



## Unbreak My Heart

*Nicole Jacquelyn*

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**Unbreak My Heart** Nicole Jacquelyn

## **What do you do when your soul mate marries your best friend?**

If you're Kate Evans, you keep your friend Rachel, bond with her kids, and bury your feelings for her husband. The fact that Shane's in the military and away for long periods helps-but when tragedy strikes, everything changes.

After Rachel, pregnant with her fourth child, dies in a car accident and the baby miraculously survives, Kate upends her entire life to share parenting duties. Then on the first anniversary of Rachel's death, Kate and Shane take comfort in each other in a night that they both soon regret.

Shane's been angry for a year, and now he feels guilty too - for sleeping with his wife's best friend and liking it . . . liking her. Kate's ability to read him like a book may have once sent Shane running, but their lives are forever entwined and they are growing closer.

Now with Shane deployed for seven months, Kate is on her own and struggling with being a single parent. Shane is loving and supportive from thousands of miles away, but his homecoming brings a betrayal Kate never saw coming. So Kate's only choice is to fight for the future she deserves - with or without Shane. . .

## **Unbreak My Heart Details**

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Author : Nicole Jacquelyn

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## From Reader Review Unbreak My Heart for online ebook

Arianna ♦ \*SteamyReadsBlog\* ♦ says

4 Stars!!

*“Love can overlook a lot of things.”*

I can't believe this was my first book by this author! Why I waited so long to read one of her books...I don't know. I have been meaning to try this author since forever and I'm so glad I finally did, because I really enjoyed her storytelling and I loved her writing. Like many readers I'm not really an angst whore. I like to read angsty books from time to time but I'm not really looking for them. Also, to fully enjoy an angsty read I really have to be in the mood.

*“It was time to step into shoes that were not my own.”*

'Unbreak My Heart' was not only one of the most gut-wrenching books I've read this year, but it also was one of the most gripping emotional books I've read in a while. This first book in the series totally blew me away – with its story, with its characters and even with all the f@cking angst that almost killed me. It almost killed me, but surprise, surprise, I totally loved it! It gave me heart palpitations and everything, but I honestly enjoyed every minute of it.

*“I'd loved him from afar for most of my adult life, and while I didn't see that changing anytime soon, I also didn't expect that he'd ever return those feelings.”*

'Unbreak My Heart' tells the story of Kate Evans who has been in love with her best friend's husband, Shane since they were teens. For years, Kate did the “impossible” – she put her feelings aside, being a good friend for her bestie, Rachel, supporting her in everything and caring for her and her three children. The fact that Shane is in the military helped her situations over the years, but everything changes for Kate when Rachel, pregnant with her fourth child dies in a car accident while the baby miraculously survives. From that moment, Kate and Shane's lives change irrevocably. Kate sacrifices everything and tries to care for her best friend's children as best as she can. She loves these kids and while Shane's clearly doesn't appreciate her help like he was supposed to, she would give her life for any of them.

*“I'd pushed her aside for so long that there was no foundation to build on. Just a mess of shattered pieces that I'd crushed with a sledgehammer every time she'd grown closer than I was comfortable with.”*

This book sucked me in from the very beginning. Even if it was a very heart-breaking read, this story of love and loss, was very addictive. I couldn't put it down for one minute! I enjoyed the story-line, how everything between the two main characters progressed, the pace of the story and even some plot devices I usually don't care about...too much. That being said, I enjoyed my first read by this author tremendously and I loved almost every aspect of the story.

As I mentioned above, I loved the angst in this one. I loved that wasn't "stupid" angst and I loved the fact the author didn't try to play with my emotions...too much. With such a premise it's normal for you to expect some drama...duh...but the good thing is the author didn't overwhelm the reader with unnecessary drama. So kudos to the author for that!

I have to say the author this a stellar job with both main characters' development. I loved their portrayal and also the amount of depth they had as the story unfolded. I loved Kate, our heroine. Kate was first and foremost a genuinely good person. She had such a big heart! I loved the way she cared for the four kids. She was an amazing mother for them and I absolutely loved the relationship she has with them. She felt more like a mother than an auntie in my opinion and I loved that the author made me feel that. I'm sure many readers will think Kate was too forgiving at times or that other times she was a doormat. In my opinion she wasn't that at all.

