



## Patch Up

*Stephanie Witter*

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Skye followed her long time boyfriend to Seattle for their first year of college, but he dumped her after only a week. The relationship brought only pain and destruction in Skye's life, and yet, she can't bring herself to open up and live her life.

"What if I am already broken into pieces?"

She hates to be touched, hiding under her oversized shirts and behind her wild frizzy hair. Even her bubbly roommate can't reach her. And yet ...

"I'm the guy who knows how you can hurt so much that your insides feel like they're cut and bleeding."

The tall, handsome, and tattooed TA in her psychology class changes everything when he literally collides with her and confronts her. For the first time in a long time, she wants to try and open up to this guy whose dark, intense eyes can't hide his own pain despite his dazzling smile getting to her.

However, just when she's starting to live again, her ex-boyfriend comes back, breaking her time and time again, making it all the more complicated.

She wants to fight for herself and for this building thing with the TA, even when he pushes her away, but can two broken people patch each other up?

"I never thought colliding with someone could change lives, but it is possible."

\* Due to some shocking scenes, this novel is for readers of 18 and up.

## **Patch Up Details**

Date : Published September 11th 2013 by Anchor Group Publishing

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Author : Stephanie Witter

Format : Kindle Edition 296 pages

Genre : New Adult, Sociology, Abuse, Romance, Academic, College, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review Patch Up for online ebook

### Christine says

This is my opinion and the way I perceived the book. It may work for you, but unfortunately it did not work for me.

I was in a mood for a N/A college story. This one with the girl in secret pain who gets together with her TA sounded so good. It had everything laid out for a perfect NA book. EVERYTHING. Even this girl who considered herself damaged meeting the hot, tatted TA. Big disappointment! BIG!!

First the hero pines over his dead girlfriend. Everytime something happens that makes him uncomfortable or if things even go good with Skye...he goes to his dead girlfriend's cemetery and sits there for hours. Duke dwells and pines over this dead girlfriend because things were just easy with her. Yes, as a new girlfriend, I want to hear my boyfriend say that to me!

Skye Walker is teased with Star Wars references by what you would think would be majority of people attending this college. If it was a book about junior high kids, it would be believable reading that guys are teasing her about the name, but not college aged kids. That whole part of the story was ridiculous.

Also, I am not sure if I got this part of the story wrong, but Skye was mentally and physically abused for 3 years by her ex-boyfriend, but yet she followed him college?!? I may have missed something and gotten that part of the book wrong. If she was abused all those years why did she not just not follow him to college?!?! Skye keeps saying how nice her parents are but they are useless. She says that her father is overprotective of her, but he doesn't notice his withdrawn daughter?? Is it because he is friends with the abusive ex's parents??

What annoyed me most (and there were a lot of eye roll moments in this book) was that at 86% Skye is saying this about Duke "I don't know if it's possible to find a guy more swoon worthy." Then at 88% she contradicts herself and says this about Duke "He'd trade us in a heartbeat for Juliet. He'd even give his life for Juliet." Juliet being the dead girlfriend.

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### Michelle says

#### Copy provided by author in exchange of honest review

\*\*\*3 stars\*\*\*

Patch Up by Stephanie Witter is a story that deals with serious heavy topics of emotional and physical abuse, depression and guilt. It focuses on two individuals who literally bump into each other and found a connection that they are both emotionally damaged.

Skye Walker is a freshman in college who has lived a life of fear after being in a 3 year abusive relationship with her ex Sean. Sean has tormented and has fear implemented in Skye. Her world is built on shutting people from getting close. She lives in a world of fear and doesn't have many friends except for her roommate Kate.

On her first day of second semester, she literally bumps into Duke, who happens to be the TA of her psychology class. Duke sees behind the facade that Skye has put up. He sees the way she interacts and how much she fears in seeing her ex whenever they run into each other. Putting his psychology knowledge to use, Duke knows that Skye is in need of help and so he goes out of his way to befriend her.

From then on Duke and Skye formed an unlikely friendship built on their common connection that they are both individuals who suffer from an emotional upheaval that has heavily affected who they are. Duke suffers from guilt from the death of his girlfriend and Skye with the physical and emotional scars of abuse that still haunts her.

