



## Broken

*Elizabeth Kelly*

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Ugly...monster...freak.

Ford Taylor has endured the whispers and the horrified stares his entire life. Rejected by both his family and strangers for the way he looks, he's grown accustomed to his lonely life. His life is changed forever when Stella, the redhead beauty he harbors a secret crush on, befriends him.

Photographer, Stella Johnson, is fascinated by the quiet man with the unconventional looks. Her sweet nature and her ability to see Ford for who he really is slowly breaks down the walls he's built around his heart. Their friendship soon blossoms into love.

But when Ford's insecurities and a dark secret from his past threaten their relationship, Stella must convince him that their love for each other is the only thing that matters.

Author's Note: This book contains explicit and steamy sex scenes that may not be your cup of tea. It is intended for mature readers only.

## **Broken Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Elizabeth Kelly

Format :

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Fairy Tales, Beauty and The Beast, Disability

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## From Reader Review Broken for online ebook

### Julia says

Safety: mild other women drama.

We find out that Ford paid to have sex with one of his sisters friends years ago and said women comes in at the end of the book. She describes in detail what they did to the heroine which I could have done without. She's doesn't mean any ill will to the H or the h, just wants to clear the air. It wasn't necessary but that author was a little more original with her ending so I didn't mind it.

Very safe. H has been celibate for a long time and they are both very faithful to each other. Also has 3 days of separation.

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### Kathy says

There's a lot to like here but some editing was needed. There were paragraph breaks in some weird spots that made me confused about who was talking. As other reviewers have said, the way Ford's family treated him just wasn't believable. But I was hooked from page one and didn't want to stop reading.

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### ViolinVixen says

Beautiful love story about Ford, a disfigured man born into a wealthy, perfect looking, hateful family and Stella, the feisty, full figured woman who shows Ford that he is absolutely loveable and worth loving.

Sort of a loose, modern day retelling of Beauty and the Beast. Ford has been told so many times that he's a disgusting monster, that he is a reclusive, broken man and has no hopes for ever finding a close friend, never mind finding love. He's had a crush on the beautiful Stella from afar for a while now, but he's too shy and insecure to speak to her. Luckily Stella has enough confidence for both of them and one day she sits down to have lunch with him and from that day forward, that becomes her daily routine. A lot of the time it's just her talking, but he's polite company and as he starts to trust her more, he starts to talk. She defends him fiercely to anyone who dare insult him in her presence, but she can't convince him that she wants to be with him as more than a friend. He can't imagine why she would want to be with an ugly monster like him.

Stella does not give up easily, she's stubborn and determined to at the very least remain Ford's friend. When she finally is able to convince Ford that she really does want an intimate relationship with him, Stella is blown away by their chemistry and his intensity in the bedroom. This makes for some seriously hot love scenes!

The way this gentle giant has been treated will break your heart. His family is, in a word, despicable. As far as I'm concerned Stella showed great restraint at their disastrous dinner party.

Ford has never known love, but with Stella, her family and friends slowly opening their hearts to him, he starts to see that he could have happiness in his future after all.

My heart broke for Ford repeatedly in this story and I felt proud of Stella as she fought for his love and to protect him from the ugliness of the world.

Ends with the sweetest happily ever after! Standalone book. No cliffhanger.

This is the first book that I've read from this author and won't be my last. I absolutely loved it. A great way to spend some of my Christmas book money! :)

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### **Louise Nunn says**

#### **This book is amazing!**

Alternately numerous and heartbreakingly beautiful, this story will pull at every heartstring you possess. The characters are complex but mostly compliment each other. Mostly, Ford is a lonely loner who pines for Stella. Stella is brash and takes a no-holds-barred approach to life, like, if you don't get her, she's still okay. She has her own issues and insecurities but has learned to roll with the punches. The story flows easily and you get swept into the thrill of the chase, the art of the love game, and the secrets that Ford keeps. The scenes are emotionally dense as well as incredibly detailed, and will keep you right in the thrill of it all. The pace is fast and you will want to try to read it all in one sitting. You will fail. I couldn't, but you can try. Even the second time I read it took me into the next day. I lost some sleep but it was entirely worth it. You won't want to miss this deeply evolved and modernised interpretation of Beauty and the Beast, it's not an exact re-do of the classic story but the base elements are there. Definitely this should make the top of your TBR list!

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### **Nada Ashraf says**

Has a great concept. But writing is absolutely awful.

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### **Rosie J. says**

We're told that the hero of this story is a beast, that he's ugly and how strangers stare at him with pity and disgust -- that he has a face even his own mother couldn't love. How Ford is treated will make you sad and angry.

