



# Broken

*Mary E. Palmerin*

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Lyla Harper's life has always been shadowed. With her childhood full of unpleasant memories that she tries to tuck away and forget about, she succeeds at putting on a happy front and convincing those around her that she is happy. But she isn't.

Meet Lyla Elizabeth Harper, a teen whose journey is less than ideal. She experiences heartache, loss, bullying, but through it all she strives for hope. She counts down the days until she has the chance to start over in a new city, unaware of her past. A city far away from the recollections that have scarred her physically and mentally.

In this first book of the Scars and Sorrow Saga, you will be faced with the ghastly and horrendous events that plague Lyla, starting on the day of her eighteenth birthday, a day that changed her forever. Lyla thought she was broken before, but she was wrong. Davis Moore, a 22-year-old handsome cop and also Rigdon's gold boy, steals something from Lyla on that fateful night on Brownsmith Road.

Others will challenge her will and strength, testing her and pushing her to the brink of giving up. Will Lyla be able to trudge through the deep rut that she is stuck in to move to Chicago to start her life over? Or will the evil events consume her and leave her grounded, unable to lead a life free of pain?

**\*\*Graphic content, including underage drinking, drug use, non-consensual sex, and self-mutilation. Not suitable for readers under the age of eighteen.\*\***

## **Broken Details**

Date : Published by Mary E. Palmerin (first published December 25th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Mary E. Palmerin

Format : Kindle Edition 59 pages

Genre :

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## **From Reader Review Broken for online ebook**

### **Celene Campbell says**

This story is the prequel of Succumbing to Scars and Sorrows. This gives the reader more insight to Lyla Harper, a beautiful young woman who feels unworthy of any love outside her family. Her heartbreaking story tells of her struggles and her need to leave her hometown in order to secure a happier life and future. Mary captures the pain that most have gone through, or know someone close to them that has. Beautifully heartbreaking tale with a glimmer of hope.

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### **Jennifer Theriot says**

Let me preface by saying that I actually met this incredible author this weekend:)

Also, I sat with a group of bloggers who sang the praises of this book and I thought to myself "Wow! This sounds good....lemme download it. I can read it on the plane ride home" I buckled my seat belt on the plane and I'm damn glad I did because what spilled out on the pages of this book had me in tears...literally! Thank GOD I had a window seat because as I read about Lyla I was astounded! I teared up as I read the torment and sadness this poor girl went through. This book opened my eyes to the world of bullying, ridiculing and the assessment of self worth. I will warn you this book deals with severe emotional issues.. there is cutting, loss of self esteem, drug & alcohol use and rape. Not my normal genre to read but I'm so glad I read this book! Your heart goes out to this beautiful girl who thinks she is worthless because some meaningless girls in high school tell her she is. The writer made you feel like you were in the room with Lyla...you could feel the blade cut into her skin and you could feel the pain she was going through. Then, just when she let her guard down and tried to trust and enjoy being with someone, BAM! She was a fool for believing.

Mary Palmerin...you have a real gift and I cannot say enough how much I enjoyed this book! By the end I was pumping my fists screaming "YES! Lyla...YOU GO GIRL!" I'm a new fan and I will follow you Mary Palmerin to the end of the earth with your beautiful, beautiful Lyla:) xxoo!

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### **Tbird London says**

I had the wonderful opportunity to meet this author at a book signing this last weekend. I came across her accidently and was drawn into her books due to the passion she had when she told me about the story. It wasn't a normal conversation between reader and author where you can tell the author is proud of her work, Mary was passionate about the story and message she is trying to get out. She gave me a copy of her books and asked me to give her story a try. On one hand I am so thrilled I accepted the challenge and on the other hand I am HONORED that I have this book and am able to read the beginning of Lyla's story.

The first book is rather short and primarily explains the life Lyla came from and the future she is working hard for. In those few pages Mary described a woman that as a reader I could connect to. Her writing style was not only smooth but the choice of words was so powerful it flowed from the pages and created the story in both the readers mind and soul. She brought Lyla to life and it was a painful life that stole my heart and begged me to listen.

Ten months is all she has left before she can leave small town Kansas and go to Chicago. With college set up and her dreams ready to be fulfilled, she only had to survive the nightmares and abuse that is her world for a

little while longer. She deals with things from her past that shattered her, siblings that are involved in their own lives, bullies from society. The few things she can count on are hidden in her room and bring into existence the pain she feels but can't make verbal. Things are hard enough but let's add Davis, the local law enforcement who takes her torture to another level. With the vices of drinking, drugs and cutting, she vows to survive and get out. Ten months till freedom and she can pack her bags and forget the horrid past she lived through.

Davis won't go away though with this threats and promises that he will destroy her. Lyla can't allow her mother and stepfather to know her secrets because the disappointment in their faces will kill her. Darkness continues to grow in her world till finally it is enough. Her stomach is covered in scars that plead for someone to notice, her heart shut off because of the pain she has suffered from others lies and actions. The last year of high school could be what finally kills her last reason to live.

