



The Book of Broken Hearts

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When all signs point to heartbreak, can love still be a rule of the road? A poignant and romantic novel from the author of *Bittersweet* and *Twenty Boy Summer*.

Jude has learned a lot from her older sisters, but the most important thing is this: The Vargas brothers are notorious heartbreakers. She's seen the tears and disasters that dating a Vargas boy can cause, and she swore an oath—with candles and a contract and everything—to never have anything to do with one.

Now Jude is the only sister still living at home, and she's spending the summer helping her ailing father restore his vintage motorcycle—which means hiring a mechanic to help out. Is it Jude's fault he happens to be cute? And surprisingly sweet? And a Vargas?

Jude tells herself it's strictly bike business with Emilio. Her sisters will never find out, and Jude can spot those flirty little Vargas tricks a mile away—no way would she fall for them. But Jude's defenses are crumbling, and if history is destined to repeat itself, she's speeding toward some serious heartbreak...unless her sisters were wrong?

Jude may have taken an oath, but she's beginning to think that when it comes to love, some promises might be worth breaking.

The Book of Broken Hearts Details

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From Reader Review The Book of Broken Hearts for online ebook

Jude says

<http://i1231.photobucket.com/albums/e...>

(second update)

WHAT?

THE NAME OF THE GIRL IS JUDE HERNANDEZ.

Okay so.. I don't want to sound dumb in assuming I 'inspired' that name But I did e-mail Sarah Ockler when I was 16 telling her I was a HUGE fan and that my real last name is Hernandez.

It's just... too much coincidence o_o

I feel special... even if I'm being ridiculous. I AM SPECIAL!!!
YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAY!!!! :D

(first update)

IT'S A GIRL!

Jude is actually a girl! *tear*

Ooooh Yes, that is me, right there in that summary :D

Nope -don't have sisters or a dad that's into motorcycles, but I will be more than happy to meet a Vargas, just give them to me :3

Zemira (Kylo Ren fangirl) Warner says

Love, love, love this book! It was unputdownable from the first page, up to the last. Sarah Ockler is one of those YA contemporary authors who actually writes books with normal characters mostly dealing with ordinary family problems. They are just like us and that's the reason it's so easy for me to relate to one or two of them.

You can tell a lot about an author from the way they shape their characters. They can be determined, perky, sarcastic, brave, loyal, witty, modest, independent and so on. I think that some of the authors share pieces of themselves in their novels so even if I started reading a book without the cover I would know who wrote it. And that is what it's all about! Readers recognizing your writing style and setting your work apart from the rest.

I think I need to point out that this blurb is not entirely correct. First of, the romance part of the book is talking up around %30 of the book while the part where Jude helps her father who's suffering from Alzheimer's, takes the rest 70%. Not that I didn't mind. The love interest, Emilio is in the story right from the start but catching his eye wasn't the priority back then.

So, this is a story about Jude, a high-school graduate who's spending her last summer as a kid looking after her dad, who's recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. She's trying to cheer him up by restoring his old bike so they hire a mechanic to fix it. Complications start after Jude realizes the guy fixing Valentina (the bike's name) is non other than one of the infamous Vargas brothers. Vargas Bros. broke hearts of her two older sisters so Jude is trying to push Emilio away only this time, Emilio is apparently so not like the rest of Vargas pack. He makes Jude question her loyalty to her family and but it takes more than a guy with dimples to get under her skin. She did try to stay away from him but their connection was just evident.

This book was brilliant. This is my favorite Ockler book, so far. If you're looking for a book with normal teenage character without too much drama, to brighten up your day I suggest you pick *The Book of Broken Hearts* up! Now!

What a brilliant last chapter. It made me cry. So touching. It was almost as if I was there with them. I can't wait to read Ockler's next book. Why does it need to come out next year? Ugh! S&S peeps need to give this lady a better contract, where she will be a slave, writing books all day long so we can enjoy every few month and not have to wait a whole year for another taste. Am I right?

