



## **Broken Souls**

*Beth Ashworth*

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Pain, desperation and grief.

For Ashley Akerman, they are things that she has grown accustomed to feeling over the twenty-five years of her life.

She always found it difficult to integrate into society, realising that her imperfections were always going to be the cause of her own insecurities.

Stumbling upon the sassy Gabriela one day changed Ashley's life for the better. She was introduced into a new circle of people that accepted her for her personality and didn't judge her on her looks. But the good luck had been running for far too long... and time was up.

When that devastating moment arises and Ashley loses the support system she has grown to rely on, how will she be able to continue?

Will she revert to her previous life of merely existing as an empty shell in the world, or will the unplanned arrival of a certain Italian playboy throw everything into absolute and utter turmoil?

Finding the strength to fight on through the destruction will be key for Ashley. Will she be able to overcome the overwhelming fear of her past catching up with her once again? Can her broken soul be repaired, or has she finally reached the point of irrevocable damage?

*(18+) Although it isn't essential to have read the first book in this series before reading Broken Souls, you may encounter some spoilers along the way if you decide to read this book first.*

## **Broken Souls Details**

Date : Published May 30th 2014 (first published May 28th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Beth Ashworth

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre :

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## From Reader Review Broken Souls for online ebook

### This books says

That ratbag Benjamin Grrr!!

Marco Conti on the other hand is a hot Italian business man who likes to have carefree, emotionless sex and doesn't do relationships but secretly has feelings for his little sister's best friend Ashley.

Ashley feels ugly and ashamed because of the birthmark that takes up the left side of her face. She's scared to go out as she constantly has abusive comments and insults thrown her way. Benjamin Goode has taken a shine to Ashley or has he.

Marco receive's a phone call from the hospital in London to tell him his sister has been in a major accident and needs to come to London asap but sadly just after he arrive's his sister passes away.

This is where the story begins, Marco and Ashley try to help each other with dealing with their loss. There is an intense attraction between Marco and Ashley but will Ashley choose Marco or Benjamin?

The story line was really good, you could connect with the characters. Overall i really enjoyed it.

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### Rosa Sharon (iScream Books Blog) says

You are worth more than you realise...

Broken Souls is the second book in the Broken Hearts Series, but it can be read as a standalone. I'm a Beth Ashworth fan, she is a skilled writer that is able to put me right into the minds of the characters. My heart broke for Ashley as she had to face more devastation after having just put the pieces back together. She was forced to face her painful past, while trying to navigate a painful and uncertain future, without the support system she had come to depend on. And I must mention Marco, the sexy 'player'. He was known as a f\*\*k and chuck type. I must confess, if this book comes out in audio, I'm going to buy it just to hear that sexy accent when he says, "Cara", "Bella", "Amore mio", "Ti amo" and "Tesoro". ❤?

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### Tbird London says

I enjoyed this book, even though I didn't feel the emotional connection to the characters that I usually like, I did find that the author did a great job at describing Ashley and her feelings of isolation and rejection in society. She didn't come across as a strong woman, but as you read and get to know her you realize her strength was the silent kind. She knew what she wanted; she just never made a huge production to get it.

After being an outcast most of her life because of a birthmark on her face, she had grown up knowing her mother's rejection and the loss of her childhood best friend. Starting over and away from her parents was her escape. Finding Gabby as a best friend was her shining moment because Gabby not only worked hard at getting Ashley to see her value she introduced her to some amazing people who accepted her, defects and all.

When she started dating Ben she felt that maybe this was her future but something was nagging at her and held her back. It wasn't until a tragic event that shattered her and brought her face to face with Marco, that she realized her life had never been her own. Marco was a sexy man who considered himself a playboy but the same event that sent Ashley to her knees had also crippled him as well. Reaching out to each other to help fill the void they found more, but it wasn't going to work without a fight.

We see the evils of money, humans and emotions in this journey, while love and unconditional acceptance is never far away. There was plenty of suspense and drama in the story. As the truths become exposed and the real issues are address, it becomes like an onion that Ashley is peeling back, one layer at a time. I loved the ending, it was so perfect for this couple and left me smiling as I finished the last page.

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### **The Book Fairy Reviews says**

A beautiful Person and A Beautiful Soul

This story is inspiring to those of us who have the worst body image imaginable. Ashley is a beauty although some would argue that with you. But do they really see her or do they see what is on the surface. Suffering her whole life with the birthmark that has plagued her, had me thinking about my own image and how I see myself. Yes, we have a tarnished heroin that finds love in the person she has wanted but never dared. I love it! Marco become the catalyst for Ashley finding her strength and the key to showing her inner beauty is far more than just a birth mark. I connected with this book on a much deeper level, such a powerful message. Beth Ashworth gave a book that had me thinking about more than just the Schmexy Marco but in the true meaning behind the story. Loved it!!!

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### **Jane Barron says**

\*\*\*\*\* EROTICA BOOK CLUB REVIEW \*\*\*\*\*

Broken Souls (Broken Hearts)

by Beth Ashworth

This is book 2 in the series and can be read as part of the series or as a stand alone.

