



Broken Things to Mend

Karey White

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Celia is in desperate need of a change--a change of scenery, a change of pace, and a complete redo of all relationships. Not knowing what else to do, she opens a map, closes her eyes, and lets fate decide her future. Then she packs her meager belongings and buys a one-way ticket to a little town on the fringes of Oregon's Deschutes National Forest called Sisters. She's wanted a family for years. Will she find one in Sisters?

What Celia doesn't plan to find is a strange Chinese woman whose meddling ways keep throwing her in the path of a handsome, but reserved, forest ranger. But no matter how kind or dependable Silas seems to be, there are some things in Celia's past that neither of them can escape, and this time, the damage might be too much to mend.

This book is part of a multi-author project that features one recurring character--the match maker--but it is a STAND-ALONE novel.

Broken Things to Mend Details

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Author : Karey White

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Clean Romance, Christian

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From Reader Review Broken Things to Mend for online ebook

Barbara Davis says

Read it in one sitting

I am home in quarantine for a few days after a radiation treatment and was thrilled to find a new Karey White book had popped up on my Kindle this morning. I must have pre-ordered it. I have read and loved every one of her books. This was a wonderful way to spend New Years Day. As always the characters were real and well developed. They are people I would love to know. But Karey's stories are also compelling and this one was exceptional. It especially resonated with me as I am the mother of two adopted children. I have always been in awe of the kind of unselfish love it takes to relinquish a child so that it can have a better life than you are able to provide. Karey did an excellent job of conveying just how difficult and heart-wrenching it is. I LOVED this book. Will recommend it to friends.

Tressa (Wishful Endings) says

Really heartbreakingly good. Review to come.

Book Chick (Tori) says

This book wasn't what I was expecting. It's the first book in the Power of the Matchmaker 12 book series, but is a stand alone novel. For some reason I thought it would be a fun, fluff read, with Pearl, the sweet, little matchmaker from Power of the Matchmaker making an appearance. But it wasn't a fluff read at all. It has some very serious subject matter. And it was really, really good. It hit a ton of different emotions. I laughed and cried and sympathized and hoped. Silas and Celia, bless their hearts, have both had really tough childhoods, both experiencing a lot more than their fair share of tragedy. This book is about taking that past heartache and helping each other heal.

*I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Amber Stokes says

Broken Things to Mend is another delightful contemporary romance from Karey White! The books I've read by her so far celebrate the adventure and fun of very real settings, while sharing the blossoming of romance between very relatable and lovable characters. This series starter is no exception.

The story begins with two broken souls being brought together by a Chinese matchmaker. It was interesting to get a bit of (heartbreaking) back story for the hero, Silas, and to meet him as he's trying to indulge a kind older lady in her odd requests (yes, plural) for transportation to the bus stop in Bend, Oregon.

Then there's the heroine, Celia, who's running from a past and present that haunt her, hoping to find a better future in the small town of Sisters, Oregon. One can't help but root for her in her quest to find a place to truly belong.

Perspectives switch quite a bit at the beginning of the story, which could potentially be disorienting, although it does help give a sense of a larger destiny at play and provide an inside look at the converging of multiple lives.

I really enjoyed all of the characters: the way they slowly open up like new blooms; the way the seasons change from wariness to tender trust; the way they find joy and understanding together. Silas is a quiet, gentle, and loyal soul. Celia is reserved but dedicated and caring. And Silas's aunt, while not without fault, is the perfect friend and nurturing figure for them both.

While there's not a whole lot of suspense and danger in this story, there's a good deal of tension and plenty of questions to keep the story moving along at a steady pace. And, as a girl who calls Oregon home now, I found particular pleasure in following the characters through Sisters and beyond, recognizing some town and landmark names while experiencing some new things.

Broken Things to Mend is touching and heartwarming, while being a little more serious in nature than The Husband Maker series (which I also highly recommend for sweet contemporary romance fans). I felt the ending was resolved a little too quickly, but otherwise I was quite pleased with this story of learning to trust those you love, discovering the perils of judging others, and taking a chance on something wonderful.

With thanks to I Am A Reader Blog Tours and the author for providing me with an e-copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

4.5 stars

This is an unlikely love story. The pasts of Celia and Silas are full of heart break and tragedy. Both are in desperate need of love and acceptance and the question is, can they find it with each other?