### **My Thoughts:**

Personally, I felt the way Skye's parents reacted weren't very realistic and nurturing. If I had a daughter confess to me of 3 years of abuse and his constant harassment and on-going abuse, I would take actions against her ex-boyfriend. I would be at her side and not leave the next day. I would make sure there is a police report of his abuse and charges filed. I would have taken her to the hospital to get her injuries checked out. These details are what normal parents who cared for their child do. They will go beyond all means to ensure the safety of their child.

As much potential this book had in being great, it fell short. The story started off very slow and whenever Duke and Skye got close, Duke suddenly stops calling and doesn't see Skye. Their relationship felt hot and cold. I wanted to know more of Duke and why he felt he needed to distance himself whenever they were getting close so maybe a few chapters in his perspective would have been nice. I wanted more of an emotional connection to the characters. I wanted to know if Sean didn't break up with Skye, would she still be his punching bag? I also wanted to know what drove Sean to be so dark and evil. Although the author mentions Sean's family history, I wanted to know more of him. Why didn't Skye's family see the changes in their daughter's behavior?

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### **Stephanie Witter says**

I wrote it so I have to give it 5 stars. :)

I hope you'll be moved by the characters in Patch Up and enjoy their journey. This story is really important to me and I can't wait to share it with you.

Thank you for giving it a try!

It's a New Adult Contemporary novel.

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### **Kendall {Book Crazy} says**

*"Love doesn't conquer all; it's a powerful tool to overcome everything because it means you're not alone."*

I'm so, so, so happy that I signed up for this Blog Tour! I hadn't heard of this book until the author asked me

if I would like to join the Blog Tour and when I saw the cover I instantly knew I wanted to read the story behind it! This book was a beautiful story about broken characters trying to come to terms with things that have happened to them and finding the strength to move on! I connected with this story so much more than I was expecting too! I really wasn't sure what to expect from it, but what I did get was absolutely phenomenal! The plot of this book was very sad! I couldn't help but feel sorry for the main characters as I learned about what they had both been through and what they had experienced! They had been through things that no-one should ever have to go through and at the beginning of this story they are very broken until they find each other and they start to learn to lean on each other and together they start to learn that hope conquers fear! I thought that the plot was beautifully written and I found myself completely immersed in it! I also loved that the author didn't downplay what the main characters had been through! The characters were amazing! Skye was the main character and she was such a broken character! Right from the first page I saw how sad she was and how scared she was! But I could also see that inside her was a confident, caring person, but it was all about Skye trying to let that side of her out! Skye was a strong character, but she didn't know it! As this book progressed her strength slowly started to come out and I was so happy with how far she came by the end of the book! Duke was the kind of love interest of Skye! I loved Duke! I thought he was a massive support to Skye and he helped her through one of the toughest things that she will go through in her life! He was also pretty damn hot! Duke had also been through something that made him want to help Skye! My heart broke for Duke when I found out what he had been through and the guilt that he carried around! I have to say though that his determination to help Skye was amazing! I loved that he didn't give up on her and he sort of kept pushing her to let him in! Skye and Duke did start off as friends and then their relationship developed! I loved this as they both were very vulnerable characters and it wouldn't have been right if they had just jumped into a relationship! I had no idea that there was going to be a sequel to Patch Up and also a book for other characters in this book! I'm really excited and cannot wait to read both books! The cover for Patch Up is stunning! I pictured Skye looking like the girl on the front as she's described very similarly to her in the book! Big thank you to Stephanie for an ARC of Patch Up and to Eclipse Reviews for having me on the Blog Tour!

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### **Mikky (Nocturnal Predators Reviews) says**

Originally posted at:  
Nocturnal Predators Reviews

\* ARC provided by the author in exchange of a honest.

I was so excited to receive this ARC! When I say excited, it's the understatement of the year! It's so fulfilling to receive an ARC of a book you want to read. It's nice to have a chance at something you want so badly.

### **On with the Review:**

One subject that gets my panties in a twist is abusive relationships or abusive anything for that matter. On that note, I started this book with that in mind since I tend to get angry at the novel because of how the matter is treated. I was pleasantly surprised by how the events in this novel turned out.

