



## Spectacularly Broken

*Sage C. Holloway*

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## **Spectacularly Broken** Sage C. Holloway

Turns out naked and hungover on the floor is not the most strategically sound place to be when your dad comes home early. Take it from someone who learned the hard way: nineteen-year-old Lysander Shepherd – son of movie stars, spoiled brat, enthusiastic proponent of drugs and orgies... and now, unwilling resident of Oak Hill Manor, a retreat for troubled teenagers.

Before he knows what's happening, his designer duds have been switched for tie-dye shirts in therapy team colors, and he is surrounded by an assortment of misfits: a timid nerd, a mute girl, a hyperactive kid... and captivating loner Cai Fields, who is admittedly pretty hot, but seems to hate the world in general and Lysander in particular.

Soon Lysander struggles with lies, withdrawal, and several uncomfortable revelations that he never intended to make, but he also gains surprising amounts of support right in the middle of secret late-night parties, fisticuffs over doing the dishes, and, of all things, croissant blackmail. Even as Cai and Lysander finally give in to the irresistible attraction between them and make a grasp for happiness, their darkest secrets remain – secrets with the power to destroy everything they've fought so hard to have.

## **Spectacularly Broken Details**

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Author : Sage C. Holloway

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## From Reader Review Spectacularly Broken for online ebook

### Wendy says

Loved this one. The MC's were a bit younger than I prefer, but the storyline was great. Hit me right in the feels and even though this book is about broken people, there are plenty of laugh out loud moments.

There was also some nice steam that I didn't expect. Beautiful story about two broken boys (or whatever you call an 18 year old) helping each other heal.

It's about a group of people being there for one another, supporting each other. I loved all the sidecharacters in this book and they all played a big part in this story.

I'm not gonna explain the whole plot...just read the book...you won't be sorry

4,5 stars from me

I loved Lisander and Cai together...so freaking cute ;)

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### Elsa Bravante says

En mi muy modesta opinión, el resumen es que es un mal libro. Personajes que son estereotipos, temas de mucha importancia tratados con superficialidad, absoluta incoherencia en la actitud y comportamientos de los protagonistas. Es como una película de sobremesa los domingos, que sabes exactamente todo lo que va a pasar y lo mala que es, y aun así la ves.

Un libro que toca temas sensibles no es mejor que otro solo por hacerlo, hay que saber desarrollarlos. Si no se sabe hacerlo, es mejor quedarse con tramas y caracteres más sencillos, que no por ello son peores. Es insultante la falta de compromiso e información con y sobre lo que se está escribiendo.

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### Susan says

**Re-read January 2 2016.**

**Still awesome!**

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**4.5 stars**

**BR with the lovely Elsbeth.**

It was such a pleasure reading this. The writing was so captivating, this book made me smile, it made me laugh out loud and it made me cry.

This could have easily have become a depressing story because of the heavy subjects, but it wasn't. Was

there angst? Yes there was. Was it gut wrenching, pull out your hair angst? No, it wasn't.

Lysander is a spoiled rich 19 year old looking for attention by having orgies, doing drugs and basically messing up his life. His father sends him to a home for troubled teenagers to cope with his problems.

He gets sent to his aunt first to pick up his cousin Finn, who is also being sent to the home. On the way over Finn tells Lysander that being a rich kid is easy, so Lysander suggests they switch identities. They look a lot alike so he is positive no one will notice.

In the group home he meets other kids who all have their own problems. And then there is bad boy Cai. Cai and Lysander don't like each other... well, at first.

*"I still haven't decided if you're okay or if you're an asshole," Cai informed me succinctly. "That's fine. If it comes down to it, we can hate-fuck."*

These boys were so incredibly hot together. Scorching hot!

I fell in love with Lysander and his quirky sense of humor. He was absolutely awesome!

I also really liked Finn and the unexpected friendship between him and Lysander. The switched identity stuff was hilarious at times.

*"So, I had therapy today. Um." Finn swayed a little. "Dr. Brookhard asked me some interesting questions."*

*"Oh yeah?"*

*"Yeah." He looked at me, biting his lip. "You want to tell me about your cocaine addiction?"*

*I groaned, throwing my head back. "I don't have a cocaine addiction."*

*"Oh. Well. Um." Finn cleared his throat. "You kinda do now."*

And the other kids at the group home were amazing. Each had their own set of problems and it all felt so real to me. No flat side characters here.

There is some angst at the end, but I knew that was inevitable. It wasn't that bad and it wasn't prolonged to create a plot. I was impressed that the rest of the book made me have all these happy feelings even though it revolved around people who considered themselves broken. Spectacularly Broken.

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## Tess says

Re-read June 2016. Loved it again! Probably my favourite NA m/m romance ...

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## 5 stars for this superbly good NA coming of age story

Lysander is the poor little rich boy. Hard partying, drug abusing and sex addicted. His absentee father is a famous movie star. When his partying goes one step too far, his father sends him to a facility for troubled teens. Lysander's cousin, Finn, is also attending. At the retreat, Lysander is grouped with four other teens, all

with very troubled pasts.

