



The Book of Broken Hearts

By Sarah Ockler

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When all signs point to heartbreak, can love still be a rule of the road? A “touching father-daughter story” (*Kirkus Reviews*) 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.

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The Book of Broken Hearts By Sarah Ockler Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #946469 in Books
- Brand: Simon Pulse
- Published on: 2014-05-20
- Released on: 2014-05-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.00" w x 5.50" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—The youngest of four sisters and a recent high school graduate, Jude Hernandez is responsible for caring for her father, who was recently diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. His excitement at finding his old motorcycle in the garage gives Jude an idea: if they restore it, maybe it will help restore his lost memories. As an added plus, it keeps them at home and away from her father's potential public meltdowns, which are growing more frequent. Together, they hire the cheapest mechanic they can find—Emilio Vargas. But the hitch is that her older sisters hate his older brothers and made Jude swear an oath to never get involved with a Vargas. The teen is finding it harder to ignore what a great guy Emilio is, and how patient and kind he is with her father. But as the motorcycle project nears completion, her father seems more lost than ever. This is a poignant look at how hard it is to witness a loved one lose memories. Jude tries hard to be everything to everyone, including her family and former good friends, without much support from the latter. Through it all, Emilio stands by her, and the revelation that he is also no stranger to heartbreak helps cement his trustworthiness in Jude's eyes. While the oath is a little overplayed, the feelings Jude has are not, and teens will identify with her struggle.—Kelly Jo Lasher, Middle Township High School, Cape May Court House, NJ(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journal. LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

The summer before college, Jude Hernandez is restoring a vintage motorcycle with her father in hopes that it will help with his early-onset Alzheimer's. Jude hires Emilio to help with the restoration, but Emilio is a Vargas boy—a family Jude swore an oath to her sisters to avoid, even signing her name in the sisters' sacred Book of Broken Hearts. As the summer wears on and Papi's illness takes over more of his memories, Jude must come to terms with the future of her family and her heart. Ockler writes a poignant, heartbreaking tale about a family in crisis and struggling to recover the normalcy of everyday life amidst serious illness. With moments of humor and plenty of snappy dialogue between Jude and Emilio, Ockler's characters are both smart and believable. The romance is well developed and never overshadows the book's chief message of learning to accept the uncertainty of life. An emotional read about the power, love, and support of family. Grades 9-12. --Sarah Bean Thompson

Review

"...a glorious book with love, romance, generosity, and poignancy." - *VOYA, starred review*

"At its core, this is a touching father-daughter story made even stronger by realistic family complications and Jude's need to find her own voice." - *Kirkus Reviews*

"... Ockler's portrait of Jude's father's illness is tragic and true. Lyrical writing helps readers understand Jude's complicated emotions ..." - *Publishers Weekly*

"[A] frequently humorous and often touching coming-of-age story..." - *School Library Journal*

"*The Book of Broken Hearts* is a story of loves: between father and daughter, between sisters, between a young woman and man finding true love. This poignant story will stay with readers long after the book is finished." - *BookPage*

"With moments of humor and plenty of snappy dialogue between Jude and Emilio, Ockler's characters are

both smart and believable... An emotional read about the power, love, and support of family." - *Booklist*

"...beautiful, heart wrenching story of family, first loves and learning what it really means to live..." - *Young Adult Books Central (YABC)*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Wendler:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or read a book titled The Book of Broken Hearts? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

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Earl Parker:

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