I loved Duke. He's got that tortured soul thing going on and that's just hot. For me to thoroughly describe him

I have to use a quote from the book:

"He's got the perfect bad-boy look going on without the bad attitude."

### **Nuff said sista.**

Skye. I felt really bad for her. In the beginning, it was annoying to read on and on about how she hides it so well, her "shield" protects her and how she would **NEVER, EVER** tell her parents since they like her ex's parents so much. Well honey, I've got news for you: Your parents aren't the ones who would have to live with him and deal with him every hour of every day. It's **YOU**. It shouldn't matter what parents think about the others parents, what matters is you being happy. Not them.

BUT, that turned around. It didn't happen magically from one page to the other. Duke and Kate played a vital role in everything. It was really sweet to watch her come out of her shell and realize that there are people who care about her well being and that truly want to help her.

Sean. I wanted to murder him since page 1. From what I read in the book Sean has a "dark" background as well. Earth to Sean: Just because you had/have a hard home life doesn't mean you have the right to make other people your property and abuse them as well. Theoretically speaking, in my opinion, if you have a hard home life you would try and get away from that by finding a meaningful relationship with someone who cares for you. In Sean's mind apparently if his life is hard, then he has to make someone else's life the same h\*\*\* he's had.

The only con I will point out in this book is the hot and cold thing that went on with Skye and Duke. It was over the top. After one fight, Duke would leave and ignore Skye for days/weeks. After they get back together, another fight breaks out and Skye leaves. It went back and forth like that for chapters and more chapters. I was getting whiplash by chapter 10.

### *Favorite Quotes:*

*"He may be a better actor than I am, but one broken person can always recognize another one."*

*"I love you, Skye. You're in my heart, in my head, under my skin. You're my present and my future."*

*"I almost killed you in front of your parents. Talk about first impression."*

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### **Amy says**

Patch Up follows the story of Skye. After being with her boyfriend for almost 3 years and moving to Seattle to be with him, she gets dumped. What most people don't realize is that Skye and Sean's relationship was anything but perfect. To say Sean was cruel and mean to Skye is a complete understatement. And now Skye is left pretending that everything is ok, when it's anything but. Skye hates to be touched and hides behind her hair and her clothes and refuses to let anyone get close to her.....

One day Skye collides with Duke, the TA in her psychology class. And that changes everything. Duke confronts her and tries to get her to open up to the things that she is hiding from. For the first time in a long time, she wants to. But Duke has secrets of his own. They are both battling pain and trying to overcome their demons.

Unfortunately, just as Skye is starting to move on with her life again, Sean is back in the picture. Making things complicated and proves that he still has a hold on her and can easily break her....

Patch Up is a story about two really broken people trying to survive and help one another move on. This is not an easy read. Patch Up deals with some really tough issues, but those issues are handled extremely well. I loved the slow building romance between Duke and Skye. They were just what the other needed.

I think that Patch Up was well written and will definitely keep you captivated. I am definitely looking forward to the next book. I can't wait to see what will happen next for Duke and Skye.

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\*\*\*\*\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*\*\*

### **Rosaria says**

**4.5 to 5 well-deserved stars!**

***I had the pleasure and honor of beta reading Patch Up for Stephanie Witter.***

***It is extremely admirable for anyone talented enough to be a storyteller to put in the energy, time, frustration, sweat, tears – and, yes, love, required to write a book and then have the courage to share it with the world. However, in Stephanie’s case, doing this is an even more amazing feat when you consider that she’s decided to write Skye’s story in a language other than her native French.***

***Patch Up is an extremely worthwhile story that captures your attention and begs to be read and shared. Due to the mature subject matter, scenes with sexual content and/or violence, this is considered an NA book meant for readers 17+ years.***

This is the story of Skye Walker. Yes, she gets teased about her name but this is the least of her worries. Skye is the victim of a long-term abusive relationship with her ex boyfriend Sean. When he unceremoniously dumps her shortly after they move to Seattle to attend college at his choice of school Skye copes by pouring herself into her studies.

