



Breakaway

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As a member of the most powerful family history has ever known, thirteen-year-old Dan Cahill has been shot at, kidnapped, and even thrown into a pit with a deadly snake. He's survived it all due to luck, smarts, and his older sister, Amy, who always sticks by his side.

Now Dan and Amy are facing their greatest threat yet, an enemy who has found a way to use the source of the Cahill family power against them. To stop him, Dan and Amy must set out on a desperate mission that will take them from one of the world's hottest regions all the way to the frozen blast of the Arctic Circle. But with the enemy closing in , Dan finds himself facing the one terror he never imagined - being betrayed by his own sister.

Breakaway Details

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Author : Jeff Hirsch

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Alexis says

In a nutshell: more discoveries, more clues, more twists.

Notes: I'm starting to think the unstoppable series is quite forgettable.

Kh? Hân says

3.5 stars

Was about to drop out of this series, the ending hit me and now I have to know what will happen next.

Ughhhhhhhhh, good job Jeff!

This is such an improvement from the first one. More action, less pointless conversations. Best part must be the chapter in Pony's and April's povs. I want to know more about these two geniuses.

The thing is, I don't know if I can stand Amy and Jake for another 200 pages. Both of them are annoying and behave in a i-know-what-is-best-for-us way.

Melissa says

Actually I'm kind of bummed. I've read all the books in this series and am self-admittedly probably the only person over 40 who has read each of them in one sitting within the first week of publication. I haven't been able to explain why I like them so much since they are the same thing over and over - how many times can Amy and Dan just barely survive and why are they so smart that they've continued to outsmart all the bad guys?

This one might be my last. I've got no problem with the book itself. I'm just done. Too many for too long.

depletive says

Okay, look. I absolutely love the The 39 Clues series. I've read all of them. But Jeff Hirsch fell short in this book. Really, my rating for Breakaway is a 4.5.

Pros:

Jeff Hirsch did sorta rekindle the flame between Amy and Jake.

Jeff Hirsch wrote an excellent middle.

Jeff Hirsch answered a lot of questions of mine, believe it or not.

Jeff Hirsch emphasized on Amy's doubt and grief on Evan Tolliver.

Cons:

Jeff Hirsch wrote a horrible, atrocious ending.

Jeff Hirsch forgot a very important thing: AN EPIC CLIFFHANGER.

Jeff Hirsch reused the part where Amy almost dies. I mean, c'mon! It's getting a little old that Amy's always getting hurt or almost dying! Have Jake get hurt; it'll make it interesting.
Jeff Hirsch wrote too little on Pierce and focused a bit too much on the irrelevant things.

All in all, great book... But I would have liked someone else to write Breakaway.

Cindy says

I am not sure why I still try with this series. I guess its because I sort of liked the first and then it turned into a money grabbing empire.

I can't stand most of the characters. The stories are inconsistant with the previous books. Amy just pisses me off because she's a moron who has become some love sick puppy dog who thinks she knows it all. Everyone else is just as frustrating there is Jake who is a smirking jerk 90% of the time and I just sort of want to slap him a few times to knock the attitude out.

DIAPHA says

Hmm...I wish Ian was in it more...at least Jake/Amy isn't working out well!! YES!! >:D

Emma says

I am going to kill Amy before Pierce does! HOW COULD SHE DO THAT TO JAKE?!?!?!?!?!? And then she was going to make things all happy happy good good and then SHE DIDN'T!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And what's up with Fiske? What sort of meds is he on?

Lady Flo says

Have I mentioned that I HATE AMY?! Probably yes!
The book generally was interesting, but it was so much tedious and dragging thanks to Amy. There wasn't any real adventure except when Amy locked in the vault. The best part for me was Pony and April May POVs as they gave something different than usual stuff.

Tara says

[
Breakaway picks up right where we left off, with Amy and Dan on the run from Pierce's men and on the way to find the next ingredient, silphium, in Carthage. The attacks on the Cahills have become more extreme as all known associates of the Cahills are slandered in the media. Amy finds herself consumed by guilt and is

forced to take decisions with devastating consequences- even if it means abandoning Dan.

