



## **Breathe Me (Me #1)**

*Jeri Williams*

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You know how you hear those stories about once abused kids growing up and overcoming the difficult life they have been dealt and becoming majorly successful like FBI agents or lawyers or something cool like that and never having any lingering problems?

Well this isn't one of those stories.

I used to know how my life as going to be, how I was going to live out my lifeless days, unloved and fearful. Hopeless to the possibility that life, my life could be anything better than what it is now. I knew that I would either give up, or give in, either one would eventually being the end of me and I didn't think that was so bad. I would no longer be constantly reminded that I was shit, and would be shit no matter how hard I tried in life. I thought it was all easier to just slip away.

But that was before....

## **Breathe Me (Me #1) Details**

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Author : Jeri Williams

Format : Kindle Edition 162 pages

Genre : Sociology, Abuse, New Adult, Dark, Contemporary, Romance

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## **From Reader Review Breathe Me (Me #1) for online ebook**

### **Tanya Rae ~ TaSTy WordGasms says**

Wow, wow, wow! This is a book you can read in an afternoon. I have to say Breathe Me will draw you in. This is Deklan's & Harley's story. It hit my heart and soul that someone would or could say they are a mother and do the things that she does to her own daughter. I won't say more and hope that I am not saying too much because I don't want to have any spoilers. Warning: This is a DARK book and there could be triggers so proceed with caution.

I really am so glad that I brought this book out from the cobwebs to read! Definitely 5+ stars I would give more if I could. "Breathe Me" has been sitting on my Kindle since last July. I had gotten just after I enrolled in Kindle Unlimited. I almost decided to just return it without reading. But, then I read so many 5 star reviews and decided this had to be a worthwhile read.

Oh and there is a cliffhanger!!! So the good news is the story will continue. The bad news is that now I wait for the next book! I will definitely read more from this author and I am now waiting for the next part.

\*Note: This book must not be offered by KU any longer. But, I think it is a reasonable price for this book and I would have bought it if it hadn't been offered by KU.

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### **Kirsty Turner says**

\*\*\* REVIEWED FOR SARAH & KIRSTY'S BOOK REVIEWS\*\*\*

Oh wow! Poor Harley! This book had me crying from the beginning. My heart broke for Harley and what she was enduring at the hands of her mum. Poor Deklan too, he has been through the same thing! This book started off with lots of drama and action; I was glued to my kindle. I literally couldn't devour the words fast enough. Both Harley and Deklan are incredibly damaged but have a very soft heart. The attitude they display is simply a mask for the outside world. It's a mask they both wear very well. I found myself having to put my kindle at some points as I was so angry on Harley's behalf. I have never wanted to hit a fictional character more than I did with Harley's 'mother'. The strength Harley showed at the end was heart-warming and I found myself cheering her on in my head. Deklan was the perfect alpha male. He was dominant but not in a sexual way. He was incredibly protective of Harley and so caring, which I didn't expect from him at all. He never once gave up on her, even when he could see Harley was having doubts. At some points it was like they were kindred spirits, destined to meet each other and save each other. I loved the ending. It finished the story perfectly. This is an incredibly emotional read but above all it's a story of hope and finding love when the person who is supposed to love you doesn't. An amazing job well done Jeri. 5 stars!

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### **Sabra Barowski says**

100 STARS!!!!!!!!!!

I AM SPEECHLESS!!!!

WARNING: this book is a very dark, very real exploitation of cruel and inhumane things that can happen to people. This book has content that is not for the faint of heart or who has triggers to certain topics. This isn't your rainbows and unicorns story. You have been warned.

Harley is numb. Numb to the everyday things she encounters. Numb to her feelings. Numb in her actions. NUMB.

Deklan is an ALPHA male, with his own issues. He found a way to live his life.

Harley and Deklan meet one day, and from there they kept running into each other. Until Kennedy ran...from Deklan.

Ember and Matt are secondary characters that are very believable. I hope there's a book about them.