***"I don't need you to save me...I never needed you to fucking save me."***

Our hero, Shane pissed me off more than any hero I've read about in a looong time. At times he was an a\$\$hole, the biggest a\$\$hole possible. I lost the numbers of times I wanted to smack him in the head. But yeah, there were many. I had a hard time liking him, understanding him and forgiving him...at least at first. However, I can't lie...he was a good father and as the story progressed he redeemed herself...in some way...kind of. I would have wanted for him to pull his head out of his a\$\$ a little sooner...but well...better late than never. As the story unfolded, he realizes not only that Kate is not the enemy, but also that he loves her. Gahh, he was so infuriating at times, but I have to say I liked how sweet and caring he was with her at times.

***"For the past couple of nights when I'd lain down beside her, after she'd called asleep and I knew she couldn't hear me, I'd promised her that she'd never have to forgive me again if she could do it one last time."***

Kate and Shane's relationship development was turbulent to say the least and I really liked the believable way it progressed.

Overall, this was a fantastic emotional read I highly recommend it if you are looking for something angsty that will keep you at the edge of your seat.

***"I couldn't change the past, but hell if I didn't want to be what Kate needed now."***

## Angie - Angie's Dreamy Reads says

I don't know where to start with this review. I have **SOOOOO** many thoughts. First, this book **BLEW ME AWAY**. It's a punch to the gut. A tornado of feels so palpable it's a physical experience. It's frustrating, infuriating, yet beautiful in its raw, gritty, and authentic intensity. It will steal your breath and break your heart. Every word is **POWERFUL AND GRIPPING**.

*Unbreak My Heart* is a visceral experience. And as I sit here to write my review weeks later, I'm reminded of how much it rocked me as a reader. **UNFORGETTABLE** from start to finish, the ride was turbulent and utterly perfect. Without a doubt one of my most **FAVORITE** reads **EVER!**

Kate Evans has always had a crush on Shane. They were best friends until that friendship crumbled without rhyme or reason. Shane had decided he could no longer deal with Kate. He ends up hooking up and marrying Rachel, Kate's college roommate and really good friend. **\*\*cries\*\*** Fast forward some time and Shane is now a father to four kids and Rachel has tragically passed away. The family is devastated by the loss and Kate, being the wonderful woman she is, steps in, taking care of those kids as if they were her own.

I'm not sure how much more I should say. This book is full of so many twists and turns, I almost feel as if saying anything more is a spoiler. The blurb itself holds the perfect amount of information.

This book should be experienced.

You should open it up and **LIVE** it. It's intoxicating.

I'll say this about the characters though! Shane is an anti-hero at times. I can't express how much I wanted to cause him pain. There were times where I hated him. He destroyed me. Over and over and over again, I felt as if I had suffered physical blows from this man. I was in a state of frenzied anger for a good portion of this novel. But that anger was a deep hurt. I was wounded for Kate. I was broken for her. Everything she was going through, all the sacrifices she had made and continued to make for this man and his children, her selflessness, and what she got in return, burned me.

### **I was incensed.**

Shane acted like a self-consumed, arrogant f-k. And Kate took what was given to her because she wanted to do the right thing. She was a good person. Now, don't get me wrong, she wasn't weak by any means. But she was definitely taken advantage of.

This story is not easy. It's a tale of second chances, but it is gritty. It takes time to get to where it needs to be and the time it takes hurts so damn good. It's definitely hopeful and it's healing though! This novel speaks of forgiveness and redemption, of **LIVING a FULL** life after something tragic.

I **loved** it deeply.

I **loved** it even when I got to the point where I thought, *"there is no way that this is going to work out! This is too much."*

I **loved** it even when I felt as if I couldn't go on. Even when I felt as if Shane was not someone I could root for.

I **LOVED** it when I was frantically messaging a friend who had read it, saying, *"There is no way he is going to be able to redeem himself. HE. IS. DEAD. TO. ME"* **\*\*\*laughs\*\*\***

It was **INTENSE**. The connection I had to these characters was **DEEP**. I was soulfully invested in this story. I was overwhelmed in the **VERY BEST** way. I couldn't stop reading!!!! I didn't want to stop!

