



Picking Up the Pieces

E.L. Green , Cassie Gathering Leaves (Editor)

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A shattered heart. A damaged soul. A second chance.

A journey of learning to love again, battling to pick up all the pieces.

Ellie finally found her knight in shining armour. She thought she had her happily ever after. But of course, not all stories have a happy ending, and tragedy strikes in the worst form. Widowed at twenty-four, she turns to her old friend tequila.

Her best friend and fellow nurse leaves England to start a new life in Vancouver, Canada, but not before inviting Ellie to join her. Both agree this could be the fresh start she needs. A way to escape her haunting memories. Unfortunately, life has other ideas and throws Ellie a new set of trials. The biggest one being Kyle—"Prez" of the Angels of Death MC.

Kyle's life is the MC... and his kid brother. He doesn't do relationships. He doesn't do love. But fate throws a feisty Brit in his path, with more baggage than a Boeing 747. Not only does Ellie manage to crawl under his skin, but she manages to unintentionally crawl her way into his normally stone-cold heart.

"He didn't even notice my scars. If he did, he looked straight through them. I knew right then all he could see was me. All of me. My hurt, my pain, my flaws, my conflict, my desire, my love... all the craziness that made my brain tick. He saw me. Only me."

Ellie finds herself on a journey of self-discovery as she not only has to come to terms with her past, but has to learn how to love again and accept her future.

Kyle has to follow his own path and realise he is capable of love and there's more to life than the club.

"Who was I trying to kid? She was mine. She was mine the moment I saw her, packing my kid brother's bullet wound in the middle of a hospital waiting room. She just didn't know it yet."

Picking Up the Pieces Details

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From Reader Review Picking Up the Pieces for online ebook

Judy says

January re-read of this one. It's still a 5 star read for me. It's been almost 3 years since this one was published and the author has not released any further books. That is so disappointing. I was looking forward to seeing more stories for the secondary characters. The author indicated at the end of the book that she would be doing more books but it doesn't look like it.

I picked this one up on KU and read it in one sitting. I absolutely loved this book and gave it 5 stars. It's the author's debut book and all I can say is wow did she do a good job. Great writing skills, great editing, good characters and a great story. It's a standalone.

It's not a lite romance because it deals with death/grief, child abuse, alcoholism, guilt feelings, etc. The author writes a believable MC background with the location being in British Vancouver, Canada and the h is from the UK. So when I read words/vernacular that doesn't fit in the U.S. I was fine with it. The H is definitely an alpha-possessive male but oh is he so sweet, compassionate and supportive of the h. He does make one bad decision towards the end of the book but he redeems himself completely. No cheating and a HEA.

This story is not raw and gritty. It's more about a woman struggling with an abusive mother, loss of her husband and child and the deep seated insecurities she faces as she turns to binge drinking. Sometimes in these types of stories the H loses some of his alpha traits but this one was undoubtedly an alpha who was also supportive, compassionate and thoughtful of the h. It's not all about sex but more about real love and hanging in there even when the barriers seem insurmountable.

I will definitely be reading more of this author's books.

Grace says

I think this story, *Picking Up the Pieces* by E.L. Green was great. E.L. Green made this feel real, what I mean by "real" is that not only had she made the characters so three-dimensional with their only problems and baggage (especially the two main characters). But *Picking Up the Pieces* also makes the reader feel the emotions of the story and of each word in it; I know this first hand because the story made cry **a lot** in both sadness and joy, it made me angry, and it made me laugh. Anyhow, hats off to E.L. Green's *Picking Up the Pieces*, the first in her Broken series; I can't wait for the second one to come out.

Carol Clements says

Just re read this book and its Such a wonderful unorthodox love story you really started to feel the love Ellie and Kyle have for each other and you want through all the emotions they went through together. I love how you get to hear from both sides not just the one character.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

DNF!

Amy says

Absolutely loved it!! First book in a long time that I could not put down until finished!!

Rosa says

Oh wow!!! I just don't know what to say about this book. I cried and cried throughout this book. Ellie had to go through so much in her life since she was a young child right through to adulthood. This was one of the most beautiful MC romances that I have read in a long time.

Ms Green you are on my list as one of my new favorite authors and cannot wait for Cassie's book. She was such a good and loving friend to Ellie.

Look forward to read more of your books in the future.

Heather Emery says

I liked this book, but I could have loved it if not for Ellie. She was a strong character, but her weakness with liquor kind of rubbed me the wrong way. Especially the way the people around here handled it. Kyle and the MC were great, I truly enjoyed the secondary characters.

