



Fractured Lines

Jen McLaughlin

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The lines we once crossed so easily have widened and torn us apart . . .

Once upon a time I thought Finn and I would live happily ever after, but real life doesn't always have a happy ending. He's testing my trust, and I'm losing faith in the man I thought I'd spend the rest of my life with, and there's nothing I can do to stop it. He's the one I trusted to keep me safe, but now he's the source of my greatest pain . . .

Forgiveness is fragile, and some fractures never fully heal . . .

One mistake—a slip in a moment of weakness—might cost me everything I've worked so hard for. The thing about trust is that it's a lot easier to lose than it is to build. Just as I'm about to give up and surrender to the demons from my past, an unexpected threat reminds me what I'm best at: protecting the woman I love. Whether or not she wants me, I will fight for Carrie and our daughter, and I will keep them safe—no matter the cost.

Even if I have to put my life and my heart on the line.

Fractured Lines Details

Date : Published November 21st 2014 by Jen McLaughlin (first published October 8th 2014)

ISBN : 9780989668484

Author : Jen McLaughlin

Format : ebook 150 pages

Genre : Romance, New Adult, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, War, Military Fiction, Suspense, Love

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From Reader Review Fractured Lines for online ebook

Michelle says

ARC provided by author in exchange of honest review

?????5 Beautiful Stars ?????

How far would you go to fight for your love? Are you willing to go against all the odds stacked against you? And can love truly heal? In *Fractured Lines* by Jen McLaughlin, the power of love is the major theme of this book. True love is definitely worth the fight when you know a couple like Finn and Carrie truly deserves the happily ever after. These two battle all the odds and come so far in their relationship. And truly these two deserves that fairy tale ending. So what happens when lies, secrets, and denial could rip this couple apart? Can their marriage survive this difficult period in their lives or will it be left fractured?

Fractured Lines was simply moving. This book will grip you on the raw and real emotional aspect of what love endures. Love is not perfect. Love can hurt. But most importantly love can heal and save you. For Finn, Carrie was his medicine. She healed him in more ways than he could ever explained. His love for her was so real and raw that you felt every fiber of his love for her in his heart. As for Carrie, there was no doubt in her love for Finn. He was her soul-mate. Together they were each other's hope, heart, soul, and home. And in this book, this couple had to fight for their love and not give up. And Jen McLaughlin truly showcased that love isn't easy. Love is about trust. Love is an unspoken bond between two people. Love is respect. And true love is definitely worth the fight.

Finn and Carrie had to endure one of the biggest issue in their marriage. Trust. Finn's ongoing struggle with PTSD was one uphill battle that he tried so hard to overcome but when his signs of his PTSD and abuse of pills and addiction begins to act up again, more secrets and lies begins to add up. How many more lies can Carrie take?

Fractured Lines was definitely a book that you could not put down. I loved the emotional and heartbreaking journey, Jen McLaughlin takes her readers on. It was so raw and real that you felt every ounce of emotion being evoked from Finn and Carrie. What I truly love about this book was how real this book felt. It manages to show the power of love. And the true beauty of this book was that it illustrates love, trust, and respect are intertwined. Love is hard work. Trust has to be earned. Forgiveness is key. And asking for help is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of strength. Love is a battle. And Carrie and Finn proved that whatever stood in their way, they will fight for their love because this is no ordinary love. Its true love.

Jen McLaughlin

Rhea Dsouza says

I love romance novels – probably more than I love reading any other genre of books. I'm one of those girls who keep re-reading the end of romance novels to see how the boy finally gets the girl. I'm one of those girls who love the angst the characters go through and eventually, their personal epiphanies as they realise that they'd be so much less miserable if they were with their significant others.

But with Jen McLaughlin's *Fractured Lines*, I found myself sighing and sniffing every time the characters floundered and fell. There was hope for them—so much hope—but there was also a sense of loss of trust in each other.

Finn and Carrie are in love, but there's too much shit happening to them, all at once, that they're finding too difficult to deal with. An ex-marine with PTSD refusing to seek help, and his wife of eight years (who is a shrink) who cannot help but treat him as one of her patients.

Or so Finn thinks.

Fractured Lines is a manic fest of angst – on crack! There were moments I truly felt like this was the end for Finn and Carrie but they'd pull through and I'd be relieved. Temporarily, of course because it seemed like trouble found these two at every turn.

