



Before I Break

Portia Moore

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Out of the past six years of my life, I only remember about half of it. After a dozen doctors and thousands in medical bills, I was diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder--one that causes me to lose track of time. Sometimes it's hours, days or even weeks with no recollection of anything. The good thing is it's been almost two years since I had my last 'black out'. It sounds much better than what the doctors refer to them as, 'episodes', like my life is a freakin' comedy.

During those two years of normal, I finally managed to get my Bachelor's degree, a job I love, and I've just proposed to a woman who has been there for me through it all. For the first time in a long time everything is on track.

Until a strange woman shows up at my door—she says I'm her husband and I think she's crazy. Until, I get a voice mail on my phone. It's from a guy name Cal. The weird part is, it's the same name the strange woman called me. What terrifies me, is this guy Cal...his voice sounds just like mine.

Before I Break Details

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From Reader Review Before I Break for online ebook

Christine Alibutud says

Note: I received an ARC in exchange for a review. Also, if you haven't read the first book, this review may contain a few spoilers.

"Things happen sometimes, where things just don't turn out how you hope. Or plan for."

Just when I thought this installment will feed me my much needed answer to that cliffhanger of the first book, turns out I was entirely wrong. Before I Break left me wanting more, and by more, I mean MORE! It left me hanging worse than the first installment, and needless to say, this was just as heartbreaking as the first one. Although, it was much more enlightening since this book makes use of Chris' POV. Also, it starts off just days before Lauren pays Chris--rather 'Cal'--a visit (This scene can also be read in the first book, but in Lauren's POV). You get to understand better the story through Chris' perspective, and some questions that I've raised in the first book were also answered when I read this.

"She turns around and her eyes lock onto mine. They're bright, hazel, almond shaped and won't let go of me, ethereal, wide and almost haunting. They make me feel like I've seen her before, or known her forever but that's impossible. She's not someone I'd forget. Too beautiful to be forgotten."

In the first book, it was already established that Chris has what we call Dissociative Identity Disorder or *DID*.

"Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), previously referred to as multiple personality disorder, is a dissociative disorder involving a disturbance of identity in which two or more separate and distinct personality states (or identities) control an individual's behavior at different times."

We get to see how Chris never knew he had this type of disorder because his parents didn't tell him. I understood better how he thought he only had like simple and temporary black-outs or some kind of amnesia effect. In this, we also see how he deals on coping with the knowledge that he has DID, and how he tries to face all the consequences of what has become of his disorder.

"Chris and Cal share the same body, but- The person you met today is Chris, not Cal. That's the reason why he reacted the way that he did. He truly doesn't know who you are. Cal is a separate personality from Chris."

Chris now tries to get to know who is this other alter of him, named Cal. He first hears him through a voice

message.

"I replay the message again and again. My hands won't stop shaking. The scary part is, this is the second time today I've heard the name Cal. But, what terrifies me is the voice in the message is mine."

I'll stop babbling about the story so as not to spoil the other good stuff **BUT OMG!** I so feel the pain of Lauren! How it hurts to be forgotten by someone you love--rather, someone you thought you loved. She fell in love and married someone who is not entirely "whole" and "real". Also, I really feel bad for her whenever she looks at Chris like Cal, but Chris doesn't really return her looks at the same way.

"When you look at me...it's as if I'm a burden...a problem, and you have no idea how much that hurts."

Add to the fact that Chris is in love with someone else and plans to marry another girl named Rachel. Yep, pretty much painful for Lauren.

"...You have his smile, his voice, his eyes...when I look at you...I can't help but see him. And it hurts knowing that you weren't the one who stole my heart when you first smiled at me, who took me bungee jumping on our first date, that you weren't the one who told me I'm the only woman you have ever loved. But you're...you're not him, and you're in love with someone else."

I really learned to love Cal in the first book, and you bet I was super upset when I learned that he wasn't really "his own self". **BUT!** I can definitely say I also learned to love Chris here. He wasn't what I first pictured in the first book, and I understood him better, especially through his POV. He was actually nice, sweet, thoughtful, and caring. But the thing about him that I like the most is that he was willing to take hold of his responsibilities, especially being a father to his daughter, Caylen.

"She lets go of Caylen's hand and she makes her way over to me and looks up with the same magnetic pull her mom has. She's smiling and I'm in love."

I really loved this book, especially its concept! I guess my only main issue about this are the grammatical and spelling errors, although I do understand those mistakes since I have the ARC version. Aside from that, everything else was on point for me!

AHHHH! But I am kind of conflicted with the romance part!! I mean, Rachel seems like a kind girl for Chris...but how about Lauren? I really ship her with Cal...but Chris is also Cal. And Lauren and Chris really seem to also hit it off at some point...**SO HOW?!** I guess I just have to wait for the next book! 4.5/5 stars for

this one!

