downward spiral. And even more, I loved seeing her slowly bring him back to life.

She's touching my scars. And I'm letting her.

Because the story is told in alternating POVs, we genuinely see why Paul is the way he is. I love characters with deeper layers and while he may have come across as quite rough, when I learned the reasons why, it was heart breaking and I couldn't help but feel for him. Don't get me wrong, he really was a complete jerk at times but the damaged guys are my weakness. I love them, even with their mistakes. And, being able to read his thoughts allowed me to remain always sympathetic instead of

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being angry or frustrated.

She's not mine to protect butâ€¦ I want her to touch me... I want her to be mine to take. And when she's looking at me like that, I can almost believe it's true.

Their banter was PURE GOLD!!! It perfectly balanced the more emotional side of the story. Every time things got serious, suddenly I'd be laughing at something one of them said. Then add in the sexy, intense hotness and the love/hate, push/pull vibe between them and, of course, the emotional undercurrents of Paul's painful past and this whole book was just a delightful mix of everything I love to read about.

"Oh I'm sorry. Were your bear growl and caveman antics supposed to send me running away? Did you expect that I'd faint at your glower?"

I also really loved this author's writing style! Not only was the way she conveyed emotions and described scenes so vivid but her specific word choices also made me smile over and over again.

My only complaint is that I wanted just a little bit more from the last few chapters. Don't get me wrong, it's a standalone with a resolved ending, but I really would have wanted an epilogue. Still, this is absolutely a new favorite for me!! Such an awesome story and I'm SO glad I read it!! :-)

No matter where I look, my walls are crumbling, and this damned girl keeps presenting me with the most dangerous element of all.

Hope.

Rating: 4.5 stars. Standalone romance.

(PS: I debated a lot between marking 4 or 5 stars on here... I mark 4, then I mark 5, then back to 4, then back to 5... To be accurate, it would be a real 4.5, right in the middle of 4 and 5.)

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Broken Heart Syndrome

4,5 Redeeming Stars.

In this modern twist of the "Beauty and the Beast", Paul is an ex-marine who was badly hurt in a mission, and now lives reclusive in his own mansion ashamed of how he looks and his physical complications. Olivia is a girl who made some mistakes in the past and now she's looking for redemption. She decides that the best way to get it is to help a war veteran to recover. What she wasn't expecting was the veteran be close to her in age, and quite good-looking despite the scars and the arrogance.

Both a little scared, neither one prepared (Ahn? See what I did here?!) they start to develop feelings for each other. But when both of them are broken, can they find healing on the other?

This was an extremely well-written love story. As always is with Lauren Layne. She always writes the best slow-burn stories that leave you addictive from the first page and make you root for the protagonist from the first moment.

My only problem with Lauren Layne (and the sole reason I didn't rate this five stars) is because Lauren must hate epilogues. I'm a complete epilogue sucker and I almost live for them, so as you can imagine books that don't have one (even small) doesn't sit well with me.

This was sweet, romantic, heartbreaking at some times and with real sexy moments. A book you shouldn't definitely miss!

Rating: 4,5 Stars.

Characters Development:

After having some trouble with Olivia after the previous book, I'm glad to say we make peace with each other. It was nice to see the things from her point of view and after all, what young adult doesn't err? Paul was harder. In the beginning we were quite the asshole but it's clear he was fighting a war with himself, so it was impossible not to like. And he grew up so much as a character that towards the end, it was impossible not to love him. There were some strong supporting characters, and I can say I'm very curious to read Michael's story next!

Steam: Some heated scenes.

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Olivia is Ethan's ex-girlfriend. We met her in *Isn't She Lovely* as this horrible girl who cheated on her boyfriend with his best friend! After that she wanted to go away for a while, where nobody (especially Michael) could bother her and make her remember what she's done.

• I had two best friends in the world, and I managed to treat both of them like garbage: Ethan by betraying him, Michael by walking away. •

That's how this beautiful, spoiled princess got a job as a caretaker of war veteran named Paul. Surprisingly, the man she is supposed to care for is not old, immobile man. Her employer is only two years older than her and definitely able to move around. He also has many physical and mental issues; not only his leg isn't in very good shape, one side of his face is scarred and his soul is broken.