I hate to use the word "beast" to describe a man with a beautiful soul and heart. This is the love story of Stella & Ford, co-workers at an downtown office. She's an Administrative Assistant and Ford is an ex-military, gentle giant (at 6'6") that mans the security desk. He's an introvert and loner who loves to cook and draw with few friends and no romantic prospects. Stella is an outgoing talented extrovert with her eyes on becoming a professional photographer. Ford sees her and she definitely sees him, Monday through Friday with her goal to eventually include weekends.

Their relationship is non-existent until the day Stella can't find anywhere to sit except at Ford's lunchroom table, with his permission. He mumbles yes and the rest is history. She's interested in him and he secretly pines after her. As they become friends, Ford is beside himself with anxiety and angst fearing one day Stella

will realize she doesn't want to be his friend. The relationship takes a turn at the company picnic which Stella gently coerced him into attending with her. They arrive separately, but soon Stella firmly discovers that Ford does indeed have a thing for her. He's mortified and runs away from his destiny, until the day that Stella is a victim of a robbery and Ford's protective side is unleashed. You can't run too far because your destiny always has a way of finding you.

We learn that ugliness comes in all forms but this is also a beautiful love story about how the power of words can harm, maim and uplift to ultimately heal a broken spirit and a broken heart. I **l♥ved** it!

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### **Lois says**

Broken is my favorite Elizabeth Kelly book. It is amazing, it is a one sitting read so be prepared. It is a beautiful story about the redemption of Ford Taylor from the evils of his family, rejection and pain based on his outer looks. It is a story about beauty and that not all beauty lies on the surface but comes from a loving soul.

Ford's redemption comes in the form of a chubby redhead with a beautiful soul, Stella Johnson. When the elevator opens and Stella steps out seeing Ford sitting on his own people whispering and staring at him, his life changes and we get to be part of this journey. Stella see beyond his looks, she sees who Ford really is.

His redemption is no street car she is a freight train packing a punch. It is a beautiful story of flaws, insecurities, secrets , friendship and love.

I think Stella is the best main character Elizabeth has written. She is fiesty, a little insecure, loving, beautiful and it is best to stay on her good side were Ford is concerned, we can all see a little bit of ourself in her.

This is an amazing and very entertaining story, I received a copy for an honest review, Broken is beautiful..

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### **Monique says**

Wow...this was so good! I love the Beauty and the Beast trope, and this has got to be one of the best versions I've read!

When people are treated unfairly and judged on their appearance, they usually go one of two directions in life: they either internalize all of the negative and literally become monsters, or they find an inner strength to rise above the nastiness. The Beast in this book - Ford - rises above it all. His character was tough, but also very sweet and shy. And his new best buddy/friend Stella? I LOVED her! She was funny, confident - and self-conscious at times - and ready to kick anyone's ass who treated Ford with disrespect. Stella actually struck me as a 'ride or die' chick. lol. Anyway - Ford and Stella were made for each other.

An excerpt:

*"Excuse me?" The woman said. "You heard me," Stella said irritably. "Go stare at someone else." The woman flushed and walked away quickly. Ford's mouth dropped open when Stella yelled, "Don't think I didn't notice you staring at his ass, lady!" She rolled her eyes as Ford continued to gape at her. "What?"*

*She gave him an impish grin. “Was it too bitchy?” He blinked at her and she shrugged. “If you hook up with some random woman at the barbecue, I’ll be left all alone as the awkward third wheel, remember? I’m not letting you ditch me, dude.” “I – she wasn’t...” He trailed off and she arched her eyebrow at him. “She wasn’t what? Staring at your ass? Trust me, she was. I thought she was going to start drooling.” “She was staring at my face, Stella, and we both know why,” he muttered. “She’s not interested in me.” “Yeah, well, the way she was looking at your ass suggested she might have been,” she said stubbornly.*

Besides having day jobs, I also like the fact that both the H/h blossomed through their artistic talents: Ford was a master at drawing, and Stella was a budding photographer. Art is therapy! I'm wavering between four and five stars, and rated this 4.5. Why? Because for me, I'm kinda' tired of almost EVERY romance book ending with the couple having a baby, or a half dozen kids running around, etc. I like kids, but not every book has to end with the house with the picket fence, and the 2.5 kids. Does every HEA need the same damn ending? LOL

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### **~\*\*Anna\*\*~ A Romance Reader says**

This book was beautiful. It was so sad how people treated Ford because of his physical appearance. His family was so awful to him too. It was really heartbreakin.

Ford's so sweet and sexy. I fell in love with him. Stella was feisty, loyal and caring. Loved them together!

Overall it was a great book!

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### **Gina says**

#### **Positively amazing**

A remarkable Beauty and the Beast story for me it was perfection that tug your emotions and I loved it!

