



## What Becomes of the Broken Hearted

*Claire Allan*

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Kitty Shanahan, proprietor of The Dressing Room, is very much in love with love. But a routine phone-call turns her seemingly perfect life on its head and she is left trying to figure out just how her marriage could have gone so wrong. It's not easy to help hopeful brides choose their dream dresses when your heart is in pieces. And it's hard to know who to trust when the man you trusted with your entire life has mysteriously disappeared.

Journalist Erin Brannigan knows exactly where the love of her life is. Paddy has turned into a 'Groomzilla' - planning their forthcoming wedding to the very last detail. And Erin can't quite bring herself to tell him that even though she loves him more than she has loved anyone in her entire life, she is scared witless at the thought of getting married. And it isn't just because Paddy is battling cancer. Her heart was broken in the past and she is afraid it could be broken all over again. When she is challenged by her bosses to write about her forthcoming wedding, Paddy's cancer battle and the man who first broke her heart, she finds herself caught up in a whirlwind which spins far out of her control.

Thrown together in the elegant surroundings of 'The Dressing Room' Kitty and Erin find themselves caught up in each other's lives while they try to find the way forward in their own.

Told with Claire Allan's trademark warmth, humour and emotion, 'What Becomes of the Broken Hearted?' asks if change is always a bad thing and if hearts which have been broken can ever truly be mended?"

## What Becomes of the Broken Hearted Details

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## **From Reader Review What Becomes of the Broken Hearted for online ebook**

### **Marisa says**

Library Request. Well this was a page turner for sure. All I can say is that the two main characters in this book had very different relationship woes, and yet similar in that they were broken hearted. And when your partner helps in distorting your relationship, it might be best to talk to said pattern, eliminating distrustful people from entering your domain again. Trust your feeling, you know what's best you yourself and your partner.

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### **Aedin says**

The best Claire Allan book I have read it was amazing so sad so touching and all handled so well a definite well worth read

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### **Doreen Dooley says**

Really enjoyed this book, again Claire has given us a book with twists and turns and many oh no lines. Having it based around two different women Kitty and Erin and their ups and downs but also the dressing room shop and family and friends and what you think is going on but reality is never straight forward, nothing is black and white, just a bit crazy grey.

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### **Lisa says**

Kitty Shanahan is the owner of the Bridal Nook, and her world falls apart one day when a routine phone call informs her that her husband has left his job, and a letter at home confirms that he has left her. Award-winning journalist Erin Brannigan is planning her wedding with the love her life. However, Paddy is battling cancer, and planning their big day down to the very last detail, which is driving her a bit mad. When Erin goes to the Bridal Nook to purchase her wedding dress, the two women's lives become intertwined.

When Erin is tasked with writing a feature about her wedding, Paddy's battle with cancer and her previous relationship which ended in disaster, things begin to get a little out of control. And while Kitty is still reeling from her husband walking out on her, her life starts to get even more complicated. Can broken hearts ever be mended?

Written in Allan's usual informal and humorous style, this book was laugh out loud funny. The journey of discovery that the characters embark on clearly shows their growth and development throughout the novel. Both Erin and Kitty are believable and relatable characters, however I was a little disappointed that their lives didn't intertwine a bit more – at times it felt like reading two completely unlinked stories. While there are some good plot twists, I found some to be too predictable. But overall I enjoyed it and I look forward to reading more from Claire Allan.

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### **Book-shelf Shelf says**

This is a book which ripped at my mind, heart and soul. Claire Allan touches the subject of cancer like no other. I literally cried as the words on the page told me of the difficulties Erin and Paddy are going through with not only the cancer, but also a wedding. Like many others, many of my friends/family have suffered/dealt with cancer and i think Claire has written about it so well, getting into how it affects people in different ways.

At the same time is Kitty's life which has been ripped apart when her husband walks out for no apparent reason. Kitty has to battle on with her wedding dress shop, making sure they all have a wonderful experience. I cant praise this book enough... it took me a while to read as it was so realistic, loved every page.

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### **Mummy Loves Books says**

Kitty, owner of a bridal shop gets the shock of her life when one day her husband Mark walks out on their marriage and disappears. She's left trying to find a way to deal with it yet still play the perfect hostess to brides trying to find their perfect dress.

This is the first novel by Claire Allen that I've read and it stands up alongside the other chicklit novels out there as an good read. It occasionally lacked a little pace and I found myself willing it to pick up the pace but when it did pick up again it would race along for a chapter or two before dropping back in pace again.

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### **Angela says**

I liked the book it was different from the last book I read by this author. The majority of the characters were really good but there were one or two that I just didn't like this time around. Fortunately they played a relatively minor role so they weren't there all the time. It was a quick enjoyable read and I'm going to look for other books by this author.

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### **Karen says**

Loved this book. Strongly recommend it.

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### **Judy says**

I am becoming a fan of this author. She always has believable and likable characters who are thrown into awful situations but eventually rise above them one way or another. This one includes two major characters whose lives become intertwined through a business transaction, and yet interact on a more personal level. One of them owns a very popular bridal gown shop, and the other, one of her customers, is reluctantly

getting married to her lover because he has prostate cancer. It's not that she doesn't love him, she's just afraid of marriage after being left at the altar by another man years before. The owner of the bridal shop is stunned to discover by accident that her husband has left his job the week before, and now is leaving her by way of a letter left in their home. Imagine how hard it would be to help blushing brides find their perfect gowns under those circumstances! This book is one a number of books where one of the characters works for a fictitious women's magazine. In this case the bride is a writer there, and is talked into writing her story for the magazine, with unexpected consequences.

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### **Fiona says**

It's been a long time since I flew through a book so quickly so it is safe to say that I thoroughly enjoyed this read.

Kitty owns The Dressing Room, a bridal shop that is doing well in the recession and one I wished I had the opportunity to visit when I was getting married, the descriptions of it alone had me in raptures. Work wise things may be going well but her personal life is falling to pieces. Unable to get her husband at work she goes home to find a devastating letter telling her he has left.

Erin is a journalist and is madly in love with Paddy. Hurt in the past she keeps rejecting Paddy's proposals, after all if something isn't broke, why try to fix it but after his diagnosis of cancer she finds she can no longer refuse and agrees to marry him to make him happy. The magazine she works for feels that by writing an article about love while battling cancer will help their slipping sales figures and who better to write it than Erin.

The two main characters meet when Erin attempts to find that perfect dress amid the madness of planning a wedding that she doesn't really want to have.

Another blinder from an author from home, I relish these books written with the warmth and humour us Northern Ireland folks possess. Descriptions of family and the support given in times of adversity just make me feel like I am chatting to a friend. The story is told in alternate chapters from each of the women's perspective, covering their story and the eventual outcomes. Tissues at the ready folks!

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