Paul, rough around the edges and complete asshole, blackmailed by his father agreed to let Olivia be his "caretaker". It was that or no money.

Now both of them have to learn how to cope with each other and survive three months together.

• It's just so romantic. The beautiful angel swooping in to save the surly dickwad who's quite possibly a murderous recluse. •

The introduction to the main heroine made me not sure if I would be able to like Olivia or even tolerate her, but thanks to Lauren Layne's amazing storytelling ways I quickly learned that she is not as bad as I have pictured her. She did redeem herself in my eyes very quickly; which let me relax and start to enjoy myself.

I'm a great fan of love/hate relationships or just those couples who are full of wit and sass. There is nothing better than great sexual chemistry mixed with funny banter and silly situations; *Broken* was full of that, so instantly I've fallen in love with this story.

• "You want me?" he asks against my mouth. "You want my hands on you?"

Broken is also filled with laugh out loud moments, quite a few smoldering, sexy times and lots of sexual tension. And while Paul is definitely a jerk, he's loveable too. So, yes I think Lauren Layne has done

Broken Window Theory

4.5 Beauty and the Beast Stars

I almost want to laugh at how messed up we are.

Two completely shattered souls doing a weird approach-and-recoil dance around each other.

Remember Olivia from *Isn't She Lovely*? She was Ethan's ex girlfriend who broke his heart. Ring a bell? What started out with a lighthearted take on *Pygmalion*, now continues with an angsty and emotional take of *Beauty and the Beast* with *Broken*. This is the story of 2 damaged souls, Olivia and Paul. One is seeking penance while th

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I wasn't sure how I would like Olivia in her own book since saying that I liked her in *Isn't She Lovely* would be an understatement. Lauren Layne certainly managed to redeem her in my eyes. With a deeper look into who she really is and the things that drive, you can tell that beneath the rich society girl is a also a girl that made a mistake and is looking for any way to redeem herself. She's also running. Running from her daily life and her daily reminders of what she did and can no longer fix. So she takes a job in Maine caring for a war veteran. She just didn't see Paul coming...

Paul is scarred and angry. He's angry at the world, he's angry at his life, and he's angry at anyone that breaks his reclusive routine. So when his father announce that the new caretaker after the many before that he's already run off is his last chance, he's less than thrilled about it.

Ladies, let me just tell you, if you like your heroes to be colossal (and I mean COLOSSAL assholes) prepare to fall for Paul. Paul is the epitome of broken. He's scarred inside and out, and his road to redemption is not a fast one. This is not someone that lays their eyes on Olivia and insto presto he's smitten. Oh no. He was downright callous, but you still can't help but fall for him. Your heart will hurt for him at the same time you will want to throttle the living daylights out of him and his treatment of Olivia.

The author gives the reader just the right amount of small tidbits and tiny morsels of the man that he can be, that will leave you almost torn between loving and hating him at the same time.

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But don't be fooled, because those few morsels are rare and few in between.

You want me?" he asks against my mouth. "You want my hands on you?"

Little alarm bells are going off in the back of my head. There's no warmth in his words. No kindness, or even desire. He's playing some sort of cruel game in which my body is definitely the playing board. And I'm a willing participant.

At times my head would be spinning between his rage and the small glimpses at the broken soul he hides beneath the cold and broken exterior.

Little by little Olivia begins to do what no other caretaker before her has accomplished; she begins to chip away at his walls. But will he let them down enough to let her into his heart?

Somewhere inside of me, a demon is telling me that I'm going to disappoint her. That I'm going to destroy her.

This book had a much more serious, emotional, and angsty undercurrent. And when I say angsty, I mean ANGSTY. But there's also a small dose of steam to break it up

Soon followed by more angst.

What can I possibly tell you about this book other than it's a must read? What else do you need? Read it and see for yourself. I know I for one cannot wait to see what this incredibly talented author has in store for the next book in the series. Dare I hope for Michael's book next?

****ARC courtesy of publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review****

All quotes taken from the Advanced Reader Copy of book and may differ from the finished published version

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Wow this was really good! I loved it! The truth is these kind of books are my favorite! A guy with scars in his face is exactly what I'm looking for. From the beginning I couldn't put it down! The sexual tension between Paul and Olivia was off the charts! I loved the writing and the story was interesting! This is my first book from Lauren Lane and now I'm sure I will read her other books too!

