



Break (A Second Chance Stand-Alone Romance)

Cassia Leo

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From the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Shattered Hearts Series comes a sweet and sexy stand-alone rock star romance.

For most of my life, Ben Hayes was the gorgeous bad boy musician next door. My brother's heart throb best friend.

Then, he was my boyfriend for six of the happiest years of my life. Until he dumped me on social media in front of millions of people, officially cementing his role as my worst enemy.

Three years later, Ben returns to our small beach town with an ego the size of California, a drinking problem, a movie deal that's about to fall through, and a secret that only he and his dying father know.

I'm not the same pathetic girl I was when he broke my heart. I'm stronger now. I won't let him break me again.

But it's hard to resist those ocean-blue eyes, that sculpted, tattooed body, that smooth voice, that enormous... Well, you get the picture.

Every time he makes me laugh or swoon, my defenses fracture. The walls around my heart are crumbling fast. And Ben's wrecking ball of a secret is about to deliver the final blow.

Break (A Second Chance Stand-Alone Romance) Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Cassia Leo

Format :

Genre : Romance



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Callixta says

Le thème des retrouvailles après une séparation est séduisant mais repose souvent sur un terrible malentendu et une absence de communication entre les héros. Il faut bien soigner cette idée si on veut réussir son coup et globalement Cassia Leo s'en sort très bien.

elle met en scène deux héros attachants. Ben est un jeune chanteur et acteur, qui a percé à un très jeune âge. Il a fait donc partie des stars du style Justin Bieber et compagnie. Il connaissait déjà alors la femme de sa vie, Charley. Ils étaient voisins et ont vite craqué l'un pour l'autre, commençant une très jolie idylle, connue du public mais très brusquement interrompu par une rupture spectaculaire et cruelle puisque Ben a choisi de le faire sur Instagram. Trois ans ont passé et voilà Ben de retour dans leur petite ville alors que Charley a décidé de l'oublier, chose difficile. Elle est photographe et a plus ou moins un homme dans sa vie. Le retour de Ben s'avère compliqué car personne n'a compris son attitude de l'époque.

C'est là que le bats blesse d'ailleurs car cette rupture incompréhensible n'a pas suscité chez Charley l'envie d'en savoir plus et on pourrait disserter longtemps sur la façon dont Ben s'y est pris pour rompre. Le twist de l'histoire repose là-dessus, bien entendu. Il est franchement bien trouvé et jette un regard intéressant sur les réseaux sociaux et l'importance qu'ils ont pris dans la vie des stars. S'ils étaient déjà très espionnés par les paparazzi, les gens célèbres doivent faire avec leurs comptes divers. Tout y passe, depuis les fausses relations, qui font de la bonne publicité jusqu'aux exagérations qui conduisent à tout faire sous les yeux du public. Le livre évoque aussi la vulnérabilité de ces jeunes stars, plongées très jeunes dans un monde d'adultes pas toujours bien intentionnés. Cassia Leo aurait pu aller plus loin et nous laisse parfois sur notre faim en ouvrant une piste qu'elle ne referme pas vraiment.

Tout n'est pas parfait dans cette histoire avec des rebondissements parfois amenés si rapidement que ce n'est guère crédible. On peut aussi soupirer de voir Charlotte craquer pour son ex trop facilement. Mais il n'en reste pas moins que leur histoire est jolie et que ce qui les a séparés tient la route.

Voilà une bonne romance contemporaine, sans prétention, pas parfaite mais qui laisse une bonne impression finale.

<http://romance-bluemoon.com/2018/07/b...>

Amy Weichseldorfer says

This is less a review and more a listing of the reasons why this book didn't work for me.

1.) I really liked the first half of the book. After that, though, a couple of things came into play for me that are instant turn offs. First, the h (Charley) just seemed to fall right in line with everything Ben wanted. Instantly. Door mat. Ugh!

2.) Her family, knowing how horribly the relationship ended, just basically told Charley to suck it up and move on AS SOON AS he moved back home. I felt the relationship between Frank, Ben's dad, and Charley

more than I did between Charley and her own family. That didn't change throughout the entire book. In fact, Frank might be the only character I liked completely from beginning to end. Her brothers were tools, and her parents seemed clueless at best.

