



Falling to Pieces

Leddy Harper

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How do you repair a broken life?

Home is a dark place of anguish and pain for seventeen-year-old Bree Jacobs, forced to endure emotional and physical torment daily at the hands of a violently unstable mother. Bree's only escape is high school, particularly her history class taught by young, handsome, kind and caring Axel Taylor. Mr. Taylor becomes Bree's dearest friend, a sympathetic ear and a shoulder to cry on, and soon their shared affection grows into something greater. But by reaching out to protect her—to mend her breaks and soothe her wounds—Axel has crossed a dangerous line, resulting in two shattered lives instead of just one.

Six years later, they will meet again: Bree, still battling the demons that continue to possess her, and Axel, reduced to taking work as a substitute teacher wherever he can find it. Once again he will feel compelled to rescue her. But this time it will be different, because now the yearnings of a loving heart won't be silenced by suspicious minds. And now there's more than one life that desperately needs saving.

Falling to Pieces Details

Date : Published November 18th 2015

ISBN :

Author : Lddy Harper

Format : ebook 450 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance



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From Reader Review Falling to Pieces for online ebook

Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says

3 1/2 Stars

'We had the power to save each other...yet we also had the ability to bring the other to their knees. When you have love as strong as ours, it can be amazing, powerful, life-changing. It can also be devastating, crippling, and destructive. It's all in how you take care of it.'

One thing's a definite; Leddy Harper sure can write a beautiful story. There were many parts of Axel and Bree's journey that had us so compelled and caught up in the emotional heart tugging moments which were so vividly written. We love our student – teacher romances; the forbidden and secrecy element quite intriguing. After all, this is fiction not real life where perhaps we wouldn't be as understanding.

'I'd fallen for a man, only to realize it too late.'

Whilst we love Leddy Harper's natural talent for writing we did sadly find Falling to Pieces very wordy and at times very slow and repetitive. A large part of this story was told to us rather than shown and we are readers who like to be shown a story to prevent that consequential barrier to rise between the pages and our emotions. At times we struggled to truly feel, connect and understand which impacted our overall enjoyment of Falling to Pieces. This saddens us immensely as we know that Leddy Harper is naturally capable of drawing out the intensity of emotions through her writing from us resulting in beating hearts and tears. Yes, there were moments where she did have us completely immersed but they were not consistent throughout.

'I was the girl he couldn't protect. And he was the guy I couldn't touch.'

Bree hasn't got it easy; what with a professionally powerful yet sporadically abusive Mum and no close connections to peers or family. She's a Seventeen year old –almost- recluse who's never formed any strong bonds. She knows not of love nor friendship.

"I want to be seen. I want to be loved. And it's hard not to grow attached to the only person in my entire life giving me all that."

For us, her behaviour and attitude came across as almost a purposeful intent to be a loner as we never 'heard' or got the impression of her trying to change this. Well until Axel. We found it very hard to connect to her; yes we sympathised and felt incredibly sorry for her but overall we found her moroseness, her sullenness and lack of oomph quite tedious and failed to fully believe in her or feel much generally for her.

"...if you allow every possible scenario to dictate what you do, then you'll miss out on so much. Because when you factor in other people, the consequences are endless."

Sadly, Aubrey was the main reason for why we struggled with fully loving Falling to Pieces. We never felt that she was truly happy or genuinely loving; rather she questioned absolutely everything and we were wondering who she was trying to convince in the end. For a girl going through hell any ray of sunshine would surely breathe a breath of fresh air into her?

“They say time heals. Great things come with time. I’ve never believed it until now.”

Axel is the new twenty-four year old substitute teacher. He’s compassionate and confident – gorgeous and affectionate. He immediately picks up on Bree’s situation and is there for her any way he can be trying to help and protect. The friendship that quickly forms turns into something much more thus crossing that dangerous line from merely student-teacher now involving intense feelings and hearts. We strangely felt incredibly sorry for Axel on the whole and at times wanted him to run for the hills. However, we ended up rooting for this all to work out!

‘I had to learn to live again. I had to learn to love again. And I had to do that alone.’

We loved the timeline of past and present, the fact that we got both POV’s as well as a twist we DID NOT see coming. A twist which we loved and had us tearing up, compulsively reading to see how it was all going to end and even how it came to be. We just wish we’d been allowed to experience more of the characters together in the beginning in order to silence doubts over the intensity of love and connection. Falling to Pieces was a story we did enjoy but just didn’t love –sadly- despite loving the beautiful writing of Leddy Harper.

