



Bread Alone

Judi Hendricks

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Bread Alone

Judi Hendricks

Bread Alone Judi Hendricks

A deliciously magical and mouthwatering debut, *Bread Alone* is the uplifting journey of a woman whose entire life changes course when her husband announces one evening that their marriage no longer works for him.

Not suited for teaching high school and hopeless at selling real estate, thirty-one-year-old Wynter Morrison long ago gave up trying to find a suitable career and drifted into the role of a trophy wife -- mainly to suit her husband's desires. An ambitious advertising executive, David had encouraged Wyn to spend her days among other society wives at wine tastings, French films, and trendy restaurants -- improving their social Rolodex and his array of business contacts. So, after seven years of marriage, when David informs Wyn that he feels confined and that their marriage was a mistake, she is left emotionally devastated and without direction, wondering how she let herself become so dependent.

Desperate for a change of scenery, Wyn leaves behind her posh, pampered life in Hancock Park and ventures north to Seattle, where she spends aimless hours at a local bakery, sipping coffee and inhaling the sweet aroma of freshly made bread. These visits bring back memories of her apprenticeship at a French boulangerie, when her passion for bread-making nearly led her to leave college to become a baker. Once again the desire and ambition to bake bread consumes Wyn's thoughts, and when offered a position at the bakery, Wyn quickly accepts, grateful for the comfort of a routine.

Arriving at the bakery just before midnight and working long hours among the bakery's cluster of eclectic women -- Linda, the irascible bread baker; earth mother Ellen and her partner Diane; Tyler, the blue-haired barista -- Wyn awakens to the truths that she missed while living the good life in Hancock Park. And soon she discovers that making bread -- the kneading of the dough, the heat from the ovens -- possesses an unexpected and wondrous healing power, helping her to rediscover that nothing stays the same: bread rises, pain fades, the heart heals, and the future beckons.

Inspiring and beautifully rendered, *Bread Alone* is an uplifting debut novel -- dusted in the gentlest of magic, full of humor, and guaranteed to warm the heart.

Bread Alone Details

Date : Published June 19th 2001 by William Morrow (first published June 1st 2001)

ISBN : 9780060188955

Author : Judi Hendricks

Format : Hardcover 368 pages

Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Food and Drink, Food, Romance, Contemporary

 [Download Bread Alone ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Bread Alone ...pdf](#)



From Reader Review Bread Alone for online ebook

Krista says

Now, if I went over a synopsis of the book, you might get bored. Nothing earth shattering or original happens in the book. It's simply a book about life. The main character, Wyn, is basically thrown out of her husband's home and life. She moves in with a best friend in Seattle to try to re-coup. She takes a job baking bread and starts to grow.

What I loved about this book (besides the baking and the recipes!) was that it was about family, friends, and growth. Wyn is a sensible, loving woman who makes friends easily and is always there for those friends. Baking bread is her catharsis. Bread becomes a metaphor for her life as she grows and "bakes" along with her career.

"Bread Alone" is a simple read, but an enjoyable one. It made me think of the people in my life, and what I am contributing. When I finished the last page, I wanted to do two things: bake bread, and go call my family.

I give this book 5 stars for thoughtfulness and for the wonderful journey it takes you on. *****

Elisabetta says

Wyn loves her husband, but find out that he no more loves her and actually, he leaves for another girl. So 31 years old Wyn find herself alone, without a work, and without a real passion. But then there's bread, and making bread is the first step to move from an old, boring life to start a brand new one.

What I loved of this book is the fact that it express how simple things can change our life. Making bread is, to me, one of the most relaxing thing in life, so I could perfectly understand some of Wyn's feeling. Furthermore, many interesting recipes are inside the book :)

Amy says

Read June 2008, and at the time wrote:

Nice weekend read. I decided to drop the book at Muddy Waters today rather than try the recipes-- I have my favorites for all the ones listed already, just lack the time/inclination to make them. Maybe I'll be inspired now.

Don't know why Wyn was so surprised at the whole David vs Mac vs Gary thing...anyone with half a brain could pick the man most comfortable in his own skin, and with her leading a full and rewarding life.