I don't give spoilers so I must stop trying to write this review. I will tell you that this is the BEST BOOK I have read in a long time. You will laugh (not a lot), you will definitely cry, you will feel the pain. You won't be able to put it down until you find out what happens. You think you know how it's going to end, but YOU HAVE NO IDEA! You will want to scream and cry some more. This book is absolutely phenomenal.

My words do not do this book justice. I feel so inadequate trying to put together sentences that people will understand. This book left me speechless.

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## **Riza says**

5 Stars!

Shut the front door people! I will stake my claim Deklan is mine! THIS IS MUST READ JERI WILLIAMS book! \*Full Review to Follow\*

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## **Donna Porter says**

Harley worked in a bookstore and her only friend Ember worked for the cafe in the bookstore. Ember's boyfriend Matt Kane called his brother home because their mother was dying from lung cancer. Harley had a very hard life but she lied to cover it up. She let her bestfriend believe she was a trashy women. At twenty three she had never even been kissed but she didn't want anyone to know the life she had at home. From the time she was seven her mom started telling her how worthless she was and how much she hated her. As she got older she started beating her with her hands, belts or whatever was close. She always put marks where you couldn't see them. Harley's friend always invited her out with her and Matt but she always said she was busy with some guy. When Matt's brother, Deklan came home he ran into Harley at the bookstore and something about how wounded she looked had drawn him to her. This is a very good story but it is a cliffhanger into the next book. This book contains profanity and sex scenes and it can also be a trigger for some abuse so it may not be for everyone. You will love this book

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## Nikki ? Navareus says

### \*\*\*TWO STARS\*\*\*

I was pretty excited to start this story. Sweet girl abused by her mother, who has zero self esteem, getting saved by her prince in shining armor. What is not to love? Well, a lot apparently.

At first I felt deep sympathy for the abuse Harley went through at the hands of her psycho mother. It was horrible. She had been both extremely verbally and physically abused by her mother since a very young age, and I can see where she'd have no self esteem. But the psycho mother was evil as well. She enjoyed throwing her food on the floor and making Harley eat it off the floor; dirt, hair, lint and all. Totally disgusting.

Harley was a bit of a Cinderella really. She got to do all of the housework, all of the cooking and she worked to support her mother, as her mother lied so she could live off from government checks and never have to work at a real job. This gave her mother lots of time to come up with more sick and abusive shit to do to Harley when Harley was home.

Harley is now 23 years old and she works at a bookstore. It's kind of her sanctuary, and she finds stories there that will take her out of her dreadful life. Books being an escape, I **totally** get. But Harley still living with her mother at the age of 23?????

I just cannot fathom how she didn't get away from her. I get it that she's supposed to have zero self esteem, but there are women's shelters, people begging for roommates (Harley is the breadwinner in the family, but her mother steals her checks, and that shit would stop in a heartbeat if she'd just move out), and there are all sorts of government assistance programs that would have let Harley get her on her feet. Anyhow....I digress. This bookstore is where Harley first meets the constantly pissed-off Deklan. Harley's horny knight in shining armor.

Or not. He's a total male slut that screws every woman with 2 legs, two at a time, or one after another. It doesn't matter to him. He's just got to get laid. And he talks about it nonstop. And popping virgin's cherries is **NO BIG DEAL**, he's done it many times and it doesn't mean shit to him. He's a total perv, and not in a good way.

Deklan likes to call sex the term "Smashing". I don't know why, but I hated this term. Not to mention the fact that the Hewhore wasn't gaining any brownie points with me for all the women he screwed through the story before and even after first meeting Harley. He just wasn't sexy to me at all. And taking Harley's virginity was kind of....Well, let's just say that ramming it in on an innocent virgin's first sexual encounter isn't hot to me at all.

But, I digress...

Now that Harley is working in her bookstore, she's finally found a good friend in one of her coworkers named Ember. Harley hangs out at Ember's house with Ember and Ember's boyfriend Matt. Harley lies to them constantly about why they can't come over and why she can't go out with them regularly because of her deranged mother. Harley has a strange way of hiding what is happening to her at the hands of her mother. Even though Harley is a total virgin who hasn't even had a first kiss, she tells Ember that she (Harley) is the biggest whore in town. She fucks random men daily, gives blowjobs to anyone wanting one, has sex with more than one man at a time. Basically a walking STD.

