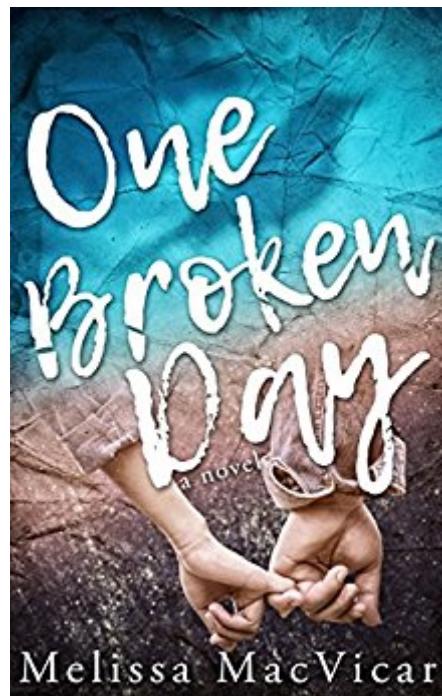


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One Broken Day



Synopsis

After a notorious school shooting leaves her a shadow of the girl she once was, seventeen-year-old Lizzie Beringer moves to Nantucket Island. There, Lizzie vows to hide her identity as the shooter's sister. All her efforts to fly under the radar, however, are complicated by her P.T.S.D. and the attention she receives from two competing boys. While fending off the not-so-subtle advances of popular athlete Michael Wickersham, she must also deal with her growing feelings for her shy lab partner Gage Pike. Gage may act like he's all wrong for her, but the pull between them is undeniable. Under the threat of discovery and the possibility of testifying in a televised trial, Lizzie fights to keep her secrets and start her life over. One Broken Day is a brilliantly imagined story exploring the ways we are all broken and at the same time, offered redemption in the most unexpected of places.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Loved it! I couldn't put it down.

Keep em coming!!

Lizzie Berringer's younger brother Thomas is in jail, awaiting trial for killing four people in a school shooting. One of them was Lizzie's best friend Hannah. Four months later, Lizzie moves from Los Angeles to Nantucket where she starts school under the assumed identity of Lainey Darwin. But, suffering from depression and anxiety, she is having trouble adjusting to the normalcy of school life. And with rivals Wick and Gage both vying for her affections, she's getting more attention than she ever wanted. What will happen if her secret comes out? The story is told from both Lainey's and Gage's points of view, interspersed with passages written in italics, detailing the events leading up to the shooting. The book explores how a school shooting affects the family of the shooter. While "We Need to Talk About Kevin" by Lionel Shriver focuses on the shooter's mother, this book focuses on the effects of the shooting on the shooter's sibling. And it does a great job. This book is not only a family drama and romance, but it is also full of all sorts of complex characters and relationships. It's nice to see Wick grow through the course of the story. I especially love his exchange with Sybil and his wrestling match with Gage. **Warnings:** coarse language, sexual references, drug use, violence, underage drinking, school shooting. I received this book in return for an honest review.

Rating: 4.5/5 Penguins

Quick Reasons: **LIFE-RUINER ALERT!**; this was an emotionally challenging read; I can understand the motivations behind the character choices; the upheaval in Lainey/Lizzie's life is obvious from page one; I couldn't put this down---"Maybe out in California, things are different." Gage said. "But here, there's an order to things. You don't mess with the order. A sparrow doesn't nest with a bluebird. This is what happens when they try."---This was SUCH an emotionally challenging, haunting read. I finished this several days ago and have been struggling to put my thoughts into coherent words, because OH MY PENGUINS, this read! I was drawn into the turmoil from page one, ensnared and enchanted by the tragedies of the situation--and the reactions of the world. Melissa MacVicar did a stupendous job thrusting readers straight into Lainey/Lizzie's head, and I applaud her so much for it. Truly, I was captivated just as much as I was heartbroken. Coming out of this read, I can see the motivations behind certain decisions Melissa MacVicar made for her characters and their coping mechanisms. Having grown up in a household of addiction, it was even easier for me to see into the heart of the recreational drug use that occurs throughout this read. (Of course, this doesn't mean I necessarily condone such coping mechanisms--just that I understand why the characters react the way they do) I feel the strength of this novel lies in the characters--and the different ways they grow and shift throughout this journey. However, there's a sense of mystery

and suspense woven through every page--a motivation that kept me trapped, unable to put the book down. While we don't necessarily get handed all the "answers," I feel Melissa MacVicar did this with a purpose--life, after all, doesn't always just hand us a reason or justification for why people do the things they do, or why things happen the way they do. So while a lot of other readers are calling for "more" depth to this read... I applaud Melissa MacVicar for not trying to force a solution where, sometimes, there just ISN'T one.---This gratitude for life that people were always talking about was never enough, though. For me, it could not stem the tide of loss that kept rising, the guilt and regret that washed over me, the what-ifs and what-fors and painful memories of better times. Too much was lost that day for gratitude to beat it back, and despite reassurances from people like my parents and Belinda that things will get better, I didn't believe they ever would.---This was a desperate, twisting path of emotions--and I cherished every moment for reminding me that the world isn't always black and white. That there are grey areas where answers are elusive and human reactions don't always make sense. I will, for sensitive or easily triggered readers, put a slight mature content warning out there--recreational drug use and sex, along with bullying and suicidal thoughts, are prevalent throughout and play a large role in this read. Please keep yourselves safe. I am awed by how powerfully poignant and heart-wrenching this read from Melissa MacVicar is, and cannot wait to see what the future holds for her creatively. While there are some grammatical errors, there weren't enough of them to break my concentration or bother me. The characters and their reactions are vividly painted and, at least in my opinion, realistically written. I definitely recommend to lovers of emotionally challenging reads, characters struggling to cope with heavy burdens, and twisting plot vines. Look deeper, Penguins; there's more to these words than meets the eye.

As you can probably tell from the blurb One Broken Day is a young adult book which focuses on some pretty dark topics as well as what happens to the survivors of these dark events. Lainey aka Lizzie and her mother assumed new identities and moved across the country to make a fresh start after her brother broke their hearts and ruined their lives by committing a school shooting. Lainey is desperate to move on but doesn't know how to get past what happened. She suffers from PTSD as well as survivors guilt. I cannot even begin to imagine how anyone could ever cope with such a horrific ordeal, let alone having witnessed the attack firsthand. We also get to meet Gage who is dealing with his own share of problems, albeit different from Lainey's... I liked Gage and felt he was a great support for Lainey. I felt the shooting was handled with care and consideration but never shies away from dealing with the consequences. We even get an insight into the legal complications and what happens to the family of a killer. I did initially want more information about Thomas and

why he carries out the shooting, but when I really thought about things it became clearer that the focus isn't on Thomas. It's about how Lainey copes with the situation and how she looks within herself to see why things happened the way they did. Lainey is plagued by what ifs and struggles with her feelings towards him. One Broken Day is dramatic, upsetting and emotionally volatile but I loved the lighter moments and wanted Lainey, Gage and the gang to live normal, happy teenage lives away from violence and mistakes. I received a review copy

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