3.) Ben was a total manwhore while they were apart (sadly, typical of the genre) while she slept with no one (also, frustratingly typical.) When they do have sex, because she's not on the pill and he doesn't have a condom they decided to just wing it. The cavalier way that the morning after pill is mentioned really irritated me. It's *emergency* contraception, not something to get because you trust your formerly-a-manwhore ex-boyfriend who conveniently doesn't have a condom. (Not so good with the manwhoring, eh?) What if he had, say chlamydia or herpes from being such a manslut? No Plan B for that. And he was an asshole to you and slept around the entire time you were apart and you trust him again...why?? I honestly wanted to slap them. "I trust you." Fuck off, both of you! Almost forgot - the next day, before Charley heads to the pharmacy to get her Plan B, Ben tells her to go "kill some potential babies".....WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK????? I am - and have always been, and will always be - adamantly pro-choice, but that was in EXTREMELY poor taste, especially following the morning after pill convo.

4.) Lots of talk about farts and farting, and the burrito eating/spitting scene altogether grossed me out.

5.) The ending. I don't care for a wham-bam-thank you ma'am experience. Not in books and never in real life....and so, I felt sort of short changed when the story just ended. If any story is in need of a epilogue, I thought it was this one.

6.) The term "social media influencer" makes me think of those folks whose only goal in life is to get likes and followers. There isn't anything substantive about living your life that way. I'm too old for that shit - I just don't care about it. 30 years ago, maybe. Now, no way in hell. I guess that part irritated me because I'm me, and me happens to be a grouchy bastard.

7.) Was he or wan't he an alcoholic? The answer is he was, then he wasn't, but damned if I know how he got there, if he even *did* get there. You know what might've fixed that? An epilogue. Just saying.

Anyway, I like this author. I've read her before and loved the books (Shattered Hearts series). It's not that I think she's bad at her job, I just didn't care for this story very much. That's on me. I will read her again for sure.

Cathy says

I have loved everything I have read by Cassia Leo but Break has jumped to the top of my list. I absolutely loved everything about this story. I immediately formed a connection with both of the two main characters Ben and Charley. They were both witty and endearing and I immediately wanted to know more about them.

Charley is the girl next door, the girl you form a bond with, the girl you feel pain with, the girl you can relate to. Charley goes through some major heartache and her resilience and strength is inspiring.

Ben isn't your run of the mill rock star, he is not self absorbed, he is not in it just for the fame and fortune. He has a heart and he treasures those in his life that matter and would do anything in his power to protect them from harm. He also has secrets from his past and these secrets could either break someone or make them stronger.

Another character I really loved was Frank, Ben's father. He has a great bond with Charley and her family as well, it was nice to see them all their for Frank when he needed them. Family and good friends, above all is what we all need and Break made the importance of this very clear.

As expected there will also be characters that you can not stand.

I loved the mystery in Break, not knowing what is ahead, trying to work out what had happened and what was going to happen. It had me on the edge of my seat, it had me in tears and it had me in fits of laughter. A truly great read which I highly recommend.

Anne OK says

Major disappointment. I never felt attached to this story or the characters -- even though it had potential for a good plot. Characters were without much punch -- and I didn't care for either or their off-the-cuff choices. Rock star male lead was unbelievably "loser" material. He had a story that could have been powerful, but he abused trust in so many ways. And the female lead was a doormat and I couldn't muster much sympathy for her either. And even the ending left me totally unsatisfied. Like I said, it coulda, shoulda, woulda -- but it wasn't. There are definitely "triggers" that some readers will find offensive and hurtful.

Chele' says

I'm still reeling from the emotional ride that is Break. Break deals with several issues from alcoholism to loss, to abuse. There are so many plot twists and turns that I'm going to keep my review short so I don't spoil this touching story.

We hate Ben. We hate him with a fiery passion. Why? I'll explain. Imagine the love of your life, your first love.....your first everything on one of the biggest days of your life dumps you. Via text? No. A letter? Oh no, no. On social media.....in front of MILLIONS!! So see, we hate Ben. But we'll kinda always love him too.

Charlotte, Char for short has come a long way since that fateful day. With the help of her best friends Allie and Michelle she's picked up most of her fractured heart and is considering starting up her photography business again. Things are looking up. Until.....

He's back. It's been three years. Three years since he ruined us. Demolished everything we've built and broke my heart. Everywhere I turn he's there. I know he's keeping secrets from me and telling lies. He's back because his Father Frank is dying, I love Frank like a second Father and it's devastating to see him slowly slip away.

Ben swears he never stopped loving me. That he still loves us and can explain his deceit but what can he possibly say that can fix this. Fix us?

The evidence against him is damning but when I look into the eyes of the boy I've loved forever something is telling me this Break was necessary.

Cassia has pumped this book full of sensual passion and humor..... swoon, angst, intimacy, originality and

sincerity.....I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. I fell for these two....especially for their flaws and you will too.

