



Broken Beautiful Hearts

Kami Garcia

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From #1 *New York Times*—bestselling author Kami Garcia comes a red-hot romance that will break your heart and put it back together again.

Her heart has to break before it can open.

When star soccer player Peyton Rios receives an offer from her first-choice college, senior year starts off exactly as planned. But when Peyton uncovers her boyfriend's dark secret, she confronts him—and finds herself falling down a flight of stairs. Peyton's knee—and maybe her dream of going pro—is shattered. Everyone is talking: Was she pushed, or did she fall? Peyton knows the truth, even if no one believes her.

He has to let someone in before it's too late.

With her future on the line, Peyton goes to stay with her uncle in a small Tennessee town to focus on her recovery. Dating is the last thing on her mind—until she meets sweet, sexy Owen Law.

But Peyton doesn't trust her heart, especially when she senses that Owen is hiding something. When their secrets are finally exposed, Peyton has to decide if love is worth fighting for.

Broken Beautiful Hearts Details

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Author : Kami Garcia

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From Reader Review Broken Beautiful Hearts for online ebook

Diana says

Seems like I am having trouble finding a book I like. This one seemed interesting enough, but I found out it is another high school novel in which the main character, a girl called Peyton, gets out of an abusive relationship resulting in a serious knee injury, and moves away with some family members because she is being targeted with hate messages.

And then, in the new place, almost instantly, we meet the new guy-to-be-more, a chap called Owen. But he also fights professionally, like the ex did, so Peyton wants to keep her distance, despite the fact she is attracted to him. And this is the dance the book is gonna have.

I liked how clear Peyton was about breaking up with her boyfriend at the very first sign of Trouble with capital letters, but I didn't like how aloof she wanted to be, not ever asking for help even when it wouldn't have been so bad, or the I-like-you-but-no conundrum that fills the book.

Lisa says

Although this story had a lot of movement and pull to keep me reading, it wasn't enough to mask weak characterization and an unbelievable turn of events. I appreciated the attention brought to violence in relationships, but other than that this book breaks no new ground. It's sadly predictable in every way.

mith says

you can check out my review on my blog as well!

This just in: Kami Garcia's books are not for me, sadly.

I was so looking forward to Broken Beautiful Hearts. I'd enjoyed her first solo contemporary novel to a point, so I was hoping that this would be better. But it... actually ended up being worse? It was actually painful to get through this one and, gosh, it was such a disappointment.

The first thing that ruined the book for me was the writing. It just was not good. Throughout the entire novel, nothing really gets better. There are some moments, but overall, everything is pretty much childish. The dialogue was embarrassing for me to read and I genuinely find it hard to believe that's how teens speak. I'm 19. I went to high school. I've heard my fair share of cringey shit throughout.

There were also a few underhanded comments about women in the book and I'm sure Peyton was supposed to combat a lot of them, but... didn't. There's also girl-girl hate here and there are scenes where they just go against each other and uuuuuugh. Like, seriously, that's the last thing I want to read. I appreciate that Peyton helped out one girl from the bullies, but it got real tiring real fast having them fighting over some petty shit.

I hate hate hate how a lot of the romance was focused on how great Owen's body is. I don't care about him

shirtless and sweaty whatsoever. I do not, okay? It felt like that half the time that was all Peyton could focus on and fine, if that catches her fancy, great! Cool, I don't need it brought up all the time, thanks.

I can't speak for abusive relationships or being on the receiving end of a serious injury like the one Peyton faced. Whether or not it was well done isn't up to me to determine. But I appreciated that this book sort of focussed on that. I did like that Peyton kept her distance from her ex-boyfriend.

That wasn't enough for everything else in the book though. A lot of it felt aimless and trying not to crush on the first guy she sees. I was hoping for a bit more focus on her healing, but there wasn't really much of that save for like one or two scenes.

Overall: yikes

Jenn says

I knew I was going to love this book by the end of the first paragraph. The ending of just one line had me connecting with the main character, Peyton, on a real level.

"...and popcorn without butter is just corn."