The author wrote of a very strong lady who stumbles and falls sometimes, but more than likely she has been knocked down and run over in life. She is told that the one thing that brings her comfort is no longer acceptable but society has no clue that finding other solutions for the pain is easier said than done. I could feel her suffering and despair, I wanted to go kick some butt and get her out sooner. I felt the panic in the words as I read and the overwhelming joy when she finally left for college. I was overcome with emotions when the little bird with a broken wing finally found her freedom on the campus of her dream college. I will be starting the second book in this series now because I became so invested in Lyla I need to see her journey. I can't remember feeling this invested and connected to a character before. Lyla reminded me that many times in life there is no other option than survival.

Given a complimentary copy by author for review on Crystal's Many Reviewers

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## **Blia says**

Secrets of a Broken Girl, a prequel to Succumbing to Scars and Sorrow, grabbed me from the start. For me, it was almost like reading from Lyla's diary. Seeing things from her perspective and trying to comprehend why she did the things she did.

Lyla's story is a heart wrenching one. Although it's a novella, I'll admit that it's not an easy read. This book takes you to a dark place where those who's been in Lyla's situation hasn't found the strength and courage to face their demons or had a chance to live and tell their story. I found myself wanting to shake Lyla and tell her she is loved. I wanted to help her. Tell her that it's ok to burden love ones with your sorrow. Then go out and find the losers who'd hurt her and make them pay for what they did to her.

Thank you Mary, for sharing Lyla's story with me and other readers out there. What I learned is we are all hard wired differently. Those like Lyla self inflict on drugs, alcohol and self mutilation as a way to cope. I hope that your book will give HOPE to those who have been through the trauma that Lyla has. Life is not always rainbows and unicorns but there is that light at the end of the tunnel.

Secrets of a Broken Girl, Prequel to Succumbing to Scars and Sorrow by Mary E. Palmerin

This book was gifted to me as an ARC read in exchanged for a honest review.

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### **Rebecca Sherwin says**

Secrets of a Broken Girl is the prequel to the debut novel Succumbing to Scars and Sorrow by Mary E. Palmerin.

We see Lyla just months before she is due to leave her hometown of Rigdon, Kansas and move to Chicago. She goes to school, does her homework and is at the top of her class, but it is the insights into her already troubled past, the conflict that resides in her mind and the terrible ordeals she faces in those final months that make this short read emotionally raw and tragic, yet full of hope.

The author writes a heartbreaking tale that echoes something many women experience. She is faced with being ostracised, suffers from low self-esteem, no confidence and a desire to be like all the other girls in school. She believes she is unworthy of love and friendship and many a tear was shed because U wanted to tell her everything would be okay. My heart broke again and again as Lyla sank further into her depression as more pressure and pain were piled on top of her. I smiled when she found her strength to fight back, and found myself counting down the months with her until she got her fresh start in Chicago.

This story was emotional and full of angst. It is written impeccably and while it isn't for the faint-hearted, it gets you thinking, sitting on the edge of your seat and rooting for the underdog. It is not an easy read but it'll have you hooked and emotional from the first page. It is a five star must read and I highly recommend it, along with the rest of The Sorrow Series.

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### **Amy Davis says**

This book grabbed me and had me feeling the pain Lyla was going through. Then you put Nathan and Davis into her pain and I want to beat both of them .

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### **Ashleigh Giannoccaro says**

I adore reading broken characters who struggle through desperate times to find their happiness, be it for a moment or forever.

Mary has this beautiful way of making a dark story un-put-down-able! I didn't get very much done today... I read all day. I will probably read all night because I want more from this series right away.

Lyla's story is so REAL - the struggle, the pain, the terror I felt it all as I turned every page. I am undoubtably hooked and plan to devour the rest of this series over the next few days.

I love that she hasn't shied away from the harsh stuff, the issues are right there at the surface.

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### **Cecily Bonney says**

I love this book!!!!

I read it during my lunch hour, that is how much I love Lyla.

Lyla is me and in a way I believe she is a piece of all of us.

This girl is strong, beautiful, caring, and unbelievably real!!!!

This story is not like most stories in my opinion!

While reading this book I could feel every emotion that Lyla has. It is so crazy but when I read it I swear Lyla is my best damn friend.

Lyla story is redefining the definition of Beautiful! She is the definition of beauty!

So thank you Mary E. Palmerin for writing one bad ass story. This is the realest book I have read and I am looking forward to read more =>

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## **L. Duarte says**

Lyla is a young woman who goes through the imaginable on her teen years. As consequence, she develops a profound self loath which eventually leads her to a journey of self destruction. This book is not for the faint at heart. However it gives us an ample view into the darkest place that lurks inside the human soul. I cringed many times. Not only for the rawness and graphic details depicted on this book. I cringed because like Lyla, at many points of my life I too wallowed in self loath. And even though I didn't go to the extreme of self destruction she did, I was convinced of not being good enough. The story of Lyla surfaces those feelings that we try to keep buried. Feelings we ignore hoping it will go away. Yes, I admit it was not an easy read. No pretty gifs or fuzzy feelings. But it did give me the reward of allowing me a moment of confronting demons that I avoid confronting or acknowledging. Also, it gives a glimpse of hope that we can all find the hidden treasures inside our hearts. I commend Miss Palmerin for writing such a raw and honest story.

