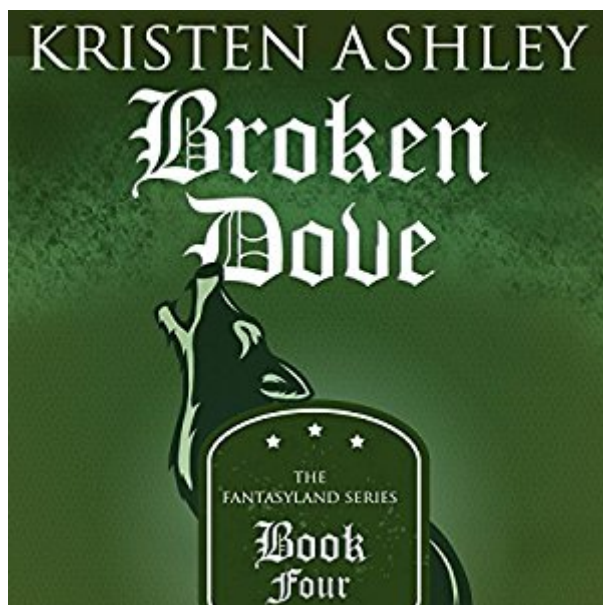


The book was found

Broken Dove



Synopsis

Far too young, Apollo Ulfr lost Ilsa, his wife, the love of his life and the mother of his two children. The grief of her loss does not settle in his soul; it solders to it. But when he discovers there is a parallel universe where his wife may have a twin, he feels there's hope and sets about bringing her to his world, so he can have her back. But Ilsa Ulfr of our world is married to the parallel universe's twin, Pol, who is not a good man. Not in any way. She's on the run from him, and the last thing she wants is to be transported to a fantastical world and be forced to take his side as his wife, even if he is not Pol. And Apollo finds the broken Ilsa nothing like his beloved, and further wants nothing to do with her. But darkness is looming, and evil is amassing. Apollo must protect his land and keep his family safe, including the new Ilsa.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been hoarding this book for quite a while, keeping it in reserve for when I got into a dreaded reading slump. It's not easy when you know you have an unread Kristen Ashley book, but its also a bit comforting to know that you have something waiting in the wings that you are almost guaranteed to love. Luckily I haven't had one of those really bad reading slumps this year, so I was able to move forward with this one in prep for the release of Midnight Soul (on the blog Aug. 15th). Apollo Ulfr is the master strategist for Queen Aurora and Lunwyn. As we saw at the end of Fantastical, Apollo gave a fortune in Sjöfn Diamonds to Valentine in payment for her to bring the real-world twin of his deceased wife (Ilsa) to Fantasyland. Apollo's Ilsa passed away six or so years ago from a terminal illness. Having been deeply in love with Ilsa, Apollo has been grieving for her a very long time. He

feels guilty that he couldn't save her, and guilty that he kept their son from seeing her in her wasted and weakened condition. But once he has the other Ilsa, he quickly sees that it may not be easy to handle getting what you wished for. Ilsa of the real-world is a tortured heroine stemming from her marriage to the Apollo "Pol" Ulfr of her world. She has been on the run and in hiding from Pol for several years, as he is an extremely violent crime boss. To say that Ilsa is not quite comfortable winding up in Fantasyland with her husband's twin is an understatement... but it worked out that he kind of abandoned her once she is there. That's not to say that things do not continue to be somewhat weird for Ilsa - she is the spitting image of his dead wife after all. To distinguish herself, Ilsa becomes known as Maddie in Fantasyland and she decides to reinvent herself and make the most of her escape from Pol. I enjoyed seeing her personality come out free of the restrictive confines of being on the run. The romance between Apollo and Maddie was somewhat slow to build, mainly because Apollo is a jerk in the beginning. But this gave us time to get to know Maddie and enjoy her introduction to Fantasyland. The real-world characters' introduction to Fantasyland is one of my favorite parts of this series. Once Apollo is able to see Maddie as her own person, things between them pick up speed and progress at a rapid clip. I liked that there was not much back and forth between them once this occurred as I like to see the relationship continue to build (rather than taking 2 steps forward and 1 step back). Things definitely got steamy between the pair, there was a lot of chemistry and Apollo was not afraid to get a little dirty or dominant with Maddie. There were a few moments when Apollo was a jerk or overly harsh, and I was so wrapped up in Maddie's character that I felt the hurt and conflict right along with her. However, it was a beautiful thing to see Maddie come out of her shell and stand up for herself when the time came. The non-romance plot aspects of this installment were fabulous. Things come to a head with Baldur, Cora the Exquisite and Minerva - villains from the prior books of the series. I liked how the three baddies joined together in this scheme, with help from a couple of evil witches from Hawkvale. The joint effort multiplied the suspense and made for a more explosive culmination. I loved seeing all our prior heroes and heroines work together to defeat the combined foe... particularly because I can't quite get enough of Dax Lahn. There were also some great new secondary characters in Broken Dove. Apollo's children, particularly his daughter, were fabulous. There is a cameo from real-world Nocturno "Noc" Hawthorne, who is our hero in the next book. Franka Drakkar continues to be a viper, but we start to see that she may have another side in this book. Maddie's guard, especially Derrick and Achilles, were charming and added a special something to the story. I would not mind at all seeing additional Fantasyland books with some of these characters... but I think I'm out of luck on that front. Stay tuned for the next review of this series on Monday, August 15th! 4.5 stars / 4 flames.

Full review posted at Bambi Unbridled.

I am loving this series so freaking hard, though that being said it's not that I didn't like this book because I really did I just found it to be a little long winded, no that, that is or can be a bad thing. Just that I had wished the story would have progressed faster than it did. What a perfect title for this book, Maddie really was a broken dove when we meet her. But she has fight in her a whole butt load of it. She wouldn't let anything get her down oh no freaking way. She fought with all that she had. Apollo is a man who was broken himself, granted his was with grief but that's still a kind of broken. When he saw Maddie his grief consumed him for a time but he learned that just because she looks like his beloved she is not. I really enjoyed hearing about this, getting to see him struggle with his feelings and how they were going to work things through. Maddie | This woman has strength and courage of plenty but what she didn't have was faith in herself and getting to read how she did was pretty amazing. She really struggled with her own self-worth. Fantastic book, it's a story of growth, and learning to love again, for both of them really and the children. I am sad to be starting book 5 that means we will be ending the series. But what a phenomenal job Tillie did with this narration.. I am stunned and in awe of how she can make everyone's voices so very unique as they are in the story. I love it. *You don't have to like my review but its 100% my opinion, and I am allowed to have it.*

This book gave me MAJOR feelings! I mean like ugly girl crying at certain points! First of all I love love love Apollo but he also drove me crazy at the same time! I mean what does he expect to happen when he finds the twin of his dead wife? For her to magically be the exact same person that he lost? But I love Isla or as she is renamed Maddie for the strength she has, surviving a awful marriage, miscarrying twice and then finding herself in this crazy new world with the twin of her husband who is actually kind-of nice. During the book you can't help but root for them to be together and find love, but man when Maddie overhears the servants gossiping my heart broke for her and I wasn't sure if it would be able to be fixed. Then here comes Kristen Ashley with this other complete plot change and somehow all the problems work out for themselves and everything in the end is perfect! YAY! Plus the whole all of them pregnant at the same time (LOVE!!!) Looking for more books and reviews? Check out my blog whenireadilive @blogspot

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