"I will do everything in my power to make sure I never hurt her like that. I can't be who she wants me to be but I'll be the best man that I can, that, I know how to be."

Dilek VT says

4,5 stars rounded up to 5

Book 1,5 "Before I break" is a novella that tells the events that happened at the end of Book 1 from the hero's point of view as Book 1 was from the heroine's point of view only.

Now, the missing pieces of the puzzle are slowly coming together. We grasp more of the truth in this novella that complements Book 1 in the best way.

It is short (85 pages).

This book helped me to love the hero and it is a miracle since I hated him %90 of Book 1.

Writing:

This is written in the first person point of view (the hero's).

The writing is talented and it makes you feel.

If only there weren't so many editing mistakes. It really spoils the reading experience. (hence -0,5 point)

Now I am starting the next book... my heart thump thump thump....

Rin W. Vitale says

I don't know if i should hug you or kick you in the balls..

Sandra says

First and foremost, I would like to thank Portia Moore for generously providing me this novella for review, in exchange for an honest review. And boy, this review would be as honest as it gets.

"Upset, doesn't explain this. My life has been a lie. I don't have a life.

Okay before I start this review, I just want to point out... **How much that guy from the cover looks exactly like Cal in my eyes.** Nice choice for a cover! :) *drool*

Okay. So back to the review.

I didn't think this novella would bring tears to my eyes. I didn't see it coming. *I didn't see my heart breaking, not only for Lauren and Cal, but also for Chris.*

What a freakin' mess the whole situation was!

Lauren.

Cal.

Chris.

Jenna.

None of what's happening are their fault, somehow, I felt that it's mostly Chris' parents, but.. anyway... everything's just unfortunate. I'm just happy that book one, didn't end on that note. I am so happy there will be book 2!

If you haven't read **If I Break** yet, then this review might contain slight spoilers. But I would try to do the best I could, to not spoil you guys.

Like I said on my review of the first book, the revelations on what was happening to Cal was something I wasn't expecting. **It was a total shocker!** I felt bad, not just for Lauren, but for everyone involved in this whole chaos. Even Chris' fiance Jenna, I've learned to understand where she was coming from. On the first book, I hated her (even when none of this was her fault either), but I understood her side on this book.

Before I Break, is told in the POV of Chris. **Chris** was... so nice. It was amazing how nice he was. I mean nice as in good, in every fucking way. He doesn't swear. He's down-to-earth, without any hint of arrogance to him. He lived simply and loves deeply. **Cal**, on the other hand, I think inherited the not so good side. Cal may not be as perfect as Chris, but the good side of him came out when he met Lauren. Cal was arrogant and confident, qualities that Chris lacked. But the thing they have in common, was how much they were willing to sacrifice everything for love.

"I don't know how I'm supposed to deal with this... if I even can but I'm willing to try because of that little girl in that picture. I'd do anything for her, including giving up the only person I've ever been in love with..."

Are you guys curious yet?

I'm sure you guys are.

To bad I'm not gonna tell. **I'm not gonna spoil anything.** I promised.

But I want to tell... But I couldn't... I want you guys to experience the mindfuck that I had, while guessing what was happening to these couples. It's all very new.

If you guys are pretty curious, please go and grab the first book, and then dive into this tiny novella that you could read in one sitting. But don't be fooled, it may be small, but the emotions that you will get between the pages will seem real and raw.

Oh dear. What else could I say?

GO AND READ THIS!

If you're tired of the typical romance where the good girl falls for the bad boy that most romance novel has nowadays, then I definitely recommend you to read this.

Jacqueline says

Wow that was a short read. I was expecting this - book 2 in this series - to move the story on a bit, but it doesn't really. This is about adding layers of understanding and offering a fresh perspective. This time the fp narrator is Chris, so there are some eye opening New insights, but we're no further forward in time than we were at the end of the last book.

There's quite a bit of repetition in the scenes from the first book, something that was probably more noticeable because I've read both books in the same day (and even I can't forget something that quickly). I can't lie, that repetition did bug me a little bit in places, but I was kind of fascinated with Chris, or rather, Chris' 'voice'.

The author totally nailed the individual character's voice in this - Chris, Cal and Lauren are distinct characters and the fp narrative felt authentic and really enhanced what could have been a *deja vu* story into something special. Once again I was gripped by this and I have struggled to put this down.

This one is nowhere near finished and I still have lots of questions so I'm now looking forward to getting some answers and moving forward. I know how I want this one to be resolved, but this story has been full of surprises so I'll try to keep an open mind.

Farah *Professor Dean's Beauty* says

What a fantastic read from Chris POV!!!
I LOVE love LOVE this series!!!

Wil Loves Books! says

Definitely liked this one so much more than If I Break. Chris' POV was so much better than Lauren's. This plot is so freaking intriguing. I couldn't wait to keep reading it and trying to figure out all the secrets and also how this will end! It's hard to get into details without giving the plot away, but it's so good.