But on a more serious note, this book dealt with some heavy issues from losing a parent to performance enhancements to the most serious, domestic abuse. Garcia tackles them all with a cast of characters who were real and who I adored (except the crazy ex).

The book opens with Peyton finding out she's been accepted to UNC on a soccer scholarship. It's the school of her dreams and she can't wait to tell her best friend and her boyfriend. Side note: boyfriend is best friends older brother. But at a party that night, Peyton's good news falls by the wayside as she discovers her boyfriend has been abusing steroids to prepare for an MMA match. When she confront him, he pushes her down a flight of stairs, damaging her knee and possibly ruining her chance at playing soccer. What's worse? No one believes what happened. When the threatening phone calls start coming in, Peyton moves from DC to Tennessee to stay with her uncle while completing rehab on her knee. But Peyton learns soon enough that you can't outrun your problems.

I mostly knew Garcia from the Beautiful Creatures series, which I liked but wasn't over the moon about. Then I read her contemporary novel *The Lovely Reckless* and I just knew that I found a new contemporary writer to follow. And she did not disappoint with this one. I loved it more than *The Lovely Reckless*.

What I loved most about this book were the characters. Peyton had me from the start. I connected with her. And while I didn't go through exactly the same things as her, some of her struggles hit really close to home for me. I understood her struggles and why she handled things the way she did. She made it easy to root for her. She constantly stood her ground and made attempts to conquer her fears instead of just letting them control her.

Then there were her cousins, the Twins. Oh my how Cameron and Christian just stole the show in every scene they were in. Talk about giant teddy bears. Overbearing, football playing, bodyguard wannabes, they

made it their mission to protect Peyton and to make her feel welcome in their home and town.

And finally, Owen. *swoon* He intrigued me from the start and was just the funniest and sweetest boy that I knew Peyton couldn't resist for long. While he was involved in the same sport as her ex, Garcia made it easy to see the differences between them. Owen respected the sport and dedication to the craft. He was calm and collected, choosing to be more patient in his trainings. That level head carried over into the way he carried himself daily. But Owen also has a secret, one that threatens his future in both MMA and with Peyton.

Bravo to Garcia for writing this book, especially after reading the author's notes. This book was extremely personal to her and I admire her for putting it into words for others to share in.

Joce (squibblesreads) says

This was ok. Great in some places but definitely had typical lipstick-wearing mean cheerleader girls and "not like them" vibes. The villainous character was an awful person but not multifaceted at all besides one detail and seemed overblown and cartoony at times (although the issues covered were important).

Brooke — brooklynnnnereads says

Once again, I have come across a novel that has me suffering the consequences today of staying up past midnight as I needed to finish reading the book before I went to sleep. I could not (and would not) put it down and this book was read in essentially one sitting (maybe two).

This novel was complicated, emotional, all consuming, and beautiful. It really was a page turner from the very first page. It encompasses all the emotions and struggles that teenagers can face in high school whether it be the pressures from a peer group, different relationships and the high school "hierarchy". It also incorporates and addresses difficult and complex topics regarding manipulation, physical/emotional/verbal abuse, and parental death. That is only mentioning the surface of some of the difficult situations because overall, there is really a lot of heavy and complex content.

I loved each of the characters in this novel whether it be the main character of Peyton, the selfless and loyal Twins, the strong and misunderstood Owen, along with Tucker and Grace. I became so invested in each character's story along with each relationship that developed whether it be platonic or romantic.

The writing in this novel just flowed and in no matter of time, I was flying through. I could picture everything within my mind and felt that it was unfolding before my eyes. There was no difficulty or push to read because I could not put this novel down. Even once I was finished, I sat there emotional because all of the thoughts and feelings this novel brought out. Although there is such complex content, the novel felt real, it felt raw. I could see how this could be similar to many people's high school experience and that truly is terrifying.

This novel blew away any and all expectations that I had before picking it up. The cover is beautiful but the novel's depth is way more than that. This is my first read written by Kami Garcia and I cannot wait to read more. I know I will be recommending this book to many and I will go out on a limb and say this will have been one of the best reads that I will read in 2018.

