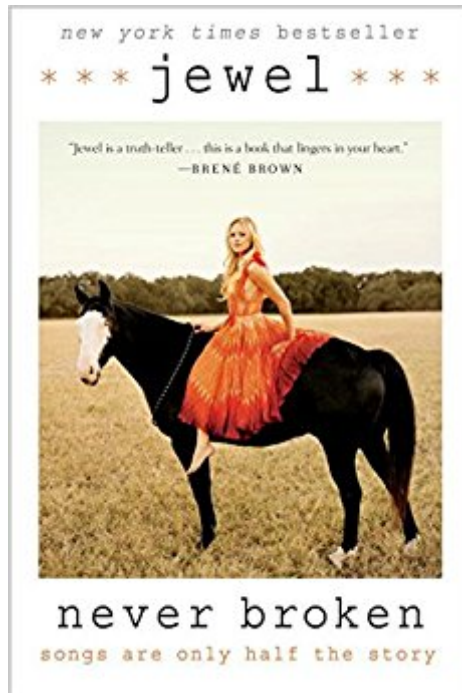


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Never Broken: Songs Are Only Half The Story



Synopsis

“Jewel is a truth-teller” (this is a book that lingers in your heart). — Brené Brown
The New York Times bestseller New York Times bestselling poet and multi-platinum singer-songwriter Jewel explores her unconventional upbringing and extraordinary life in an inspirational memoir that covers her childhood to fame, marriage, and motherhood. When Jewel’s first album, *Pieces of You*, topped the charts in 1995, her emotional voice and vulnerable performance were groundbreaking. Drawing comparisons to Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell, a singer-songwriter of her kind had not emerged in decades. Now, with more than thirty million albums sold worldwide, Jewel tells the story of her life, and the lessons learned from her experience and her music. Living on a homestead in Alaska, Jewel learned to yodel at age five, and joined her parents’ entertainment act, working in hotels, honky-tonks, and biker bars. Behind a strong-willed family life with an emphasis on music and artistic talent, however, there was also instability, abuse, and trauma. At age fifteen, she moved out and tasked herself with a mission: to see if she could avoid being the kind of statistic that her past indicated for her future. Soon after, she was accepted to the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, and there she began writing her own songs as a means of expressing herself and documenting her journey to find happiness. Jewel was eighteen and homeless in San Diego when a radio DJ aired a bootleg version of one of her songs and it was requested into the top-ten countdown, something unheard-of for an unsigned artist. By the time she was twenty-one, her debut had gone multiplatinum. There is much more to Jewel’s story, though, one complicated by family legacies, by crippling fear and insecurity, and by the extraordinary circumstances in which she managed to flourish and find happiness despite these obstacles. Along her road of self-discovery, learning to redirect her fate, Jewel has become an iconic singer and songwriter. In *Never Broken* she reflects on how she survived, and how writing songs, poetry, and prose has saved her life many times over. She writes lyrically about the natural wonders of Alaska, about pain and loss, about the healing power of motherhood, and about discovering her own identity years after the entire world had discovered the beauty of her songs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Never Broken: Songs Are Only Half the Story” (2015 publication; 407 pages) is a memoir from singer-songwriter Jewel. This year marks the 20th anniversary of her debut album, the mega-million selling “Pieces of You”, so this was as good a time as any for Jewel to take stock, both musically (by releasing a sequel album of sorts--at least thematically--called “Picking Up the Pieces”) and biographically, by writing a memoir. This is not the first non-fiction book from Jewel, incidentally, as in 2000 she published a book called “Chasing Down the Dawn: Stories From the Road” (which I have not read). Couple of comments: first, I love memoirs, but I rarely pick up the celebrity memoir. Yet in this case I did. Why? Because I have a soft spot for her, I suppose. That 1995 album was momentous in my life, as was Jewel’s next album “Spirit”. Plus we’ve heard the rags-to-riches stories about Jewel (growing up in rugged Alaska, living in her car in San Diego before being discovered, etc.). So when I saw the book, I couldn’t help myself and just had to pick it up. Truthfully, I wasn’t too interested in the first half of the book, about her growing up in Alaska and eventually coming to the Lower 48. I was most interested in Jewel’s take on her meteoric rise with the first album. That starts about half-way in the book, right around where the color pictures are nestled. I found the book from there on a much better read, learned quite a few things along the way that were new to me. Jewel’s retelling her opening for Bob Dylan (just before her meteoric rise) is hilarious and insightful. Her transition from playing by herself to playing with a band turned out to be a big challenge (I had no idea how to lead or to guide them.

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