



The Broken Road Cafe

T.A. Webb

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What happens when you get everything you've worked for, only to discover it's not what you really want?

Dan O'Leary worked night and day to finish law school, join a top firm and make partner, all before the age of 35. He's found a man who swept him off his feet. And his best friend of twenty years has his back.

Then, one awful day it all comes crashing down around his ears.

Making a fresh start, Dan meets the people of Blue Ridge, Georgia, including Chief of Police Nick Oliver, and, perhaps, finds a new home. But danger from his old life follows him and puts not only his life, but that of his new friends, at risk.

The Broken Road Cafe Details

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Author : T.A. Webb

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From Reader Review The Broken Road Cafe for online ebook

Deeze says

[This book had so many niggles for me I should of hated it, but somehow I found I had to keep reading to see what happened.

The big cheating story had me pulling my hair out. I mean Abe cheating fine good story line, best friends partner being the guy he cheated with OK, but having the best friend (so best he like a brother) being in on the cheating? NO No

~☆~Dœni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Addendum added August 2014:

I have not changed my mind about this book, but I want to add that since reading this story I've read several other T.A. Webb books and have loved them all. This one didn't work for me, but I adore Tom's work.

Original review from December 2013:

What the lickety lick happened here? No, really, WTF?

I was prepared to be wrapped in joy by the third chapter; instead, I was all:

and also:

There was just ZERO relationship building here. Dan (running away from a cheating boyfriend, a cheating BFF, AND evil partners at his Atlanta law firm) meets Nick the closeted cop when Nick pulls Dan over and gives him a speeding ticket. There's little interaction between the two guys, besides snazzy one-liners, and yet we're supposed to believe that they A. hate one another, and B. have amazing chemistry, and C. start to fall for one another, and D. become friends, and E. decide to build a relationship. It's all too much and rather unearned.

Add that to the melodrama, the weird "mystery" plot, the ex from hell, Dan's sudden, completely unbelievable decision to leave his life and buy a restaurant (because he ate some great catering food???), and the tough, sassy broads who all talk like they're quoting *Steel Magnolias* (no one talks in quips all the time!), and I say you got yourself a bit of a hot mess.

Never mind the HEA; this one ends on a cliff-hanger. I resent books that feel like a pure set-up for book 2.

OK, rant over. I may very well be in the minority on this one.

Nick Pageant says

Let me start by saying that T.A. Webb is now my official frenemy. I love his writing style so much, he writes with an assured, easy style that has the feel of sitting down with a good friend and listening to them tell you a story; this is such a difficult style to get right. I love that T.A. Webb writes this way, but it also fills my small, black heart with jealousy.

The plot of this book surprised me. I was expecting a sweet romance and some schmaltz, instead I got cheating, a hot cop, some gun play, and a cliffhanger of an ending that has me onto book two ASAP.

I love the MC, Dan. He's reached a point in his life where he finally decides to jump into the unknown. He goes from being a high-powered Atlanta attorney to the owner of a small-town diner. The reader would think this would be the time for Dan to settle into a nice romance, but instead this is where the intrigue starts.

A great book that is highly recommended, BUT be aware that the ending is a cliffie and you will need to move straight ahead to book two.

Sheri says

Have you ever been walking on air, whistling a tune, thinking 'life is good' and then suddenly....
crack

turns out it was actually ice not air, and the ground is shattering below your feet?
Meet Dan O'Leary.
He just fell through the ice.

Hot-shot Atlanta attorney he was living the dream... that is till the day he woke up in a nightmare he can't shake. Years of busting ass to make partner while happily supporting his partner at home he's run himself ragged. It was worth it, this was what he wanted, wasn't it?

Then *boom*.....

the floor begins to shatter.

He catches his partners trying to blindside him at the firm and walks from one inconceivable disaster to another.

No more job.

No more lover.

No more best friend.

Grasping to piece his hard-earned life back together, he contemplates if it's worth the effort. Did he even like the life he was living? Was he truly happy?

Was it time for an O'Leary overhaul?

Yep, it sure was.