I have to say that Hirsch has done

Aafia says

BEWARE: SPOILERS AHEAD!

Yay. Another terrible book in the 39 Clues series. I honestly don't understand why Scholastic couldn't have made *Into the Gauntlet* the last book (of course, with some Amian added in to make it canon). But no, they find random unknown authors to write some angsty nonsensical action romance drama, further deteriorating the 39 Clues canon. And worse, THERE'S NO HOPE FOR AMIAN!

The Good:

...I'm drawing a blank here. Time to go look through the book again...

1) The hacker subplot.

Both April May and Pony are relatively intriguing characters, and the similarities between them are striking. Like, they both drink Electroschock Cherry Limeade in mass quantities, which I now really want to try even though it's probably harmful for your health. Pony does seem incredibly naive for a hacker, though, so I can't see things ending well for him, but there seems to be a possibility that April May just might switch sides... then again, she might totally exploit Pony's naivete and destroy the Cahills, not that I would really mind at this point. But of course, things will obviously go right because the Cahills are *so* perfect (not). But things seriously do always work out for them in the end.

2) Nellie as a scientist.

It'll be interesting to see how long she can keep on sounding intelligent and retain her head scientist position. Avogadro's law, Eppendorf tubes, and neutrinos are high school chemistry stuff that I'm learning right now, not "science gibberish". Impressive, "Dr. Gormey." (Now I'm starting to feel some sympathy for Nellie, though, because chemistry is HARD and I'm starting to wish moles were only animals.) Also, why would the scientists start putting sodium in everything just because Nellie said so? It's a highly reactive alkali metal that can explode beakers if you put it in water, but who knows... maybe those scientists zoned out in chemistry class too.

3) IAN KABRA!

He can obviously never stop being amazing. Ian is maybe the only constant good thing that's been a part of the series from the beginning. I wish he would stop pining after Amy, though. She's too far gone since she's obviously obsessed with Jake's "big stupid face that looks like it's carved out of marble" (this is a legit quote, guys!) and is having some... issues. Like, serious issues. But wait! "Amy's heart ached as Ian looked at her across the runway." ...fine, that quote might have been taken out of context, so Amy doesn't actually like Ian in that way. Not that she deserves him anymore. It's weird because I sort of ship Amian but I also sort of don't. To phrase that better, I ship old Amy with Ian because new Amy has horrible judgment and is rather irrational.

Wow.... even "The Good" section is filled with negatives.

The Bad:

1) Jake.

He's a non-endearing jerk (Ian is the endearing one), but he's perfect for Amy *gasp* (more on that later). And guess what? Amy thinks he has a "big stupid face that looks like it's carved out of marble" (sorry, but I'm not going to get tired of quoting that any time soon). HER EXACT WORDS!

2) Amy.

Yes, our beloved, shy and stuttering heroine from the first series is now a stubborn, irrational, and boy-crazy mess. She pretty much thinks everything is of great significance and overreacts. Example: Your brother has a flier for a clown school in his bag, which you just happened to be snooping inside. If you're Amy, to you, this must be a true sign of the ultimate betrayal on his part, and you're not the betrayer at all for distrusting your own brother so much that you have to rummage through his things. Dan and Amy's sibling relationship has gone from implicit trust to not even being able to look each other in the eye. Why are the new authors destroying everything good from the first series? Other than Ian, of course.

And then she just randomly makes stupid, self-sacrificial decisions just because *she can*. Amy doesn't have to make sense because she's the Cahill leader (sounds so much like my science teacher except for the fact that she's not a Cahill leader). Exactly who thought Amy would make a good leader? Fiske, who's going a bit crazy in some retirement home? Old Amy made sound and compassionate decisions but lacked confidence, while new Amy has plenty of confidence but is *utterly* lacking in common sense.