Ashley has a birthmark on the side of her face and this has knocked her confidence all her life but with the help of her best friend Gabby she is enjoying life, she has a good job and a budding romance with her friend Ben, she enjoys her time on skype to Gabby's brother Marco and has a little crush on him.

When tragedy strikes and turns Ashley's is left devastated and Marco has to travel to London to sort things out they finally meet and have this intense connection with each other. I really feel these two people belong together but there seems to be so much in their way!

I loved Marco he is the typical type of male I look for in my book boyfriends, I felt sorry for Ashley and after finding out what she has had to put up with over the years I now have a little more understanding of why she is like she is. I am actually embarrassed and angry with the ignorance of some of the characters in this book and just wanted to give them a telling off!! Poor Ashley when her parents come back into her life

everything seems to go from bad to worse.

I started reading this and right away I was sucked into it and I have really enjoyed reading it even though I was in floods of tears a few times so plenty of hankies at the ready.

This is a really cute and well written story and again is so very British makes it another must read from Beth Ashworth

I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review

5 stars for Amazon & 5 stars for Goodreads

~Jane~

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### **Erotica Book Club says**

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by Beth Ashworth

This is book 2 in the series and can be read as part of the series or as a stand alone.

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~Jane~

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### **Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says**

Quick review:

**Cover:** Pretty

**Rating:** NC-7

**Steaminess:** HOT HOT HOT

**Thumbs Up:** 4.5

**Overall:** Emotional and Yummy

**Characters:** Well Done

**Plot:** In the mist of tragedy there is life

**Page Turner:** Yes

**Series Cont.?** Yes

**Recommend:** Yes

**Book Boyfriend:** Marco

#### **SUMMARY** (50 words or less)

One thing I love most about the story is that the female lead is truly flawed and not just emotionally, but physically. She has to overcome a lot in this book but also her own insecurities about not being perfect. So many books, the female lead is perfect. Not so much here.

For a full review and yummy pic, see my blog post at:

<http://www.mybookboyfriend.net/2014/0...>

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### **M.J says**

FunkyIrishBookworm's Review - 3 1/2 stars

ARC given in exchange for an honest review

I liked this book, it was a cute read. But I have to say it wasn't what I expected. The story was brilliant and it was well written, but I felt very confused through most of it and even more so half way through all the way to just about the end. Now, I don't want to say too much because I hate ruining it for other people who have not read it, but I really disliked Ashley. She's not what I perceive to be a 'heroine' of a story, she's too...lost I suppose you could say. Most heroine's, while they often do have some kind of trauma, or horrible background that effect them through their lives, I felt that Ashley's 'trauma' was too over-played. She was constantly wondering what she was supposed to do, fighting flashbacks and the like, while other heroine's

usually have the inner strength to push themselves forward and declare that their 'trauma' will not rule them any longer. Ashley, while she did pull herself out of it towards the end, she felt too insecure and lost and confused, and it was like she was really struggling to survive. Honestly, throughout most of it I was waiting for a discovery of her having some sort of mental health issue, P.T.S.D or something along those lines, because it really felt, to me, the reader, that there was something wrong with her. Like she needed to be in a straight-jacket.

Marco was a typical male playboy, a complete prick at times, yet lovable. Ben was an annoying, pushy arsehole that wanted a kick in the face just to shut him up. Melissa was just bleh, that's a scientific term, bleh.

Overall, mainly due to my confusion about the heroine, I give it a 3 1/2 stars.

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### **Sassy Moms Say Read Romance says**

Grab the tissues when you read this book, you just might need them. I felt for Ashley throughout this entire story. The poor girl just couldn't seem to catch a break. Don't let her fool you, she is tougher than she lets on. Marco, I had mixed feelings about him. You could really see where Ashley was undecided about him, I felt that way almost through the whole story. Almost.....

The circumstances surrounding Marco and Ashley's meeting weren't exactly happy ones. They both just suffered a tragedy and had only each other to rely on. Ashley did have a guy that she was seeing but hesitated to take it to the next step. I think it's safe to say Marco had a bit to do with that.

This story is about being strong when you don't have any other choice but to be. It's about trusting yourself and finally learning to trust someone else, even when almost every action they do causes doubt. Overall, it was a sweet story that I'm sure you will like as much as I did. So one click it now...you can trust me :)

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### **Surrender to Books says**

4.5 Sweet Ash Stars \*\*\*\*\*

This is Beth Ashworths second novel, and follows on from her debut Broken Truth, in that it has some of the same characters running through it, but it can be read entirely as a standalone book.

I was impressed with Beth's first book and her writing style, but I didn't warm to the main characters. That was not the case with this one at all.

From the moment you meet Ashley, you just want to wrap her up and give her a big hug. Ashley has a large birthmark on her face and her self confidence has been battered because of this and past events meaning that she is a virtual hermit. If it wasn't for her friend and flatmate Gabby, she would only work and then come back to the flat.

Gabby takes no nonsense and helps to bring the fun to the party, dragging Ash out of herself. Gabby also has a rather attractive older brother called Marco who lives in Milan (we met him first in book 1) who she is really close to. As well as talking to his sister on a weekly chat session online, he always catches up with Ash.