## **I WAS CONSUMED.**

It's a beautiful book. I'm telling you, it transformed into something so wonderful by the end!!!!!! I fell in love against my will. The anger dissipate and love was left in its place. These characters are truly enthralling!!!! They grow before your eyes. It's phenomenal.

The writing. The pacing. The story. The dialogue. The sex. The everything. It's all so perfect. It's a perfect book that will hold you prisoner.

Nicole Jacquelyn **SLAYED** it. She wrote something that will go down as a book to remember. A story that you'll think about and recommend to everyone. I **HIGHLY** recommend it. To the angst reader. And the non angst reader. It's a standalone novel **THAT NEEDS TO BE READ**. It's just so good.

*ARC received from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review*

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## **Jill says**

**An angry, abusive dickhead and a none-too-bright doormat....read their epic love story in *Unbreak My Heart*...**

These two bogans communicate by swearing at each other and flinging insults in a way that Shazza and Dazza - two of Australia's best-known bogans - would be proud of. Ain't love grand?

No romance. No chemistry. But plenty of mentions of *vomit*, enough that *I* almost felt like chucking up.

I really hated this.

*ARC courtesy of Forever via NetGalley*

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## **Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says**

### **5 Heartbreaking Stars SPOILER FREE**

**I'd pushed her aside for so long that there was no foundation to build on. Just a mess of shattered pieces that I'd crushed with a sledgehammer every time she'd grown closer than I was comfortable with.**

God. GOD. This book. This heartbreaking, incredibly written, gut wrenching book. If it had any more of my favorite elements in it, I'd feel like it was custom written for me. I don't remember the last time I read a book that gripped me the way this one did. To the point that I felt it on a visceral level. To the point that now days

later after finishing it, I *still* can't stop thinking about it. This was easily one of my top favorite reads this year. I picked it up and read it straight through because I couldn't bear to put it down for even a second. I was an ugly crying, sniveling, raging mess the entire time and loved every painful second of it.

If *The Unwanted Wife* and *Walk Through Fire* had an angst baby, this book would be IT. I'm so book hungover right now, I can't even form words.

*Unbreak My Heart* is an unbelievably gripping story of love and loss and second chances. This book absolutely **owned** my heart. It was a compelling, angst-filled, emotional, and completely unputdownable read from beginning to finish. You will love to hate this hero and then you'll just flat out love him.

**I don't need you to save me...  
I never needed you to fucking save me."**

Nicole Jacquelyn has a true gift with words because her characters are so incredibly compelling, you don't just read about them, you *experience* them. There is not an ounce of telling in this book. Everything is shown, including the character descriptions. Yeah. I was blown away to say the least.

Shane is not an easy hero to love. As a matter of fact he will make you down right hate him. He will break your heart so many times over, you'll wonder if there is a road back. But there is. Oh but there is.

**I didn't know how to be with someone like Kate. She'd demand more from me than anyone ever had before, and that was terrifying.**

You may be asking yourself if it's possible to write a book with a dead spouse and not make the heroine feel like a consolation prize prize. And to you I say, abso-freaking-lutely.

Kate is a character with so much depth. She takes so much emotional punishment throughout this book that you want to say that she may be too forgiving. But the author instills so much growth in her throughout the story that you'll love her more and more with each page.

I won't give you anything about the plot, because to be quite honest, everything you need to know is in the blurb. Anything more than that will be a spoiler. And if there's one thing I can recommend is to go into this book absolutely blind with **NO** preconceived notions.

**I couldn't change the past, but hell if I didn't want to be what Kate needed now.**

Everything about this story is brilliant; from the feelings it will wrench from your very soul to the emotional mess it will leave you at the end of it. Shane and Kate's story is not an easy one. It's filled with pain and heart break but it's also beautiful in its own right. You don't read the characters' journey, you experience it. Everything from the fundamental changes in their relationship to their feelings and everything in between.

**For the past couple of nights when I'd lain down beside her, after she'd called asleep and I knew she couldn't hear me, I'd promised her that she'd never have to forgive me again if she could do it one last time.**

If you're questioning picking this up, don't! If you're a fellow angst-whore like me, if there's one book I can recommend you read, it's this one! Grab some tissues and some alcohol and prepare to read the whole night through because I guarantee this book will own every piece of you by the time you're finished.

*ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review*

**Find me on:**

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**Jennifer Kyle says**

**4 STARS**

*"Love can overlook a lot of things."*

Nicole Jacquelyn delivered a very angsty and frustrating story with a hero that will try your patience.

The heroine, Kate Evans has been in love with the hero Shane since they were teens (would have like to read a page or two of them and their connection). Shane falls and marries Kate's best friend and so she puts her feelings aside and supports her friend until tragedy strikes.

*"I cared for children that I loved more than myself, gave up the small semblance of a life I'd had before, and became a stand-in. And I didn't regret. Not for a second".*

Kate steps in to assist with taking care of Shane's four children and Shane struggles with his attraction and assortment of feelings he has for Kate.

*"I didn't know how to be with someone like Kate. She'd demand more from me than anyone ever had before, and that was terrifying. Because even though the history between us had proven that she wasn't going anywhere, I'd learned over the course of my life that people left".*

I think the hero will evoke an assortment of emotions from any reader who picks this book up their journey was indeed well written. However, when it came time to win Kate I found the story short of a 5 Star rating. I wanted so more from his character – I needed more to highlight and embrace. To say to myself he really truly loved her more than that he appreciated her. I never got to the point of thinking of them as Shane and Kate that couple that shared such an epic love. Also, a situation with one of the children was left unresolved as well. Still, the story was entertaining and well paced and I just loved the dual povs delivery.

*"I don't know what I'm doing Kate, but I know that I want you."*

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## Rachel Reads Ravenously says

5 stars!!!

*“Love can overlook a lot of things.”*

If I could sum up this book in one gif, it would be this one:

Good gawd, this book and all of the emotions and feels. It ripped me apart inside and tore out my guts. I picked up this book because a fellow reviewer/blogger said ANGST and I was sold. Honestly I am that much of an angst whore and I have no shame.

Ten years ago Kate and Shane were friends, until Shane met Kate’s friend Rachel, fell in love and married her. Rachel and Kate were best friends at this point, yet over the years Shane and Kate grew apart. Kate was there for Rachel when Shane was deployed and essentially another parent to Rachel and Shane’s four kids.

But when Rachel dies, everything changes. Having been around their entire lives, Kate steps in to help raise the kids with Shane. About a year after her death, Shane and Kate take comfort in each other, an action that leads to a lot of awkwardness and regret.

*“I’d loved him from afar for most of my adult life, and while I didn’t see that changing anytime soon, I also didn’t expect that he’d ever return those feelings.”*

This book broke me. For those of you who love angst like me, this book is an all you can eat buffet of it. I can honestly say if you don’t care for angst, this isn’t the book for you. I loved this book, I loved Kate, I loved the kids. Shane..... well he’s a hard man to love. He’s not a sweet hero, in fact he can be a real big dick. But, he grew on me.

There was this one part, and those who have read the book will understand, that freakin killed me to read. I felt the hero wouldn’t be redeemable after reading this part of the book but I was wrong, because he did. I also feel Kate responded to his actions exactly how I would, and in fact she was more understanding than most because she truly loved this man. Even though he wasn’t perfect, even though he wasn’t always the nicest, she saw him for who he was and she every part of him.

I think this is a special story and was the perfect book to read for my mood. I cannot believe I’ve never read anything by this author until now and I’ll have to read more of her stuff very soon. Fans of author Natasha Anders will love this book.

*“I don’t know what I’m doing Kate, but I know that I want you.”*

*ARC provided by publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review*

## KatieV says

This was not my thing. Others have enjoyed it, so YMMV.

I didn't do a word count, but my guess is that the f-bomb was dropped roughly 14,237 times. For me, that's a word that should be used sparingly else you risk sounding uneducated and trashy. Especially when you're constantly using it in front of kids. Jeez.

Also, yes, the hero was an ass. However, I didn't care all that much. I thought it was kind of freaky that the heroine followed him and his wife to another state just so she could take care of their kids so his wife didn't have to. The heroine was creepily obsessed with their family. She couldn't even keep a boyfriend because they all saw that they were second best to her obsession.