If you like audiobooks, this audio is narrated by my favorite audioporn Zachary Webber and it's absolutely perfect!

Viri says

Yep... ya está lista la reseña COMPLETA, o sea... de toda la serie jajaja en el blog, la hice en una porque me los leí de corrido. :D jajaja
<http://www.virivillarreal.com/2016/11...>

*Y como no se en cual libro poner el link... creo que lo pondré en todos jeje.
Por cierto, en cada reseña aquí en GR dejó algo relativo solo al libro :)*

Pues siendo sincera... podría habérmelo pasado Haha porque solo narra la historia desde el punto de vista del protagonista así que no hay nada nuevo. También sirve para conocer mejor a Jenna que creo será fundamental en El Segundo libro. Por lo pronto continuo está historia. Ya muero por saber en qué termina!!!

Nawal says

I highly recommend reading the first part If I Break before reading this otherwise you won't really have much of a clue as to what's going on.

So after having read 'If I Break' I was immensely eager to be able to learn what happens next. With the ending I witnessed (not a cliff hanger but still had this 'I wonder what happens next' feel) I was left bereft and excited to learn what route the next part would take. Let me tell you, usually I always make up some type of scenario or different outcomes which I feel may happen when dealing with a series. With this book it was simply not possible, I have not a clue whether Cal will ever return or not. So this novella proved to be an exciting follow-up from the first part and it did kind of satisfy my book needs.

This little story is told from the eyes of Chris. The previous part left me with many questions regarding the little secret that was revealed at the end. Chris was a mystery to me having just been introduced to him at the very end. Therefore through reading this I was able to decipher some of the issues that the previous book left me with. For starters I was able to figure out Chris a little better. The kind of person he is, what he has to

deal with and how in the dark he truly is about his life. The last scenes where a certain secret is revealed are retold from Chris' point; how he felt and what he thought. It helped relieve some tension that the storyline produces immensely. And I'm also left wondering whether Cal will make a return. I hope he does, I like that guy way better than Chris!

I don't know if it's just me but this story fucks with my mind. Am I the only one who thinks of Cal as a completely different entity to Chris? I don't know. I just ended up with a few questions in the end. How can we be so sure that Chris is the actual real personality and not Cal? Can they both not merge together and remember everything that took place?

My heart absolutely breaks for Lauren. There is not actually a solution to such a problem and there's nothing she can do about it. Except maybe to bring her husband back which she has every right to. I detest Chris' parents. The way they kept everything a secret when it was not their secret to keep in the first place. Even if it was supposedly for the benefit of their son it didn't make sense for them to keep something so major from Chris. I am rooting for Lauren and Cal to eventually find their happily ever after. I cannot wait to discover more about this story. November 1st that's a two month wait. I can do that right?

?i??iσρ?i?iα {?iηg???? & ?ø??η fσ??v??} says

....

What would you do when faced with a life who never knew you had? When you were told you were 2 separate entities? That everything you ever knew and trusted was a lie? How would you cope? What would you do? ... loved Chris's POV, so sad and confusing. Can't wait to see more.

Nancy♥The♥Bookaholic says

~~4 stars~~

wow!!!

Heather says

Maybe I should've waited to read this but I couldn't. So, now I'm sitting here crying again. This is such a sad story. I really fell in love with Chris and I miss Cal SO MUCH.

You'd think after feeling that choked up feeling for two books in a row that I'd need a break but no, I'm diving right into the next one now.

Brit says

Thank you to the lovely and amazing author for an ARC copy of Before I Break

Rating: 5 stars

Cover: 10

plot: 9

hero: 9

heroine: 6

series: yes

POV: 1st (chris's pov)

If it couldnt get any better. this series is just heartbreaking. this was in chris's POV only and my god I fell in love with him. more than I did in the first book and I cant wait for book 2.

You know that book that stays with you even after you finished it. well Before I Break is it. I read this novella in one day.. basically two hours tops but I was so engrossed it took me on a roller coaster of feelings.

It was just a well written beautiful story that is just captivating from the very first page. I can go on and on really about how this book just mad me weep like a little girl but it I do, I just might weep again..

I know its hard to write about mental illness because you have to do a lot, and I mean A LOT of studying on the illness but Portis Moore did one amazing job. She writes with passion and I love that because that's why her stories are always amazing, she gives the readers what they want. And that is a novel that takes them out of their lives and make them step in the characters shoes. We crave to step in the characters shoes. And Portia does just that with this story

Lisa (Two Bookish Brits) says

Oh my gosh, this series is beginning to break me. Chris' POV is heartbreaking. Going through something as insane as this must be terrifying and then there's his daughter too, what a cutie. I like that he's stepped up.

I'm so glued on this series and I can't wait to see what happens in the next book.

Im seriously hoping a visit from Cal is on the horizon, I wanna see what that would be like in this too.

? mary says

[image error]