**Sean** (looks a bit like the amazing American actor, musician, singer and songwriter, **Jared Leto**)

Suffering from low self-esteem, blaming herself for what has happened to her, for the break-up and believing all the ugly things Sean has accused her of being, Skye isolates herself socially from others on campus including her roommate and eventual best friend, Katie. Unaware of how beautiful she is, Skye wears

oversized, old and unattractive clothing to avoid notice.

## Skye

It is a chance collision literally with a TA from her psych class that changes everything for Skye. He is able to see past the wall she has become expert at erecting to keep others at bay and recognizes that she is broken and in need of support.

*“Can I say something before I go?” he asks me in a voice calmer than he must feel if I take into account his clenched fist and the shaking of his hand holding the mug of coffee. I just nod, not sure I’m able to mutter a word through the lump in my throat. “I’m not the enemy, I’m not the kind of guy who would try to hurt you more when I know you’re already hurting, but I’m someone willing to hear you and understand you. I want to be able to help.”*

Duke is all kinds of wonderful, gorgeous and kind but we quickly learn that part of the reason he is able to identify with Skye’s pain is because he has demons of his own to deal with.

**Duke** (looks a bit like two gorgeous Canadian actors: **Taylor Kitsch** or **Stephen Amell** of the TV series *Arrow* shown in the next quote below)

What I really love about this story and Stephanie’s writing is that the characters are well developed so we get a glimpse of the inner workings and vulnerabilities of not only the two main characters but also some supportive members of Skye and Duke’s circle of friends – namely Katie and Derek. Katie, in particular, is extremely bubbly, beautiful, fun, energetic and a fiercely loyal friend to Skye.

The pacing of the story is realistic. Little by little, Skye and Duke help the each other patch up and heal from the wounds their lives and past relationships have brought them. There is a slow build and after much turmoil and stumbling through the potholes in their rocky relationship, to the point that they can no longer deny their mutual attraction or that they have gone beyond the line of friendship, Skye and Duke become intimate.

However, their HEA doesn’t come easily. With no need for a spoiler alert- let’s just say that there is an unexpected twist that forces Skye to face the reality of her past.

There is also no cliffhanger. Patch Up can be considered a standalone read.

For those left wanting to read more about Skye and Duke, Stephanie Witter has indicated that a second book in this series is in the works (no title is available for now). The second book will delve further into Skye and Duke’s relationship and the challenges they face as Skye’s insecurities continue to plague her. In addition, a companion book is also going to come our way that will follow Katie and Derek’s story. I think readers will happily anticipate this book as well once they’ve read Patch Up - I know I do.

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## **CasPerfitz~SLiTsReaD says**

blog/page link here : <https://www.facebook.com/SLiTsReaD>

Skye has been with her abusive boyfriend for 3 years till she followed him for their first year of college and yet he dumps her a week after because his words are that she's:

"Idiot. Dependent. Whore. Ridiculous. Ugly. Boring. A nobody. Nobody wants you. Nobody would miss you. Not sexy."

Physically and mentally broken, Skye avoids everyone and hides behind her frizzy hair and oversized clothes.

On her psychology class, she met one of the teacher's TA, tall, hot and tattooed Duke. Duke sees how vulnerable Skye is and wants to be her friend, so Duke pursued Skye.

Just when Skye's protective wall starts to crack... Duke lets her down. Duke lost his long time girlfriend and best friend in a car accident and is still all messed up over it.

But Duke won't give up on Skye.

"Because even if I want to ignore it, we connected. I pushed you away because it's ... let's say it's complicated in my head right now, but I can't imagine you not being a part of my life."

And just when Skye started to mend her broken pieces, her ex-boyfriends comes back breaking her time and time again.

I love this book, I love the story... it's heartbreak... it's gut wrenching.... and it's romantic. And this is definitely not for the faint of heart.

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## **Wendy says**

I had the very greatest pleasure of Beta reading this book for Stephanie.

From the very beginning when she sent me Chapter 1 i was completely hooked on Skye's (main character)

story and i needed to know her secret and why she was so broken.

I was almost begging Stephanie for the next chapter and the next chapter!

Then there is Duke. \*sighs\* He could see Skye's pain but also had issues of his own to deal with, he seriously irritated me on more than one occassion to the point of wanting to kick his ass ever so slightly.