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Jennifer Kyle says

3.5 Stars

Full review posted:

Trying to rate this book has kind of stumped me. I really liked the first half which is six years in the past. Bree and her new American history teacher’s friendship and fall into love was well written and well done.

“He was my only friend. He was the only person who ever cared about me. I couldn’t lose him so soon.”

When Axel shares his feelings for Bree the lines of friendship try to stand tall but their connection just continues to grow.

“Tell me why you’re happy, Bree.” I didn’t need to think of the answer, and I had not one ounce of hesitation.

“Because I’m in love with my best friend. And I think he loves me, too.”

Halfway in the story, we fall six years into the present where their paths cross again. Axel saves Bree’s life after a fall into a lake. (Seriously, totally seemed like a suicide attempt to me- but whatevers.)

SPOILERISH: (view spoiler)

Like I mentioned, the writing is strong in the past scenes but there are the random corny, over dramatic, ones as well.

“She could deny it all she wanted, but Bree was my she wolf. She huffed and puffed, and she blew me away with her love.”

I just love a good student/teacher read and this had the added level wherein the heroine is being abused at home and has no friends and finds so much in her twenty-four year old teacher. Thereafter, when the story takes us to the present their reunion and all events that followed were so anticlimactic that I pushed through just in case the author added in a surprise. Sadly, for my entertainment there wasn’t one.

“I love you more than history.”

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Sonja says

I had some preconceived ideas about this story but this book really surprised me. The book is divided into two parts, the present and the past, 6 years before that.

Bree and Axel met when he started teaching in her class, and soon they developed a friendship that over time blossomed into love. They tried to fight it and keep it platonic because he was her teacher and their relationship was forbidden, but there's no escaping love.

The book is written in dual POV, the past is told from Bree's POV and the present is told by Axel's POV. I LOVED the part from Bree's POV, Axel's part of the story-not so much.

Even though I didn't love Axel's part of the story as much as Bree's I had a really hard time putting this book down. The story is really emotional, and it provoked so many feelings. I encourage you all to read it, even if maybe student/teacher romance is not your cup of tea.

***ARC was gifted in exchange for an honest review.

Lina's Reviews ♡????????? ♡??Book Blog?? ♡????????? ♡ says

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Full review to come later...

+++3 Stars++

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★★★1/2 Stars

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Arabella ~?AB?~ says

★★ 2.5 Stars ★★

I am so disappointed that I didn't love this book, because this author has talent and I really did try to see all the positives in this book but in the end I have to be honest and say that it really didn't work for me at all, even though it started off really well.

Bree is a sixteen, almost 17 year old high school student who lives with her abusive mother and is a loner, extremely lacking in confidence but mature for her years and very bright.

Axel Taylor is her 25 year old history teacher, and they immediately form a connection. Mr Taylor seeing through Bree's facade and noticing that something is not quite right, makes it his mission to help Bree

become the strong woman she is meant to be.

They form a friendship, trying so hard not to cross any inappropriate lines, but as they become more and more familiar with each other, things are bound to spiral out of control.

This book is told in two parts, the first half is dedicated to the past and told from Bree's point of view, and the second part brings us into the present, told from Axel's POV.

Personally, I preferred the first half but even that was full of far too much wordy dialogue between the pair, I just wanted more action and less talking.

In the second half, Bree felt to me like she hadn't matured at all, in fact it was as if she regressed. I didn't really warm to the woman she grew up to be in the six years since their separation.

I felt the plot was a bit weak and the fade to black scene which later turned into a plot twist that was meant to be shocking, just made me confused and quite frankly turned me completely off this story.

I quite liked Axel, but there wasn't anything in particular that stood out to me, and again, in the present he was even less appealing. A bit of a limp lettuce.

I am sure a lot of readers will enjoy this book, but unfortunately for me it wasn't a winner.

This is a standalone forbidden romance, told in dual POV.

ARC gratefully received from the author in exchange for an honest review

Sybil aka Lala says

Bree is a seventeen-yr-old who is completely friendless and alone. She suffers neglect and both physical and mental abuse by the hands of her mother. When Axel arrives at school he seems to be the only person in her life who shows this sad girl any care. They form a tentative friendship that slowly begins to evolve into something more with Axel repeatedly crossing the teacher-student line. When their secret gets out, Axel loses everything and Bree is left alone again.