The best part about looking up this review, though, was seeing a review written by my darling mother after she read the book in 2008 (The caps and other typing idiosyncrasies are completely hers.)

Despite the fact that I picked this up from my daughter's hand and not at a BookCrossing Meeting or in the wild, I was glad to read it.

The backdrop of the bakery, its employees, its product were interesting to meet and follow.

Bread making IS exciting.

ONE OF THE DEAREST MEMORIES I HAVE IS MIXING THE INGREDIENTS FOR A LOAF OF BREAD IN FRONT OF MY SON'S THIRD GRADE CLASS, LETTING THEM SEE IT RISE, BAKNG IT AND SERVING THEM SLICES. IWOLD HAVE ENJOYED TRYING SOMEOF THE RECIPES INCLUDED.

My mother died the following June, and here it is, three Junes later, and we're still sharing a book.

Jody Paglia says

This book is a must read for anyone who has had to reinvent themselves after being deserted by a spouse. The main character Wyn, finds herself alone and abandoned in the cruelest of fashions when her husband David, kicks her out of her home and quickly moves in another woman. She digs deep within herself as she finds solace in the menial task of baking bread. The story is filled with recipes and illustrations of the bread making trade, both with her current job and those based upon her earlier life during an apprenticeship in France.

She undergoes a catharsis and much introspection regarding her prior willingness to give up all that once was dear to her to follow a man that clearly was not worthy of her. She realizes that her once charmed life was based upon lies and that the quality of a man seldom is reflected in his bank balance or in the fancy car he drives. After many painstaking months of coming to grips with the kind of false life she had lead, she follows her heart to focus on her true calling, true friendships and finally true love.

Jessica says

Decent story. But the protagonist kept making the DUMBEST decisions and I kept getting pissed off at her. Also the spacing in the version I read (from Scribd) was a bit messed up so I got confused a few times.

Beth says

I'm really surprised because I thought that I would love this book, but I found it rather boring. The character talked more about bread-making or her time in France than she did her marriage, when that was supposed to be what spawned her whole "life transformation." She talked in detail of the present state of things with her soon to be ex husband, but I felt completely detached of detailed information about her marriage itself. The author clearly is a good writer, but I didn't think the story was woven together very well because there was too much detail where it wasn't needed, and not enough where it was.

Melodie says

I really enjoy what I call foodie fiction. And this one was a nice engaging read featuring home made bread. Endings and the bumpy path to new beginnings came complete with some recipes for the bread featured in the book. And of course there were plenty of the inevitable analogies of bread to life. I liked it well enough to continue the story with book number two, The Baker's Apprentice.

Julie says

Yikes.

I can't think of anyone more annoying, in my recent reads, than Wynter what's-her-name. Self-centered, self-pitying little twerp who deserves a good smack in the head with one of her baguettes. The novel is peopled by a host of paper-thin characters and the thinnest of plot lines. Not for me!

I did enjoy the recipes. They saved the book from a 1-star rating.

Chu says

Booooring!

Typical story of the woman who gets dumped by her husband for a more exciting woman. This one bakes bread to "heal" and meets another guy and Yupee every thing is super again...

Brandon Witt says

I finished Bread Alone and thought: "Wow, I loved this book. Why did I love this book?" It is one of those things I really should not have enjoyed as I did. There were no huge dramas, conspiracies, or epic adventures. In fact, most of it was simple conversations or private thoughts of the heroine, just everyday life. There are many bread recipes for crying out loud. And I loved every second of it. My friend Mel gave it to me to read after I got my heart thoroughly broken. Shattered, actually. She said that she reads this book every time that happens. She even takes notes and jots down personal thoughts in the margins. I followed suite. It was like therapy. I cried, empathized and was startled with how many things the heroine was thinking and feeling that matched where I was exactly. It is written in a very comforting, cozy way. It makes you feel a little safer and secure as you go through it. Although my broken heart was still in that state when I finished this novel, I did feel like I had experienced some solace. Even if you do not have a broken heart, this book is excellent, but if you do: Pay for the overnight shipping!

Teri says

I don't know. I know that I didn't read the blurb and had I known the topic, I wouldn't have read it.