I also thought it was very weird that the book begins with the hero lusting over his wife. I get it, they were married and he loved her, but I didn't want to read about that when I knew he'd end up with someone else. I was also never convinced that the heroine was anything more than a replacement for his dead wife.

This is a very kid heavy book. The two of them would have never gotten together had it not been for her determination to be an unpaid nanny. Not so much my thing in a romance.

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## Christy says

### 4.5 stars!

*Unbreak My Heart* is my first book by Nicole Jacquelyn and in a lot of ways, it completely blew me away. Emotional, angsty, and very well written, this book made me feel so many emotions I could hardly think straight while reading. I was sad, happy, angry, worried, stressed and content. At all different times. I love books that bring the feels and this one most certainly did! Shane and Kate's story had an impact on me and kept me completely riveted.

What do you do when your soulmate marries your best friend?

I'm sure different people have different ways they would handle this. Kate handled it by staying true to her best friend, Rachel, and helping with her children when Shane was away serving his country. She also completely ignored the feelings she's always had for him. When tragedy strikes and Kate's best friend and Shane's wife passes away, Kate takes on a different role in his and the kids lives. She's still there. No matter what, she's still there. She doesn't expect anything from Shane at this point, but she needs to be there for him and the kids either way.

I'd loved him from afar for most of my adult life, and while I didn't see that changing anytime soon, I also didn't expect that he'd ever return those feelings.

Fast forward a year after Rachel's death. Kate is still trying to juggle her own life and taking care of the kids. Shane is full of anguish, pain and guilt. One night they are together. It's just one night. But that one

night changes everything.

Lets talk about the characters in this book. Kate is a character that I really felt for. There were a few moments I wish she would have stood up for herself more, but I feel like she more than makes up for that later in the book by completely standing her ground. She's selfless, caring, forgiving and such a special person. Then there is Shane. Calling all book lovers who love the jerks, the assholes, and the hard to love heroes. Shane is your guy. I loved to hate Shane, and hated to love him. He infuriated me more times than I can count. Did he redeem himself? I think so. For the most part anyway. The more I got to know him and see into his past, the more I could somewhat understand his behaviors. I feel like he did grow and change throughout the story and although he really upset me to start, I ended up loving him by the end.

I didn't know how to be with someone like Kate. She'd demanded more from me than anyone ever had before, and that was terrifying. Because even though the history between us had proven that she wasn't going anywhere, I'd learned over the course of my life that people left.

Another character I really loved was Kate's brother Bram. I'm very excited we're getting a book for him. I can't wait to pick that one up! I loved his twin, Alex, too. I hope she continues this series with him as well.

*Unbreak my Heart* is full of angst, stress and emotional turmoil. Be prepared to feel when you start reading. You will feel from the beginning to the end. It's beautifully written, and a book I'd highly recommend to all angst lovers.

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## Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

### 5 Awesome 'n' Angsty Stars

If you follow my reviews at all, you might know that one of my top reading "don't's" is the dreaded dead ex.

I know this is a non-issue for some, but every reader has their own no-go list.

And no matter how ridiculous any pet peeve might seem...

...they are all legit because they are your own.

So, as I was saying, along with the cheaters and the dreaded love triangle shape of doom, one thing that can ruin a book for me just by virtue of existing is when one of the main love interests has a dead ex.

In fact, I literally just wrote THIS review lamenting about how that one issue can ruin an otherwise perfect book (for me).

**In case you don't feel like reading ^^^that, I will save you the verbal-diarrhea-read and sum it up with this:**

**The presence of the dead ex makes the new love interest feel like a consolation prize to me. They will never measure up and they are only present because someone *else* is absent.**

So color me a hypocrite when the first book I pick up after the above mentioned dead ex bitch fest...is a book based completely around the happenings of... \*drum roll\*... a dead fucking ex.

Yeah, I know....

But what can I say....

But alas...being that 1) I would read shit-stained parchment if it had Nicole Jaquelyn's name on it, and 2) this thing was all over my fucking feed...I said to myself, "Self, fuck your standards, pull up your big girl panties, and give this one the old college try."

And boy I'm glad I did.