Finn was selfish and a liar but he was also vulnerable because of his recent trauma and almost obsessively in love with Carrie. She was both his weakness and his salvation.

With Finn's PTSD and his stubborn refusal to seek help, there was a point in the book where I actually wondered why Carrie even bothered with him anymore. Sure they were crazy in love with each other but Carrie was a mother and Finn had been careless with their child.

The last 20% was as stressful as it was heartbreaking. Too many chances of an end and after an unexpected death scare, my heart was in my throat and I couldn't breathe—I was so scared.

And the end? Fucking worth the pseudo air-hunger.

Finn and Carrie were a kind of couple that revolved around each like the Earth and the Moon—too close and yet, too far. *Fractured Lines* was literary brilliance and it can make you feel everything these characters go through—love, pain and of course, the theme of this book – hope.

Note: *Fractured Lines* is #4 in the *Out of Line* series but can be read as a standalone.

Find this review and more at Rhea's Neon Journal

Kim says

Find this review and more at **kimberlyfaye reads** .

We all love when our characters get what we assume will be a happily ever after (HEA), but sometimes what happens after the HEA isn't all sunshine, rainbows and kittens. No matter how much a couple loves each other, previous issues have a way of resurfacing and causing trouble a second time around. This is what we find with Finn and Carrie in Fractured Lines.

I should probably be mad at Jen for putting one of my favorite bookish couples through another relationship test, but the truth is, I was so excited to get more of them – and the book was so beautifully-written – so I'm happy she extended their story. Carrie and Finn aren't in a good place at the beginning of Fractured Lines. They're married and have a young daughter. Finn had been in a car accident and was dealing with pain from it, and some of his old habits begin to surface, unbeknownst to Carrie. Ultimately, he won't admit he's addicted to painkillers and Carrie can't put herself and their daughter at risk, so she asks him to leave until he can get himself together.

Fractured Lines was difficult to read at times because of the emotions. I'm so invested in these characters that it hurt me when they were hurting. And both of them were hurting in this book. Carrie was trying to come to terms with the fact that the life she thought she had with Finn might be a lie and could be over. She was wrestling with herself because she wanted to help put him back together, but knew she couldn't. It was something he had to do on his own. Finn felt abandoned by Carrie, yet determined to prove to her that he could change. He could battle his demons and win – and he would for her and their family.

One of my favorite parts about this book is the way Carrie's dad has evolved. Where, in the past, he was one of their biggest obstacles, in Fractured Lines he's actually one of their biggest allies. I loved this transformation and his support of them and desire to get them back together. It definitely gave me the warm fuzzies. Of course, the situation with Daddy Dearest also brought an unexpected outside force into the situation to complicate it further. I won't get into all that because you have to experience the suspense (and emotions that go along with it) on your own. Be prepared. Have tissues. And maybe wine or another adult beverage of your choice.

I'm so glad Jen decided to write this novel about Finn and Carrie. It was real, raw and full of feels. As much as I hated that they were going through yet another struggle to save their relationship, I loved getting more of their story. Fractured Lines was a gorgeous (and often seriously sexy) look at what happens after the HEA we're all so anxious for our favorite characters to find.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Lustful Literature says

**** JOSIE'S 5 STAR REVIEW ****

The Out of Line series is my favorite series, I read all three books and fell in love with Finn and Carrie. When I saw they were going to be getting another book I was smiling all the way home. I cannot get enough of the pair. Finn is my favorite BBF (I literally cream my panties when I read about him).

In the last book *Out of Mind*, Carrie and Finn got their HEA, but this story looks into their lives 3 years after they got married and now have a daughter, Susan. Then author shows readers nothing is always happy and when it comes to REAL marriages there is always ups and downs. She shows readers that life is about fighting, that at times you have fight to maintain your happily ever after. In the last book Finn dealt with PTSD and drug dependency. He had a really hard time and struggles with it to this day. I was left speechless while reading this book, I could not believe that the author took me on another emotional roller coaster ride and at the end of this book; I was left in awe.

From the first book in this series I was completely hooked. I got so wrapped in the characters that I forgot there were book characters and not real people. The author has a way of writing their story in a way that evokes such raw and strong emotions in me. There were times when reading this book that things got really tough and I was nervous and highly emotional. I cried, laughed, screamed, swooned and got angry.