I think my biggest problem was that I didn't like Wynter. She was...not likable. I didn't like her or her mother or her relationship with her mother. I didn't like David or how she was trying to hold onto him or how he behaved. I didn't really understand her and CM at times, I mean, I guess they were both maybe acting in very "human" ways, but I was left, like, Jesus how self-centered can everyone be?

I did like Mac

I'm pretending that whole Gary thing never happened.

Overall, I just found this book kind of sad, and not in the usual way, but more like these were sad people making sad decisions with their sad lives.

I liked the last 10 pages a lot, they went a long way.

It wasn't badly written, it was just not my thing and I felt so damn depressed reading it. Love the inclusion of recipes and stuff though.

Lance Charnes says

I read this while writing a story with a female main character. *Bread Alone* was presented to me as a good example of developing a central female POV character, as done by a female author. It showed me what I shouldn't do with my heroine.

Wynter is a 32-year-old Hancock Park trophy wife who gets dumped by the cheating rich spouse, weathers a series of mostly self-inflicted misfortunes, then finds fulfillment making bread in Seattle and bedding a tall-dark-and-handsome bartender. Other than the recipes, that's about it. It's not a category romance, although it could easily be mistaken for one at times; it's not chick-lit in that there's very little shopping or fashion porn, but it's just down the street a little from there.

I enjoy a good heroine and make sure to put at least one strong, smart woman at the center of each of my works. In that regard, Wyn was frustrating for me; she starts out whiny and self-involved, gets way worse, then suddenly becomes a sassy smartaleck about 3/4 of the way through. Wyn's best friend CM is the blunt, protective, take-charge Best Friend from countless romcoms, but for all that she's the more sensible and least irritating of the two. I'd rather the story had been about CM.

Except for the tall-dark-and-handsome bartender, all the men in *Bread Alone* are creeps, losers, or both. The last time I felt such a need to apologize for my Y chromosome, I'd just read a *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

If it sounds like I'm a bit put off by this book...I am. Not because of that pesky Y chromosome, but just the opposite. The old-school feminist in me rebels at the thought that a female writer, writing for female readers, will create a heroine whose major accomplishment is to stop shooting herself repeatedly in the foot and start acting like an intelligent human being. If that appeals to you, go for it. If nothing else, you'll have the recipes.

Tikiri Tikiri says

This book made me sad. Not because of the story but the recognition that there is a large volume of women's fiction out there that is just not for me. I've started to read several women's fiction books lately, especially those that have a foodie angle. What made me sad was that for many of these books written by women for women, I just couldn't get myself to like the protagonist. Yes, of course I wanted the main character to get what she wanted, but there was no passion, no emotional attachment as the reader, just an unattached hope she'll find what she's looking for eventually and that the book will end quickly.

It seems that most women's fiction books these days are built on one thesis, and one thesis alone. Woman wants man. Lots of things crazy happen in between. Woman gets man. The protagonist may go through emotionally wrenching feelings towards the latest man around her or conflicted feelings about the many men around her. There may be deep reflections on what she really wants in a man and more crisis and drama along this same vein. That's it.

(Spoiler Alert) In this book, the woman does not want to come to terms with her lying, cheating husband, tries in vain to win him back from the "other evil" woman, and then turn him around and force him to love her again. This defies logic. At least to me. If her own husband, who had promised to love her and shares their daily life together (even though it may not a happy one) shows no ounce of integrity or care, then why does she not stop for a minute to reflect about his character instead? He cheated on her, lied to her, hid things from her including his income, and controlled her lifestyle. Yet when he rejects her, she pins for him and persists, with her own mother encouraging her to "win him back." When he refuses and kicks her out of their home (leaving her belongings in the driveway, no less) and she suddenly finds herself single, she becomes an emotional wreck and goes to great lengths to secure another man, to the point that she even sleeps with her own step-brother (yuk, yuk).