Dilek VT says

2nd chance romance with an unbearable as*hole hero.

He breaks up with her in a very humiliating way, then when he comes back, he is forgiven with little to no grovelling.

Amy says

“Ben was my first everything. He taught me how to kiss. He taught me how to listen. He taught me how to love, not just him, but how to love life.”

“You’re....a nuclear explosion. You’re a force to be reckoned with, and I fucking love that about you.”

“Listen to me, Char. You. Are. Loved. You always have been and always will be. And someone is going to get to love you. I hope to fucking God that someone is me. If it’s not, then I’ll accept that. But, I won’t let you go on believing you’re not loved. Do you understand me?”

“A picture is worth a thousand words, but yours are worth so much more.”

Ben Hayes was the boy next door. The love of Charley’s life. Their romance was everything Charley could ever want....until one day Ben turned her world upside down and destroyed her heart. 3 years will pass before Charley and Ben will be reunited. Charley is determined to stay strong and to not let Ben back into her heart. However, Ben has other plans. He’s not just there to spend time with his dying father. He’s there to right his wrongs and hopefully win back the girl of his dreams.....

Break is a second chance romance about first loves, the one who got away and owning up to your mistakes. From the moment I picked up Ben and Charley’s story, I was intrigued. I was so sad for Charley and everything that she went through when she lost Ben. In fact, I was so annoyed by Ben, that I was totally glaring at his name when it came up in the story. Of course, that all changed when I found out what Ben was keeping from Charley. I could see where he was coming from. He was young and at the time, he thought he didn’t have another choice and that by doing what he did, he could protect Charley. But, Charley ended up getting hurt anyways. And I think for Ben, knowing that he broke Charley was something he couldn’t live with. She was his everything and he was determined to find a way to get her back.

The road to happily ever after for Charley and Ben wasn’t an easy one. Ben had a lot of explaining and groveling to do. He had to prove that he was there for the long haul and that he would never hurt Charley again. I really appreciated that Ben took the time to get to know Charley again and that he tried to earn her trust back. That made their journey that much more satisfying. I loved watching Ben and Charley together. Their chemistry and love still strong despite all the time that passed. Neither one of them was perfect, but I think they tried their best. They were both still pretty young and still had a lot of growing to do. For me, it was fun watching them try to navigate their way through things and strive for their happiness.

Overall, I really enjoyed this story. I'm a sucker for a good second chance romance and this one hit all the marks for me. My only issue with this book was that I felt like things were a bit rushed toward the end. I can't really give you specifics because I don't want to spoil anything, but for me, there was a particular situation that I would have liked to have had fleshed out a little more/given more resolution. And of course, I would have loved to have seen a little more groveling from Ben ? Other than that, I thought Break was a great read and had a lot of fun getting lost in Ben and Charley.

I was provided an ARC copy of this book, in exchange for an honest review

Paula Jackman says

I love everything about this book. BREAK is beautifully written, with characters that are now embedded in my heart. I went through so many different emotions while reading this book. One minute I was crying, and the next I was laughing with tears rolling down my face.

I love Ben and Charley. They just click. They're both quite quick-witted.

Ben isn't your typical rock star. He doesn't care about all the fame. What he does care about is the ones he loves, and he will do anything to protect them. Even if that means losing the girl who holds his heart. It broke my heart when I found out what Ben had gone through. And when you read this book, your heart will break like mine.

Charley is just beautiful. She has a heart of gold and has gone through so much heartache. I find her to be such a strong character.

I absolutely adore Ben's father Frank, and the love he has for Ben and Charley. They all have such a great bond. Ben and Charley's friends truly show what great friends are all about: a great support system, always there when they're needed most.

There are also some characters that I disliked with a passion. When you read this book, you'll understand.

All I can say is get on the Ben and Charley train. BREAK is a great read, which I highly recommend.

Kim FIELD says

What an awesome amazing story I absolutely loved this book from start to end. I was like Charley through this whole book in tears; they would roll down my cheek in sadness and in laughter.

Both main characters have a heart of gold and an amazing love for each other and their family and friends. I loved the way Ben loved and protected Charley and his loved ones even if it meant he had to hurt them. I absolutely loved Ben's father Frank's bond with Charley and her family. Charley and Ben's friend's truly are great people always worried about Charley and Ben and always said it how it was and there if they are needed.

What a secret to carry for so long and I didn't see that coming. I couldn't put the book down once I started it. All I wanted to know is what was so bad to break the heart of his soul mate in such a public way. It was worth every page that I read to find out that secret. It is a must read in my eyes. Thank you Cassia Leo for an

epic story I could read more on all these characters. I highly recommend this book.
?