Pearl is a matchmaker. She has been around a long time and has "magic" in finding the perfect match. Her search leads her to Celia for Silas. The prospective couple are awkward and uncomfortable around each other. You wonder how this match will work. There are also devastating secrets that have the potential to keep them apart.

You can't help but love Celia. The poor girl has had a very unhappy upbringing. When you think that things can't be worse for her, they become worse. She has longed for happiness and a family to call her own since childhood. She finally finds acceptance and kindness in Sisters, Oregon, but she is afraid. She is running from a past that can catch up to her.

Silas has his own problems. He is a loner. He has hidden himself away because of his stutter. He is afraid of rejection and ridicule.

This is a couple that you want to succeed and find happiness. It is a clean romance book with some powerful messages.

Michele says

This heartwarming story is set in the town of Sisters, Oregon—a place I promise you'll want to visit yourself after reading. Rugged firefighter Silas Toller is a worthy, if reluctant, hero when it comes to rescuing Celia, who is suffering under the weight of some of the worst heartaches imaginable.

I adored everything about this story. I loved the small town feel and the way Celia's background and story unfolded. I love that not everything worked out perfectly for the characters—even at the very end. I appreciated the moments of joy each experienced and felt like their sorrows were very true to life. And best of all, the ending was full of promise and hope—exactly what a romance novel should be. I highly recommend this novel to anyone who loves happily ever afters and appreciates seeing the struggles and reality along the way. Five Stars.

Melinda says

Broken Things to Mend is the first installment of a twelve book collection of the Power of the Matchmaker series.

Excited to read the first book of the series. Even though I was hoping Pearl would be a larger part of the narrative, she did play a vital part despite her brief appearance. Pearl is fascinating and a powerful force I can't get enough of.

Silas and Celia have been dealt challenging hands in life. Both suffering excruciating heartache, loss beyond belief. Dealing with their sorrow they carry their history silently - Silas is a loner, Celia has trust issues given what she has survived. Needless to say with Pearl's gentle nudge you find yourself cheering for these two deserving souls to unite. Slowly the pair shares their pain and begin to heal and strengthen together.

Lovely story with powerful messages. I enjoyed both the narrative and characters equally. Invigorating story of kindness, healing, love much more.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

I absolutely loved this story of a gentle romance between two lonely and hurting people. It is well paced, with plenty of room to soak in the characters without feeling slow. The details of the lives of Celia and Silas prevent the plot from seeming cliché. The setting of a small town in Oregon made me want to take a road trip to the beautiful Pacific Northwest. I loved Silas' Aunt Nancy, with her giant garden, quilting, and open hospitality. Even though the serious topic of rape is a part of the story, it never felt dark or hopeless. Rather, it was a hope-filled journey of healing and connection. The matchmaker Pearl only made an appearance at the beginning of the story and the end, which I liked since she didn't distract from the relationship between Silas and Celia developing naturally. I'm looking forward to reading more by the author and the next book in the Power of the Matchmaker line.

(Thank you to Ebooks For Review for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

Rachael Anderson says

LOVED this one. Endearing characters, interesting plot, and beautiful writing. I have loved all of Karey's

books, but this one is my new favorite.

Heather says

Ever since I read MY OWN MR. DARCY by Karey White, I've eagerly looked forward to all of her books. BROKEN THINGS TO MEND is a beautiful love story between Celia and an unlikely hero, Silas. BROKEN THINGS TO MEND is the first release of a 12-book collection that features the matchmaker, Miss Pearl, who travels around the world, through time, and matches couples who need her help in finding true love. 5 stars!

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

3.5

I think this is going to be a fun series. Each book can stand on it's own, but each book has the character of Pearl the matchmaker woven into the story. I just love Pearl. It's fun seeing her show up in each book and it's a fun way to connect each of the stories.

I liked this story, both Celia and Silas were nice people and had a sweet, slow romance. Both have experienced hardships and are able to find new strength through each other. Celia fled her hometown of Chicago, picking a new place to live at random, and ended up in the small town of Sisters, Oregon. With literally nothing to her name she is rescued by sweet Pearl and her life is changed forever. I liked Celia, she has had a hard life and had some walls built up. I did have a hard time connecting with her character at times. Silas was different than most of the guys I read about. I liked him, he was a good man. He is extremely self-conscience and pretty shy because of a stutter he developed when he lost his parents as a child. I liked that he slowly became more comfortable around Celia and was willing to take a chance on her.