I mentioned earlier that I ship Jamy now only because both Jake and Amy are impulsive and make bad decisions. If they choose to make the bad decision to be with each other, then I'm happy for them. I only hope Ian finds someone who's worthy of being with him... maybe Sinead?

3) The 6 collectible cards.

Ugh, do they even *try* anymore? I've seen 7th grade guys in my former school's newspaper do a better job with Photoshop (and that was on a picture of Kim Jong Un's face). Enough said.

4) So many authors (this is about all the books rather than just Breakaway).

I think the saying, "Too many cooks spoil the broth" best describes my point, and by that I mean that each author portrays the characters differently, whether in a small or large way (like how Jonah's really talented musically and the world loves him but when he tries to entertain his fellow Cahill hostages in Day of Doom with his musical talents, everyone finds him really annoying. Or how Jonah varies in how 'gangsta' he acts). The first series and books 1-5 of the second series are pretty good about maintaining consistent personalities. But David Baldacci is not a children's author. Maybe Jeff Hirsch is, but then again, I've never heard of him before. Both of them make me wonder if they even read the other books in the series because of their ineptitude at writing realistic emotional scenes about the Cahills.

I'm sure there's a ton of negatives I could dig up, but unfortunately, I don't have my copy of the book anymore (pesky library due dates), so I'll just end my review here. It's weird though, because most people's reviews that I read are like, "Great job! Everyone is so in character," and then I wonder if they meant to review some other book...

Sorry if I sound too harsh about the book; it's just that I *really* don't like it.

Dani Shuping says

ARC provided by NetGalley

Amy and Dan Cahill have survived, no mean feat given how many family and friends have passed on around them. But a new threat has emerged, one that has power over the media, who will stop at nothing to overthrow the Cahill's and create his own army. And mass produce the serum to make the world his own. The challenges are greater than ever before for Dan and Amy and to protect those around them...Amy may have to stand alone before an unstoppable enemy.

I missed the whole 39 Clues series the first go around. I mean, I saw the books but just wrote it off as something that looked...hooky. But I read the first book in this series (it's the 3rd series) and instantly got caught up in the action and the intrigue. Two young characters just trying to survive and they get no respite from the enemies that surround them...and very few that will stand next to them. So I was eager and excited to read the next volume in this series...and I found myself walking away slightly disappointed. I don't know what it is, but having the characters scattered in different places and trying to remember where they were five chapters previously just broke up the action for me. It just wasn't as exciting as it was in the first book and it didn't feel like the plot moved forward as much as it should have...or could have.

Don't get me wrong, it's still a great series and I would recommend it without a heartbeat, but this one just didn't do much for me. I'm still looking forward to the 3rd book because I want to know what happens, but they're going to have to step it up a notch or two. I give the book 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Gkeller123 says

I am getting tired of Amy Cahill always feeling that she has to do everything herself to protect others. I understand why the authors do that, but I am getting tired of it. Glad the series is almost done. Starting to get tiresome.

Bridget says

The reason I didn't give it five stars is because I'm worn out on behalf of the poor characters. I wish they had let this series go. It was bad enough when they were just being run ragged and in danger all the time. Now they have to be falsely maligned and publicly humiliated, too? The books are still exciting and clever, but I just want all the problems to be solved and over with.

Elizabeth says

Why is Amy so annoying in this?

Afrah says

The Atlantis part of the book was kind of (just kind of) cool. Honestly, anything to do with Atlantis would gets me interested. However, leave it to Scholastic to write one series too much and ruin the whole goddamn idea. Seriously, most parts of this book were really boring, and it seemed as though the writer wanted you to go like "Wow this is so twisted and cool" when in reality it was like "That don't make no sense." Essentially, the book consisted of Amy's horrible decisions. Amy was a complete idiot throughout the entire book; she got depressed and mad over everything and started ordering everyone around because she was " the all-powerful Cahill leader". She was also a jerk to Dan and Jake. How can you be a jerk to Dan and Jake? They're so lovable...

Also, Amy punched a T.V. and almost punched everyone else like 3 times. She was just great in this book. So great...
