



Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

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Ana, Christine, Riley, and Zoe have grown closer than ever over the past few months, but summer is over and it's time to put their friendship to the test.

It's been a little over a year since Christine Lee's mom passed away in a tragic car accident. Now her dad is engaged to Candace--"The Bimbo"--and Christine couldn't be *less* thrilled. When her attitude starts to take a toll on her schoolwork, the administration forces her to attend counseling sessions. At least she gets to skip gym class!

But with her father's wedding inching closer, Christine is growing even more bitter. To make matters worse, the Miracle Girls are beginning to drift apart. Christine's anger and the pressures of high school threaten to break the girls up when they need each other the most. Will they find a way to join together to help Christine come to terms with her mother's death . . . and her father's remarriage?

Breaking Up Is Hard to Do Details

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Cheryl Cunningham says

Rollercoaster Ride

Well it was clear from beginning that this book was going to test the girls friendships. Liked seeing the girls mature through the book. My happiest moment was the Bloomingdales Wedding registry. I needed that laugh even if it was 10:30 p.m. The tears were flowing as Christine finally let her guard down on more than one occasion in the book. I am disappointed that the girl's Faith and relationship with the Lord wasn't brought in this book.

Lulufrances says

This series is really fun :)

Not much more to say now (which might be because I want to desperately read my other book now haha) but yeah, start the series when you get the chance!

Katrina Burchett says

Christine Lee is a Sophomore in high school. This young lady has a love of art and she wants to be a famous painter one day. It's been a year since Christine Lee's mother died in an automobile accident and even though she no longer acts out by dyeing her hair bold colors she is still grieving. Christine's dad is about to marry Candace and the last thing Christine wants is for another woman to take her mother's place.

This is the second book in The Miracle Girls series. In the first book, Zoe was the one who thought it was important to start The Miracle Girls, but in this book it's Christine who seems to care most about the group. She sees them as the only family she has since her mother died. It's the first day of school when the story begins. The Miracle Girls enjoyed each other's company over the summer (So here are the Miracle Girls, after an incredible summer together, parked under the big "Sophomores" sign/pg 1), and, according to Christine, they were close then. But since the authors didn't let me in on what happened with Ana, Zoe, Christine and Riley during those months, I couldn't really get how The Miracle Girls became closer since the first book. It would have been nice to know exactly what it was that made their relationship `special' as Christine called it. In the first book they had just become The Miracle girls. In this one they don't spend as much time together as I thought they would.

When Christine referred to Candace as a `Bimbo' in the first book, I thought that was unkind but then I figured she must have had her reasons; maybe she was being mistreated. That wasn't the case at all. The madness at home seemed to be in her own mind, because she didn't like that Candace was there. But Candace seemed to be doing what she could to get along with Christine. Now, I did understand the pain Christine was feeling because she had lost her mother. And I could understand that she didn't want another woman to marry her father, but Christine could be so cruel. What she talked Emma into helping her with when they were at Bloomingdales, for instance. Christine thought it was funny but I was not amused. All I could think of was how hurt Candace was going to be when she found out what they had done and I felt so

bad for this woman. It seemed Christine wasn't clear how her actions affected other people. I didn't think I'd feel this way, but I liked Christine better in the first book when she wasn't talking much. She wasn't putting up with Candace in this story; Candace was putting up with her. Christine claimed to be an adult, but she was acting like a child. She needed to learn that everything is not about her.

Christine used to go to church regularly, but after her mother passed she had a problem believing in God. Or did she? At one point she wished she believed in God and about one-hundred fifty pages later she says that God enjoys watching us suffer. First of all, that's not true. But didn't she say she didn't believe in God? She also said she hates church. It seemed she was angry at God and that happens. This too shall pass, I hope. I also hope that she will stop calling herself a freak and that she will work on her relationships with her father and her new mother and her new sister, Emma, and not keep believing The Miracle Girls is her only chance at having some kind of life. It's great to have friends -even though I really didn't see the closeness of these four girls until the end of the story - but Christine will never need The Miracle Girls the way she'll need her family; particularly her father. No, James Lee didn't have a clue about what his daughter needed for a while there but he's working on it.

I bought this book because I wanted to learn more about Christine and, even though I didn't like some of the things she did, I can't say she's an unlikable character. She's a teenage girl with issues and I hope she'll be able to work through them. Now, Ana. I don't know about this one. There's a time to speak and a time to be quiet. Ana wasn't clear on that in the first book and she still doesn't get it. And does being a part of The Miracle Girls mean that one can run another's life? In the first book Ana had problems with her mother, but she seems to be just as controlling. I'll have to buy the next book to see what happens next with these girls.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Randstostipher "tallnankyrn" Nguyen for TeensReadToo.com

When we were first introduced to the Miracle Girls, they were just four unique and very different girls who all survived accidents that were deemed to be fatal. Because of a writing assignment, as fate would have it this unlikely group was brought together.