I was a little nervous for this one, I had read a couple other reviews and knew some of the subject matter was dealing with rape. Not something I normally like to read about, but sometimes it's nice to step out of my usual reading comfort zone. Luckily, I thought it was handled well in the book and was never too heavy or depressing.

Overall, I thought this was a nice read. I enjoyed the setting and characters. I thought the end wrapped things up a little too quickly. I liked it though and thought it was a good start to the series.

Content

Romance: Squeaky clean

Language: None

Violence: Non-descriptive talk of rape

Source: Review copy

This has been nominated for a 2016 Swoony Award. Share the love and vote for it here.

Melanie says

Celia is living in Chicago and going through some rough times. She needs a change of pace so she packs up and heads to Sisters, Oregon. Pearl, the matchmaker, is hanging out in Sisters with Silas, a forest ranger, working to get the two together. Silas was orphaned and raised by his Aunt Nancy, who takes Celia in when she needs somewhere to stay.

Celia and Silas are both broken. There are real issues that each of them are working through that have had an impact on their lives. At first, they weren't interested in each other romantically at all and I wondered how Pearl was going to be successful in this story. The romance was gradual and sweet. But Celia is keeping a secret that can change everything. I wasn't sure how this would end and I couldn't read it fast enough. I was a little surprised that Pearl wasn't in the story very much, but she definitely played an important role.

This is a clean romance but there is talk of rape so I would recommend it to older readers. Even though this is part of the matchmaker series, it works well as a standalone novel. I'm looking forward to reading the next book!

I received a copy of this book via I Am a Reader for an honest review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

Katie W says

A sad, sweet song, full of hope played on my heartstrings while reading this book. It's a part of the Matchmaker series, but definitely can stand alone. The story begins with Pearl, whom we met in The Matchmaker, coming to town again to bring two people together. She makes it clear that this won't be an easy match to make and we soon see why.

Celia is on the run from her past and is determined to make a new life for herself in Sisters, Oregon, by the luck of the draw. She's obviously got some secrets and is deeply broken, yet she's a fighter. She comes to town with hardly a thing to her name and is taken in by Nancy, a woman Pearl knows. Nancy hasn't ever married and plays a very pivotal role in young Celia's life. I love the relationship the two forge and the things Celia is able to learn from Nancy are heartwarming. Nancy has an orphaned nephew, Silas, who lives nearby. He had a hard upbringing too, but he's content with his life now--except for the stutter.

Typically in a story such as this, the characters are flawed, yet still seemingly perfect, and I didn't feel that with this book. These characters are real and imperfect. They have realistic struggles, but I didn't feel bogged down by them and was still able to fully escape into their story. I love the way the story flows and the events that happen are natural, with good pacing. The relationships are believable and tender. I love the way they're able to accept each other, while joking, bantering, and understanding the needs of each other without the use of words. The climax of the story is intense and I would've loved an epilogue, but I still felt satisfied. I can't stop thinking about this story and visualizing the setting and characters. I laughed, I cried, my heart soared, and my heart broke--so many emotions! I'm looking forward to reading more in this series.

Content: vague, non-descriptive mention of a forced encounter; mild kissing; mild religious elements; Clean for 16+.

I received a copy through the tour host in exchange for an honest review

Kathy says

Enjoyed both the story line and the characters! Review to come.

Content: Clean

Alisa says

I am so excited for this Matchmaker series! I thought Pearl (the Matchmaker) would be more involved with Silas and Celia getting together, but she actually just brings them together. I do wish she had been a bigger part of the actual story because I really liked her character!

Both Silas and Celia know loss and loneliness and pain and heartache. They both carry heavy burdens of sorrow. Silas has spent his life avoiding people and he starts out avoiding Celia, but finds himself wanting to take care of her and make her happy. Celia didn't know if she could ever trust another man, especially after what she's been through. Without even knowing she needs faith in men restored, Silas restores that faith through his thoughtfulness and kindness.

Content: Clean (there is talk of rape so this may not be for younger readers)

Source: Review Copy (opinion is 100% my own)