I usually read two books at once. The other book I read during this time was by Tim Cahill. He, on the other hand, took me on a thrilling journey. A journey of a man who was determined to see the world, who wanted to reveal the secrets of the Inca and save endangered sea turtles. He regaled me with stories that made me sad, happy, but most of all, he stimulated my curiosity and increased my knowledge of the world around me. Wow. Then I flip back to Wyn from Bread Alone who is so desperate from her loneliness that she sits in a bar alone crying, with no clue of what her she wants in life, feeling sorry for herself that she can no longer wear the best designer clothes or live in the best neighbourhood in the city, and then gets busy plotting revenge, trying to make her soon-to-be-ex-husband's life miserable by delaying the divorce as long as possible. How can I empathise or root for someone like this?

I know I shouldn't generalise, but I have to ask. Why is that the only thing every woman I read about does is pin for love and then manipulate her way to get the man she wants? Is that her only goal in life? Her *raison d'être*? Then I pick up my other books and read stories about men who scale mountains, travel to Siberia, feed orphans in Africa, dive in the deepest of oceans, brings music or some other gift to an inner city school, all the while falling in love with a beautiful girl. What joy it is to read these books. So why can't we read more about women who do the same, because I know there are many wonderful smart, funny female adventurers, social changers, fun loving, world travellers in real life. Why can't we have more stories about them, these women with strong desires to make a difference in their communities, their world, who may use their skills to solve mysteries, discover crimes, or rid the world of some evil thing, while at the same time falling in love with the handsome man next door? Yes, give me the cute, flirty love scenes and the hot steamy sex scenes, but also please give me some women of substance I can root for.

I finally finished this book, struggling through every chapter, waiting for something material, something I could hang my hat on. As hard as I tried, other than the recipes, I just couldn't get myself to like it. I see great reviews for this book, so I wonder if this is just me. Is this what is expected of female protagonists, of females in our modern world?

The bread recipes sprinkled across this book were great and is the only reason I will keep the book.

Holli says

Such a gem of a book! I truly loved it. The characters were well rounded, the setting described to

perfection.... I couldn't put it down. I just love these slice of life books. I could completely relate to what Wynter was going through and I loved discovering who she was right along with her.

Alexandra says

This book was so hard to get through. The first half of the book (seriously about 100 pages) is boring and nothing really happens. Wyn (short for Wynter, which is her middle name) is dealing with a failed marriage. And she mopes. And acts selfish and self-centered. That doesn't change for the entire book. She is not a likeable character. She's not strong, she doesn't really do anything to make her stand out. Was I supposed to feel sorry for her? Was I supposed to be rooting for her to find love again and find a better life? Because I really didn't care what happened to her. And by the time I reached the end of the book I realized I had known what would happen all along.

I finished the book only because I kept hoping it would get better and it never did. It didn't help that I never learned French and there is a lot of French used in this book so some things just went right over my head. But I also didn't care enough to translate it.

Kathy says

Once upon a time I was housebound with a couple boxes of Harlequin Romance novels from the 60's. We had intended to use them as kindling (though yes, burning books is very Fahrenheit..whatever).It was the dead of winter in an uninsulated cabin, what can I say (except that, trust me, books don't give much heat when you burn them).

Anyway, I read the books, all of them, before they went to their dreadful end. And I discovered that there were about 6 plots in all 300 books.

So, I think maybe there are around that many in the realm of chick-lit also. At least Bread Alone seems to go through the expected paces. You have the heroine, suddenly alone and coping with the infidelity of her rich and handsome husband (who is such a shlump, though a pretty one, that one wonders why she hooked up with him in the first place. Maybe it was the colored contacts). You have the secret passion of her youth (though at barely past 30 she is still pretty young), put aside for marriage to contact-guy. You have venture to a new place, where suddenly opportunity presents for her to reclaim the passion (not sex, mind you, but bread..and the descriptions of bread are far more erotic than any of the sex in this book). You have the cute fixing up of the new but temporary rental. You have the tough best friend, the assortment of minor but interesting characters, the complicated daughter/mom relationship, and the sexy guys vying for attention. And the very very predictable ending.

So hey, it wasn't the best work of literature ever written. But it was fun, and the recipes tucked throughout sound very delicious. So sure, I might look for more books by Hendricks.