In the first novel, Ana was the narrator. Now it is up to Christine to captivate us with her woes in life.

Seen as the loner of the group, Christine has her own style and way of doing things. Ever since her mother passed away in a car accident, a part of her went missing. Struggling to find herself again, Christine is used to keeping to herself, dressing the way she wants to, and only speaking how she really feels to the school's counselor - only when she is ready. Still not able to fully cope with her mother's death, Christine can't seem to move on. However, her father is already on that road, preparing to marry The Bimbo.

Throw in a soon-to-be stepsister who invades her space, a boy that could possibly be a heartbreaker, and the fact that she is struggling with the new school year, and Christine needs all of the advice and support she can get.

However, the other Miracle Girls are having trouble sticking together, despite the fact that the summer had helped them bond, as each takes up their own agenda. Hopefully, the girls are able to forget their differences and band together to help their friend in need, or else them breaking up would not be so hard to do.

Dayton and Vanderbilt once again captivates the audience with **BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO** with the realistic situations and problems that will most likely connect with readers. The **MIRACLE GIRLS** is a great series full of substance and meaning that will make any parent willing to go out and buy a copy for their teen - and secretly for themselves, too.

Julie S. says

Christine, the character in this book, is more likable than Ana, the one from the first one. Ana was kind of annoying in this book with her obsession over the grades competition. But overall, a good book.

Debbie says

"Breaking Up is Hard to Do" is a well-written young adult general fiction book. It's written in first person, present tense. It's also the second book in the series, but I didn't need to read first novel to understand what's going on in this one (though probably I would understand the girls' bond better if I had).

The characters were complex and engaging though not always likable (for example, Christine's to-be step-mom was perfect when relating to Christine, but Christine was spiteful toward her even though she recognized this). Teen social and school life were realistically and vividly portrayed. BTW, something you can't tell from the cover picture is that Christine has Asian physical looks and doesn't like dresses.

Three of the four "miracle girls" were Christians. Christine started doubting God's existence after her devout mother died in a car crash yet wants "someone bigger" to be out there so that she's not really all alone. Christine's mother's ghost subtly visited Christine several times throughout the story.

There was no sex. There was a very minor amount of "she cussed" style bad language. Overall, I'd recommend this novel to female teens as a well-written, enjoyable novel.

Michelle says

This was a wonderful story. I actually got tears in my eyes at the ending. Any book that makes me snifle from happy tears is a good book. That means I cared enough to feel something for the characters. These authors did a great job pulling me into Christine's world. She was very much a typical teenager so their perspective from Christine's point of view was excellently done. Those heart-engaging endings are the kinds of endings I love seeing in inspirational books. One that offers hope and healing and encourages young adults. It's so much the opposite of what teens read in secular YA fiction.

Anyway, because this story wasn't typical YA fiction I enjoyed that slight difference. There were no pat answers and healthy grieving was encouraged. The struggles the teens experienced were typical and well-done. Everything is "embarrassing" at that age. Also, I didn't feel like a bunch of girls of varying ethnicities were thrown together to make a multicultural book happen. It flowed naturally and didn't seem forced. I appreciated that. I also appreciated the subplot involving Riley's brother Michael. I can't wait until that story comes out. I think it will be the best story of them all.

Minty McBunny says

This was a solid follow up to the Miracle Girls, I liked the new perspective from Christine as the narrator. The outcome was obvious and I really don't get what happened with Andrew, but hopefully the next book will address this.

I think this is a good series for young teens, I like that it has a Christian angle without the spirituality being front and center. It is realistic that many teens are active in church groups without that being the defining aspect of their lives.

Bethany says

I liked how this book ended, mostly because she didn't get the guy, which probably makes me sound like a real jerk but whatever, i don't care what you think. I hate when books end where the girl gets the guy and then everything is so perfect and awesome because that isn't that way it is... Guys can't make you happy! Only God can bring you joy! That's what I believe anyways... :)

I cried reading this book-the ms. moore part... it was just so sad! :(I really liked the characters in this book and the way it was written.

Jacob Proffitt says

This book was harmed by the format setup for this series. I was glad that this book would feature Christine and her father getting remarried. The glimpses of Candace (the Bimbo) that we caught in the first book were intriguing as you could see that there was something of a disconnect between Christine's account of her and who she really is. Unfortunately, the emotional journey Christine needs to take isn't a long or particularly original one and spreading it out to take up a whole year of High School was a stretch that ultimately didn't work very well.

Indeed, whole months are skipped narratively—months in a holding pattern that simply doesn't hold. As Christine is forced to acknowledge that Candace isn't the monster of scheming bitchiness she has lead herself to believe, holding onto her grudge becomes more and more untenable. She's young, so holding grudges is reasonable, to a point, but she isn't exactly stupid and believing that she would let this continue so very long simply doesn't work.

Fortunately, I have a tendency to rewrite elements of books I don't like in my head and that was pretty simple to do in this book. If you just ignore that the authors are skipping time so much and compress the book down to the parts you actually experience it works out to a month or two of actual story evolution and that works out just fine.