Here's the hilarious part!! Harley actually gets all pissed off at Ember and Matt when they'd make jokes about what a slut Harley is. Even though they only believed this **BECAUSE** Harley told them she was a skeezy slut. Yeah, she's as mental as her mother.

But wait!! I haven't even gotten to the TSTL part of the story. Harley's mom finally abuses Harley with a knife, scarring up her body, and making it so apparent that a very furious Deklan figures this shit out. And since he's been abused as well, he instantly falls for Harley and decides to become her protector (this review is so long I haven't even gotten into his part of this story). He is livid and he tells Harley she is moving in with him, no **ifs, ands or buts** (because she has ridiculously argued that she just cannot leave her mother's house in previous conversations with Deklan when he's asked her to move in with him). But Harley, the genius that she is, tells Deklan she wants to do this **BY HERSELF** (you know, because there should be no problem with her psycho, knife wielding mother, and she tells Deklan to come pick her up in a couple of hours after she has packed up all of her shit (and he agrees...sigh). With this stupidity, I started to understand why her mother always slapped her in the back of the head earlier in the story.

It all goes downhill from there. Of course Harley's mother beats the everliving fuck out of her again. Who could have seen that coming?

Harley decides to OD on pills she's been saving up through the story, but Deklan shows up and saves her. He revives her, the ambulance takes her away to the hospital and NOTHING happens to the psycho mother at all. The ending was completely unsatisfying and now I have to read book 2 to see where the story goes from here. I kind of doubt I care enough to read it.

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## books are love says

Get the kleenex out for this will have you emotional. Harley and Deklan will really tug at your heart strings. Especially Harley..Her utter despair is just pouring off the pages and you so want to wrap her up and make her see she isn't what her mom thinks. She tries to protect herself from others by painting herself as something she is not and in the end this does hurt her. Not as much as her reality does but it does.

Deklan is a survivor. He doesn't have the hopeless despair pouring off of him like Harley but he isn't happy perse either. He is still emotional damaged by his childhood and in some extent his brother Matt who comes off as this sweet guy but seriously he is not nice he is judgmental and at times horrid. He judges his brother when he doesn't know everything that has happened and judges Harley without really getting to know her.

The only one who sees and I mean truly sees Harley is Deklan. And she tries to run. He doesn't let her in fact he tries to give her hope. She brings something into his world he never thought he could, would or should have and now he has fallen. Fallen for the beautiful girl he sees on the inside. His protective nature and calling her out on things was wonderful to see. He showed her she was worth it and gave a piece of himself to her. He wants her for her and this is so amazing and kind. He is a diamond in the rough.

The ending will tear you up. Poor Harley but Deklan you go. I do hope that these two make it. I have a feeling though Harley is going to be hard to get to see that she is wonderful and lovable. If anyone can it is Deklan. These two will change each other for the better.

A beautifully written emotional tale of one girls horror of a life and how one boy shows her kindness and is

there for her. Can't wait to see what happens next.

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### **Cathy Brockman says**

I echo the warning in the blurb -strong language and sexual content also abuse.

Breath Me is a compelling story about a young girl( Harley) that has been abused by her mom for so long she fears to leave. She lives every day in fear. It is also about a young man (Deklan)that has also dealt with child abuse from his father until he was old enough to leave. The abuse made him stronger but also hard. Breath em is not a sweet romance. However, there is a building relationship with Deklan and Harley; I still don't consider it romance. The language is very harsh. Every few words in Deklan's point of view is cursing, strong language and degrading women as sex objects. I will admit at first I didn't like this and though it was overboard as the story went on I saw it as Deklan's voice. I did have one issue though. The language was very rough yet when it came to the sex Jeri used words like her sex, her core, her heat. I found that odd since every word imaginable was used in nearly every sentence except the sex scenes.