Giselle says

Stories about Alzheimer's disease are so heartbreaking. It's such an evil, merciless disease that you can rarely see coming or do anything to stop it. When it hits so young like Jude's father, it's even more of a shock. Yes this is an emotional read, but it's also full of happy moments, romance, and hope.

The Book of Broken Hearts is both an emotional foray into the effects of Alzheimer's on a family, as well as a sweet love story. After her father is diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, all Jude wants to do is help him remember his happiest days. She's hoping against all hope that fixing up his Harley will fix everything

and bring him back. Finding someone to fix it on time and affordably is a challenge, though, so she can't refuse when a Vargas offers, even though she made a pact with her sisters to stay away from that family. A family that has broken two of her sisters' hearts.

This gives us a sort of forbidden love story where Jude finds herself falling for Emilio, but the pact and her sisters' warnings are making her wary. The pact did annoy me just a tad. I felt like her reasons for not giving him a chance were cowardly. It's unfair that he has to pay for his brothers' messes, but mostly I felt she was using the pact as an excuse to not put herself out there. On the other hand, I do see where she was coming from. Her family is very close-knit and already dealing with a tragic disease, not wanting to chance more heartache on top of that is understandable. Nevertheless, a romance does bloom and it's sweet and fun and charged with insecurities stemming from both her conscience and that of new-found love. I appreciated how gradual it progressed, with them slowly opening up to each other. It also balanced the more emotional parts of the story perfectly, while never outright taking over.

With a large family on top of a few additional side characters, there are quite a few faces that we meet throughout. That being said, it impressed me how three dimensional they all were. We get backgrounds for almost all characters that cements their personalities and allows us to understand their motives. I also quite enjoyed the audiobook which was narrated perfectly with authentic accents that really brought them all to life. In addition to character development, the relationships between characters - especially the family dynamics - are full of heart.

Even though it has some heavy emotional content at times, I found it to be an overall refreshing and positive story. It's about learning to live in the moment; to not dwell on how things were, but to make the best of the hand you are dealt. It's the kind of book that can easily be recommended to just about anyone.

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An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at Xpresso Reads

Keertana says

What's left to say about *The Book of Broken Hearts*? I feel as if all of Ockler's fans have already nit-picked this book apart and proved that it's perfect in every way that counts - and they're right. And yet, while I know for a fact that *The Book of Broken Hearts* is Ockler's best book by far, I enjoyed *Bittersweet* much more and there remains that slight troubling fact that there is *always* something about an Ockler novel that prevents me from giving it a full five stars. Which, admittedly, isn't a big deal but makes me feel really upset anyway.

Anyway, long story short, *The Book of Broken Hearts* is nothing short of incredible. Jude is spending the summer with her father, whose brain is slowly deteriorating from Alzheimer's. And yet, despite his declining memory, Jude's father remembers every moment spent on his motorcycle with a startling clarity. Inspired by her father's enthusiasm for his old bike and yearning to chase away his dark condition, Jude hires a mechanic to fix up her father's bike - and hopefully fix him in the process. Only, the mechanic winds up being Emilio Vargas, the younger brother of the two boys who broke the hearts of two of her three older sisters. Ever since Jude could remember, the Vargas boys have been off-limits and although Jude tells herself that Emilio is only around to help fix her father's bike, the charm of a Vargas boy is not lost on her. Jude intended to soak up the sun with her father this summer, but her father's condition may be far worse than she thought and

before long, the condition of her own heart may be the worse for wear too.

The Book of Broken Hearts has a lot to love, but perhaps my primary reason for falling head-over-heels for this book is the very fact that Sarah Ockler explored the life of an immigrant family. One of the best aspects of this, though, is that it is never over-done. Instead, Jude's heritage feels natural and the brief glimpses into a past in Central America and the struggle of learning English in a new country is enough to cement the diversity this novel provides. Furthermore, Ockler perfectly proves the utter inevitability of morphing friendships. Jude is going through a difficult time in her life, but that doesn't always mean that the rest of her life doesn't change. While she is focused on her father, her friends grow and change into different people just as she does, and this is so beautifully conveyed through Ockler's writing. I seem to be constantly on the look out for books that push the boundaries of YA and deliver more, so I am thrilled that *The Book of Broken Hearts* satisfies my thirsts.