Laurie says

I don't mind an h who is broken and finding her way back to herself, but I think this one was too broken. She was so far into her bottle and her own head, it was hard to like her. Feel sorry for her, yes, but not like her. This made it tough to believe in any kind of connection between her and Kyle. Really, I saw no reason for him to entertain any feelings for her whatsoever, much less the instant like he seemed to have going on. She was a holy mess.

I liked Kyle and the entire book, I felt like he deserved better than her. He was an alpha, and a criminal, but it didn't really get into the nature of his club or their misdeeds. I liked his club brothers too.

I guess my main issue is that my h's need to want to help themselves. It's okay for them to hit rock bottom, but once she got there, she seemed to want to wallow around a bit. No thanks.

Paganalexandria says

For one shining moment trauma nurse Ellie had it all, and then tragedy struck. She can spackle a semblance of having it together for brief moments, but it never lasts for long. Kyle the President of Angels of Death MC rushes his brother to the ER after an attack. In the midst of that confusion he finds himself transfixed by a

beautiful nurse with cojones to boss him around.

The Good:

1. Kyle is gruff on the outside but a sweetheart when it comes to the heroine.
2. The bond Ellie makes with Junior, the heroes younger brother is touching.
3. The friendship with Cassie, the heroine's best friend comes off realistically close. She was protective without being overbearing.

The Bad:

1. Ellie doesn't need a boyfriend; she needs a 12 step program. Her drinking is out of control, and makes the hero look crazy for finding the mess attractive. This issue eats away the romance from this book slowly, and effectively.
2. The current relationship gets very little focus; everything is about Ellie's past. The current storyline feels like an afterthought.
3. My book buddies that are also members of the Low Angst Love group would not be pleased. This is angst on steroids.
4. The heroine's abusive mother came across like an after-school-special villain, and not a real person.

Final Thoughts:

This was a Biker Book Babes: Biker Buddy Read selection. On one hand I was able to sympathize with the heroines past trauma, but this fails as a romance.

Leigh says

Picking Up the Pieces was unfortunately not a good book for me. I didn't like Ellie at all. Yes when the story started my heart broke for her but as the story progressed I realized that she was so damaged that she need so much more than just Kyle. I felt if the author wanted to show the healing of a character like Ellie this book should have been longer so we can experience that healing. That's not what we get, we get a woman dealing with so much trauma that it goes on for the whole entire book and then we're to believe that she's basically all better. I felt this author overlooked the life long struggle that is depression and alcoholism. I didn't believe the romance at all. There was nothing about Ellie that made me believe that Kyle can be so head over heels for her and feel that she is the perfect woman for him. I also wish that the author would have left out the situation at the end with the phone call from the brother and Ellie's actions after. This just proved that she needed intense therapy to deal with her trauma and to deal with her childhood. As if the terrible trauma she suffered wasn't enough in the limited pages of this book, she also had a terrible childhood she never recovered from.

Sam Shaw says

This is a fantastic read as soon as I picked it up to read it I could not put it down, instantly felt connection with characters. Looking forward to reading the second installment

B.E.Love says

4 1/2 stars, I wasn't sure how to feel about this book for some time, it started and I was hooked(I went into this book having no clue what it was about, but someone I trust told me I would love it) I didn't want to put this book down my heart broke for the heroine and the writing was amazing I was connected to this world that was created and heavily invested after a page. Then I started to get frustrated with the heroine, yes she went through something horrible worse than horrible things but I didn't like how long it was taking her (in the book) to have the story move on. This statement isn't to sound harsh or mean I just was wanting more of the story to not be about her struggle and set backs even though I still couldn't put this book down and was still hooked and still loved the authors voice and I think me liking the hero Kyle had a lot to do with that.

Then I just didn't care I loved the book so much and as more was revealed about the heroines past I wasn't focused on what would happen when she was "healed" and I just was enjoying the ride even though it was sad story, and I started to get the heroine and her pain even more and she wasn't a person wallowing in her own despair but a person holding on with all she had trying to find a way out of the dark without even having a flashlight. My feelings towards Ellie wasn't frustration anymore I was connected to her and even more invested and my heart broke for her. I was so happy to see her growth and proud of her, I was glad it was her growth because of her hard work and determination and not because some guy came along and healed her. Yes the hero Kyle was amazing and I loved him and he does help Ellie but after all she had been through I was glad it was her who worked through her problems and saved herself with some amazing people standing at her back and loving her.