Michael says

I really enjoyed this book because it was written so well that it was almost like sharing times with a really good friend. The descriptive prose was engaging, at times humorous and in addition created a real sense of involvement with life in a bakery. Even bread-making recipes are included from time to time. The main

character Wynter (Wyn) takes us through all her trials and tribulations as she endeavours to cope with events which almost overwhelm her. Her relationships with family, friends - including her best friend ever and work associates become very strained and I gained much satisfaction from the book as any outcome (until the end) was unpredictable. It was a book I wanted to finish, but didn't want it to finish. If it was another 350 pages in length I think I would still feel much the same about it.

Wendy Kendall says

Reading Bread Alone will give you that same warm and peaceful feeling you get the moment you catch the scent of newly baked bread. Inhale deeply. In this novel, the main character Wynter is faced with her husband's unexpected announcement that their marriage is over. Wynter is at a life-altering point.

She moves from Los Angeles to Seattle, where most of the novel takes place. You'll delight in reading about our familiar sights and culture. She tries to analyze her life situation and make some decisions while sitting daily as a customer at a small bakery she discovers. Destiny steps in and Wynter ends up gratefully accepting an offered job there.

The bakery at the forefront of this novel is inspired by our own Seattle Macrina Bakery. I certainly recommend a road trip to Macrina to experience this incredible bakery first hand. If you're a baker yourself, I recommend that you add yourself to their email distribution to receive their yummy recipes.

The main character's journey is a page turner, and you'll enjoy the characters surrounding her. The author skillfully gives you glimpses into those characters' own compelling journeys as well. They are all learning to knead and shape their futures. "When you're ready to go out to the deep water, you have to dive into the wave. If you wait for it to come to you, it's going to knock you on your keister." As an added treat to the story line, the author includes all kinds of tried and true delicious recipes. If you're not a baker now, you'll certainly be inspired by this book to start baking bread.

And if you find this novel's slice of life leaving you wanting more, you can read the wonderful sequel The Baker's Apprentice. Food talk, confidences, friendships, romance, and recipes, what more could you ask for in a sequel? You'll enjoy reading about the new turns Wynter's life takes, and also the lives of the other characters. This sequel introduces interesting new characters too. "You think you've put things behind you, but the problem is you've put nothing in front of you."

Judith Hendricks began her writing career at the age of 50. About these two novels she has said that bread is a metaphor for daily life. It's really the strong who survive in this world and that's what you learn from knocking down the bread. You punch it down so it can rise up again.

And thereby hangs a tale

Jennineglass says

Every now and then you come across a book that feels like it was written just for you, for this moment in your life. This is one of those books. It was like Ms. Hendricks lovingly wrote me a novel, years ago, where it waited all this time until I finally pulled a used copy from a dusty shelf in a second-hand store to be read when I would most strongly identify with her story. And I did.

This novel was a Seattle foodie love letter and I ate it all up in one sitting because it had all the things I love (bread, men, friendships, a strong female lead, and Seattle....not necessarily in that order). She spoke of streets I have walked, restaurants I have been too, ferries and freeways I have traveled and did it with such clarity that it was like being home. She also did something that I love in my foodie books...sprinkled the story with actual recipes (did you leave out one ingredient or step Ms. Hendricks in the tradition of old?).

Yes I was thoroughly engaged with her well developed characters and their plot lines, but just as inspiring was the baking knowledge I learned; such as what goes into making breads, how to make a chef (yeast starter), and I also learned that you should clean a wooden rolling pin with dried flour, not wash it. Did you know that fellow foodie reader? The whole book is peppered with such interesting culinary details. These details are seamlessly woven together with an engaging story of a woman who struggles with finding her identity when what she thought was is taken away. I will warn some readers that it does have a lot of feeling and emotion, but I wouldn't call this a "romance" book.

If you love foodie books, and especially if you are from Washington, read this book.

Happy Reading!

Sonia189 says

This was a good book. Like some reviewers have said, I liked it more than I would think but the end could have been as detailed as the plot moves the heroine did/begun. Quite the view on how to go through a divorce, how tiring it can be and how depressing... but life goes on. I'd say this is 65% woman's fiction, 35% romance.