Because as with any "rule," there are exceptions.

And some dead-ex books can be exceptions to my dead-ex rule...

This book is a prime example.

**I.**

**Fucking.**

**Loved.**

**This.**

**Thing.**

Seriously though, from page one I could not put this down.

And I didn't.

Not even to pee.

This thing had some of me favorite lucky charms.

**It had ANGST.**

**It had a QUASI-MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE scenario.**

**It had an ALPHA ASSHOLE that I got to hate fuck in my mind.**

But most of all?

\*  
\*  
\*

**It had GROVELING.**

Be still my beating heart, I LOVE me some groveling.

Not only that, I fucking LOVED the (view spoiler).

I am a sucker for that too; plus, it added a whole dimension to the story that was just delicious in my opinion.

As I said above, this was killing it in my newsfeed, so I know there are much better and more detailed reviews out there.

Plus, I find myself unable to clarify my thoughts on this one.

Suffice it to say that I came out of this one feeling that Kate was NOT a consolation prize. In fact - dare I say it - I came out believing Shane loved Kate to a degree that the dead ex never even came close to touching.

HOWEVER.

The things that make dead-ex-hating readers like me feel like the H/h is NOT the consolation prize vary for each reader.

That said, I can't promise that book will work for other dead-ex-haters like it did for me.

But, if you are on the fence, I say give this one a try, as it ended up being one of the best books I've read all year.

Find me at:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

After just writing a review outlining how much I loathe reading books about dead exes, I can't believe I am

going to attempt to tackle this one.

But what can I say?

But a good book friend said they thought this one be worth it, so here I go...

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## **Geri Reads says**

**4.5 stars!**

**4.5 stars!**

I went into this book with lots of trepidation especially since I didn't really liked the last two Jacquelyn books I read.

It was all for naught since I loved this book.

Unbreak my Heart has all the elements that would make any angst lover happy.

Unrequited love? Check!

Dead ex? Check!

Hero fighting his feelings? Check!

And those are just some of the major ones. There were so many things that made this book worked for me.

Aside from the emotional hook, Unbreak My Heart, also has two very flawed main characters. And when I say flawed, I mean, they make decisions that might make readers want to throw their Kindles across the wall. But they do get to a place where you can't help but root for them to get it right. And that's part of why this book appealed to me.

The situation that Kate found herself in, watching the love of her life marry her best friend was like a punch in the gut. Despite that, I couldn't bring myself to hate Rachel, the best friend, or Shane because there were a lot of good things that came out of their marriage. Mainly, the kids.

That said, it's easy to point fingers and hate Shane but for me, the author did a great job of showing me why Shane made the decision he did. She also showed me that the boy who fell in love with the woman wasn't the man who fell in love with the heroine. It's so easy to hate Shane and Rachel for the past but Kate still made the decision to attach herself to them. She could've chosen not to be there for them all those years but she still did it. What made me not hate Kate for that decision was the fact that she was self-aware enough to acknowledge that.

This wasn't an easy book to read. The presence of the kids in the story made this even more gut wrenching. And some of most emotional scenes between Kate and Shane involved them and they left me emotionally drained and battered. But the pay off was so worth it in the end. I finished the book with a smile on my face despite the emotional wringer I went through reading it.

It wasn't all doom and gloom though. Kate's unconventional family was front and center in this book. They

were loud and loving and they brought a much needed lightness to the story. And oh man, I already am in love with some of the secondary characters, which I'm hoping will have their own books soon.

*ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review*

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## **Mo says**

I can barely round it up to 3 but as I enjoyed the first part of the book I will. So fucking disappointed. Saw all the rave reviews. I think my expectations were way too high. Did not like either of the characters. Thought Shane was a douchebag nearly all of the time and I usually love a good asshole of a hero. Kate, a doormat, from day one.

Not going to say "maybe it's just me"! Found Shane and Kate quite immature. She was 30, he was probably older. Not sure. Didn't fucking care at the end.

I don't think I am an insensitive, cold hearted bitch. I can get emotional while reading books and have done so with a lot of books but this one left me cold.

Had to force myself to finish it.