The characters were very complex. I will admit at first I didn't like the characters. I found Harley strange. I couldn't fathom a 23-year-old staying through what she did. Deklan I found harsh, degrading, just unlikeable. The story line I liked even though it is harsh. I was drawn it at the very beginning and as the story progressed I warmed up to the characters after I found out what made them the way they are. The ending left me in tears and with hope. I cannot wait for the next one.

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### **Amie Morgado- We Stole Your Book Boyfriend says**

WOW this book blew me away. There is something to be said for those strong willed chicks in books. The ones that overcome , that don't need anyone. Well this is NOT that story , Harley is NOT that character and I honestly have to say she is a fave of mine. The pure innocence , the sadness , the troubled child in an adult body OMG she is heartbreaking and I don't care how weak she may act or seem the things she overcomes even when she is close to giving up , just WOW. This is not an easy read , there are some serious triggers if you have suffered abuse. You will laugh at times , you will feel the things most normal books make you feel BUT there is no mistaking the fact you will feel some real pain and heartache. Be prepared this is not a pretty story yet something amazing and beautiful does come out of it. I look forward to more.

Harley has been suffering her whole life at the hands of her mother. Love does not come easy or at all for Harley. She functions as a normal person would , a few friends , a job and she pretends to have this great adventurous life. Sadly we find out it is all a lie. Lying is easier than facing the truth. You can't help but break for this girl. Why doesn't anyone notice , why does she not do something about it , why has this gone on so long and seriously WTF is wrong with this mother ?? The same time we meet Harley and fall in love with her Deklan blows into town. He is a force to be reckon with , a chip on his shoulder , a tendency to smash and run LOL , I do love that saying !! So of course when he runs into Harley you can imagine the sparks. Two opposites , or so we think. The bad boy with too much experience under his belt and the innocent broken girl that lives through the books she reads and knows what a man like Deklan is capable of but doesn't think she deserves any of that. BUT heck yes she wants it and wants it badly. Here begins the journey , the rollercoaster ride. Deklan is in town for a reason , sadly not something he wants to deal with. We know his brother as Ember's boyfriend Matt , Ember being Harley's BFF. Here lies the connection.

Surprisingly all on their own Harley and Deklan forge their own bond , their own way and we slowly get to know them both although it is painfully slow. Through their suffering they open up to each other and you will break before you heal reading this story.

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### **J.A. Heron says**

Could not put this down!  
Absolutely brilliant!  
Gripping and thought provoking!  
Beautifully written!

These are just a few thoughts that came to me in reflection after reading Breathe Me by Jeri Williams.  
I award ?????  
I am eagerly awaiting the next instalment BTW.

Harley is a very intelligent girl. Her love for books and music are her anchors. They keep her grounded, they keep her happy(ish) and they keep her sane.  
This beautiful young lady leads a double life. To her friends she is one person, but behind closed doors she is another. It's the behind closed doors part that I particularly hate. The things this girl goes through should never happen to someone so loving. Especially by her own mother!  
Some parts to this story I found really hard to read, but I got through the abuse, making me fall in love with the characters even more than before.

Harley meets Deklan (our very delicious hero), a troubled and misunderstood soul in his own right. They form a friendship initially, but there is attraction on both sides. They form an unbreakable bond and they become kindred spirits, sharing secrets and each teaching the other how to love.

I was really attracted to this book by the blurb, as it sounded right up my street. I cannot recommend this book enough and it is the perfect read for those of you who like your romances with a twist, about tortured souls finding each other.

Hurry up Jeri... I will definitely be reading the next in this little gem of a series.