What do you do when you're sinking in the remains of what was once your life? For Dan he remembered what use to fill his heart. Turns out what made his heart happy also made his tummy content. The comfort and love from his mamma's kitchen was the anchor he clung to. And voilà, The Broken Road Café is born.

Starting anew is scary as hell, especially when the safe haven he's headed has an infuriating chief of police in the most magnetic polyester pants. Dan thinks he is secure from the troubles he left in the city, yet the poor man would be wrong again. From the looks of things Dan and Nick are gonna have their hands full. Two strong women battle for the spotlight and damn if I didn't want both of them to snag the honor. No whiny weak chicks here.

The perfect cast of characters....the good, the bad, and the dueling devils in Prada.
The perfect combo of emotions....you may cry, you will laugh, but most of all,
I hope you love Dan's broken journey as much as I did.

Now if you would excuse me...
I'm going to pull up a stool,
order a piece of pie and wait for the second helping.

****4.5 tipsy-turning-transforming stars****

Amy says

Well that was fun! Scumbag ex-boyfriend, backstabbing best friend, shady law firm, snarky secretary, closeted police chief, meddling mayor, all wrapped up in the small town of Blue Ridge, Georgia... Seriously, what a great story! I enjoyed Dan quite a lot. Poor guy, all aspects of his life imploding at the same time. I envy him, packing it all up and starting over in small town, USA. I love the relationship between Dan and Nick. I can tell they are going to be lots of fun. Can't wait till the next book!

"Remember, eyes up here, buddy."

Debra says

Another winner from Tom Webb. He really has a gift as the writing is simple and straightforward yet manages to convey so many emotions. There is laughter, tears, disgust and hope all intertwined with a mystery that is only beginning to unravel.

I fell in love with Dan in the opening scene. I felt the emotion when Dan is horribly betrayed by his lover and two best friends, the only "family" he has left in the world. I cheered when Dan laced into his partners in disgust and self-preservation, leaving the firm he had worked his ass off at for 10 years, and I was more than happy to watch him try to pick up the pieces and move on.

When Dan decides to purchase a restaurant in a small town outside of Atlanta, he meets a cast of characters and finds a sense of belonging. He also finds the Nick, the closeted chief of police, when he pulls Dan over for speeding on his first visit to town. The two men antagonize each other, but soon that spark heats up and out and proud Dan finds himself wondering if he should even bother with a closet case. Soon it is revealed

that the circumstances surrounding Dan's leaving his firm may be connected to other aspects of both his and Nick's lives, putting them and others in danger.

I loved the fact that Dan is emotional yet rational (with a heaping side of snark), thinking through what is really important to him and deciding what he can and cannot forgive. Some of the more emotional scenes are between Dan and Gary, his best friend of over 20 years. While Dan struggles with the betrayal, he also acknowledges his love for his friend and needs to decide whether or not the friendship is worth saving.

Fair warning that this is a first book in a series and the story is not resolved. I, however, cannot wait for the next installment.

Heller says

[After quitting his job he goes home to screw his boyfriend only to find his best friend of twenty years got there first. (hide spoiler)]

Macky says

Another cracker by Mr Webb that had me up till 3.30 am this morning till I'd finished it!! Reading a Tom Webb book is like dipping into your favourite bag of sweets... You can't just have one, so you end up gorging on them all until you've finished the lot and that's exactly what happens when I pick up a Tom book, I can't just read a couple of chapters I have to devour the whole book in one sitting, but I've got to say at least with a tasty story, the best thing is there's no calories involved! Haha!

Poor Dan starts the book with the proverbial SH one T hitting the fan but no rehashing from me because:
One... I think discovering Dan's story is all part of the delicious journey you'll take with this book,
Two... to be honest there are some great reviews already out there that do that admirably
And....

Three... * whispers* Between you and me, it takes too much time and I just want to get on with all the stuff that made me Squee in my usual " OMG!!! Its a new Tom book, Yaaay, happy dance, clapping hands excitedly whilst squealing like a demented fool! " way.

So onto what made this yet another winner for me.