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## **Arabella ~?AB?~ says**

★★★ 3.5 Stars ★★★

Well, well, well, this is a book that will appeal to all the angst lovers who love to hate their hero, and technically this kind of book should have had me handing out stars all over the place, but something was holding me back and I can't quite put my finger on what it was.

Unbreak My Heart was a gripping read that's for sure, it sure kept me on my toes, and I quite literally devoured this book in a short space of time.

Kate is a heroine who is pretty much flawless, she is kind and generous, and when her best friend dies in a car accident, she is left to help look after her 4 children, alongside their father Shane. She does this without question, and becomes a mother in all aspects of these children's lives, and she does it with love and genuine intentions.

Shane is serving in the military, and he's a man with a whole truck load of issues that stem from his childhood in foster care. He was very hard to relate to, and I found myself getting so frustrated with him that I just wanted to transport myself into the story and have a word.

Unbreak My Heart is a story of unrequited love, where two childhood friends have an immense amount of guilt to overcome after falling victim to their feelings, and many hurdles to jump in order to move forward. What starts off as a love/hate trope, slowly turns into a friends-to-lovers romance, and whilst it had some

delicious steamy off the charts sexual chemistry, it was far more on the contemporary side rather than erotic.

Kate makes Shane work for it, she wasn't a doormat for too long, and I loved her for it, but in the end I just wanted her to get over it and forgive him for his bad behaviour. I thought they were both as bad as each other by that point.

This book had so much potential to give me all the feelings I usually experience when reading these types of books, but I think what with the drama that seemed to drag on unnecessarily, and a few unresolved issues with the kids, my overall enjoyment waned a bit towards the end.

Still, I did really like it overall, and definitely recommend it to those of you who love angst/arsehole heroes/capable heroines/cute kids.

**Unbreak My Heart is a standalone contemporary romance, told from the heroine's POV.**

*ARC gratefully received from the publisher in exchange for an honest review*

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## **NMmomof4 says**

### **3 Stars**

**Overall Opinion:** This sucked me in. I was hooked, as I am always a sucker for a good cry over unrequited love. BUT...I need redemption! The H decided that he needed to change *way* too late for me, and he had made *way* too many mistakes for him to be worth the h's time. He was downright cruel and nasty for most of the book. She crossed that line into doormat status at times, and I just wanted her to wake up and demand better treatment. I understand that her love for the children prevented her from making some big demands, but I still felt like she could've communicated better (or just some at all) about how his poor treatment made her feel. I got that the H loved her but just in a much different way than his wife -- but it wasn't enough for me! I kept on being hooked though, because I was anxiously waiting for it to turn around for them. Because of the fact that I was fully engaged, I give it 3 stars -- but I can't justify any higher rating due to both the h and H.

**Brief Summary of the Storyline:** This is Kate and Shane's story. Kate's aunt and uncle take in Shane as a foster child when he is an older teen and they become best-friends. When Kate develops a crush on him, he freaks out and pushes her away. For the final push, he gets with her best-friend from college. He ends up marrying and having kids with the h's best-friend, and the h is actively in their kids lives as an "aunt" (especially when he is deployed). After a horrible accident, Kate and Shane find themselves having to tolerate each other enough to care for the children. After some major ups and downs, they fall in love and get a HEA ending.

**POV:** This alternated between Kate and Shane's POV.

**Overall Pace of Story:** Good. I never skimmed, and I thought it flowed well.

**Instalove:** No. The H developed stronger feelings over time, but the h had always loved him.

**H rating:** 2 stars. Shane. I couldn't get past his cruelty towards the h. I never understood why he was so nasty (even though we get his POV), and honestly didn't think he was worth the h putting up with his abuse.

**h rating:** 3 stars. Kate. I wanted her to be stronger when it came to how the H treated her. She was a strong character otherwise, but I guess her love for the H allowed her to put up with anything he did to her. I'd even say she was a doormat for some of it.

**Sadness level:** Moderate. I had a few times where I cried, but it never turned into an ugly cry.

**Push/Pull:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Heat level:** Moderate/low. Not that many scenes, but they have some decent chemistry.