Ellie had it all after a horrible childhood she found an amazing loving husband and a little girl on the way, then one accident changed it all and her life spiraled out of control with Ellie not sure why she was left and finding herself drinking to take the pain away. On a path that would ruin her life waking up one day after another horrible night Ellie's best friend Cassie suggests she move to Canada with her to start over. With nothing keeping her in England and the only person she has left moving to Canada Ellie agrees. This new start is what she needed but soon Ellie realizes that this one change won't fix everything.

Working one day Ellie has a gunshot wound come in being carried by big burly bikers that seem to scare everyone but Ellie. One biker in particular has stayed with Ellie and she can't seem to get him off her mind, now she has the guilt of feeling things she should only have ever felt for her husband. Kyle only has his MC and his brother so when he is shot all he can think about is getting him better till a beautiful little nurse comes barging in to save his brother. After seeing her a few times she is all Kyle can think about and she isn't like anyone Kyle has ever met and that on it's own has Kyle intrigued.

On one particularly bad night Ellie runs into Kyle at one of her lowest and he is there for her, now neither can forget the other and neither wants to but Kyle is the MC's president and someone has it out for them as well as anyone they can use to get to them. And Ellie still has her own demons she is still battling and struggling against. Then there is a moment in both of their lives when they have to decide if they are right for each other and more importantly Ellie has to decide if she can finally move on, or if the grief from her past is too strong.

I loved this book I was so proud of Ellie after everything she had been through to see her come through it all

so strong and standing on her own two feet was an amazing moment. Yes Kyle was a great hero, he was POSSESSIVE and jealous of anyone even his brother (which was hilarious seeing since he even knew his thoughts were crazy), and Kyle was unbelievable patient and understanding. E.L. Green did an amazing job creating side character that I was just as connected with as Kyle and Ellie I loved them just as much. But Ellie is the star of this book. My heart couldn't help but break for her and all she had been through making her triumph all the more amazing. I can't wait to see who book two is about (I have an idea of both books two and three) and I can't wait to read their story's. I can't recommend this book enough it was so beautifully written and the epilogue was a perfect ending and just what Ellie and Kyle deserved. This is the first book from this author which in and of itself is astonishing, I can't wait for more!

Rhonda says

This really was a good read. I read straight through until I finished it. Ellie has had a crap life. Her mom has emotionally abused her all of her life. Due to an extremely traumatic event, Ellie moves to Canada with her best friend. She eventually meets Kyle, the Prez of an MC, and they both feel the connection. Due to the tragedy that happened before Ellie moved and because of her mother's abuse, she has a lot of ups and downs, mostly downs in which she always turns to alcohol. You could say she is a borderline alcoholic. This causes a lot drama throughout the story as well as the guilt she feels about her feelings for Kyle. However, Kyle was persistent and Ellie finally gives in. There are many bumps in the road along the way with Kyle making some bad decisions that had me screaming "Are you kidding me!" and Ellie, OMG! I wanted to slap her into the middle of next week with all of the stupid stuff she did. She has really been through the ringer and then some but still, she made some really bad choices. This book had me on an emotional roller coaster with all of its ups and downs, but it was worth it. I would love to read more about the other members in the club.

Tt says

4.5 Stars!

This book had the perfect combination of great characters, unique elements, hot alpha H, and great secondary characters that I couldn't help but love it. It also wasn't so full of high angst that I wanted to pull my hair out and crush my iPad. That said, I want to give some input into what I liked about the plot. First, our h was stricken with tragedy from the get go and she'd already had a bitch from hell for a home life, so right away you say... 'oh the author went with the "baggage" theme. And yes you'd be right, but what made this so uniquely exceptional for me is that our h had some really bad coping mechanisms built in to her defenses and this made her character so real to me. I'm not sure why, but imagining her doing the things she did, felt like it was something that was so spot on. And our H was described so perfectly alpha that you swoon with each scene he's in. But he has his own issues and he has to overcome them in order to try for the life he deserves too. Besides all of that, Hesse two have total chemistry! They are great together and you totally believe in the love they have for one another- and you never doubt it all the way to the end of the book....thru thick and thin. And, HOT....they both ride MC's and I've not read too many MC books where the h rides her own bike! Long and short of it is that this was a fun read for me and I look forward to reading more from this author!

Will2pear95 says

At first I didn't like Ellie. She was too weak and wallowed in self-pity for my taste. But then a strange thing

happened, I started to understand her pain and demons. I was rooting for her and Kyle to make it. Great writing Ms. Green. I can't wait for more from you.