Speaking of evolution and my own mind-editing, I'm more than a bit disappointed by the treatment of Andrew (Christine's kinda love interest). I wish I had been able to edit some of that unfortunate storyline. (view spoiler)

Woah. Glad I got that off my chest (the spoiler bits, that is). Fortunately, the important bits of the book, Christine's family life and working through her grief over her mother's death, worked very well (if you edit the timeline in your head). So the book worked out okay for me in the end. I see that the next book is Zoe's and I'm a little hesitant because her boy Marcus is more than a little creepy, to me. Well, we'll see. That saves Riley to the end, and that's just as well. Personally, for all its weaknesses, this book still has me enjoying the series and I'm still looking forward to the next installments.

Elle says

Breaking Up Is Hard to Do made an AMAZING addition to the Miracle Girls series. I loved seeing Christine's perspective and sometimes, I just wanted to get this girl to TELL PEOPLE HOW SHE FELT!!!! After reading several books where the main character changes very slowly, it was somewhat refreshing to see Christine have a specific turning point.

Kayla says

Forewarning: If you are at all offended by Christianity or the mention of God, church, or prayer, do NOT read this book. A lot of this book takes place in church, and the main character prays often.

After finishing the first book of the Miracle Girls series, I immediately started this second book. In the first book, the story is told from Ana's point of view. She details everything through Freshman year. In this second book, Christine tells the going-ons of their lives during Sophomore year.

It is amazing watching Christine grow during this book. In the first book and beginning of this book, Christine has this desperation to avoid change. She seems to always keep everyone who cares for her at a distance, only letting them in just enough they know she cares for them too. By the end, Christine begins opening up to others and accepting changes she originally tried to thwart. Like the first book, this book has it all: teen angst, boys, love, loss, sadness, frustration, conflict, etc. The author really puts a lot of life into the story. The characters just seem so real at times, I almost forget I'm reading a fictional story.

The girls all face hardships in their own lives and together. Their relationships are tested throughout. Just as in the first book, Christine faces a difficult situation that is unique to her. In the first book, Ana had issues with her overly-strict, "jailer" parents. In this book, Christine must finally deal with the great loss of her mother and find a way to accept her father's fiancée and child.

On to the third book! I can't wait to see who tells the story next: Zoe or Riley?

Jill Williamson says

The Miracle Girls, Ana, Christine, Riley, and Zoe, grew closer than ever over the summer, but school is back in session and things are changing. Christine's dad is still planning to marry Candace, even though it's only been a year and a half since Christine's mom died. Christine does everything in her power to break up the wedding. Unfortunately, what's breaking up is the Miracle Girls. For some reason, they aren't getting along. Are boys the problem or something deeper? Christine fights to keep her friends together and her dad's future

marriage apart, but she may not have the strength to do it all alone.

I really enjoyed this book, though it was tough to read. I mean that in a good way. I couldn't put it down, then thought about it all day when I finished. A certain character made me SO MAD. (Yeah...I'm a sap!) I just wish guys wouldn't play with girls' hearts. I know many guys don't realize they are, but carelessness isn't an excuse. Every girl is different, but some girls never get over being hurt like that. So, "Boo!" to that certain character.

But I do highly recommend this book. It's a fun and thought-provoking story about a girl struggling with her mom's death and her dad getting remarried. Two thumbs up!

Christy Lockstein says

Breaking Up is Hard to Do by Anne Dayton & May Vanderbilt is the second book in the Miracle Girls series. This volume focuses on Christine Lee, the rebel of the group with her thrift store wardrobe and nose ring. Christine is angry with her father for getting engaged just a year after her mother's tragic death in a car accident, so she's taking it out on stepmother-to-be Candace. She's struggling to deal with her mother's death along with the possible break-up of the Miracle Girls as each has boy issues and long-dead rivalries spring up again between them. When Christine hits bottom, she thinks that she has no one left to turn to, not the Girls, her father, or even the God she swears she doesn't believe in. I like this YA series. Each girl has a different personality and interests, allowing just about every teenage girl to find a character to relate to. I've watched my own daughter and her friends drift apart and come back together as boys come and go, and the authors portray that confused loyalty well. Christine's longing for a place to belong is the crux of this story, and author do a terrific job of keeping the other storylines tied to it. Her questions about God are ones that I think a lot of teens face, and they are answered well at the end of the book. Definitely a book I'd recommend to teen girls (and tell their moms to sneak a read when the girls are finished).

Venessaa ??? says

Breaking Up is Hard to Do revolves around teenager Christine Lee whose mom passed away after a tragic accident a year ago. Everything would have been fine if his dad wasn't engaged to Candace- "the bimbo". But the wedding is fast approaching and Christine gets more annoyed- and bitter. Will they make it through the wedding as a family. Or would it be as disastrous as Christine imagined it?
Loved the story. Loved the ending. 5 stars! :))
