



Other Breakable Things

Kelley York, Rowan Altwood

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According to Japanese legend, folding a thousand paper cranes will grant you healing.

Evelyn Abel will fold two thousand if it will bring Luc back to her.

Luc Argent has always been intimately acquainted with death. After a car crash got him a second chance at life—via someone else’s transplanted heart—he tried to embrace it. He truly did. But he always knew death could be right around the corner again.

And now it is.

Sick of hospitals and tired of transplants, Luc is ready to let his failing heart give out, ready to give up. A road trip to Oregon—where death with dignity is legal—is his answer. But along for the ride is his best friend, Evelyn.

And she’s not giving up so easily.

A thousand miles, a handful of roadside attractions, and one life-altering kiss later, Evelyn’s fallen, and Luc’s heart is full. But is it enough to save him? Evelyn’s betting her heart, her life, that it can be.

Right down to the thousandth paper crane.

Other Breakable Things Details

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Author : Kelley York , Rowan Altwood

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From Reader Review Other Breakable Things for online ebook

Moon Love says

I loved this book. It was both uplifting and devastating. I cried unabashedly in public while reading this. I literally sat there with tears streaming down my face, trying not to sob. As I type this, the tears are starting again.

Kelley York and Rowan Altwood have written a phenomenal book. Luc and Evelyn are wonderful people. It's easy to see them light up when they're around one another. Both of them have troubles of their own, but it's like together they are able to forget and just live.

I hope Kelly and Rowan continue to write together. I can't imagine this book was easy to write, but it would be a shame if they didn't. I would love to read more about Evelyn and Luc, the Argents, and their lives, especially from the point where this book ended.

Hristina says

It's my Other Breakable Things blog tour day!! Blog post + a Giveaway link [HERE!!](#)

Copy received through NetGalley

This is a YA contemporary romance about Luc, a boy who's had a heart-transplant, but his body is now rejecting it, and Evelyn, his best friend. It's a moving story that explores subject of death, and it features a road-trip to Oregon.

I really liked the writing style, especially the masterfully executed double POV, which is hard to pull off. I loved the realistic characters, and their development was the most amazing part of it all, the emotional journey was beautifully paced. I have to note that the ending felt sudden (keep it bleak to keep it spoiler-free), and that I wish Luc had been a little less secretive (at moments it bothered me), otherwise this would've been a five-star rating.

I have to admit, those few sentences haven't been easy to write at all. After I finished Other Breakable Things, I had no idea what I thought of it. It took me three weeks to sit and write it down because this book is so captivating, and the story stays with you.

If you're looking for a tragic YA romance, this is the one for you.

Diana says

2-2'5★

This is a sad hard book about a guy who has had a heart transplant and his body is rejecting it. Tired of living always counting down his time and being surrounded by doctors' appointments, he decides to go after

euthanasia. Only thing is, he enrolls in his journey that one special girl he has always liked... and who also has her own share of heartaches.

The book is written going back and forth between the two main characters, and I really enjoyed the clever prologue, which can be applied to two different parts of the book and it still make sense.

The characters are nice enough, with developed personalities, and the book is a raw lecture.

While I was reading it I was thinking more than once about how much influence have the authors had by Jojo Moyes' "Me before you" book, as there are a lot of paralellisms between the two books: the dying male and the loving doting female who thinks she can be enough to change his mind about euthanasia (although the endings differ).

Nice but sad and maybe depressing read.

Natshane says

[(hide spoiler)]

Shirley Cuypers says

Original review

Other Breakable Things tells the story of Evelyn and Luc. They've been friends when they were younger but Evelyn had to leave town for her mother's boyfriend. Three years later they meet each other and they decide to leave town together. Both for another reason. Evelyn feels like a second choice to her mum and her mother's boyfriend did certain things that a stepdad shouldn't do. Luc has problems with his heart, he had a heart transplant a few days after Evelyn left town, but his body is rejecting the heart. He decided to take this trip to go to Oregon, for euthanasia. Evelyn doesn't know a thing about his illness or euthanasia until he's really sick and needs to go to the hospital. Will she stay with him after she figured out his plan?