One of the things I loved best here is that Lysander, and each of the other members of his group, are so well developed. Each of them has so many dimensions and they are more than just their troubled pasts. They gradually learn to trust each other and they help each other grow.

And what I loved most was Lysander and Cai's relationship. I loved watching them progress from hating each other, to acting on their attraction, to friends and then to more. Just a beautiful love story.

Nice epilogue too ... I feel like they're all going to make it.

Highly recommended.

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### **Sunny says**

4.5, rounded up

More crying for me. This almost made my 'there was sobbing' shelf, but I managed to keep it to a steady stream of tears and deep breathing.

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### **Heather the Queen of (Smut)Books says**

That was a whole lotta awesome!

Wish Finn would've junk punched Lane once though??

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### **\*J\* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

**4.25 Stars!**

Really good read. Loved the "Breakfast Club" like premise.

Misfits coming together making each other feel a little less misfit.

Bonding over their lives, their quirks, their struggles.

Finding love and friendships in the people and places you least expected.

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◆\*Arianna◆\* says

### 3.75 Stars!!

“*Spectacularly Broken*” was a great coming of age story about a group of misfits, five damaged teens, who despite the fact they are different from each other, they become friends and eventually they find acceptance and even love. The story follows Lysander Shepard, a 19 years old boy who’s a spoiled rich kid, the son of a famous actor. His father pays little attention to him and Lysander is convinced he’s not capable of love. Lys is looking for attention so he has orgies, he takes drugs and he drinks a lot. He continues to waste and destroy his life until his father decides to send him to “Oak Hill Manor”, a house for troubled teens. But first he is sent to his aunt to pick up his cousin who will also be sent to this house. To have a little fun the two boys decide to switch identities. They are looking alike so they are confident no one will figure out who is who.

In the group home, Lys meets other kids who have their own issues. At first he doesn’t want to be there, but as the story progresses he realizes this home is not as worse as he initially thought. He also realizes how pointless his life is without the wild lifestyle. Lys meets Cai, a boy who has his own issues, more serious, who is damaged, but who still needs friendship, attention and love.

I liked this one! The premise was interesting enough, the writing was pretty great, captured my attention from start to finish and overall was a great debut. What I liked the most about this one was the dynamic between the five teens. I liked how they interacted with each other, even in the beginning when they didn’t know each other very well. Their interactions between them felt real, honest and I loved how in such a short time they found acceptance and love in each other. I felt for every one of them and each character was interesting and unique in their own way.

The story is told entirely from Lys’s POV. Lys was easy to like. He’s kind and considerate and most of the time his voice felt honest. Through his eyes we get to know the other four kids, his cousin and also his father. Cai was a likeable character as well. His life shattered when he lost his twin and all he needs now is someone who’s willing to be there for him no matter what, someone who is willing to love him even if he’s broken.

The progression of Lys and Cai’s relationship was done pretty well since the book wasn’t so long. However I can’t say I felt so connected with either of them. Anyway, if you’re looking for a character-driven story with an enemies to lovers premise this might be the book for you. Overall, a good read!

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~☆~Doni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

***Spectacularly Broken* is Spectacularly Beautiful.**

I'm not the first to compare this book to John Hughes' *The Breakfast Club* , the quintessential movie of Generation X, with which I identify.

In the movie, a group of misfits (the princess, the athlete, the brain, the stoner, the outcast) band together during a weekend detention.

In this book, a group of damaged, fragile teens paint, make T-shirts, throw chairs out of windows (well, one

of them does), wash dishes (except Lys, who thinks dishwater is the devil's spawn), fuck in a pantry (technically blowjobs; the fucking comes later, on a roof), sneak contraband beer and candy, and come ALIVE.

Lysander, named after his mother's favorite play (you figure out which one), drowns himself in drugs and sex. Sent to an inpatient facility by his absent movie star father, Lysander, flirtatious, unabashedly gay, and so fond of those tight-fitting jeans that show off his lithe body, wants to be anyone but himself.

The idea of switching identities is not a new one, but I found it particularly fascinating here, considering that Cai, the other MC, lost his other half, and has almost no identity left, stolen or otherwise.

I usually prefer dual, third-person POV, but Lysander is a wonderful, honest narrator. He's not worthless, as much as he thinks he is. He's kind, thoughtful, introspective (when he allows himself to be), capable of feeling pain ... and LOVE.

And brooding Cai, with his tough-guy persona, gauges, piercings, and utter hollowness, just needs someone to cuddle, someone who'll hold him tight and never let go.

**This is a N/A tale of hurt and comfort, a tale of teens on the brink of adulthood coming together for support and friendship.**

**Because everyone needs a reason to live.**

I loved every single secondary character in this book: quiet Finn, Lys' cousin, haunted by loneliness and betrayal; loyal Jarrett, not thinking much of himself at all; hyper Nicky, who means well but can't always control his impulses; silent Lexa, hiding so much pain behind her worn sweater.