I adored everything about this story, from Dan's initial really crappy betrayal to the final cliffhanger which, whilst not being one of those that has you biting your nails to the quick and bouncing in exasperation, still leaves you heavily invested in seeing how and where the series will take you next. Everything is cleverly woven together to produce a mouth watering mystery romance with quirky, endearing supporting characters, well placed humour, some great banter, nicely paced angst and conflict, suitably nasty, oily bad guys and some *brilliant* Sexual Tension (my personal favourite) between ex lawyer Dan O' Leary and

Officer Nick Oliver... whose polyester covered crotch holds an eye level fascination for our Dan from the moment he stops him for speeding on his way to check out what will ultimately become his new life as owner of The Broken Road Cafe. From that moment on, these two gorgeous guys spark and rub off against each other (scuse the pun, Lol) every time they meet and its hot, sexy and tantalising... now that's the way to do it!

Like everything this man writes, the book delivers all that the blurb promises and more. Classy and moreish, I'm in for the ride and can't wait for whats to come. Loved , loved, loved it. Awesome!

T.A. Webb says

November 3, 2013

It's out today! At ARe, should be up at Amazon tomorrow!

Thanks for waiting!

Tom

October 29, 2013

Hi everyone. Some news on the release. I have been sick--really sick and not even online for a few days--and that's pushed back the release of The Broken Road Cafe for a few more days.

I apologize. This has been a rough year for me physically, and I sometimes need to rest, which puts all my deadlines up in the air.

I also want to thank my editor, Jae, and my betas and proofreaders, Laura Harner and Will Parkinson, who have been so patient with me. I really appreciate you all.

Thank you, readers, for bearing with the bear.

Tom

Tina says

Tom did it again and I just couldn't get enough. The well done mixture of romance, suspense, wittiness, heartwarming friendship and humor just blew me away. I'm in awe. Again!

The Broken Road Café is about Dan who realizes one day his partners in the law firm in Atlanta are not what they seem. He decides not to participate in their corrupt work ethic and drop out. On top of that he walks at home into a threesome of his boyfriend with his best friend of 20 years Gary and his partner Kerry. He thinks his whole life is crashing down...

Making a fresh start, Dan toys with the idea of opening a diner in the little town Blue Ridge, Georgia. Chief of Police Nick Oliver is a hot piece of a**, but seemingly deep in the closet. No way is Dan going there...

I really adored the story. All the elements I need to enjoy a good book are perfectly woven together - the loveable MCs, the mouth watering mystery romance, the brilliant supporting characters with their quirky humor and the hot sexual tension between our guys.

All I can say is - I want more!

Broken Road Café is a delicious start of a promising series and the characters are just captivating. Thx Tom for adding another set of great secondary characters (Charlie, Patsy, Charity, Gary) to my list of favorites. :-)

Bev says

**A new series from Tom who's one of my auto-buy authors, and what a mouthwatering prospect it is!!
5 stars and a huge from me!!**

Dan O'Leary is the junior partner at a firm of lawyers in Atlanta, a position he's attained by sheer hard work, long hours, and minimal attention to his personal life. His young lover Abe stays at their home writing while Dan puts the hours in, but whilst day dreaming at a work meeting one day, Dan hears his name mentioned and finds himself landed with a case he knows nothing about and more to the point is not trained to handle...he deals with forensic accounting, the case he's been given is criminal defence involving a known drug dealing criminal who works for a local trucking firm. The senior partners, in particular one Greg Simkins, seem extremely keen that he handles it, and Dan decides to put his foot down and tell them to go to hell. He doesn't feel appreciated, he's restless, he's reached his own personal mid-life crisis, and this is the straw that broke the camel's back...something's definitely not right!! After discovering his personal email account has been hacked, he's so furious he walks out, takes the rest of the day off and drives around the area mulling over possible ideas regarding his future, returning home to Abe, thinking that an hour or two in bed should calm him down and focus his attention on what happens next and where...unfortunately, what he discovers at home will **not** calm him down in the slightest...his lover, his best friend of 20 years Gary and Gary's partner Kerry doing the dirty in his and Abe's bed..and I loved Abe's words....'Baby, it's not what it looks like', Dan has an epiphany '*This was what ten years of hard work, and then a year of loving and supporting your lover got you. It got you being 35 f*****g years old, worked half to death in a job that you were starting to realise you hate, and a best friend who cuts your heart out with blunt scissors. Oh, and a lover who betrays you in the worst possible way. What a f*****g fool I've been. And how they must have laughed their asses off at me.*' He yells at them to leave but gets out of the house himself before they do.