Other Breakable Things is such a heartbreaking story. Wow. It was so beautiful yet so sad. It was really fast paced and I couldn't stop reading. I had to know what was going to happen and how they were going to solve their problems/disputes. At the end I couldn't stop crying. It was hard to read and cry at the same time, but I managed!

I really really love *Other Breakable Things* and I highly recommend it!

Madison says

3.5 stars

Hmmm. What can you say about a book that attempts to pick you up, take you on a roller coaster of emotions and then rip your heart out? I wasn't sure which path this book would take - ultimately hopeful, focusing on the joys and hurts of living or a complete and utter sob fest? Even after finishing I'm still not sure - a bit of both, maybe? Either way, *Other Breakable Things* is a very interesting book and quick to read, perfect for contemporary fiction fans.

Evelyn has always loved Luc. Loved him throughout their stilted friendship and then the past three years of silence when she moved away from him. Now she is back in the same town as Luc but still isn't sure if he will reach out to her, or include her in his life. She is used to being the second choice in people's lives. But to Luc, Evelyn was never the second choice, just a choice he never allowed himself to make. Luc's heart is failing. The second time in his short, nineteen-year life. He knows that he doesn't want to try another transplant, and is sick of hospitals and tests and doctors. So, instead, he takes off on a road trip - one last effort to really live. And he takes Evelyn with him. Evelyn has always suspected that Luc was unwell, but it isn't until she is on the road with him that she finally, fully begins to understand as she uncovers everything he has been hiding.

One might think that you could kind of guess from the summary that this book would be heart-pulled-from-your-chest-and-put-through-a-meat-mincer-breaking. And yet a lot of the time I felt a little numb to the characters' emotions. Perhaps this in part was due to Evelyn's level-headed manner of dealing with things or maybe because despite the sad nature of the book, it was equally uplifting and deliciously sweet.

However, I did feel like there was something missing in this story. I wanted more, but maybe that's not because the book was lacking and rather that I was unhappy with the whole situation. But maybe that makes it all the more lifelike - where we are handed things in life with which we must make lemonade.

How does one end a book like this? Is there a right way? Did I think this was the right ending for this book? I'm not sure, but then I'm not sure how else you could end it.

This is simply a story about these particular characters in one particular situation. I may not have made the same decisions, but I could certainly see that the choices Evelyn and Luc made were true to their characters - even if their actions might seem good, bad, impulsive or crazy to others.

The publishers provided an advanced readers copy of this book for reviewing purposes. All opinions are my own.

Find more reviews, reading age guides, content advisory, and recommendations on my blog [Madison's Library](#).

Melissa (YA Book Shelf) says

I finished reading *Other Breakable Things*, late at night, as one does, and I really liked it. There are some very poignant moments about death, dying, and what it means to die with dignity, etc. so I found myself highlighting so much of the book that it's actually slightly ridiculous. Like there are over 190 parts highlighted. And no, I'm not exaggerating.

The growth in the characters was great, and I was definitely surprised about various things that happened. My favorite thing was seeing Evelyn's growth from someone who goes along with what's best for everyone else she knows into someone capable of expressing how she feels to other people and what she needs from them. While so many teen girls and young women are socialized to be nice and kind and sweet, I think seeing a character like Evelyn who can express the full range of human emotions, especially anger / rage when necessary, is so important.

Also, and this is just a personal thing, but my dad was born with a congenital heart defect...not the same as Luc...but still required open heart surgery. Probably if he was younger, he would've had the corrective

surgery as a baby, but when he was born in 1956, it was deemed experimental and the doctors assumed he wouldn't live very long. He ended up having the surgery he needed at the age of 15, but it really impacted his quality of life throughout his childhood, so this book helped me...somewhat...get an understanding of what it would've been like for him to be living with a heart that didn't work properly for a long stretch of his life beyond what he's told me.

Finally, the whole paper crane thing is meaningful to me as well since my sister, my parents, my sister's friends, and I all folded 1000 cranes last year, so my sister and her now-husband could have a wish on their wedding day, so definitely a lot to love from my perspective.