The book is told in parts. The first half of the book is about the two forming their relationship and ultimately crossing the line from friends to lovers. There was all the angst and sexual tension you'd expect from a forbidden relationship and while some moments had me smiling to myself, others had me frowning.

The second part starts off six years later when they find each other again. Each one is harbouring their own set of feelings of abandonment and betrayal as each has a different experience of the event leading to their separation. Once they meet up again, they need to get to know each other again and deal with the baggage each collected in the six years they were apart.

Although this was a well written and very sweet story of forbidden romance and second chance love I had some issues with it. I love a good angsty story but in this case it felt like a lot of needless drama with all the lies and half-truths flying around. I had a very strange relationship with Bree myself, sometimes completely understanding her and other times finding it difficult to connect with her. I felt the two were a lot more honest with each other in the first half of the book and I really missed that in the second half of the book.

(ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review)

♥?Melanie says

I have to say this book started off strong and then just fell flat. The first half kept you wondering what was going on/happen then blah. You could feel the chemistry also in the beginning and that to feel flat.

This book had so much potential but just didn't pull it off.

Jessica (Angie & Jessica's Dreamy Reads) says

I LOVE LOVE LOVE teacher student romances. I was so thrilled to start reading this one but I realized rather quickly that this book was not working for me. I struggled with connecting with Aubrey, I found her completely unrelatable, often obnoxious and overly dramatic. That combined with how wordy the book is and the excessive inner monologue, I found myself skimming just to get through. The dialogue between Aubrey and her teacher lacked believability from their very first interaction. I'm a reader that needs believable, authentic dialogue, even in fiction. Unbelievable exchanges tend to lose me pretty quickly and unfortunately, I struggled with connecting because of it.

As the story evolves, a picture is painted that Aubrey connects with her teacher because he shows her the attention and concern that no one else has. I had a really hard time sensing authentic romantic chemistry, instead I felt a vulnerable abused girl gravitating toward a person who showers her with the attention and affection she's been starved of. Thats not a sexy situation. I don't think that was Leddy Harper's intention, but that's how I felt it came across. The author's decision to make Aubrey this abused, neglected, isolated character makes this story feel wrong. The teacher student romance dynamic is only an attractive one when you have two mentally strong characters entering into it on a somewhat level playing field. The relationship is already wrong, but in a sexy forbidden way. It crosses the line into unacceptable when one character is so damaged and abused courtesy of her shitty home life, that she becomes easy prey. That also makes the teacher a predator, not sexy boyfriend material. Its a slippery slope but its been done well time and time again. It wasn't executed well in this situation.

The only redeeming quality I found was Axel Taylor who seemed like a genuinely good guy as the story evolved. I liked him. But the overly dramatic course of events and my inability to connect with Aubrey just didn't allow me to invest in this storyline. I hope other readers can feel the chemistry and connection with this book that I, unfortunately, did not.

Sarah Nickles says

OMG. I am sooooo in love. I'm in love with Axel, I'm in love with this story. I can't wait for everyone to be able to one click November 18th.

This story pierced itself into my heart and has no intention of ever leaving. It is one of those books that gets all of your emotions flowing and keeps you turning the pages. Luckily for you guys you get the entire book all put together. I on the other hand was tortured between every few chapters.

Bree is a beautiful soul, purely genuine who doesn't give herself any credit. Her mother is to blame. Axel is her reason for change.

Axel well he's just damn freaking hot. Not only physically but his super hero complex makes me melt. All he wants to do us protect Bree because he sees her pain. There's only one problem.....

He's her teacher!

This is officially my favorite book of Leddy's. Until the next one which is already a WIP.

Mark your calendars for 11/18/15.

Hbiba says

[this book was so boring. I found myself cringing at their conversations all the time. (hide spoiler)]

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

****?Complimentary Copy?**** Provided by the author "**Leddy Harper**" in exchange for an honest review..Thank you!!

TITLE: Falling to Pieces

AUTHOR: Leddy Harper

GENRE: Contemporary Romance

RELEASE DATE: November 18th 2015

MY RATING: 4 STARS

I have to be honest I don't think I've read a teacher/student book before (shocker right)!! Soooo I don't really know what to expect..Ekkkkkk

Home is a dark place of anguish and pain for seventeen-year-old Bree Jacobs, forced to endure

emotional and physical torment daily at the hands of a violently unstable mother.