Finn gets hurt on the job and during his healing process, his past demons (PTSD), comes back and plagues his mind. He makes a mistake that could cost him everything. Finn's mistake breaks years of firm trust between Carrie and Finn and hearts are left shattered. I love how the author approached the trouble in their marriage. She gave readers a mature Carrie and Finn that were willing to work together and not give up their marriage and their family.

Finn hates for Carrie to see him as weak while he is struggling and making mistakes. He does not want to admit to Carrie that he has failed. You can see the inner turmoil Carrie faces because she loves Finn with all her heart but she has a daughter now and she has to put her first. She finds it hard to trust Finn and once that trust is gone, how do you get it back?

“I swear on my life they’re not mine. I’m fine. I’m not in that place again.”

“You lied to me, over and over again. Why?”

“S, I’m sorry. I’m so sorry.”***

Just like the last book, Jen McLaughlin writes the topic of PTSD in a way that is raw, authentic and damaging. We can see Carrie's struggles in this situation as well as Finn's inner struggle to be the man for her and a dad for Susan that they deserve. I did not get bored reading how they fought to keep their marriage, love and family intact. In fact all I felt was the authenticity of their love and dedication for their family. In life, there are times that trusts are broken and if people are truly dedicated to one another they fight to gain that trust back. The author gives us such an example in this book. Yes when you marry, we go in thinking things will be easy but a strong marriage is work, gritty at times but work.

“I can’t lose you, Ginger. I’ve lived life without you, and I’ve lived it with you. I know which one is better. And I always have. I need you. If you keep pulling me closer, and reminding me what I could lose, I’ll get better, I swear it. And I know it’s true, because I can’t lose you again. I just can’t.”

I did not find Finn to be a weak character. My heart bled for him with his struggle and fight to overcome his PTSD and addictions. Throughout his fight, we saw the real Finn. The man that Carrie fell in love with and the man that will die for his Ginger and his daughter. Carrie does not want to walk away, she wants Finn and their marriage but she knows that she has to be strong for him and make him want to get help. I loved Carrie because she fights with everything she has, but she also does not lay down and let Finn get away with things either. If you have been following the series you definitely want to pick this one up. If you haven't then you need to start.

*“F*** you taste so good. You’re so read. So hungry. So mine.”*

“I always will be. Just take me.”

Evette says

I have missed Finn and Carrie. Fast forward time and we find them back in a place neither can handle and rocky wouldn't even begin to describe the terrain.

This book had a very different feel, more sexual, more anger, more pain perhaps? The description of Finn's PTSD is so clear. His pain broke my heart. But again why not bring Carrie in, why hold her so far away and allow the rift to grow?

Don't get me started on Carrie. She drove me crazy! Not because she is a therapist, not because she is scared, but with the way she is so completely untrusting and seems ready to walk away. Past behavior doesn't always predict future behavior. She comes across as so immature that I found it difficult to care about her. What she goes through is unimaginable, but instead of growing together and finding the strength in each other she pushes him away. Not so cool, where are those vows? What about the promises? If everything she is afraid of is true, then maybe she shouldn't be with Finn??

There were still many tears for me as a reader. Who doesn't want a HEA for the characters that have come to mean so much? But the connection between Finn and Carrie was tenuous at best for me. The sex was awkward and the story line stilted, so much painful push and pull. Story felt incomplete, yet gave some closure to their pain.

Jana says

OMG I CAN'T WAIT FOR THIS BOOK!!! More Finn and Carrie oh yeah :D

Francesca says

Finn e Carrie. Una storia dolcissima, bellissima. Questa novella è stata un piacevole epilogo dell'epilogo, passatemi il gioco di parole. L'amore non sempre salva tutto e aggiusta tutto, ma è una buona base di partenza.

Consigliatissimi, tutti e quattro i libri.

K says

This book felt like an afterthought, like the author originally planned on three but saw the success of them and decided.. "what the hell, let's extend it!"

Nah...let's not. The plot felt repetitive to what the couple had already overcome in previous books, the characters seemed immature and honestly there wasn't a real sense of the couple actually working through their issues. The ending was needed so the author sugarcoated it all and rushed it.

Not something I would read again.

Michelle says

2.5-3 stars

Oh man...

I guess I was expecting a little more from this book.

I wanted Carrie to have more of a tough love / backbone approach with Finn's issues.

Her being a therapist herself... And being in the condition she was in.... She was just not doing it for me.

She needed to insist right from the start & put down the ultimatum and a time frame... For Finn to get help...