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### **velvetgypsy says**

I luv a great interpretation of the tried & treasured Beauty and Beast faerie tale.

Ford is no beast by any means, he just has a few....hmmm, irregular facial features and Stella adores said features! He's a big guy with a big heart.

Hey Stellaaaa...BBW with no apologies, w/out the unhealthy body-shaming issues! Bit by bit, Stella takes Ford thru her emotions, from shy and coy to the seductive temptress...leaving her guy all aquake... Ford isn't complaining;

she's a hellion, gives his family a huge piece of her mind...they deserved it.

Almost kicked his sister's ass too, don't play with Stella's man.

Even though it had a great ending, I'd have loved a longer epilogue.

Nice and easy read. My first Elizabeth Kelly story and I'm sure to be reading more by her.

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### **Tarra Davis says**

Where do I start because I loved some many things about this book, I absolutely adored Stella and wish I could be her or just her friend would work too, I loved how she was with Ford and didn't let things or people detour her love for him, I loved her fiery temper and her loyalty, I loved how she didn't back down when things got hard, She fought for what she wanted and wouldn't let Ford push her away, Ford was so sweet and loving even after the terrible and awful childhood and adult life until Stella, God Bless Henry though who was there for Ford before Stella, Ford's family does not deserve him and I agree with Stella, I hope they rot in hell!! My absolute favorite part is what Stella does to a much deserving Suzanne, I wish she would have done the same thing to the vial Diana who deserved it as well, I would like to learn more about Stella's family, maybe with a book about her sister Jocelyn, hint, hint, Thank you Elizabeth Kelly for writing such amazing books that take me to other place and leave me with a smile on my face!!

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### **Gisele Walko says**

Ford and Stella are one of the most adorable couples that I've ever had the pleasure of reading about. I love the Beauty and the Beast theme. This one stood out from the other ones I've read, because Ford kept his interesting face, and didn't run to plastic surgery to make his outside match his inside. Stella fiercely defended Ford at every turn, and Ford was an absolute doll. He was hesitant to love Stella, which was understandable, but the two were perfect for each other. Steamy love scenes and a great story.

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### **Shari Kay says**

I think this was a *me* thing and other people will probably like this more than I did. And I *did* like it...I just didn't love it.

Ford and Stella. Where to start?

Omg, Ford. I loved him. So much. But...I had a really hard time buying into how horrible his family was to him just because of the way he looks. How strangers treated him. Diana. The women at the bar? WTF?! Are there truly that many people like that out there in the world? That would treat a sweet soul like Ford like that as a child? Or an adult for that matter? **All** of them with the exception of Henry and eventually, Stella's family? I just thought it was so OTT as to be unbelievable. But if true...than yes, Ford's reactions and self-doubts concerning Stella made perfect sense.

Stella. Spitfire personified. I chuckled at a lot of her antics. Cheered for her when she met Ford's family and rooted for her to love Ford with everything she had. And she did. She was exactly the kind of woman Ford had to have to be happy. But again, some of her reactions were so...foreign to me.

The verbiage in the sex scenes was a bit too crass for me and I really wanted Ford to 'take the lead' a bit more than he did. But if you accept his past at face value than how could he? (view spoiler)

So while I *did* enjoy this book, there was just something in the author's style that didn't resonant with me

personally. The choices she made in the dialogue and the actions of the characters felt *off*.

Would I read more by this author? I would definitely give her another shot.

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### **Veronica says**

Let me start by saying that I am a huge Elizabeth Kelly fan and have loved all of her books but this is definitely in my top 3 of her books. *Broken* is the story of Ford and Stella. Ford is security guard and ex-marine that works in the same building as Stella. He is an incredibly quiet and shy introvert, and Stella is a very outgoing tall redhead who wants to be a photographer. Their romance is slow to start because Ford refuses to believe that a woman like Stella could be interested in him because of his, as Stella says, "unique" looks and Stella convinces herself that Ford is just not attracted to her. So they develop a beautiful friendship first. Now, usually, I prefer when the characters get together sooner but it totally makes sense in this book. At first I found it hard to believe that Ford was so "broken" that he couldn't see how obvious it was that Stella wanted him. But then, we meet his family. Insert very unhappy face here! I could not believe how horrible they were to him all because of his looks! They couldn't even look at him and treated him as a nuisance. After that it made sense why it took Ford so long to understand that he was capable of being loved and desired, because how could he think he was worthy of love and attention if his own family couldn't do it. Thankfully Stella never gave up and showed him that true love was more than skin deep and that she would always stand by him. She is definitely one of my favorite characters for her protectiveness, loyalty and her occasional awkwardness, loved her ramblings to herself. As always with Ms. Kelly's book, *Broken* is sweet, sexy and funny definitely recommend this book as a must read.

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