Tianna★loves books★ says

Nothing, I mean NOTHING in this world will make me forgive a guy who humiliated his love on social media in front of millions of people.

Whatever the fucking reason he may have , I would NEVER ever forgive such asshole.
Yuck.

Robyn says

2.5 Cashmere Kitten Stars

This is my first read by this author. I wish I could say I liked this story more than I did, but for the most part, it just didn't work for me. I didn't care for the flow in which it was written, however I did like many of the songs that accompanied each chapter. I wasn't especially endeared to either MC, and I wasn't thrilled with the way a few things were handled. Vague, I know, but I don't want to give too much away, or taint anyone else's view going into this read.

If my hunch is correct, it seems like this book was set up for some sequels. I probably won't bother with those, as I wasn't particularly drawn to any of the side characters either.

Vera says

Charley and Ben were happy and in love. Everything was perfect. He was the faithful rockstar and she was finishing her degree. Until the day he broke up with her on social media, humiliating her.

Three years later, Ben is back to his hometown and has to face Charley and what he did to her. But why did he do it? Will Charley forgive him? Will she give him a second chance?

I loved *Break!* This book is amazing! Charley and Ben's story is very emotional and took me in a rollercoaster ride of emotions. I laughed, cried and screamed. I loved every page of their story and all the mystery around Ben kept me on my toes.

I really enjoyed the dual POV and the flashback chapters.

Charley is a sweet and kind young woman. When Ben broke her heart, her whole world fell apart and she's still trying to move on three years later. She just wants an explanation to his actions. I loved that even though she had her heart broken, she can still love those around her and wear her heart on her sleeve.

Ben is a troubled rockstar. He's been through a lot and has done a lot he regrets. Now all he wants is to win Charley back. I really wanted to hate him, but after knowing what happened to him, I became his number one fan. He's a very sweet guy, with a huge heart, just trying to fix his wrongs and help the ones he loves and cares about.

Once again, Cassia Leo gives us an amazing book, with an incredible and captivating story and the most perfectly damaged characters. Once you start reading *Break*, you won't stop until you reached "The End" and you'll still want more! Well done!

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

Unfortunately, this one just didn't work for me. I hated the hero. He was weak. He was a drunk for most of the book. The author alludes to him having a drug and alcohol problem, but it is never addressed. Even when the reason comes out for what he did, I couldn't get past it. I felt terrible for him, but I couldn't quite believe that humiliating the heroine was the ONLY thing he could have done. Seemed to me he could have made 500000 better choices in dealing with it all. And, I am SO over heroes breaking it off with the supposed "loves of their lives" in over the top cruel ways, and then using the excuse "I did it for your own good." I also was a bit disturbed that a particular situation that happens to the hero was eerily similar to a celebrities story that has been recently brought to light in the wake of the #metoo movement.

Second I hated that the heroine never moved on in three years with her life. Stayed celibate. Didn't complete her degree. Her business is failing, and she had to move in with her parents. All because of the hero's actions. Meanwhile, the hero went on to become a manwhore, and find success. Not to mention she fell right back into his arms three seconds after he returns. With basically ZERO grovel.

On top of all that, this chick's family were god awful. They know what the hero did to the heroine. They witnessed the fall out first hand, yet he is back for less than 24 hours, and they are inviting him over for BBQ's and lecturing the heroine on letting this go. Her brother, who the day before wanted to take a baseball bat to the hero, is now having his two-year-old call the hero "Uncle Ben"! Like what the everloving fuck were these people smoking??!! The only character with a lick of sense was Michelle!

In all honesty, I probably should have just stopped reading, but a small part of wanted to see where this all was heading. This wasn't a hit for me, but it wasn't a bad book either. It just had a lot of things that didn't work for me. I am sure I will be in the minority, and there is nothing wrong with that. Please do peruse other reviews before deciding if this book is for you.

SIDE NOTE: Am I the only one who gets annoyed when authors write characters using the morning after pill as birth control? This couple didn't have a condom, so the heroine says "that is what the morning after pill is for" No, actually it is NOT. And it is irresponsible to use it as such. OK, off my soapbox...

Anna Nguyen says

Another emotionally charged romantic journey between two people you will be rooting for the whole way. Ben and Charley are two relatable and souls you can help wanting to discover more about to understand how they got to the present and what they will be like in the future.

Romance Schmomance (Malia) says

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It has been years since I've read a Cassia Leo book and I wanted to love this one so bad, but it wasn't quite there for me.

Review to come.