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This is Olivia's and Paul's story. Olivia has made a mistake and now she needs an escape. She wants to get away from her previous life, so she makes the decision to take a job as a caretaker. She thinks that the man she will meet is an old man instead she finds a beautiful man but still arrogant.

How will she deal with him?

Can she manage to make things work for her?

Paul doesn't think of himself as the good looking football hero anymore but a disgusting man. Returning home from Afghanistan he's a completely changed man. Paul no longer wants to be around anyone. His father has sent many caretakers to try and help him but he didn't make it with anyone... But now it is so different when he meets his new caretaker who is around his age with blonde hair and long legs....

Can he resist her?

Is she going to put away the walls he has created around himself?

"She makes me forget to breathe. She makes me forget everything."

Their relationship was at times times was scorching hot between them! I loved them both!! Oh poor Paul was broken inside and out.. I loved him so much! I love when books have both POVS because we can see what they both think! Olivia was tough and funny! Exactly what Paul needs!

A really beautiful book for everyone!

****ARC courtesy of publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review****

...more

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Broken Screen

3.75 Stars - 4 Stars

• I had two best friends in the world, and I managed to treat both of them like garbage: Ethan by betraying him, Michael by walking away.

Attention fans of *Isn't She Lovely* this is Olivia's book (Ethan's former girlfriend) who got caught kissing his best friend. Olivia is completely down on herself since things fell apart with Ethan. She decides to drop out of NYU and do penance for her sins by taking care of a war veteran in Middle-of-Nowhere Maine.

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Much to Olivia's surprise the war veteran is a hot young male named Paul Langdorn. Paul is one angry and broken man who used to be the quarterback of his football team and babe magnetic. The tragedies he faced while serving our country have crippled him and have left both visible and invisible scars.

• I don't need a gorgeous blond to remind me of all the things I can't have.

Paul and Olivia's attraction and chemistry was evident from their first encounter while Olivia may not be medically qualified on any level, her presence does get to Paul and soon he finds himself making strides.

Broken

â€• I want to show him that heâ€™s not a monster. That heâ€™s not a thing to be laughed at. I want him to know that he is desirable, even with scars.

Sadly, Paul shows his anger towards Olivia and can be pretty cruel. Olivia was such a likable character and the story had steam, while and the writing was enjoyable with a nice ending. However, I needed more. Perhaps an epilogue? I would have liked to see how Paul can handle life outside his fatherâ€™s compound.

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â€• Disney starsâ€•

I loveeeeeed it!!!

It was everything I needed, everything I was looking for in a book- it made me feel soooo romantic. This happens to be my second 5 star book this year (Ya, no surprise there!) and for once, I didnâ€™t want to judge a book, just wanted to feel the love and enjoy it. Story was simple yet so full of life, there was so much depth to it and characters were so real and relatable, not all gooey or charming; the kind that makes you want to cuddle with them but the ones â€• Disney starsâ€•

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What can I say about the author which I havenâ€™t said before? Her writing is simply beautiful; she has some kind of magical portal in her books that just sucks you in and trust me, I didnâ€™t want the fairy tale to ever end!

...more

Broken

Broken Ankle

4--Brooding--Stars!!

â€œItâ€™s just so romantic. The beautiful angel swooping in to save the surly dickwad whoâ€™s quite possibly a murderous recluse.â€•

We have the beauty, Olivia....who we met in Isn't She Lovely, though I didn't remember her at all. Olivia cheated on her long time boyfriend Ethan, with their best friend Michael. As a result she drops out of school and signs on to be a caretaker for Paul, the beast.

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Paul was injured at war and for the last two years has lived a life of seclusion. He has a bum leg, scarring on his face and an overall piss poor attitude about life in general.

Boy does Olivia have her work cut out for her. Despite Paul's extremely brooding, and at times downright hateful, attitude....I couldn't help but like him. Paul was dealt a pretty shitty hand...he just hasn't done anything to climb his way out.

"Oliviaâ€™s future is glamorous Hamptons parties and pretty boys in suits. Mine is solitude and hole-in-the-wall bars like Frenchyâ€™s."