**There is angst here, but healing as well.**

Lys and Cai need each other. Their love fills in all the little gaps, the burnt, broken, empty places.

**I absolutely loved this enemies-to-lovers, coming-of-age story. It's sexy and heartfelt and hopeful in all the right ways. It made me FEEL.**

**And the HEA was, you guessed it ... SPECTACULAR.**

Why did I wait so long to read this one? Why have you?

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## Amy says

Holy cow, that was an amazing debut for Sage Holloway!! I absolutely loved this story! Not just the main characters (Lysander/Haze and Cai), but all the secondary characters too... Finn, Lexa, Nicky, Jarrett.

Lysander is a spoiled rich kid, the son of a famous actor. His dad pays little attention to him, leaving Lys with lots of time on his hands which he fills with sex, drugs, and alcohol. When his dad reaches his breaking point, he sends Lys to Oak Hill Manor along with his cousin, who has serious issues of his own. It's not rehab, it's more of a program for troubled teens. I was very impressed with how Lysander embraced the program and actually made an effort to turn his life around. I loved the first person POV. Lys is very funny and I enjoyed being inside his head and hearing his thoughts. I hope to read more from this author. 5 stars!!

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## **Nancy says**

### **Cross-posted at Shelf Inflicted and at Outlaw Reviews**

I have such mixed feelings about this book.

On the plus side, it is well written, engaging, warm, funny, and sad.

19-year-old Lysander parties hard, has too much sex, and has no clue what he wants out of life. His father is a famous actor and absentee parent who provides everything but the support and structure kids need while they are growing up.

Beyond frustrated, Lysander's father sends him away for a few weeks to Oak Hill Manor, a retreat for troubled children. He is accompanied by his cousin, Finn, who shares a resemblance, but lives a totally different life.

At the retreat, Finn and Lysander are in separate groups with other troubled teens. While participating in group therapy sessions, games and activities, they get to know each other and form friendships. Lysander keeps a low profile, not wanting to reveal his background to others. How he accomplishes this is a spoiler, so I won't say anything more. I will just say it is fun, clever and entertaining.

Though it wasn't difficult for me to warm up to Lysander and his newfound friends, I was disturbed that kids were grouped together seemingly without any regard for the problems that brought them to Oak Hill Manor. I felt the therapists and staff were lacking in knowledge, sensitivity, and had little regard for confidentiality. The problems faced by the retreat attendees were portrayed in such a shallow and simplistic way that I very nearly set the book aside. I've read other books that dealt much more sensitively and realistically with serious trauma and mental health problems. This wasn't it.

If you can overlook this, enjoy the story for Lysander's thoughtful narration, his growth, the love and friendships that anchor him, and the touching revelations between father and son that had me tearing up. I would have preferred an open ending rather than the conveniently happy-sappy ending that diminishes this story's worth.

I'm still glad I read it.

*Thanks to Nichole from Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group for lending this to me.*

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**aksana - 4 - 8 - 15 - 16 - 23 - 42 - says**

4.5 Stars

## River says

I loved this book with every cell in my body!

Lysander is a spoiled kid that has issues, the problem is he doesn't see this issues, he's "having fun".

After his latest sex ans drug fest his dad has enough and decides to send him to a center and get help, Lys obviously doesn't want to but his dad puts an ultimatum.

Lysander goes to the center with his cousin, Finn, in the journey they share some stuff and have the awesome (seriously stupid) idea of exchange lives because nobody knows them on the center.

Lysander meets 4 weird kids, Broody Cai, Sad Jerreth, Hyperactive Nicky and Silent Lexa.

I read Dani's review and she mentioned The Breakfast Club and that's exactly how I felt reading this book. this is a group of misfits, they all have their own stories and even though your reading Lysander's POV you get to know these kids and connect with them.

Lysander was a spoiled kid but he was so real, he was brat but see how he realized little by little he was privileged and how everyone had other issues and maybe they needed someone to be there for them was beautiful, his growing was amazing to read and even though you are still mad about the fact that he's not honest with Cai it makes sense because he is a kid and fucks up.

I wanted so much more, I wanted Cai's POV and I wanted more about Finn, Lexa, Jarreth and Nicky. Getting to know all the characters and the different stories is what made this story so good, the friendship they develop is so good and reading the epilogue leaves you with a smile and so much hope.

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## Gigi says

Damn. I waited too long to review this one. But I loved it.

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## Ele says

I can't believe I let this gem sitting on my kindle unread all this time. Spectacularly Broken was spectacularly good! This is my idea of N/A. I loved everything about, the MCs, the secondary characters, the dynamics between this group of teens and how they all became friends through healing. And the sex, lets not forget the sex!

Oh, and piercings! Holy shit so many piercings \*mutters\*Jacob's ladder\*mutters.

I am aware I'm not making much sense. Because it's late and I'm sleepy and I'm on vacation.

Bottom line, I loved the book. Now go read Dani's review .

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