If he wanted to stay with her and his daughter.

It was just so crazy!!

And I'm sorry... I wasn't feeling the whole BDSM scene in the cabin. They were never like that in the other books... It just seemed out of place... Considering where they were emotionally...in there relationship!

Maybe I would have been ok with it if they were in a good place in their marriage.. Being married for 8yrs..

Spicing things up... I would have been all for it.

But, they weren't... I think that's where the problem lies for me.

And I wasn't feeling the whole threat plot on Carrie. That whole story line just seemed out of place...

I wish this book had just been about Finn's problem & fixing their marriage.

Once the dr told Finn about Carrie in the hospital... I was done...

Totally unnecessary this whole book. This book just ruined it for me. I loved these characters. Flaws and all..

But this book...

Idk...

Just pissed me off.

I should have never read this book at all.

It was all unnecessary drama.

Should have just been about marital issues not all the drama that went on.

Ughhh... I'm so pissed...

The ending of this book...

Was just to cute. For all the drama that went on... I just felt it was all to fast towards the end.

Jamie says

I haven't read any of Jen's books previously so I was worried knowing this was a standalone of a line of her

books. I am telling you there was absolutely no reason to worry. In fact, I read this book in one sitting because I couldn't put it down and now need to read the rest!

I loved this story. It was real. It was not a sappy romance or all about sex. It was like a real life marital struggle that you get to witness. Jen had amazing character development in this story and even though it was set in the present, you were still able to walk away from the book knowing the history too.

The storyline was like a typical marital situation and was funny to read at some points and frustrating at others because you could tell it was about communication or lack of. Then again, isn't that one of the number one problems in marriage anyways? The irony, is Carrie is a therapist. You read her struggles on balancing work, family, and Finn's struggles. Finn comes across like the typical male that just doesn't want to deal with the situation and thinking it'll all be better if not there or if handled his way.

I highly recommend this book and it can be read as a stand alone with out giving away ties to the others in the series, which is a major bonus for me.

Nancy The book junkie says

Review coming soon!

All Romance says

PEPPER'S REVIEW

FRACTURED LINES is the 4th book in the OUT OF LINE series. However, it can totally be read as a standalone. I haven't read any in this series (which will be rectified immediately) and the book read fine for me. I just need more, so I'm totally going back to read the rest. So...

God Dammit. I don't even know how I'm alive to write this review right now. Because this book murdered me.

AKA - So. Hugging. Good.

Let me explain, or try to.

If you've read my reviews, you know I am not into writing real wordy and flowy descriptions of my feels. I often try to be funny and swear a lot and talk a lot about sex. And of course our staple here at ARR is to use GIFs to attempt at getting you to become part of the hilarity that is our friendship...

But, this book. It did something to my wit. It made me cry. Like about my own life. Hard. And for a long period of time. I'm not going to forget about this for, probably ever. Like, this review is basically a journal entry and a thank you note (of sorts) to JenMac for helping me release a lot of heartache.

OK. I know, I know:

And you're all probably going:

I'm trying...

So I'm in this weird place in my personal life, which made this book extremely emotional for me. And obviously judging by the lack of anything intelligent that has been said; it REALLY hit me hard. JenMac takes this HEA marriage and turns it into this raw, gripping insanity. And we see what life should be about (at least for me) for two people owning each other's whole being: LOVE. and passion. and soul mates. and best friends. and the absolute WANT to do what's right. and the NEED for someone. and actually not walking away. and putting the other person first so as to make things right.

Finn is a man. And he messed up bad. And, my God, how do you come back from that? But he's amazing and beautiful. And his intense love and need for Carrie is all encompassing. Like it tore me apart and then I just felt hope that it can be real? Finn's mess up is also something that hits directly at home for me. So the way that this was written - JenMac KNOWS what's up. I mean, just the conversation between Finn and Carrie when things go down. Was, SO REAL.

*sidebar - this book is written so well. This woman knows how to write. The dialogue and the inner voice. All of it. It felt just like my life. And all I can do is give you another GIF on how that made me feel:

It just felt like she was in my head...

And Carrie. When I recover, I'm going to read this again (and probably again) to get some pointers. This girl does not back down. And what she went through? Just the way the chapter read out when she finds out about Finn's fuck up. Holy shit. I was her. I felt all of it. She's not weak. And she doesn't bend - at first. And I respected and loved her for that. She was putting herself and her family first. We all need a lesson in that at times, I think. Carrie inspired me. Honest to God.