And yet, despite its originality, this book never breaks away from the standard necessities of any strong novel. For one, this novel is just heart-breaking. I guess that is only to be expected from the title, but I found myself surprised by the depth of emotion that was conveyed through small scenes as Jude watched her father slowly lose his memory. Moreover, the strong bond between these four sisters is even more bittersweet in a way. For one, Jude feels helpless as the youngest. In fact, she calls her three older sisters The Holy Trinity and obviously feels divided from them and their wisdom. Not only has she always heeded the advice of her older sisters, but for the first time, she feels as if their advice may not be the right course. Emilio is nothing like his heart-breaker older brothers and to push away his sincerity because of his family seems ridiculous to Jude - and rightly so. And yet, despite that evident conclusion, truly breaking away from her role as the baby sister and embracing a greater role of independence is difficult for Jude, which makes her journey all the more poignant. With *The Book of Broken Hearts*, Ockler truly strips away so many pillar-like foundations that Jude holds onto - her father's memory, her mother's dependability, the wisdom of her older sisters - and forces Jude to find herself amidst the confusion in her life. And this, this I *love*.

Emilio Vargas, however, is what I suspect most readers will love the most. While the swoon-worthy hero of Jandy Nelson's *The Sky is Everywhere* is notorious for his eyelashes (Bat. Bat. Bat.), Emilio will undoubtedly become notorious for those knee-weakening dimples. Wink. Wink. Although Emilio and I got off to a rough start, mostly because his teasing can come across as arrogant at times, he is easily one of the sweetest and most understanding male protagonists I've met. Ockler steers clear of the ridiculous "forbidden romance" route with this one and allows Emilio to prove himself worthy of Jude, which wins her over completely. Not only is her immensely caring of her father and her situation in life, but he never gives up on her either. And although I craved for more of a back story with Emilio, for more of *his* problems and *his* musings, and often even wondered why he found Jude so appealing when he himself was so perfect and patient and far too good for her, I did enjoy their romance immensely.

Nevertheless, I found that despite the fact that Jude was a dynamic character, there remained a palpable distance. I couldn't always understand her on the level I wanted to and while I did really like her, at other times I felt as if her growth was almost prolonged in parts. Now, that's not to say that the plot of this story suffered - because it didn't - but it did feel as if the same idea needed to be repeated so many times before Jude understood what she needed to do with her life. Which is realistic, guaranteed, but this wasn't written in a way that truly enabled me to understand Jude. Additionally, a lot of this story is told in flashbacks, which both worked and didn't. For the most part, this transition was seamless but in some areas, it was wholly unnecessary. In my opinion, to end off a chapter with an event and begin the next one the next day and go back and recount what happened in the previous night's event is a little excessive. Still, despite these qualms, *The Book of Broken Hearts* is a solid read. Although I suspect *Bittersweet* is still my favorite of Ockler's work - not to mention the most light-hearted too - there is no denying that Ockler has grown immensely and

her next novel promises to be even better than this one.

Nomes says

Straight up: I love how Ockler writes her protagonists. This is her fourth book, and each protagonist has been entirely individual with a distinct voice and unique vibe.

The Book of Broken Hearts is about family, especially Jude's relationship with her dad whom she loves so dearly. It is also about falling in love. And about living in the moment. None of this comes easy to Jude.

This book is so much I love about contemporary YA. It has the unputdownable sucked-into-a-story vibe. It has little unique elements that breathe life into the book (the history of the sisters, Jude's father's history), it has a love interest who is not only hot (and often shirtless ;)) but has his own back story and it is so easy to imagine him as the star of his own story, not just as the guy created to be the love interest for Jude. It has such an effortless narration: breezy -- the pages just fly by, and funny -- Jude has spunk and wicked little splashes of humour that lighten some heavy moments.