Paul hasn't wanted to move on. He hasn't wanted to get help. I really enjoyed the back and forth banter between Olivia and Paul. She didn't put up with his shit when there were many times I would have given up. But she never gives up on Paul. And that's the one thing that Paul needed most. Someone to want to know what happened to him. Someone to believe in him.

Olivia finally starts to break down some of Paul's carefully constructed walls. He opens up about what happened to him. He starts to go out, even if it is just into town. He smiles more, he laughs. And it's all thanks to Olivia.

"I love Paul, the person. I love his darkness and his shadows. I love his smile and the kindness he

Broken

tries so hard to hide. I love the boyish quarterback beneath the war veteran, and I love the scarred right side of his face even more than the perfection of his left.

I love him."

But is that enough? Enough for Paul to live a "normal" life? A life where he and Olivia go on dates? Where he visits NY with her? Where Paul can walk amongst a crowd of strangers and not fear what people's reactions will be?

"I can live in the light without you, or stay here in the dark with you.â€•

I really enjoyed this one. I can't say the storyline was completely original but I liked that there wasn't a bunch of outside drama. Just two people...both carrying guilt from their pasts, looking for something more...something different. Absolution. Resolution. Forgiveness. Love.

This one wasn't super steamy but had some hot moments. A few LOL moments and a few teary moments. I'd definitely recommend! ...more

4 Redeeming Stars

I will confess- I have had this book sitting at NG for quite awhile. Why I didn't read it soon is a mystery but boy was I pleasantly surprised by how good this book was. It was a book that made me feel good all over.

This is a wonderful beauty and the beast story. Paul is a war veteran from Afghanistan who returned home with both external and internal scars. He has been hiding from the world, only living to help the families of the men he served with who didn't come home. His sc 4 Redeeming Stars

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This is a wonderful beauty and the beast story. Paul is a war veteran from Afghanistan who returned home with both external and internal scars. He has been hiding from the world, only living to help the families of the men he served with who didn't come home. His scars, his guilt, his fears keep him from reentering society- he's broken. He's fine with living at his family's summer estate away from the world. Paul is mean, nasty, bitter, borderline drunk and doesn't want or need a caregiver. He's gotten rid of all the others with his meanness. But his father has set up parameters this time, if Paul's caregiver doesn't stay for 3 months, he will be cut off from all his money. If he wants to still help his brother's families, he

Broken

has to put up with this next caregiver for 3 months. He can do it, for them...

Olivia is the beauty who has been asked to work as Paul's caregiver to help him return to the land of the living. Olivia has her own guilt's and demons that she is running from. She's hoping that helping Paul will help to heal her - she's broken as well. But Olivia is bold, irreverent and brave, and she can hold her own. She was expecting an old man to take care of, not a 24 yr old man whom she is wildly attracted to.

So three months.....Paul finds that his disposition is slowly changing. Olivia is doing something to him. Olivia makes him want "normalcy" but he knows he can't have it and it only intensifies his torment. He has days where the mean and cruel Paul wants to resurface; his demons are deep and are always close at hand. Paul and Olivia go toe to toe. She overlooks his aggression, knowing that it comes from deep inside. The tormented man is hard to resist. She wants to help Paul so that she can fix her brokenness. They settle into a routine. They run in the morning or Olivia runs and Paul walks. Besides his scars on his face his leg is wounded as well. They work out, they read in the library, they eat together, they spend time together.....these two broken souls seems to have Hope.

They eventually break to one another. Paul's story is sad and tragic and heartbreaking but he finally opens up. He is starting to live and he wants and needs Olivia. Olivia also opens up about her brokenness. She tells Paul and in doing so, they fall in deep. Their connection is intense and powerful and loving. But is their love enough to really pull Paul into the real world? Can Olivia be happy living at the estate never leaving his safety net?

This story was told in dual POV's. It was very well written. It tugs on so many emotions- sadness, loneliness, grief, guilt, happiness, sorrow, love, and hope. It's hard not to love a tormented man who wants redemption but doesn't feel he deserves it. Olivia is strong and determined and believes that Paul can be unbroken. These two together eventually see beyond their brokenness and truly redeem one another. It's a beautiful love story that I would recommend to all.

ARC provided by publisher via Netgalley in exchange for honest review

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