OK, even though this is the weirdest, most honest review I've written. I have to talk about the sex. Because, Jesus. I'm tearing up. What the hell did you do to me JenMac??? I just don't even know what to say. Because obviously it wasn't JUST sex. And, God, dare I say it was making love? Nope. It wasn't even that. It was like I need to get inside of every part of you. and not the "hot" kind of inside. But like becoming one person. I suck at this. But it almost felt ethereal for me. So, so amazing.

What this...

...interesting review is basically saying is: read this fucking book. All of it. 3 times. It may not hit you like it did me. But it is the hands down BEST writing I've ever read in regard to addiction and fighting for a relationship. I did NOT want to put this book down. But I had to. Because it made me feel too much. But I'm weirdly grateful for it. You know when you need that hysteria release?

Just read it.

Heather says

“The thing about trust is that it's a lot easier to lose than it is to build.”—Finn

Truth Finn. Truth.

Finn is struggling. He slips up and hates himself for it. Hates what could have happened but also hates that Carrie might see him as weak. Carrie feels for him but she has a kid to worry about and as Finn says once that trust is gone it's very difficult to go forward and get that back.

The thing about *Fractured Lines* is that Jen McLaughlin writes Finn's PTSD in such an authentic way that the reader can't blame Carrie for her reactions but can't blame Finn for what's happening either. The back and forth between them could have become monotonous but it doesn't because it's real. People say things they don't mean. People lose trust, have to gain it back. But this book might be one of the best examples of how sometimes stuff just happens and it's no one's fault. Finn isn't being weak. Carrie isn't being a whiny harpy. It's life.

When Finn “slips up” Carrie goes into Mom-mode. She loves Finn, doesn't want to lose him but has to protect her family, her daughter who has no one else to do it. But it takes a lot of work to get things that you want most back.

Fractured Lines made me laugh, “that V that makes smart girls dumb.” Epic truth right there. It has it's steamy which you expect from Jen McLaughlin. I mean Finn reading to you from a hot romance novel then doing exactly what he read is one of the most “yes, please” situations out there. But it also makes you feel. Even when I saw things coming, I felt horrible when they actually happened. What I loved most was that while drama was happening, changes needed to be made and help needed to be found, Finn and Carrie always thought of it in terms of us. It wasn't Finn. And. Carrie. It was Finn and Carrie. They wanted to make things better together. Even when they say they want to give up, they don't really want to give up.

I think my favorite scene in the entire book was between Finn and Riley. Finn needed Riley in that moment and Riley knew exactly what to say to force Finn to get his head out of his ass to get his family back where they needed to be.

And yes. At one point there was an odd burning sensation in the back of my eyes. I'm not a crier. Very few books have made me cry in my life so I know it wasn't the start of that. It's been determined that I suffer from allergies and needed to take a benedryl.

Yeah, someone could say that Carrie and Finn already had their HEA, which is true, they got that in the last book. But the thing about life is that Happily Ever After doesn't usually come easily. Sometimes you have to fight tooth and nail to keep your HEA. To keep your love going. And this is especially true with someone dealing with PTSD. PTSD can be a lifelong struggle. You don't go in “get fixed” and everything is sunshine and unicorn babies from there on out. Anything can bring it back.

Fractured Lines did a great job giving all the feels. All of them. Can't wait for Riley's book. Love him!

Also, it's hard to write reviews without spoilers. Sheesh.

Bethany says

Fractured Lines by Jen McLaughlin is book 4 in the Out of Line series. I haven't read any of the books from this series before. You can read this book as a stand-alone from the series. There is some recapping as to what goes on in the other books so you're not completely lost, but if you are wanting to read this series I would definitely start by reading book 1 Out of Line. For those who have read this series will probably really love Fractured Lines because their favorite characters are back. I'm not sure if they will be happy seeing their favorite characters go through more drama.

Finn's past demons come back to haunt him, causing him to slip up in a moment of weakness. That moment of weakness might cost him the family he built and love with all his heart. Trusts are broken along with hearts. What I love most about the story was that even though things are falling apart Finn and Carrie don't completely just give up, even when they think they might. They worked through it together.

Arc provided by the author for an honest review.

Polly says

I really think this book was not needed. It was the same shit different day. I swear that the same two sentences were like on every page. I was super bored and disappointed.
