



She Left Me Breathless

Trin Denise

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Sydney Welsh is a self-made millionaire. She is successful, confident, and seems to have the world at her feet but something is missing. Her life is a catastrophic mess and the reality of her situation sets in when she arrives home from a business trip and finds her lover in bed with a female executive from her company. She realizes that the only woman she has ever loved was Rachel Ashburn and that ended thirteen years ago when Rachel made a choice, a life-changing choice that did not include Sydney. Sydney knew she could compete with another woman, or even a man for Rachel's love, but how can anyone compete with God.

Now with more money than she knows what to do with, she puts an elaborate plan in motion to bring Rachel back into her life. She tells herself that she is doing it for revenge, and hiring business wiz-kid Caitlyn—Rachel's nineteen-year-old daughter for an internship with her company is a key part of that plan.

She learns that it's okay to make plans as long as you don't plan the outcome and when an embezzler is suspected inside her company, she makes several miscalculations and unknowingly puts Rachel and Caitlyn's lives in danger.

As with all best laid plans, things can go wrong and once again, Sydney finds herself falling head over heels in love with Rachel, the only woman who had the power to leave her breathless.

She Left Me Breathless Details

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From Reader Review She Left Me Breathless for online ebook

Starsandsun18 says

3.75

Lynn says

I liked this book. About lost love, intrigue, embezzling, and how strong women can be.

Diane says

after going bck n re-reading this book i realize that it's not as good as i thought it was, this had so much potential from the start but then went downhill n kept going, the title donot match the story, it's misleading, it's ridiculous and frustrating what the storyline was all about..you go what!!!

Joy says

this book was well written. Read it in one day. I was totally surprised at who the embezzlers ended up being. Would highly recommend this book.

Elf M. says

"Abuse of power comes as no surprise." - Jenny Holzer

She Left Me Breathless by Trin Denise, is billed as a love story, but the overarching theme of this book is much more about getting away with the abuse of power.

Sydney is a high-powered CEO and owner of a company that produces specialty office hardware and software products. Rachel is the woman she loved in college 13 years ago; at the time, Rachel had a daughter, Caitlyn, aged 6; as the book opens Rachel is married, living a heterosexual life, and has a second daughter.

Sydney has never forgotten Rachel. She hires a private detective to investigate Rachel and collect as many manipulative levers as she can to crowbar Rachel back into her life. She hires Caitlyn, now 19, straight out of high school. Caitlyn is supercompetent in that way only people in novels can be. (In fact, Sydney is surrounded by so many hypercompetent women she either nicked them from a Heinlein universe or Vorkosigan House.) Sydney buys the company Rachel works at just to get closer to her. Ultimately, she blackmails Rachel into a close professional relationship with her by threatening *Caitlyn's* job.

If a man did that-- no scratch that-- if *anyone* does this in the real world, it's sexual harassment. It's stalking. It's bullying. And it's blackmail. At one point, after Rachel has made it clear she's faithful to her husband and her church, Syndney briefly contemplates taking Rachel into her arms and forcefully kissing her. The term for that is "*corrective*" sexual assault, and it's no different from when a man or woman forces him- or herself on a homosexual of the opposite sex in the belief that exposure to a "real man" or "real woman" would "cure" them of a false consciousness. (To be fair, Sydney doesn't do it, but not because she has any moral qualms about it; she just doesn't think it would work.) Everything the gay and lesbian community has built around the ideas of the culture of consent and the equality of all persons is cheerfully ignored in this book. Everything my time at Queer Nation taught me is sacrificed to get these two women into bed with each other.

The villains are all mustache-twirling idiots, even the female ones. With rare exceptions, the men are all incompetent, foul-mouthed, drunk, or generally bad dudes.

And when it comes to character growth, well, there is none. Sydney gets what she wants and isn't chastened for or by her bad behavior. Rachel is a dishrag to her upbringing at the beginning of the book, and a dishrag to her infatuation with Sydney at the end. In the middle there is a lot of painful exposition about an embezzlement scheme that drives one external conflict (you know the type, "I suffered to do this research, and dammit, you're gonna read it, because I need word count!"), a lot of as-you-knows about how rich and powerful and wise and wonderful Sydney is. Ms. Denise could write crackling good dialogue if she knew when to turn it off, because when she starts she goes on and on in a "see how clever I am" bantering way that may work for sitcoms but not for literature. And I don't think she's spoken to an eight-year-old, not even an excessively brilliant one, since she was eight years old herself, because *that* scene was painful to read.

But all is forgiven for love, and the love scene is actually very good. Too bad it's really the only thing the book has going for it. It can't save the mundane plot, the characters I couldn't root for, the themes I could not in good conscience support, and the anvilicious writing style.