There is so much comfort in falling into a book where the author knows where she is headed and she takes the reader there confidently. I am, first and foremost and always, a contemporary YA loving girl, and, for me, Ockler embraces everything I love about the genre. Her characters slowly bleed onto the page. her settings come alive, she brings the swoon (so much so) and she celebrates life and hope in the midst of hardships. I am all about that.

I so wholeheartedly recommend this book. I loved the time I spent with it, and it's one I will be revisiting for sure (while waiting for another Ockler book ;))

Trish Doller says

When I first started I wasn't sure how I felt about Jude, but the longer I read, the more I loved her. I loved her family. I loved Emilio. This was just what I needed when I needed it and....SIGH.

Edited to add: And then I slept on it and when I woke up this morning I bumped it to five stars because it's really that good.

Jasprit says

This is the third book which I have devoured by Ockler and I have to say her books just keep getting better and better. The Book of Broken Hearts was everything I'd expected and so much more. It was a novel which seemed to focus on one story, but incorporated so many different aspects that could appeal to every reader.

Jude and her sisters Mari and Celi and Lourdes had taken on an oath to stay away from the Vargas brothers. After two of Jude's sisters had been left heartbroken, it was agreed that no good would come by spending time with them. Five years later Jude is pushed to decide what's important to her; she and her dad hire a

mechanic to fix her dad's motorcycle, it's been his dream for 30 years to ride his beloved Valentina one more time. But the only mechanic with the time to get her fixed up by the summer is none other than Emilio Vargas. Jude knows she must stay away from him; she has a promise to keep to her sisters. But those cute dimples and rugged smile is slowly sneaking its way to her heart and every time Emilio gets closer to finishing the Valentina it's the happiest she's seen her dad in a long time. What's a girl like Jude to do?

Staying away from Emilio Vargas wasn't as straight forward as everyone expected it to be. Jude's dad was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, it was a tough time on the entire Hernandez family, but most of all on Jude, who had spent her last summer before she went off to college looking after him. Her dad could quickly go from knowing who he was to losing his cool over a supposed wrong order of ice-cream. It could take a lot to calm him back, and so Jude was quick to realise that the only thing which could keep him happy and content was focusing on the end goal of fixing the Valentina.

I absolutely loved The Book of Broken Hearts; it was a story full with underlying themes of heartache, loyalty and about making the right choice. Jude wanted to remain loyal to her sisters, she wanted to take care of her dad and not send him to a home, and she also wanted to be with Emilio. The sweet build up of the relationship between Emilio and Jude was one of the best ones that I have come across in a long time. Emilio was quick to show that he was in no way like his brothers; he was honest, caring and completely understanding of Jude's situation. He wasn't quick to judge like Jude's friends, but gave Jude the time and space she needed. I eagerly anticipated their scenes in the barn when he was fixing Valentina; they were full of banter, charm and pulse racing scenes. Ockler had the romance nailed, never have I wanted a couple to be together than I did with Jude and Emilio. But there were so many hurdles in the way.

Jude was a character I admired; at 17 she had so much responsibility on her shoulders. By looking after her dad she had no time for friends (which I didn't like by the way) and no time to enjoy her summer. I hated how if anything did go wrong she felt she had to shoulder the entire guilt, because of this I felt she totally deserved time to have fun with Emilio. But I liked how it had been ingrained within her not to trust a Vargas, but she decided to make her own judgements, which at the end of the day helped her tons, as she could always share the burden of what she had to go through with Emilio, who was always around to lend a sympathetic shoulder.

Family played an integral part to The Book of Broken Hearts and I enjoyed how Ockler was able to bring both the individual family members of the Hernandez family out so strongly but also show how well they worked together as a family. Each of the Hernandez sisters had their own individual voice, which was good as I dislike it when a story focuses in on a family, but it becomes hugely difficult to distinguish between the characters. This was not a problem in The Book of Broken Hearts, each sister had their own defining characteristics and we were able to differentiate them as they had their own story. Jude's sisters and parents made solid secondary characters with each bringing something unique and special to the story. My only minor gripe is that we got to find out about why Miguel Vargas broke Lourdes heart, but no proper detail about what happened with Celi and Johnny Vargas. I think I was really keen to know as their relationship had progressed further than anyone else and it was the final straw which led to the oath being suggested amongst the sisters.