Thank you to Raincoast Books for supplying me with an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review

Katie McGarry says

Fun read with a hero that I loved!!!

Lauren says

I love Kami Garcia's books and I love YA contemporary so it was a no-brainer for me to add Broken Beautiful Hearts to my TBR pile. I had heard mixed things about it; however, I was hopeful that I would enjoy it.

As it turns out, I'm so glad I gave Broken Beautiful Hearts a try. This book is the perfect combination of heartbreak and heartwarming. I laughed, I smiled, I cried...I honestly wish it would've went on for ever, that's how much I enjoyed Peyton's story.

Peyton was hands down my favorite part of Broken Beautiful Hearts. From the moment she is first introduced I connected with her. She was smart as well as ambitious, and more importantly, I gave her major credit for standing up for herself, for speaking the truth no matter how many people told her she was lying and/or wrong. She was much braver than she gave herself credit for, and I also was incredibly proud of her for continuing to live her life, no matter the obstacles she faced. It wasn't always smooth sailing - especially with new boys and mean girls on the horizon - but it's part of what made her journey all the more realistic. Ultimately, Peyton learned to stand on her own, to speak up, and be brave, and it was such a fantastic journey to witness.

In addition to Peyton, I loved her family. Her twin cousins were lovable yet disastrous. Some of the things they did/said were hilarious in a "I-can't-believe-this-is-happening" kind of way but one thing was clear: they'd do anything for their cousin. I also have to mention Owen, the love interest. He was sweet, sexy, and strong, and like Peyton, facing his own demons.

The plot in Broken Beautiful Hearts mainly revolves around the outcome from Peyton's fall.

Kami Garcia does a fantastic job of handling abusive relationships. I felt that it was realistic portrayal, and I especially appreciated that she addressed several different situations that can occur. Throughout Beautiful Broken Hearts, Peyton deals people (friends and strangers) refusing to believe her, her friends turning their backs on her, and her ex-boyfriend stalking her, refusing to take no as an answer. It was heartbreaking yet it was important to see, because as much as I like to think things like this don't happen they do. It's what makes people so afraid to report abuse, and ultimately, it's what makes stories like Peyton's that much more important.

Last but not least: the mystery and the romance. There's a mystery that pops up in this half-way through, and it made me even more addicted to the book. The outcome surprised me, and I thought Kami did a great job of bringing it all together. As for the romance, I appreciated that it didn't overtake the novel; instead, it was a sweet side part and part of Peyton's journey in moving on. Owen and Peyton had great chemistry and funny

banter.

In all, if you love YA Contemporary, I definitely suggest giving this try. Peyton's story is one I won't forget for some time.

Kayla says

I really liked this story. The plot was really good and thought out so well and the romance was amazing, the chemistry was really good between the couple and I liked the characters as individuals too.

Jennifer Kyle says

DNF @ 46 Percent

Very strong start but I've found myself bored with the new school etc. I may return...

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

LIVE AMAZON <https://www.amazon.com/Broken-Beautiful>...

4-4,5 STARS

Kami Garcia delivers a poignant, heartwarming and sweet story! I was hooked from the beginning and there were many things I enjoyed in this story! The writing was beautiful, the plot interesting and the characters were great! I haven't read before a book from Kami Garcia and I'm happy that I finally did it, because I loved it!

Everything about it felt realistic and I could easily keep up with the story! Peyton was a difficult heroine in my opinion. I didn't like her from the beginning she annoyed me sometimes but I could understand her behavior. Owen was one of the best parts in the story!

If you like reading YA books then you definitely have to check this one! I'm planning to read soon more books from this author!!

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Beautiful Broken Hearts by Kami Garcia

Publisher: Imprint Reads

Publication Date: February 6, 2018

Rating: 4 stars

Source: Review copy from the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads):

Before, Peyton was a star soccer player with the perfect boyfriend, Reed. Now, she has a torn knee ligament, a scholarship on the line, and a shattered sense of self. No one believes Reed pushed her, causing her injury, and Peyton just wants to leave the trauma behind. Living with her uncle and twin cousins in their small, football-obsessed town seems like a great escape plan.