Favorite quote:

"I am free. I am a bird whose wing is now mended"

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## **Di Covey says**

### **4 Scarred Stars!**

*"I've always had this dark place within my soul and a sadness that never seems to disappear."*

I didn't read the blurb, I went in blind. I'm wondering where the rest is? I'm thinking this is a prequel.

Anyway, I wanted to see what else Mary E. Palmerin has written, I really enjoyed the dark in *Gwendolyn VS The Band of Barren Hearts*. I'm definitely seeing a pattern in her work, she likes to destroy her characters, she like to make us gasp with shock, and she's one helleva writer.

A story of one girl's journey through self destruction. Lyla lives the life of your everyday teenager... But what's sad is, it's the real-life we all don't talk about. The self doubt, bullying, and secrets that hold all the venom to destroy. A path of self harm, drugs, and abuse. Can she make out, find some form of happiness, or is she doomed to a future of pain in so many ways? I need to know what waits in the future. I would like to know about her past, and what was the catalyst to her state of mind. I need to dig further into her mind, play with it.

I was completely intuned with Lyla, her destructive ways resonated with me on a personal level. After I finished reading, I thought back to my past and remembered just how terrifying growing up was, especially with tragic events that lead us down the path of no return. This book definitely hooked me, I need more without a doubt. Mary E. Palmerin can spin a web of destruction.

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### **Kim BookJunkie says**

Lyla Harper is broken and the coping mechanisms she uses to get through her miserable existence are extremely unhealthy (drinking & using drugs, cutting). She's a magnet for misery; the popular girls pick on her, an attractive football player uses her and there's even a prestigious man in town who rapes her whenever he feels like it. Because I'm sick in the head, I thoroughly enjoyed watching Lyla wallow in her misery and suffer abuse at every turn. I also enjoyed watching her overcome obstacles and focus on reaching her goal of leaving the small, suffocating town she lives in. What I didn't like and was very disappointed by though was the ending. To say that this story ends with a HEA is a severe understatement and for me, a disappointment. Knowing there are more books in the series, I expected there to be some sort of segue at the end, something to entice me to want to keep reading on, yet there was absolutely nothing. I love Mary Palmerin though so I'm going to keep reading and hopefully things get exciting (tragic) for Lyla again!

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### **Mandi says**

#### **Great story!**

Love Mary's books so far. They tell a great story that is normally shied away from. Can't wait for the next one!

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### **Jenna Schmitt says**

This book is raw and real. Topics no one wants to talk about. Its a must read its emotional, heartbreaking, heart warming and touches you. I feel for Lyla and you can't help but want more of her story.

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### **Christine says**

Lyla although strong she is a self loathing broken eighteen year old. She has ambition and is counting down the days till she can leave Rigdon to start on that dream.

Before she leaves she has to endure some really bad times from Davis the bent cop, Bill from the liquor store, and Nathan from high school.

Lyla copes with all the heartache and bullying by drinking, drugs and cutting.

A heartfelt painful novella.

On to Succumbing next.

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## Taryn Lee says

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

I need to just put this out there because this book changed a piece of me. And I'm not sure if it's a positive change or negative change. All I know is this book is a gut wrenching emotional beginning to one of the best series I have ever read.

I've read a lot of gruesome romance novels. Some that I fell in love with others that I detested, but I have never read a book like this. It's a gut wrenching 65 or so pages of what teenager **Lyla Harper** deals with in her small town. She has such a deploring image of who she thinks she is that substance abuse, bodily harm and sexual harm play a heavy hand in how she forms from teen to adult. We start off in her last year of high school and all Lyla wants is to get to graduation so she can leave this small town and those who tortured her behind... but life is never that easy. We always have road blocks, but Lyla's are more like mini tsunamis... each one as deadly as the last to the point that you wish you wouldn't survive them, but they keep coming and you've got to hold on.

*Lyla is a survivor.* I don't care how anyone else wants to put it but that phrase sums up how I feel about her. The way she describes her emotional and physical pain had me cringing at times. There were so many times when I had to stop, put my iPad down, and wipe the tears that had escaped. I wanted to take away all of Lyla's pain in any way I could. I felt her to my core.

Overall, I'm giving this novella **4.5 STARS out of 5 STARS** because Mary E. Palmerin writes emotion like I have never seen. She made me feel so much during this book. It's one of a kind and I will never forget this book. The next book Succumbing to Scars and Sorrow is going to be just as amazing, I know it!

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Read by Taryn Lee on February 18, 2014

Reviewed by Taryn Lee on February 25, 2014

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