The Book of Broken Hearts is full with deep beautiful passages representing just how important family can be. It was also littered with some really heartbreak scenes, and some which had me melting into a pile of mush. I also liked how Ockler incorporated a couple of references which poked fun at how readers fall for paranormal beings such as vampires and the overwhelming love triangles. These cute references were quick to bring a smile to my face.

I honestly can't praise The Book of Broken Hearts enough; it has so much to offer with Ockler managing to pack so much awesomeness into a 368 page book. I'm not usually one of those readers who recommend books, but if I could recommend just one book that you should read this year, it would be The Book of Broken Hearts.

Michelle (Pink Polka Dot Books) says

I. Love. Sarah. Ockler. You should too!

Jude is spending her last summer home before leaving for college bonding with her dad... and taking care of him. He's sick and getting worse by the day. She gets the great idea to have his 1961 Harley restored hoping to get him to reconnect with his past and to keep him grounded for a little while longer. The mechanic that they can afford turns out to be totally crush-worthy... and a Vargas. Vargas is a dirty world in the Hernandez house, with 2 of the brothers leaving 2 of Jude's older sisters completely heartbroken. Jude even took an oath when she was younger to never under any circumstance canoodle with a Vargas. Yet here she is falling for Emilio. At first she convinces herself that her sister's will never know. None of them even live within driving distance. And plus her father's health is more important than some stupid oath.

As the summer wears on Emilio starts to grow on her. It doesn't help that all her friends have abandoned her, leaving Emilio the only one who really seems to care. Then her father takes a turn for the worse bringing "The Holy Trinity" (her 3 older sisters) rushing home. Her closely guarded Vargas secret is about to blow up.

My Thoughts:

I can't believe I am just now reading this book!! Sarah Ockler is one of my absolute favorite authors ever and this book has completely cemented that. This book is about a bunch of things that really don't interest me at all. Forbidden love that you know is going to happen anyway, motorcycles, supposed bad boys. Blah. None of that stuff made me excited to read this book. But then I started reading and I just couldn't stop. Sarah Ockler could write about snails and I would probably get hooked on that too. There's just something about her storytelling and writing that is completely amazing and unique. Every single one of her main characters have HUGE major flaws and I still end up loving them so hard. I always feel like I can feel what her characters feel in a really powerful way.

Now about this book specifically- I loved the family feel in this book. It really was about family and how everyone fits and works together even though they aren't all physically living together. Reading about the father's illness was truly heartbreaking. I don't know if telling you what the actual illness is would be spoilery... so I'll just go ahead and say it's not cancer and I've never read another YA book about it. I loved that with Jude being the youngest of 4 girls, she felt like she didn't really have the closest relationship to her father, but that throughout the course of the summer they truly built an amazing one. And she was even reminded of things about their past that she had maybe overlooked and it made her think differently about that relationship. The sibling relationships were also a major great thing in this book. Of course you had the one who took charge, and the nurturing one, and with Jude being so much younger she usually ended up being overtaken by the older ones. It was nice seeing her find her identity within the family and finding her voice.

Jude herself was great. She was willing to sacrifice her social life, her relationships with her best friends, anything just to try and save her dad. It was so unselfish for a 18-year-old. I also found her to be so funny

and snarky at times... a great, relate-able main character that felt like she could be your new best friend. The relationship was just okay to me. I felt like the guy was super sweet and nice and cute and all those good things... but I wasn't wowed by him. He came off really cocky at first, and maybe that's why later on when he became serious, I didn't fully ever trust him. Also I felt like it was pretty obvious that the oath wasn't going to stop her from liking him or being with him, so it really wasn't my favorite part of the book. I don't want you to think it wasn't a cute romance, because it was. Just when comparing it to some of my other favorite book couples, they don't hold up as high.