There, Peyton meets Owen—high school classmate and local MMA fighter. Though Owen is charming and gentle, Peyton is determined to repress her growing attraction. But when her old and new life collide, Peyton must reclaim the truth of her past in order to save her future.

What I Liked:

I really enjoyed Kami Garcia's previous YA contemporary novel, *The Lovely Reckless*, and I had been really excited about *Beautiful Broken Hearts*. It's a standalone (completely unrelated to *The Lovely Reckless*). Once I started reading this book, I couldn't stop. Peyton and Owen's story was heartbreakingly sweet and I couldn't get enough.

The story starts with Peyton getting accepted to UNC to play soccer for the team. She is so excited to tell her best friend and her boyfriend. Things have been off between her and Reed; later that evening, at a party, everything changes. They get into an argument, he pushes her, she falls down a set of stairs, and just like that, her senior spring season is over before it begins. Her knee is badly injured and needs months of rehab. But no one - not even her best friend - believes her when she tells them that Reed pushed her. Peyton's mother decides to send Peyton to live with Peyton's uncle and his twin sons, in a small town far from home, to escape the threats that Peyton started to receive. There, Peyton can do rehab with no distractions... except for the very distracting boy who is helping her with the physical therapy. Owen Law is the best local MMA fighter and a classmate of Peyton's, and Peyton can't stop thinking about him. But she can't get tangled up with another MMA fighter - right?

YA contemporary isn't really my thing, but Garcia won me over with her previous YA contemporary novel. It had a Katie McGarry feeling to it, and *Broken Beautiful Hearts* did too. I love McGarry's books so the comparison works for me. I love YA contemporary stories that dig deep into two characters and forges a strong, intense bond between them.

From the get-go, I was a huge fan of Peyton. She and I are a lot alike: she is very blunt and stubborn, and she doesn't have time for BS. She isn't mean but she doesn't mince words. She can take care of herself and she isn't afraid to stand up for herself, or others. Peyton has such a strong mentality, morals, character, attitude. What happened to her didn't break her down, and everything that came after didn't send her hiding.

This story is told entirely from Peyton's POV but Owen is a very central primary character. I loved his sweet yet tough self from his first interaction with Peyton. He is so selfless and fights everyone's battles, and sticks up for bullied classmates. He is a hard worker - he trains for his MMA fights all the time - and he's a good student, and he's a good guy in general. He has a "bad boy reputation" for being an MMA fighter but he's actually a sweet and decent guy. He's super swoony with his great manners and hot bod. Just saying!

Peyton and Owen are like fire and ice when they first meet. There is a lot of tension and chemistry between them, which makes sense because they're both very headstrong and stubborn. I loved watching all of that heat crackle between them. They get into some pretty heated arguments, and all that passion had to simmer and go somewhere. I love these types of romances, especially when they are very well-written with lots of good chemistry-filled scenes.

The feelings started to grow maybe a little too quickly but I enjoyed watching Owen and Peyton fall for each other. They have a lot of chemistry but they both also have a lot of empathy, and start to care about each other pretty quickly. They see each other at bad times early on, and they want to help each other. I like that they reached a point where they would lean on each other. The romance was heated, but also sweet. I fell for these two falling for each other.

Also worth noting are the secondary characters; I adored Peyton's twin cousins! Christian and Cameron are hilarious and so, so great to Peyton. They treat her like a little sister (mind you, she is a few months older), and they're very protective of her. They stand up to her and they always believed her, and they look out for her. Sometimes they are impulsive and they don't think, but they mean well. I also really liked Grace, who becomes Peyton's close girl friend. Grace is a sweet girl and a really good friend.

I think Garcia did a great job in balancing a sweet and steamy romance with some really tough issues. It could not have been easy, writing about an abusive relationship gone really wrong, and having to start all over. My heart broke for Peyton, who did nothing wrong but was hurt both physically and emotionally. I also felt for Owen, who had things going on (which I won't mention specifically) that made his life so much harder. The balance of tough issues and shippy romance was really well-written by Garcia.

