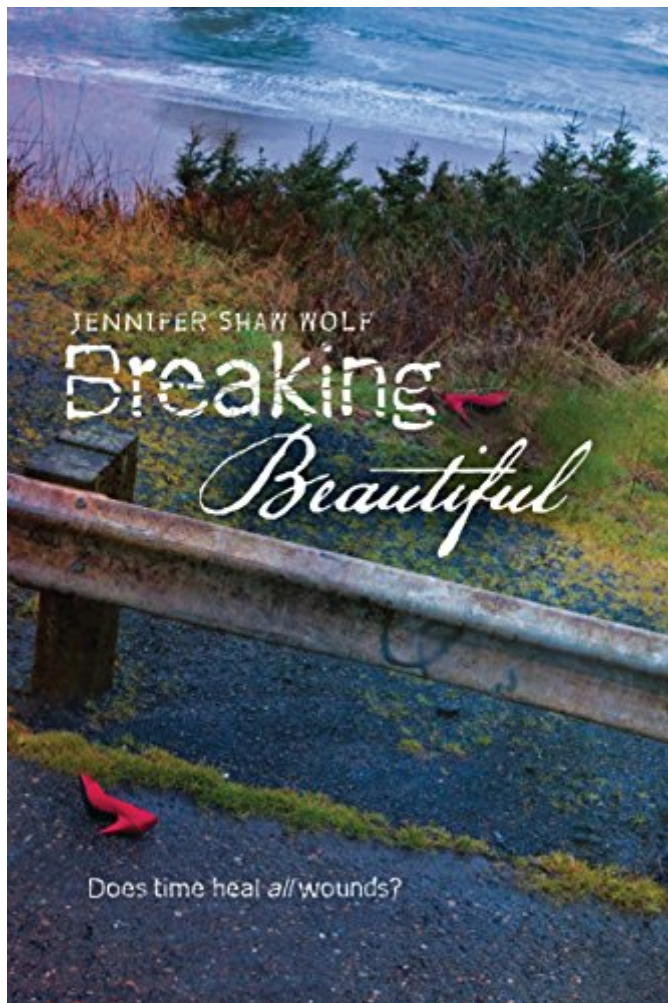


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Breaking Beautiful



Synopsis

Allie lost everything the night her boyfriend, Trip, died in a horrible car accident. Although she managed to jump out before he lost control of the car, Allie can't remember anything from that night-but she has a sinking feeling that it was no accident. As their small seaside town, mourns the loss of one of its brightest, Allie feels guilty that she can't help solve the mystery of the crash. But more importantly, she is secretly relieved to be free from the relationship that caused her more pain than the one night of the crash ever did. The abuse she suffered at Trip's hands is a secret she kept for so long, even from her twin brother, Andrew, and her best friend, Blake. Trip's family insists that foul play was behind their son's death, and the investigation turns on Allie and Blake, especially as their changing relationship raises eyebrows around town. Beginning to question everything about herself, her family, and Blake, Allie must reach deep down to remember what happened that night. But is it worth it, if finding out the truth could hurt the people who tried to save her?

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Customer Reviews

Breaking Beautiful has one of the most heartbreaking characters I've ever read and it has nothing to do with the accident that took her boyfriend's life. Going in, I knew this story would be tough. To see the contrast between the life everyone thinks Allie has and the one she's truly living is astonishing. To the world, Allie is the perfectly happy, spoiled girlfriend. Trip gives her everything she could possibly need, acts the part of loving boyfriend. Sure, she has some enemies in town because Trip dumped the popular girl in favor of Allie, but that's a minor problem. What everyone doesn't know is what happens behind the scenes, what Allie is too ashamed to face. Trip's abuse has left Allie paranoid and broken. She doesn't think of herself as worth anything because that's what Trip beat into her. It's all her fault and if she would only change, then everything could be perfect. That's the mindset Allie has, even after the accident. She's broken in nearly every way she can be. This book could have easily become depressing, but it didn't. Even as you read about how hurt Allie is, her strength comes through. She is still going on with her life, trying to find a new way to live. She hides away at times, but that's only because she doesn't know how to be Allie; she doesn't know if just being Allie is good enough. Blake. I loved Blake. He knew enough about Allie to try and find her whenever she'd lose herself to her own thoughts. He plays the tough, bad guy, but he's got a couple soft spots. Both he and Allie have skeletons in their closets when they start their relationship, but they work together to make it work. Blake finds a way to give back to Allie the pieces of her life she needs and shows her it's okay to let other pieces go. Breaking Beautiful is a heartbreaking story while being heartwarming at the same time. It shows that you can make it through the toughest times and come out stronger on the other side. It says that it's okay to become lost sometimes; you can find a way out. I'm incredibly glad I decided to read Breaking Beautiful and it's definitely a must read, if you ask me.

Allie is a senior in high school and seemingly has it all, including the perfect boyfriend. When Trip is killed in a car accident the night of Allie's eighteenth birthday and her school Cotillion, all eyes are on Allie. She claims to remember nothing of the accident, and the head injury she sustained gives her a great alibi, but is she hiding something? As Allie recovers from her injury and starts trying to pull her life back together, pieces of that missing night begin to resurface in Allie's dreams or assault her as she does little everyday things. Someone is also leaving notes in Allie's locker that frighten her, and draw her back to Trip's death over and over again. Trip's father won't let Trip's death rest. He has the money and power to bring in a special detective to reopen the case. It quickly becomes obvious to the reader that Trip wasn't so great. He had a penchant for drinking and driving, but even worse, he liked to hit, pinch, punch, bruise, and batter Allie whenever she displeased him. She hid it

during their relationship, but she's learning she may not be able to keep that secret much longer. She also begins to wonder if maybe SHE killed Trip. There are holes in her memory and the people who can fill those holes are reluctant to step forward and tell the truth. This is an excellent look at date violence and the vicious cycle of domestic abuse. Allie's circumstances are shared by many girls and boys in high schools everywhere. Domestic abuse is a difficult issue to write about in any circumstance, and when you factor in youth, it becomes harder. I think students in grades 8 and up will be attracted to this novel because of the subject matter but will step away a little better informed. Those in an abusive situation may be able to draw from Allie's pain and courage to help seek the assistance they need.

I try to stay away from teen romances and so when I feel a weakness coming on I have to at least insist on some mystery or paranormal activity. Once in a while I come across one that peaks my interest from the beginning and Allie's story was just that. I don't like to think of a teen age girl being so weak that she can't tell her family when something is terribly wrong but I could put myself in her place and imagine the feeling of shame and how I might want to hide it. Tripp's death is a mystery to the whole town as well as to Allie. I'm surprised everyone jumped to the conclusion that she must have had something to do with it. I was also dumbstruck as to why she was so secretive with each new fact she found out about the accident. All this is probably because I'm way older than her and maybe a little out of touch with how teens react these days. But I do still love teen books and *Breaking Beautiful* kept me interested all the way through. My little complaints are the only thing that keeps this story from a 5 star. Otherwise it is beautifully written and even suspenseful throughout.

I thought I had it figured out approximately 70% in, but I kept reading because it was interesting enough to keep me going. It had the typical jerkoid rich parent of the ex-dead boyfriend who owned the whole town, the exes jerkoid friends and ex-girlfriend that really complimented the story and the long time friend, turn love interest that made me enjoy reading the story even more. I did get a lot eye rolley with how she used rubbing all over her tigereyed stone for comfort, but if I had Allie's past I might have had the same crutch so I pushed my rolling eyes to the side trying to understand people with tragic pasts/present might feel the need to use an inanimate object for comfort. This story definitely makes me glad I don't live in a small town!

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