This book made me chuckle, Skye's best friend is a blast, there were several WTH moments and i also cried several times.

But what i want to be totally clear about is i adored this book, and so will you.

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### **Laura says**

I beta-read this book. It is an amzing New Adult novel about moving on from the past and letting yourself care for someone even when you are hurt.

Skye (the main character) is fragile but has a great inner strength. Duke (the "hero" though that isn't really the best term) is pretty swoon worthy and he also has a great depth with many different layers.

The romance is slow-building and that makes it feel more realistic. The storyline is strong and holds its own without the romance and then the romance is just the cherry on the cake.

It is very intense. If you like books such as Hopeless by Colleen Hoover and Wait for You by J. Lynn then you will LOVE this. If you don't you should still try Patch Up anyway as it is pretty unique.

It grabs your attention from the very start and doesn't let go until the very end. I can't wait for september so everyone can read it!

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### **Paula Phillips says**

As a reviewer, sometimes you see a book and you think "hmmm, I'd like to read that" - It could be simply because you like the sound of the blurb or the cover appeals to you. If it is the latter one of those, which more often than not the case for me. You actually don't have the simplest idea what the book is actually about and it can surprise you and take you on a rollercoaster of emotions. That is what Patch Up by Stephanie Witter did for me. I do have to say to readers, that if you have a problem with physical violence and domestic abuse - do not read as this book covers it. The story is about two "damaged souls" who have suffered so much tragedy and don't believe they are worthy or capable of finding and giving love to anyone ever again. We have Skye Walker ( and yes, no Star Wars jokes - that is her name) and Duke Ashdown. They meet via collision in the Psychology class and from then on do this on/off avoidance. Not to give too much away , I will say that this was such a powerful read that in quite a number of places especially near the end had me tearing up and wincing in pain as I felt what Skye went through.

I leave with you on a parting note, that this book is an amazing and powerful read that those who loved Rebecca Donovan's "Reason to Breathe" series will enjoy and that this book is not for the faint-hearted ones.

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## Patrycja says

*\*\*ARC provided by an author in exchange for honest review \*\**

4.5 beautiful, bleeding stars!

Patch Up is everything I hoped for and even slightly more! After few first numb chapters the story did a good number on me, changing from a little too fast and shallow to something perfectly heartbreakin! Patch Up is a perfect mix of everything I love in new adult Stephanie Witter made phenomenal job at creating another gut wrenching story about fighting with depression and twist and turns of life that hooked me and made me breathless. Like Jessica Sorensen, Colleen Hoover and Tammara Webber, Witter made her way to my top treesome changing it to foursome.

Skye Walker has a secret. Terrible one. She burries it deep and hides herself from observant eyes. Always alone and unapproachable, Skye tries to live and forget, but it's almost impossible, when the biggest nightmare of her life is still so close. She feels like there is no room for her to breathe anymore.

Pretending to be happy and normal is quite easy when no one looks close, but hiding her extreme depression and horrible secret from eyes of a man who can see trough her is another case. Especially when this man is her hot TA from psychology class and knows what means to be depressed as well.

Duke is just as broken as shattered as Skye, but from different reasons. When he sees Skye he wants to help her fight for her life. He wants her to be better because he cannot be.

„Thats the problem when two broken people are attracted to each other and share true connection. It doesn't mean you can't have some kind of relationship with each other, but it does mean you have to fight against your issues to get there”.

Patch Up is really sad story about survival and fight for live as well as incredibly sexy and swoon worthy. Two sides of story easily blend together and do not leave empty space or unanswered questions. My heart ached alongside with Duke and Skye's. I adored Skye. Even when she was acting weak, I couldn't stop admire her attitude and good soul.

And Duke? He had totally crashed me with his sexy ways! The fact that he's a little bit older than heroine and is sexy TA with amazing tattoos just sealed the deal! I fell head over heels in love with him. As much brokenness was still inside him he tried to help someone else, which means his caring and that's another asset I admire. There's nothing more heartbreakin and beautiful than two people trying to get on their feet

together, side by side. Healing every wound and wiping every tear.