This book definitely should not be overlooked. It is a truly touching look at a family dealing with a debilitating illness. It was refreshing to read about siblings and family and love the way this book portrayed it and I totally can't recommend this one enough. I definitely teared up by the end because Sarah Ockler, you are awesome!

OVERALL: If you like books about family and want a cute romance on top of it, this is your book. You can never go wrong with Sarah Ockler's amazing writing and ability to make you fall in love with her characters. I will always read every book she writes, forever... and you should too!

My Blog:

Carla says

I WANT THIS SO BADLY I COULD VOMIT

also, to everyone who's read this already

EDIT - I HAVE NOW READ THIS AND IT IS GLORIOUS. to everyone who hasn't yet read it, feel free to do the above - it does help.

Gonca Özgül (Evetherneyse) says

Bir a?k kitab?ndan daha fazlas?.

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

The Book of Broken Hearts sounded like a light, fun, maybe a little bit angst romance, and it was that. But there was depth to this story as well. It was a story of family love and heartbreak.

Jude Hernandez is spending her last summer at home before going off to college with her parents. After her

father is dealt a crushing diagnosis, Jude plans on spending as much time as possible with her Papi rebuilding his vintage motorcycle. What she doesn't count on is Emilio Vargas being the mechanic. You see, the Vargas boys have an infamous history with the Hernandez girls of breaking their hearts. The last break was so painful that all sisters made an oath in blood (no kidding!) to stay far away from any Vargas male. I don't know about you, but whenever I hear "forbidden male" my ears perk up!

Jude is the youngest of four sisters. She was a happy accident, born eight years after the youngest. So she's basically alone with her mother in dealing with her father's illness, and the everyday complications. It's crushing Jude to witness her father lose bit by bit of his memories, and she feels responsible to halt the progression. Her idea to rebuild the bike is so heartily embraced by her Papi, that she ignores the fact that it's a Vargas boy at her house everyday helping.

I really felt for Jude. Being all of seventeen and having to deal with a sick parent is devastating. At that age life and possibilities feel unending, so having mortality shoved in your face is shocking. It makes you realize just how fragile life really is.

Rebuilding the bike is Jude's way of trying to solve the unsolvable. If that means having to suffer Emilio's devastatingly handsome face complete with dimples, well that's a burden she's willing to bear! The heartbreak suffered by her sisters happened so long ago. Should Emilio suffer for the sins and betrayals of his older brothers? Especially when he is so sweet and understanding about her father?

The Book of Broken Hearts deals with a serious and heartbreaking situation in a realistic, but hopeful and humorous way. Sarah Ockler has a way with words and her smart and witty humor lightens this story up and yet this is still a touching read. The friendship and romance between Jude and Emilio slowly developed and left you zinging from the sparks of chemistry coming off the pages:

"Your heart's pounding like mad," he whispered. Fingers brushed my collarbone, tapped gently. Babom. Babom."

I swallowed and held his gaze. His breath fell against my skin, soft as a breeze, and my lips could already taste him.*

My heart was pounding as I read that, too!

My only complaint with this read is that I felt it could've been shortened, especially the flashbacks with the sisters. I found myself skimming through some of these bits. But other than that, **The Book of Broken Hearts** was a satisfying and sweet romance; a tale of hearts broken not just by boys, but by family love, too.

*Quotes taken from an uncorrected proof and may change in the final copy.

A copy was provided by Simon Pulse through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

You can find this review and more at The Readers Den.