The story isn't just a romance - it's also about Owen's fights, Peyton's struggle in dealing with her knee but also Reed continuously calling her, and mysterious threats and pranks that keep happening. The climax is pretty explosive and it gets fast-paced in a hurry. I liked the ending, even if it was a little neatly wrapped up (like, perfectly). It was a good ending.

Overall, I enjoyed this book. It's a very engrossing standalone novel that will leave you satisfied but wanting more of Garcia's stories!

What I Did Not Like:

I kind of wanted more physical/romantic interactions between Owen and Peyton. We only get like, three kissing scenes, two of which are very short? I wanted more!

Would I Recommend It:

I'm not even a YA contemporary fan but I'd recommend this book, YA contemporary fan or not. I think YA contemporary fans would really enjoy this book though. If you liked any of Katie McGarry's books, this is definitely one for you!

Rating:

4 stars. This is such a sweet and powerful book that broke my heart at times, but stitched it back together by the ending. The ending was lovely. I'm looking forward to reading more YA contemporary books by Garcia, related to this one or not!

Jessica *The Lovely Books* says

I was really excited to be contacted to review the audio book! For awhile I didn't care for audio books but I've come to realize that they are so convenient. The narrator is Brittany Pressley—whose narrated books from The Heir by Keira Cass to Bella Frost and Carolyn Brown. The words from Broken Beautiful Hearts as heard from Brittany, is beautiful, as she was really able to catch the essence of the book.

The story started off strong but my main problem was with Peyton throughout most of the novel. While I liked how she could be strong and independent—a lot of the time she tried too hard to be that way. There are times when you can ask for help; it doesn't make you weak. She annoyed me in that aspect—getting mad and overreacting over stupid shit. While she may have thought she was determined and independent; it came off as a petulant child.

Peyton is on the fast track to becoming a division 1 athlete at UNC for soccer. What more could Peyton want when she just got her acceptance letter, has great friends, and of course, the perfect boyfriend. A perfect boyfriend that's been changing as of late. He's keeping secrets and once Peyton finds out, she does what any sensible girl would do, she breaks up with him. But something terrible happens—resulting in Peyton moving to Tennessee to with her Uncle. It's there she meets an aspiring and beautiful fighter, Owen.

While I have all of Kami Garcia's books, this is the first time I'm actually reading one by her. I find her writing deep, intense, and poetic. Despite my love/hate relationship with Peyton, I enjoyed the book very much. Peyton, when not being bratty, really can be strong. I liked how in the beginning she stuck up for a girl she felt was getting bullied. I also liked that she remained solid when breaking up with her boyfriend, Reed. That guy was something else...

Overall, I think readers will enjoy the story of characters fighting back when not being heard, and never backing down. It's a story of healing, new beginnings, and letting go of things that are out of your control. It also shows that while life can sometimes leave you broken; it can also surprise you in the most beautiful ways.

*Thank you to the publisher for providing a copy for an honest and unbiased review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

P.C. Cast says

I loved this book, especially as I know it was inspired by abuse the lovely author, Kami Garcia, survived when she was a teenager. I love how strong the heroine, Peyton, is - though Kami allows her to make age appropriate mistakes she never backs down and refuses to allow her abuser to continue to manipulate her. It was easy to identify with and to cheer for Peyton. TEENAGE GIRLS NEED TO READ THIS BOOK. Highly, highly, recommend.

Annie Brewer says

Holy crap! I loved this book! I'd never read this author, not even the Beautiful Creatures series even though I have them in paperback. I picked this up at B&N for the cover and then the blurb interested me so I bought it. I started it right away, became hooked and spent all off Saturday reading it.

The writing was compelling. The characters were amazing. The plot was unique. I didn't want to stop reading. I felt my heart shatter and flutter and break some more right alongside Owen and Peyton. They were imperfectly beautiful together. I rooted for them the whole way. I loved most of the side characters too. They kept the story and pace moving along quite well.

All in all, it was an enjoyable read that I didn't want to see end. But I was glad I picked it up.