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

**4.5 stars!**

I was originally going to do a promo for this Blog Tour and not a review, but after thinking it over for a few hours and reading some ARC reviews on Goodreads, I decided to do a review! The synopsis intrigued me and the cover is stunning! I'm so happy I decided to review this book! I really enjoyed it and it dealt with some tough issues that at times were hard for me to read! It was very intriguing though because it made me want to find out what was going to happen next and whether the main female character was going to tell someone or leave! I also read this book in a few sittings! It would have been one, but I had to force myself to put the book down to go to sleep lol! The plot was written very well! There were some horrible scenes that



made me want to hit the main character's mother, but then there were some seriously hot scenes too, so they kind of evened each other out in a weird way lol! The plot also developed at a really good pace and held my interest all the way through! The characters were also amazing! Harley was the main female character, and my heart completely went out to her in this book! She was mentally and physically abused by her mother and she was scared to tell someone or leave her mother! I kept hoping that Harley would pluck up the courage to leave her mother in this book, because I couldn't understand why she stayed, but I guess all the mental abuse had a huge impact on her and her mother kept telling her that she had nobody and that she couldn't be loved! I loved Harley though! She also had a façade on when she was with friends, which again made me feel sorry for her because she couldn't be herself, but there was one guy who saw through Harley's facades! Deklan was the main male character and love interest of Harley! I have to start by saying that Deklan thought more with his dick than what he did with his head in this book lol, but he did start to think more with his head as his relationship with Harley progressed and he found out what was going on at home with her! Deklan was also seriously hot, but he knew it lol! He had also been through a lot and he had suffered abuse at the hands of his father, but unlike Harley, he managed to escape from it, so he tried to help Harley escape too! I did love Deklan, but I wish that he hadn't thought with his dick so much because that put me off him a little lol! I wasn't sure if this book was going to be written from dual point of view, but it was! I loved the book being written from both Harley and Deklan's point of views! It made the plot even better and it helped me connect more with both characters! I can't wait to read the next book in this series! The ending of this book was left at the perfect place, so I can't wait to find out what's going to happen next! As I said, the cover for this book is stunning! It's light and dark, which definitely suits the feel of the book and I love it! Big thank you to Jeri for an ARC of Breathe Me and to Book Enthusiast Promotions for having me on the Blog Tour!

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### **Michelle Ferrari-Johnson says**

\*\*\*\*\*This book deals with abuse and all the scars that come with it\*\*\*\*\*

This book is heart wrenching. This is not for someone looking for a light read or a way to escape reality. This story is about children who are abused and the many different ways in which they handle/escape it.

Harley is a 23 yr old woman who has grown up with her mother's hands and spiteful words her entire life. Her mother is very abusive, mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. She is the epitome of scum of the earth.

Harley's entire world is spent in fear on a daily basis and no one has ever stepped in to rescue her from the turmoil. That is, until she meets Deklan.

She literally runs into Deklan at the bookstore where she works. Somehow, Deklan has become pulled towards the innocent and terrified Harley. He keeps running into her everywhere it seems, in his home town.

Deklan has grown up in his own abusive household. Escaped the clutches of his father and has only returned as his mother is dying. He has become so entwined with Harley and the need to protect her that he has made it his mission to find out who has her living in so much fear.

This story deals with so much pain and anguish. It delves into the psyche of those abused and how they react to the outside world. Many go unnoticed in society because people still do not want to get involved in something so dark and evil.

This will make you, the reader, run the same string of emotions, including anger and wanting to lash out towards those conflicting the pain. It is a real eye opener and actually perfectly depicts the pain and suffering of those who are abused. Not for the faint of heart but definitely for those who care to learn

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## **JESSICA says**

***"I Think It's Time That You Should Know All The Damage You've Done To My Soul Everything Is In The Names That You Call Me (Every Hurtful Thing You Say) Everything Is In The Things You Do (How Could You Be So Cruel?)"***

I stumbled across this book by accident. I swear Amazon is like my best friend. Amazon always seems to recommend books to me (that I can relate to, been and going through, etc.) I stepped out of my comfort zone (and I'm glad I did) the things that were mentioned weren't too graphic! Thank you for that, Mrs. Williams..

This book violently twisted my gut, heart, mind and soul. While you are reading, get the tissues ready (I recommend the ones with lotion) This book made me ugly cry! It touches on emotional and verbal abuse, mental health and self love. Mother/Daughter Issues... And finding Love..