After a sleepless night, he put on his best gear and decides that if the partners want him to defend drug dealing gangsters, he will dress like one. He goes into the office and is told by the senior partner that he **will** 'take one for the team, and do whatever he can to get the defendant Delgado off the charges' and also 'Don't rock the boat on this Dan, win the case. You'll earn the gratitude of some very influential people'. Dan has

had enough, and tells them unequivocally that they can buy him out, threatens to disclose all of their dirty little secrets and how he's cleaned up their messes. He has decided to quit and go into the restaurant business and warns the partners that they'd better accept his resignation and give him a nice fat buy-out cheque for his trouble...Mr Simkins protests very loudly but the rest of them know which side their bread is buttered, and decide to accept Dan's ultimatum.

So begins the new chapter of Dan's life in Blue Ridge after he buys a little diner and renames it 'The Broken Road Cafe'. He meets some warm and wonderful people especially Patsy, the mayor of the little town (I could just see Dolly Parton playing her in a film), Amy, the waitress at the diner but more importantly the local Chief of Police Nick Oliver who's a real hottie and **may** just be the person to start Dan's heart beating again, but things are going *too* well, and when someone takes a pot shot at him and other unsavoury activity in the town comes to light, Dan realises that he may have taken on a little more than he was planning to.....Over to you fellow readers, and as Rosa says 'Tom always delivers'....

Ann says

I got completely wrapped up in this story and Dan's character especially.

Dan is a lawyer who has worked tirelessly to make partner in his law firm. He's achieved his career goals and at home is a partner he loves with all his heart. In a matter of just a few days his whole world changes and everything he thought he knew to be true was a lie.

Jumping ahead, the mystery and the characters in Blue Ridge have me hooked. Oh sure, I may have cursed a little when the story ended but I'll be anxiously awaiting the next installment of this series.

What really hit me in this one though was how well the author captured all the emotions Dan went through when he found out about Abe, Gary and Kerry. Anger is to be expected when a person discovers their partner has cheated. Discovering it the way Dan did brings that front and center. It's the grief that happens afterwards that is ultimately more devastating and that was captured here so well. It's not just the loss of a partnership, but when the betrayal comes the way this did for Dan, it affects every relationship he thought he knew. The emotions here were spot on.

All that heaviness aside, it's a great start to a series and I'm good naturedly irritated that I have to wait to find out what happens next.

Gina says

This was a winner! 5 satisfying stars!

This is only the second book of this author that I have read, and I can tell you right now I will be fixing that very very soon! I adored this book.

Dan O'Leary's world has been turned upside down, everything he has counted on and depended on the most has been ripped away. For most people this would send them into a tail-spin of depression and sorrow. Dan,

takes his pain and sorrow and uses that energy to build his life back up again. Raises from the ashes of his life. So part of this starting over and moving out the big city to try small town life. And like the blurb states he meets Chief of Police Nick Oliver. *swoon*

This is what I loved most about this story, the idea of picking yourself up and not wallowing in despair, which he had every right to. While the events of Dan's life were horrible, sad and really broke my heart, he didn't let it destroy him.

This book flowed well, the writing was superb and only when I realized my butt had fallen asleep did I figure out I had been reading non-stop for hours! I looked up from my Kindle and thought "hey when did it get dark outside?"

Yep, a good indication of an excellent read!

Sarah says

I wanted to enjoy this more, but the pacing was all off for me. Also too much scooby mystery set ups happening, obviously for future books but it was a little staged.

Rosalinda *KRASNORADA* says

Review to come closer to release date. T.A. Webb always delivers...