Michelle Warner says

Trin Denise did it again!! She Left Me Breathless is Trin's second novel and is just as good as her first (Worth Dying For)! Again, she really develops her characters and researches her subject matter. She touches on some heavy subjects - domestic violence, religion, embezzlement, and more! Another great story line with lots of twists. I didn't see the end coming. Brilliant! I loved her character development and her "supporting" characters were a perfect fit! Again, I don't think you will be disappointed.

Diana says

Action, romance, suspense, angst, all in one. Really nice book. The story captures you from beginning to end. And although there are unnerving/frustrating moments or some situations are simply hard to understand, there are also very nice and interesting moments that create a good balance in the story. Recommend it.

Beth Stone says

I finished this book in less than 8 hours and it is now on my top 10 list. Not only did I get and enjoy the characters, but it had an intriguing plot twist... A definite read - reminded me of love I lost that I would do anything, even come up with a crazy scheme, to get it back.

moxieBK says

This is the second book I've read by this author, and again...this just falls so short of what I thought it was going to be about. The writing is fine in this story, but it spends more time being about revenge than it does about the love and healing part. And where was the "breathless" part? Unless it was me, the dear reader, that was left breathless by being so not in awe of this story. A disappointment. Still, I will try another story by this author. I've heard many good things about her, and I keep wondering what is wrong with me that I so dislike her stories. Maybe the style of writing? I just can't get into any of her characters. They seem so one-sided and mean at times. That's not enjoyable for me.

Two stars.

Nikki Angel says

The book is my first from this particular author. The title caught my attention, and it was a quick read. I found the two leads interesting, and some of the secondary characters. I don't want to give any spoilers away, but I wish there had been a bit more about their past interactions to clue the reader into what made Sydney (the main character) cling to her love all those years. So, I guess there were parts I thought could have been "fleshed out" better. While, I can't say it left me breathless, it did leave me curious to try another of Denise's books, as I think she's a decent writer, and the story was a nice escape from reality.

Terry Baker says

Millionaire, Sydney Welsh, has a life most of us can only dream about. She has everything money can buy. Her businesses make money faster than she can spend it. But.....she doesn't have the one thing she truly desires. The woman she loves and lost. In fact, Sydney's personal life is a shambles.

When Sydney returns home early from a business trip and finds her lover of ten years in bed with a woman from her company, Sydney decides it's time to make some changes in her life.

Sydney knows she's only ever loved one woman, Rachel. Unfortunately Sydney was dumped by Rachel thirteen years earlier. Not for another woman or even a man, but for God and the catholic church. Sydney just couldn't compete.

Sydney sets out with an elaborate plan in mind to entice Rachel back in to her life. Part of Sydney's plan is hiring Caitlyn, Rachel's computer whizz kid daughter.

But plans are apt to go awry and Sydney has no way of knowing that she is putting both Rachel and Caitlyn's lives in danger. When Caitlyn discovers an embezzler within the company, Sydney's plans begin to fall apart. Will Rachel and Caitlyn escape with their lives?

It's not long before Sydney realizes she's never stopped loving Rachel. How will this fit in with her plans?

I loved Trin's first book, Worth Dying For, I didn't think her writing could possibly get any better. How wrong I was. I simply couldn't put this book down from the start to the finish. What a page turner. I admit I was a little bit apprehensive when I read the synopsis. Not being religious, I wondered how much of the book would be devoted to religion. The answer is very little, although religion was the reason for Rachel and Sydney's break up.

The story covers so much, a love lost and found, kidnapping, abuse, embezzlement, murder and at the very heart of the book is romance, a smoking hot romance.

The story is told with a terrific sense of 'laugh out loud' humor throughout. I was kept constantly guessing as to the identity of the embezzler. I did have my own ideas, I was wrong though and very surprised when the embezzler's identity was revealed. I love books that keep me guessing.

This book is simply amazing.

I love the characters and the way they seamlessly interact together with each other. The story is fast paced and kept me on the edge of my seat.

Trin Denise has the ability to allow the reader to view the scenes as they unfold. It's like being a part of the story while watching from the side lines. Very cleverly written.

I see that Trin is working on another book due out later on this year, it can't be published soon enough for me. This is another definite re-read.

Trin is, in my opinion, going to become a big name in lesbian fiction. Her writing and story telling are superb. Each year I seem to discover a new jewel in the crown of lesbian fiction, this year it's Trin.

Amy says

I don't have to write much to tell you what I thought of this book. I started reading this sometime yesterday afternoon and I am finished already, need I say more. And I actually got some sleep in there somewhere.

Yoly says

Great plot. Unpredictable story.

Nka300 says

It's been a while since i've read it, so i can't remember much.

I really like this concept, so had high expectations. It could've been better and has much more potential.

Beth says

Trin,

I have enjoyed your writing on the 2 books I have read so far... I will read more!!!

Beth