I typically suffered from mental pain by her words that cut like razors to my soul, not physical pain inflicted by her hand.

I have no one. ~ Bree

With no friends, and an abusive and unstable home with no family she can confide in she slowly opens up to Axel her teacher who is only a few years older than her but they seem to have a connection..

No one could help me...It only made things worse...

Her mother had a hell of a lot to answer to when it came to Bree's insecurities..

He was my teacher, I was his student. His underage student. And he was seven years older than me.

Slowly you can see Axel crossing those forbidden lines into taboo territory, especially when she falls sick with the flu, he takes her home, cooks, goes and grabs medication making sure she takes it and is back again with notes from the classes she missed the next day after telling her not to come to school..

A teacher who cared too much

The hardest part was having to remind myself that he was my teacher, that he was seven years older than me, and these butterflies had no business taking root in the pit of my stomach. ~ Bree

A slow moving story about forbidden love between a teacher and a student, what was an innocent man's need to protect a student within his care that was getting abused at home progressed into so much more.. This was so beautifully written you forget that you are entering into taboo territory, I thought I would feel uncomfortable and that is only because this is the first book I've read that's focused on a teacher/student relationship.. But when you look at the slight age gap shit that in this book was bound to happen..

I have no idea how to care for a student that's going through the kinds of things you are. And I'm sure you're not used to a teacher care so much. ~ Axel

Brit says

Title: Falling to Pieces

Series: Standalone

Author: Leddy Harper

Publisher: Self-Published

Pages: 450

Genre: Taboo Love

Age Group: New Adult

Characters: Axel Taylor, Bree Jacobs

Point of View: First

Happily Ever After: Yes

Release Date: November 18th, 2015

Date Read: November 22nd, 2015

Overall Rating: 3 Stars

This is my first novel I've read by Leddy Harper and I enjoyed it. I'm not really surprised, I love forbidden love novels and this was just what I needed to get me out of my book funk. I loved the writing. This book did make me tear up some. I felt really connected to Bree but when it came to Axel I felt nothing, I couldn't even feel the connection between the two in the first half of the novel.

I prefer that the novel was set in the past instead of six years later. Also the author should have just made it into just one point of view than a dual. I just didn't like Axel I'll probably say that more times than one in this review. I did go into this novel not knowing anything.

Will I remember this book from a year from now probably not it really didn't touch me that way like most student teacher romances but I will recommend it though.

La-Lionne says

What is wrong with you????!! I'm addressing the person who wrote the book blurb. Seriously, what is wrong with you? Spoilers much?

I was actually considering reading this when I read the first half of the blurb. But then "six years later" blah blah.

So after six years apart, they meet again and he finds out that she got pregnant, had a kid and didn't tell him. Good to know, I feel like I've just read this book.

Amy says

Falling to Pieces

Lddy Harper

3.5 stars

So .. I have to be really honest about this book – being a teacher Im just having an issue wrapping my head around this. As a female the thought of finding a student attractive is just no. . . especially a 17 year old boy. HELL TO THE NO! But if that is your thing then this is for sure the book for you.

Bree Jacobs endures abuse at the hands of a violent and extremely unstable mother. Home is the last place she wants to be .. ever especially when her mother drank and it didn't take much. Bree has no friends to

confide in and no one that cares anything about what happens to her. Her teacher Axel brings something out in her. She shouldn't feel the way that she does but she cannot help it. He seems to care and that is something new to Bree. No one has ever cared before. Axel is seven years older than her .. its not that bad .. is it?

Axel crosses the line repeatedly in this story. When Bree gets sick he cares for her in every way. Im not sure if Axel's intensions were innocent or not. The need to protect a student from an abusive home is something that would be handled completely different than this. Yes I know its fiction and it's a story but this being my profession I was constantly finding huge bouts of "oh god no" coming out of my mouth.

Years later the two cross paths again. Bree still is hiding her demons and Axel's life has changed a great deal. Things are different now and there is more at stake for Bree and Axel. Both are consumed with things that could end up destroying them.

Again if this is your type of reading you should click it up. The writing is good and there are no major flaws there. The characters are well written but I just couldn't hardly finish as it is totally against anything that I could bring into my life much less want to with a seventeen year old. The channel I would take would be extremely different!