When an accident means that Marco comes to London to meet Ashley, the attraction that she previously felt for him is ramped up. However, the timing is awful. Not only are they dealing with the fallout from the event that brought Marco over (notice i'm being vague, don't want to spoil it), Ashley also has a kind of boyfriend who's trying to solidify their relationship and push for more.

This book was full of twists and turns and I loved it. But what I loved most was Marco. I enjoyed his character in book 1, but listening to him whisper terms of endearment in Italian in this book, pushed me over the edge.

Now my plea to you the readers, from me as a blogger. It's really difficult for new Indie authors as there are so many of them. So when we review a book and say look, this is great, please head over and purchase a copy and give an indie author a chance. I promise both you and the author will win as part of that deal.

Well done Beth on a cracking second book.

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### **Jodie Squelch says**

This is the companion novel to broken truth but can be read as a standalone.

I had to take a few days to process my thoughts and feelings regarding this book and in all honest I'm still not sure... for me, I completely adored and loved broken truth, so I was super excited to dive right into this book but I was left feeling a little disappointed...

Don't get me wrong there was so much I enjoyed about this story of Marco and Ashley... and the book was jammed back with heartache, love, drama, angst and tragedy that it kept me page turning but I also got a little lost in the plot and wasn't sure what was going on at times...

Ashley was born with a facial birthmark, so growing up wasn't easy especially when her own mother believed she was ugly.... This resulted in Ashley spending most her childhood hiding away to avoid further disappointing her mother...

Life for Ashley is starting to finally look promising when tragedy strikes.... Leaving Ashley shattered to pieces and struggling to deal with the present and keep the past in the past....

But with the bad comes the good... in the very sexy, hot package which is Italian stallion Marco....

Marco comes into Ashley's life when she is at her lowest but the chemistry is still explosive... but their lack of communication is infuriating....

I was routing for Ashley and Marco from the start but their road to happiness isn't an easy one, which will have you smiling, laughing and screaming in frustration as these two fight against their pull towards each other....

Overall, I enjoyed this book, it did keep me intrigued yet confused at times.... But I do look forward to future work by Beth Ashworth.

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### **Kelly Anne O'Connor says**

I found this book both endearing and at times extremely infrurating, at one point in the book I actually wanted to murder the female or at the very least shake her violently !

Ashley had had a tough childhood, having been born with a birthmark on her face, Ashley has learnt to shy away from social situations. Now in her twenties, living away from home with her best friend Gabby. When all aspects of Ashley life seem to be going well, when tragedy strikes Ashley life is put into a massive tailspin, bring the sexy Marco Conti into her life.

There were parts of this book I really enjoyed ( the sex scenes were HOT ) but there were other parts I really found difficult. I'm not a fan of weak females in books, but love that they usually get stronger and have their day. When that time came in this book I was left a little deflated I wanted it to be more, when the whole truth came out I was fuming for Ashley !

I would have loved to have heard more from Marco, we heard from him in the prologue and then more, I love dual POVs. With all that said the writing in this book is spot on and if it's the authors Job to provoke feelings Beth certainly did that with me !

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### **Liz says**

Might be too much info, sorry.

Where do I start? I really enjoyed this book. Not my typical read but a good read. We have Gabby and Ashley who are best friends. Gabby is outgoing part girl and Ashley is keeping her past buried. Ashley is a shy, keeps her head down kind of girl. She embarrassed of her birth mark and considers herself ugly. There's Marco, who is the best friends brother. He's a love and leave em' guy. Once we were really introduced to him, I started to feel bad for him. He's trying his hardest and not able to get a word in to explain himself. Ashley and Marco have a slight friendship that develops into more when she finally meets him face to face. Unfortunately, their meeting is under difficult circumstances. Ashley's past is brought back to her and things become difficult. Overall, I give it an A. Nice job.

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Well done Beth on a cracking second book.

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### **Anny hernandez says**

I was provide a copy of the book by the Author for an honest review.

I just finish reading this book, and I love it, I have to say that this book made me cried, and mad at some part, but I love every single minute of it, love the characters and how the book turn out to be. I am gone keep this short since I don't want to give anything away.

The story begining with Ashley and her best friend Gabby, helping her get ready for her date, Ashley had always had trouble with society, because of her birthmark, but that change when she met Gabby, and got introduce to a different circle of friends, that hang out with her for the way she is, now she was getting ready to go on a date, after her date when she got home she told Gabby how it when, couple of days later Gabby gets a call on Skype from her brother Marcos, now Marcos a Sexy Italian playboy, Ashley and Marco had form a friendship through Gabby, and haven't met in person yet, but all that changes the night, that Gabby and Ashley decide to go out, while Ashley being on the phone she notice that their is a commotion going on, that's when she saw what was happening, and that's when she knew that her life was gone change again. That's how she also got to meet Marcos in person, Will Marcos help her out, or will she let her old life consume her back to how she was, would Marcos let her get their or would he save her from it.

I really love and enjoy reading this book, I love how Marcos and Ashley are with each other, Author Beth Ashworth THANK YOU for introducing me to this great characters and this awesome book love it.

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