Sarah says

(I received an advance copy of this book for free. Thanks to Entangled Publishing, LLC and NetGalley.)

“I love you. You know that, right?”

This was a YA contemporary romance story, about a boy who had a heart transplant that was slowly being rejected.

Luc was an okay character, but it did bother me how much he kept from Evelyn. Considering how sick he was I felt that he should have told her before he became seriously ill.

The storyline in this was about Luc and Evelyn meeting again after 3 years apart, and trying to restart their friendship. Luc had had a heart transplant that he hadn't told Evelyn about, and had also had news that his transplant was slowly being rejected and that he would need a new transplant. Luc didn't want to go through having another transplant though, and instead decided to take off on a road-trip and to take Evelyn with him. Not telling Evelyn what was going on seemed like a bit of a mistake though, especially considering that he could have dropped dead on her at any moment.

We did get a romance between Luc and Evelyn, but it was overshadowed a bit by Luc's imminent death, and it was also super-quick too.

The ending to this was pretty depressing really.

6.5 out of 10

Jennifer says

Fuck.

Muffinsandbooks says

Beau, doux, émouvant, triste, drôle, BEAU. J'ai beaucoup aimé ce livre. Il n'a pas brisé mon cœur (contrairement à ce qu'on m'avait promis !) mais il m'a beaucoup émue et, j'avoue, j'ai versé ma petite larme... cette petite pépite s'inscrit dans la lignée de Nos Étoiles Contraires ou First Love ... et j'ai été happée.

Lunabookaddict says

Émouvant, touchant mais je n'ai pas pleuré... je n'ai pas été brisé non plus. Je m'attendais presque à pire?

Inge says

"I'm not made of much time and never have been."

Critics who say that Young Adult is a dumb genre without any valuable content have obviously never read any books like *Other Breakable Things*. Or much other than *Twilight*, for that matter, but it sounded like a good opening sentence, which I have now ruined.

I would recommend reading this book with something lighter on the side, as it tends to grow quite heavy. Think *A Walk to Remember*, or like a YA version of the heart-wrenching *Me Before You*. You remember how much you cried with those two works? Yeah, be ready.

I have to admit that the story didn't do much for me during the first half - it felt like any other YA contemporary, where the main source of drama belonged to two teenagers choosing not to tell each other things, and then stuff hits the fan when this info comes out. That's also the gist of *Other Breakable Things*, only there are much bigger things at stake than someone's reputation. A human life, for example. Several broken hearts. And during the second act of the book, I started to really feel those emotions. I began to really appreciate the scenes - like when they visited the Butterfly Emporium together - and I began to truly understand the stakes.

So I'm glad that I decided to stick this one out and see where it would end. Because this book has depth and meaning to it, and it made me think throughout.

Thank you NetGalley / Entangled Publishing for providing me with a copy

Jennifer Rose says

Oh, my goodness...this book! Ok so to be honest, I knew going into reading *Other Breakable Things* that the sadness factor was oozing from the pages. This rarely scares me away, I love a good cry as much as the next girl, but this book made me ugly cry. Like sob! And not just at the end, but multiple times throughout! That

being said, this book was amazing! It touched me, my soul, my heart, in such a special way. Now, where to start and not ruin everything for you...

This story is ultimately a sweet love story between two young kids. Evelyn and Luc met in high school, both kids were slightly awkward and different. They immediately connected with each other. However, their friendship never evolved into anything more serious. She and Luc were just hitting their groove when Evelyn's Mom decided to run off with her new "male flavor of the week" to Arizona. Evelyn longed to stay connected with Luc, she wrote to Luc while she was gone. Luc was busy in his own right having heart transplant surgery and dealing with his extensive recovery. His correspondence had slowed, he wanted to keep Evelyn at arm's length, to keep her safe. After 3 years, when her mother's romance inevitably fizzled, Evelyn and her mother returned home to California.