Angie says

Originally reviewed here @ Angieville

It's difficult to resist the siren song of an as-yet-unread contemporary author, isn't it? For the most part, I tend to dip into those waters with caution. Sometimes I make out like gangbusters. And others I wind up feeling as though I was force-fed treacle, or that I was curiously emptied while reading the book rather than filled. I tell myself it's worth it, though, to find those gems that make your blood pump and the tips of your fingers tingle. I tell myself it's worth the racing anticipation and the occasional deep disappointment. And it is. Even if an author's entire bibliography doesn't work for you. It's worth it if that one, perfect match does. Cause then you get to hold onto it for the rest of your reading life, and pull it out and revisit those characters and that place and those moments whenever you need them. All of which is a rather long winded way of explaining how I found myself giving Sarah Ockler a try for the first time. I wasn't too drawn by her previous titles, but the well-nigh universal love for her latest, **THE BOOK OF BROKEN HEARTS**, persuaded me it was time to dip my toes in those waters again.

Jude Hernandez has spent her entire life living in the wake of her three older sisters. Now that they've all gone the way of the wind, pursuing their own lives across the country, Jude feels it's only fair she have her turn. After all, she just graduated from high school. She has one single, solitary summer before it's off to college and more buckling down. She's always been the good girl, following her sisters' advice to the letter, certainly never getting tangled up with a Vargas boy the way two of her three older sibs did. That road only leads to ruin, they told her, in the voice of bitter, bitter experience. But it isn't to be. The easy, breezy summer *or* the surviving her teenage years Vargas-free. Because this summer is going to be dedicated to helping her sick dad. And the way Jude sees it, that means restoring his old vintage Harley. The one he rode when he was a carefree young man back in Argentina. The one that's been sitting in their storage unit collecting dust and grime for decades. And so she does her research. And she takes her dad down to the local mechanic shop in search of a man who can do the job. What she gets is Emilio Vargas. The youngest of the Vargas clan, and the last boy she wants to see during this summer of lost chances and long goodbyes. But the more time she spends with Emilio, the less like his older brothers he seems. As much as it makes her cringe to think it, Emilio might be different.

Not to put too fine a point on it, but I finished **THE BOOK OF BROKEN HEARTS** mystified as to its appeal. I finished it feeling the same way I've felt finishing every Sarah Dessen book I've ever read. Which is to say, I read the last word, I close the book, and I think to myself, *that's . . . it?* I wanted to like it so much, to be swept away for a couple of hours in the lives of two kids struggling under more weight than their shoulders are ready to hold. And since this is my first Ockler book, I was sort of hoping to find a fresh, new (to me) voice in contemporary YA. Unfortunately, it felt as though she was simply checking off the boxes on a list of standard YA contemporary tropes. Hot boy? Check. Drama geek heroine? Check. Shallow best friends who are allergic to real family issues? Check. Dismayingly indistinguishable older siblings? Check. Heartwarming life lessons learned amid personal tragedy? Check, check, check. If the writing had been something special, things might have been different. If the secondary characterization had been more layered and compelling, things might have been different. And, yeah, Jude's relationship with her father is wrenching and touching and every other thing it should be. But the impact failed to land because I saw it all coming fifty miles back, you know? There was very little in the way of something new here, the realizations she came to lessened for lack of a deeper treatment. This may be a case of supreme mismatch between book and reader, as I have yet to see a sub-stellar review. So make of that what you will. As for me, I can't say as I'd recommend it. But if you're in the mood for contemporaries with some meat on their bones, allow me to steer you in the direction of Deb Caletti, Holly Goldberg Sloan, and Kirsty Eagar. And, of course, if you require a

good swoon, Stephanie Perkins and Huntley Fitzpatrick have got your back.

Ömer says

3.2/5

Kli?e kli?e kli?e kli?e :D

<http://kronikokur.blogspot.com.tr/201...>

Melanie says

I actually thought that this was going to be a light fluffy read but I was wrong. Sure, there were light and funny moments that had me cracking up, but at heart, an incredibly deep novel that touched me.

Anna Reads says

Twenty Boy Summer was “gut-wrenching to read, but beautifully done.” Bittersweet was “delightful.” So clearly I was already a fan going into this one. But, guys, I have to say: The Book of Broken Hearts is Sarah Ockler’s best book yet.

The family dynamics are beautiful, Jude’s strength and growth is powerful and her relationship with Emilio - - gah! You are going to fall straight in love.

Full review to come on AnnaReads.com.