This book is about a beautiful, broken and innocent young woman, Harley, 23 yrs old, and ever since she could remember, her mother has emotionally and mentally abused her. Harley, has never known what **LOVE** is... Always anger, cruel words and hate. Her mother, I swear, I wanted to jump in my kindle and show her a thing or two. I'm a mother of "3" and I love my children with all my heart and it makes me so livid when I hear or read about another mother hurting her children... (view spoiler) Harley - She works in a bookstore.. Daydreams and lives out happy moments through her books. Her books take her away from the stress and horrors of her life....

Until she meets the gorgeous bad boy, Deklan. Okay, this man right here (Damnnnnnnnn) I swear, he is my new book boyfriend. What can I say about, Deklan... Well he is an arrogant alpha-man-whore! Doesn't do relationships or love. A hit it to quit it type. But before you judge him, he has demons he is fighting... A poor childhood that has hardened him. He comes back to the small town he hates (because his mother is dying) And trying to waste some time, he stops at the bookstore, that Harley works... And everything changes for these "2" lost souls..... I loved how Deklan was so dominant and extremely protective of Harley. How he wanted to break down her walls and show her what love is.... And I loved how Harley, broke down his walls..

Two Broken Souls Meeting And Merging Together... As One.

**For Deklan and Harley - Falling In Love Was Never Part Of The Plan.**

Highly Recommended! A Most Definite Read.

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## **Theresa Kelly says**

Breathe Me ...is... Everything. This book is so well written and grabs you instantly. Jeri introduces us to her main character, Harley, and we instantly want to know her. Harley is a beautiful, intelligent young woman, but she will never see that. Harley's mother is the anchor holding her down in life, in the worst way possible. It seems Harley will never know her real potential in life, since her mother tears her down (to say the least) every chance she gets. Harley puts up her walls to shield everyone from her home life. Even her best friend really doesn't know her. We wonder if anyone will ever actually awaken Harley to see herself for who she can really be...and then we meet Deklan. A misunderstood guy in his own right, who turns out to be Harley's kindred spirit. The back story of each of these two characters is gripping and when they come together ... FIRE happens. Will Harley, for the first time, let someone in? Will she see that Deklan is the one who can understand her? This story will have you from beginning to end...and leave you wanting more. Is there Anything you can do Jeri to not leave us hanging!?

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## **Kelsey says**

Where do you start with a book like this? Jeri Williams blew me away with this novel, and I seriously cannot wait for Hurt Me to come out. This is not a novel for weak; if you have any sort of triggers, I would not recommend this book. If you have a thing for tough backgrounds, tough love, and overcoming that part of you life, by all means - GRAB. THIS. BOOK.

Harley has never known the love from another human being. At the age of seven her mother began hating her - in the worse way possible. If anyone as so much attempts to touch her, she flinches. A raised voice has her running the other direction. Being dubbed the town slut - partially from her own doing - she does everything she can to stick to herself. This includes endless hours of reading the romance novels she so wishes she could run away into. Working at the local bookstore helps her escape for a short while from her Monster, but it never lasts long. When she meets bad boy Deklan, her world falls apart in the best way possible...

Deklan is a sleep with them, and ditch them kind of guy. There isn't a gal he won't screw, and he admits it more than anyone else in the world. When he returns home for a very saddening reason, the last thing he intended to do was to fall for a girl that plays hard to get. Deklan is your typical bad boy; has the bad boy looks, a rough demeanor, and has had a rough past himself. But none of that stops him from showing up, and being there for his family (those that want him there) when they need to be. When he accidentally meets Harley, his life unravels, and he is determined to take care of her...

This was a great read. I was intrigued the entire time I read it, and honestly, I didn't want to set it down. Like I said above, it can have some rather detrimental triggers for people that have gone through a tough past life. Jeri did a wonderful job with the characters. I, as the reader, could feel the passion between Harley, and Deklan. The fireworks show that exploded after their initial encounter was phenomenal!

A definite must read! Congratulations to Jeri Williams on a wonderful book!

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