It didn't take long for Evelyn to reach out to Luc, she left an origami bird on his front porch. As soon as he saw it, he knew she was back, now what? They quickly rekindled their friendship. Luc kept his surgery and his newest health information secret from her. Evelyn knew he didn't look good, but she had no idea the extent of his medical issues. Luc wanted to feel normal, to escape his recent diagnosis, and to experience life as he should. Not as a boy with limited time to live. He wanted to control how and when his life ended. But before that could happen, he wanted to go on one last trip. To travel to see some of the things he had always wanted to experience first hand but had been too sick. Evelyn ended up going on that trip with him. The trip changed their lives for the better and for the worse. When all is said and done, the big question was did either of them have any regrets? I can think of a few I would have had if I were them!

Legends say that if you make a thousand paper cranes when you are sick, that you'll get better. Did Evelyn construct enough cranes to make Luc better? To make him want to fight to live? To live for her and their love? That was the question that broke my heart...left me ugly sobbing. But all and all, this book ranks right up there with John Green's The Fault in Our Stars. A book that I hold in the highest regard. While being similar in scope, they tackle different topics, while still dancing the same dance. The writing and plot are strong and I dare you to try to not fall in love with these two main characters...go ahead and try - impossible in my eyes!!!

Finally, this book made me really think about all the time we waste with petty foolishness. Such as bickering with each other, and so much wasted negative energy! We just never know when we will lose someone we care for. We should share quality time with them, be giving of your full self, and tell them how much they mean to you, leave nothing unsaid, and lastly have no regrets!

A gigantic thank you to NetGalley, Entangled Teen, Kelley York, and Rowan Altwood for allowing me to purge so many tears! No sincerely, thank you for letting me read this incredible piece of work, in exchange for my honest opinion. This book is definitely going on my top 10 for the year.

Olivia Farr says

"Other Breakable Things" absolutely wrecked me- it's a beautiful and heartwrenching story about Evelyn and Luc. The book begins when Evelyn returns to town after leaving Arizona, where she and her mother lived with her mother's boyfriend. Her best friend, Luc, has not been great about staying in touch, but Evelyn is eager to see if they are/can still be friends. Luc is suffering after his heart transplant years ago- it seems his body is rejecting the heart. He feels that it would be easier on Evelyn if they weren't friends to save her the heartbreak when he dies.

Everything changes when Evelyn finds out her mother wants to go back to her boyfriend in Arizona. Evelyn feels like she finally got away, and since her mother always treats her like the second choice, Evelyn is not sure if her mother will believe her about what her boyfriend has been doing to Evelyn. Unsure of what else to do, she runs to Luc for comfort. Luc invites her on a roadtrip to Oregon that he had been considering- Oregon allows euthanasia. Luc is keeping his heart condition from Evelyn, though she knows that something is going on. Evelyn is a lover of origami and suggests that he fold a thousand paper cranes.

Their trip takes many unexpected and lovely turns as they both learn more about the other and what it means to be alive. This book was absolutely beautiful and I loved it. Both Evelyn and Luc were so real and incredibly well crafted. The alternating viewpoints between the two was a perfect way to tell this story of young love and life. I absolutely could not put it down and loved every second of this book- it's such a poignant and beautiful story. I'm not sure I can write how amazing this book is, but I highly recommend it.

There are some really big themes here- sexual assault, euthanasia/suicide, running away, etc.- and as a warning, it will absolutely make you feel some big emotions- heartbreak, sadness, happiness/joy. However, it's really a fantastically well-crafted story and I wouldn't change a word of it. Please note that I received an ARC from the publisher through netgalley. All opinions are my own.

Sarah Swann says

4.5 stars! Heartstrings tugged (no pun intended)! Following this young couple as their relationship grows and blossoms, even under a deadline of an illness that's taking a bad turn was so heart warming (again...no pun intended). Already having a heart transplant, Luc just wants to live the rest of his short life being happy and taking risks. I loved the relationship between Evelyn and Luc. It grew realistically and just made me happy. There were quite a few troupes here: one is sick, thinking of ending his life on his terms, she wants to save him....blah blah blah. But, what I liked was that it left you guessing on what decisions Luc would make. Would he end his life himself? Would he hold on as long as he could? Would he survive? Nothing was a guarantee. Overall such a great read! Really enjoyed this one!
