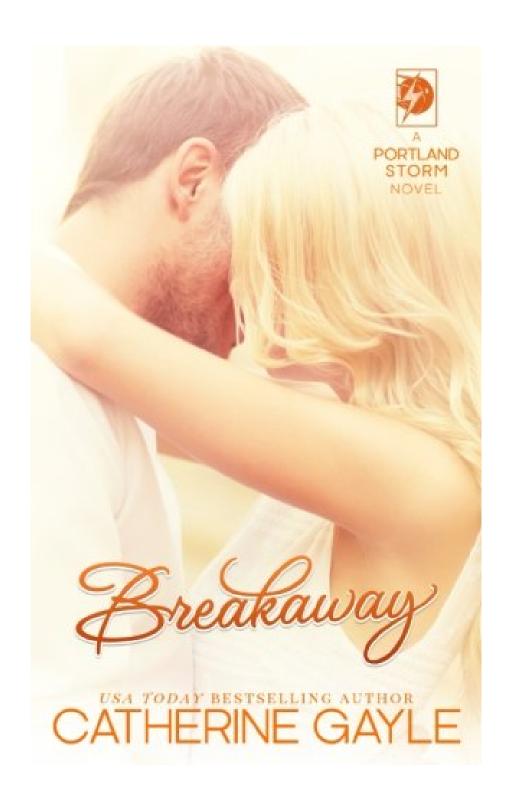


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USA Today bestselling author Catherine Gayle presents the first novel in the Portland Storm hockey romance series. Portland Storm captain Eric "Zee" Zellinger knows how to get the job done, but leading his once elite team to victory is fast becoming a losing battle. He can't lose focus now—not with his career on the line. But when his best friend's little sister makes him an offer he can't refuse, Eric could lose the drive the team relies on from their captain. Still in a downward spiral after a life-altering event in college, Dana Campbell is desperate to try anything to break away from the horror of that fateful night—even enlisting the help of the only man she trusts completely. No matter how irresistible she is or how tempting the offer, Eric might not be able to cross that line—especially with the team's chance at the playoffs on the line. Now, Eric has to take one last shot, but will he choose Dana's Breakaway chance at happiness or the move that could secure his career?

Sales Rank: #2772009 in Books
Published on: 2015-07-10
Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 8.00" h x .72" w x 5.00" l, .70 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 318 pages

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BURY THE HATCHET

**SMOKE SIGNALS** 

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Most helpful customer reviews

55 of 58 people found the following review helpful.

A very good book on a difficult subject

By Sandy Milan

I will say that if I'd know the premise of this story, I wouldn't have bought the book. I'm going to say it here so that others can make the choice for themselves. Not everyone wants to read about such a sensitive subject. Having said that I really did enjoy the book and have downloaded the next one in the series already.

### +++Spoilers+++

The h was gang raped when she was in her late teens and since then has not been able to let anyone touch

her. She's had years of counselling and therapy but can't move past the incident. She wants a relationship and children and her therapist suggests that she choose someone she trusts to initiate her to sex. She chooses her brother's best friend who is the Captain of a hockey team. The H has always had a thing for the h but she doesn't know it and he never acted on it because initially she was too young. It's a very difficult thing for both of them to go through but the H finally agrees to help her and she moves to be with him for a few months before she has to go back to work.

I adored the H. He must be one of my favourite Hs ever. My heart broke for the h too after everything that she'd been through. Although it isn't an easy subject, this is a love story and I do recommend it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Such a great love story about overcoming trauma and learning to trust By Alex

Interests: Contemporary Romance, Hockey

### **Quick Summary**

After a life altering event in college, ex-hockey player Dana Campbell has quietly drifted away from the life she always wanted. Trust comes hard for Dana and with her panic attacks and anxiety, being around other people, men in particular is hard. Ready to take back her life, Dana reaches out to her brother's best friend, professional hockey player Eric Zellinger. Eric loved Dana but waited too long to do anything about it; now he has a second chance to fix it. But things won't be easy with Dana and it's a hard road to recovery.

### What I Liked

Where to start...I loved this book! The content and set up for the book is very heavy and incredibly sad but that just makes the ending that much sweeter. I can't begin to imagine the pain and suffering that someone goes through when they are a victim of abuse and for once I feel like an author did this experience justice. Too often a heroine in a romance novel is a victim but once they meet their love interest it's like nothing happened to them in the past. Do I believe that love can heal a lot of wounds? Of course! Do I believe that someone who's been through a nightmare deserves to have something easy in their life? Of course! But sometimes a little realism means a lot in a story. Dana suffers from panic attacks and anxiety to such an extent that she can't even hold hands with a guy. She has completely isolated herself; she dropped out of school, stopped playing hockey, works at an all female gym and hasn't even thought of dating since her attack. It's a genuine struggle for her to trust in Eric and begin to find herself again. I loved how determined Dana was, even when it seemed like the odds were against her. Gayle doesn't just magically heal her; it's a battle from day 1 for Dana to overcome her trauma.

And then there's Eric...sigh...he was so amazing! I couldn't ask for a better hero in a romance novel. I've always liked the sweeter, nicer guys in books. I never understood the trend of bad boy players with over developed alpha tendencies and a mean streak. That's just not attractive to me; Eric is much more my speed. He's a tough guy on the ice and he knows what he wants in life but he's not afraid to be a normal guy, with normal feelings. He's so gentle with Dana and so concerned with hurting her or making her anxiety worse. At the same time he trusts Dana when she says she can handle something. Reading about Dana and Eric together was so great and you can't help but desperately want things to work out ok for them. There's not a lot angst in this book, outside of Dana's panic attacks. Though there's a lot about the hockey season included, this is essentially a book about healing and trust.

#### What Needed Work

This book worked so much for me so there really isn't anything I didn't like. I was mildly annoyed with how oblivious Dana is about Eric's feelings. She knows that Eric loves her but she mistakenly believes it's the

type of love you feel for a sister. I guess with her lack of experience I can maybe understand why she would believe that, but still. Of course, this was only a small annoyance and didn't detract from the story at all for me.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Real. Love.

By J.Mo

I wasn't sure what to expect with this book. I got for free, started reading it and then for whatever reason, I stopped. Over the next couple of months, I think I even tried buying it again because it kept popping up, but I could never get myself to actually read it.

Until I was stuck at home with bronchitis. Then I devoured this one and On the Fly in about a day and a half. Holy cow, these books are great! There are plenty of reviews with the plot, so I won't go into that here, but the thing I loved most about this book is that the characters are REAL. I haven't been through the trauma Dana went through or know any famous hockey players like Zee, but I could still relate with the characters. With today's obsession with billionaires and secret babies and everything else, this series has been a breath of fresh air.

It was great to read a story about people with flaws and baggage that they have to work through and not have everything fixed and tied up with a bow at the end. Don't get me wrong, there is a great HEA (I wouldn't have given this rating if there wasn't), but it didn't feel rushed and contrived and fake.

I have now read all of the books in the series and am eagerly looking forward to the next one. The only reason this gets 4 instead of 5 stars is because I am really hard to please when it comes to GOOD writing (and this definitely is) and because the narrator on the audible version is so horrible.

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