*More reviews on Smokin' Hot Book Blog and my Facebook Page*

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### **Dawn Chic says**

"A person regarded as resilient or courageous enough to be able to overcome hardship, misfortune, etc." This is one definition of the word Survivor by Webster's New World Dictionary. Skye and Duke are survivors, but neither of them realize it when they meet.

At the start, Skye is fragile, broken, and afraid of the world after going through a trauma that lasted for years. But, she is unknowingly strong, her inner strength enabling her to function at college, barely. Every day, she works to overcome her fears. Skye's journey is not an easy one, she has many setbacks, her fears are all consuming at times, but slowly, she begins to gain her life back after her tragic not so distant past.

Duke, appears to be strong and in control of his life, but he too is fragile and broken. He secretly struggles daily with overwhelming guilt and grief for years, effecting every aspect of his life. He is very good at putting up walls to protect his heart and presenting himself in a way that people don't recognize his secrets. He struggles to move on from his past and then struggles when he begins to move on.

Slowly these two broken people, Skye and Duke, begin to heal with lots of steps forward and backwards. They manage to become friends and trust each other, just barely. They each have so much emotional baggage. Their's is not an easy carefree relationship, but their connection and need for each other is undeniable. When Skye's past begins to threaten her mental and physical well being, Skye and Duke are forced to face even more drama.

Patch Up is intense, riveting, heartbreakingly sad at times, angsty, heartwarming, and inspirational. I was hooked from the start. Had I not passed out in the wee hours of the morning, I would have read Patch Up straight through, it is THAT good. I can not wait for more on Duke and Skye and their journey of freedom and love.

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### **Sara says**

Horrible. That's my thought through the whole book. Rolled my eyes, contemplated my next book. Wondered how many pages until the end. Wanted it to just END!

Sky Walker was a girl who wore baggy clothes, had frizzy hair, didn't wear make up, was socially awkward and was depressed her asshat boyfriend dumped her the first week of college after she followed him to his college of choice. Early on we learn, the asshat ex Sean, abused her the duration of their 3 year relationship. Physically, mentally, you name it.

She has a cute, friendly roomie Kate, that I actually liked.

She meets Duke, the hot tatted TA in her physiology class. YES Ladies, she's a fucking physiology student in the throes of depression trying to figure out why she let herself get beat up. See, Sean beat her up because his dad beat up him and his mom. That's all the explanation she needs for him. Really????

Here's the weird part about this dynamic. At school Sean is mean to her. Talks shit, embarrasses her, makes other people make fun of her. He's a total asshole. She just cowers in her dorm room, or wherever the hell

she is. She never tells him to fuck off. She's like a deer in headlights. Always scared always crying. AND.. Sean still beats her up!! He never calls her, never tries to get back with her, nothing. But he does come around just to kick her ass, then he's off. And Im talking kick you in the ribs beat down.

Yep, that's all he does. And she takes it.

Duke and Skye gave me whiplash with all their back and forth crap, their fights, their no i cant, yes i can, well maybe i dont know. They were exhausting.

Nothing was believable. The "heroine" had absolutely no backbone in the book. She was a victim. The ending has a major deal, and then it was over. I didnt connect with Skye/Sean story. Duke had so many issues that were tossed all over the book. It was just messy.

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## **Aestas Book Blog says**

### **Brand new release and it looks good!!**

Skye followed her long time boyfriend to Seattle for their first year of college, but he dumped her after only a week. The relationship brought only pain and destruction in Skye's life, and yet, she can't bring herself to open up and live her life.

*"What if I am already broken into pieces?"*

She hates to be touched, hiding under her oversized shirts and behind her wild frizzy hair. Even her bubbly roommate can't reach her. And yet ...

*"I'm the guy who knows how you can hurt so much that your insides feel like they're cut and bleeding."*

The tall, handsome, and tattooed TA in her psychology class changes everything when he literally collides with her and confronts her. For the first time in a long time, she wants to try and open up to this guy whose dark, intense eyes can't hide his own pain despite his dazzling smile getting to her.

However, just when she's starting to live again, her ex-boyfriend comes back, breaking her time and time again, making it all the more complicated.

She wants to fight for herself and for this building thing with the TA, even when he pushes her away, but can two broken people patch each other up?

*"I never thought colliding with someone could change lives, but it is possible."*

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