**Descriptive sex:** Yes

**Safe sex:** Yes, but no. Birth control is used, but I don't remember any mention of std status or previous practices.(view spoiler)

**OW/OM drama:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Sex scene with OW or OM:** No

**Cheating:** No

**Separation:** Not technically (view spoiler)

**Possible Triggers:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Closure:** This had a cute epilogue with a HEA ending.

**How I got it:** I paid the \$3.99 on Amazon.

**Safety:** Safe with exception/Not Safe depending on personal preferences (view spoiler)

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## Mysza says

So disappointed with this one. While I liked the first half of the book, the second was a failure. Nothing happened that would make the hero redeem himself and while heroine finally had the guts to stand up for herself, it was too little too late.

The angst was superb and the book made me furious at times, and I like when book does that, hence 3 stars but to be honest, I'm not completely sure if it deserves.

All because of Shane mostly. Now, I like me some asshole, I really do, the worse the better. But! He needs to grovel, he needs to show, after shitstorm he put heroine through, that he was wrong and that he regrets. Sadly, this hero didn't. Some things he did or said you can't just forget or unhear, you know. "***We had the kids in common. That was it. I wasn't going to pretend that I thought she was interesting or sexy or fun.***" If you hear several times that Kate wasn't hot enough for him, than one measly sentence "***So beautiful.***" later on isn't enough IMO. And he was always like "I'm sorry. Let's move on." No remorse whatsoever.

The biggest problem I had though, was with his absent dead wife Rachel. I did not like her at all from glimpses of the past. Some best friend she was.  
(view spoiler)

Finally, I haven't felt Kate and Shane's connection. I know they cared about each other and I might even believe in Kate's feelings but Shane? Nope. I didn't see love there. I think she was just convenient for him, at the right place and right time to take care of his kids. Honestly, I had a feeling like any other woman would do for him.

Oh well, can't love them all...

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◆ Anna's ??????g\$ ◆ says

### **Spoilers.**

I didn't like it. But not for the reasons you might think.

Unlike most of the readers who didn't love this book I didn't have a problem with the *hero*. The hero behaves the way he behaves because the heroine *lets* him.

I didn't have a problem with the heroine's doormat tendencies either. I was prepared and I knew she was weak from my friends' reviews.

What I had a problem with is:

### **A) Heroine's lack of good judgement and invasion of privacy**

Why exactly did she go to that hotel?

You do NOT stick your nose where it does not belong, NOT even when someone else asks you to do it. What gives you the right to do it?

The man is grieving and wants to be ALONE. He needs a day, no he needs only ONE night in the whole freaking YEAR to reminisce about his late wife.

You CANNOT take that away from him. Whether he drinks himself to death or decides to cry his eyes out, that is HIS business. He needs to heal completely in order to be able to continue living his life.

And because you are THIRTY years old (*for chrissake!*), you should know what will happen if you start drinking with him in that hotel room.

The hero was right: she *did* take advantage of the situation. Maybe not consciously, but, in my opinion, she DID. She shouldn't have gone there. Period.

### **B) Heroine's martyr complex**

When you fuck up (because we all do at some point in life) and you feel your world is coming apart, you are entitled to cry and feel desperate. That is a perfectly *normal* human reaction. But then, after some time, you wipe your tears away, you clench your teeth and you get up. If you get yourself in the shit, you've got to get yourself out of the shit.

You seek help if you need it. You can rely on your friends and family or you can do it all on your own but you do NOT cry all the time vomiting around, you do NOT sob, you do NOT weep, you do NOT drool around and starve yourself wallowing in self-pity.

I swear if I read any form of the word “vomit” or any other synonym for "cry" again, I'm gonna lose it. I'm a mother and I'm aware pregnancy can be tough but I don't have to read about the heroine's vomit, bile and tears on every freaking page.

I can't stand heroines with a martyr complex. This heroine is helping everybody around her but she can't take care of herself or stand up for herself. She's a total mess, inside and out. I'm sure she subconsciously enjoys it while pretending to have no other option.

A few days ago I read a book about unrequited love. The hero loved another woman and was totally indifferent towards the heroine. The heroine was poor, uneducated and insecure. And I loved every second of it. You know why? Because despite everything, the heroine didn't feel sorry for herself. She had backbone and recognized when enough is enough.

I'm so sorry, Nikki. I wanted to like it but I couldn't.

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