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Damaged: A Violated Trust (Secrets)



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Haley's life is about to change. With divorced parents, she's allowed to choose who to live with. Tired of Mom's restrictions (like no dating), she picks laid-back Dad, although that means she'll have to go to a new school. But even that situation starts to look up when hottie Harris Stephens flirts with her. And when he asks her out, Haley ecstatically accepts. Chalking up a mysterious warning about Harris to jealousy, Haley continues seeing him. But infatuation turns to devastation when Harris does something totally unexpected. Humiliation and peer pressure keep Haley from disclosing what happened, and with no one to talk to, her torturous secret is overwhelming.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sixteen-year-old Haley's life is about to change. With divorced parents, she's allowed to choose who to live with. Tired of Mom's restrictions (like no dating), she picks laid-back Dad, although that means she'll have to go to a new school. But even that situation starts to look up when hottie Harris Stephens flirts with her. And when he asks her out, Haley ecstatically accepts. Chalking up a mysterious warning about Harris to jealousy, Haley continues seeing him. But infatuation turns to devastation when Harris does something totally unexpected. Humiliation and peer pressure keep Haley from disclosing what happened, and with no one to talk to, her torturous secret is

overwhelming. Series Copy: Every teenage girl has a secret. And every teenage girl loves hearing someone else's secret. But some secrets are big enough to detour, derail, or even destroy a young person's life. Each of Melody Carlson's Secrets novels will propel readers into a world where promises are broken, life is not fair, and challenges can make or break them, while ultimately helping readers discover that solid faith, loyal friends, and a persistent spirit will see them through.

Melody Carlson is the best-selling author of more than 200 books, including the TrueColors series (TH1NK/NavPress). Her first book in the Secrets series is titled *Forgotten*. She has won various awards for her writing, including *The Gold Medallion* and *The Rita*. Melody currently lives in the beautiful Oregon Cascade Mountains with her husband.

If this book was a movie, it would truly be one of those after school specials that were so popular back in the 80s and 90s. It was one of those books that wasn't written to actually be read and enjoyed—it was written for the primary goal of being a "teaching moment." I don't want to knock it, I think it did accomplish its goal of trying to teach young girls (and guys) about the dangers of date rape so I have to give it some credit but to read it as an adult who does occasionally enjoy reading a good YA novel the book just wasn't all that interesting.

Okay, I admit it. I got this book when it was offered for free and saw that it has some good reviews, but I didn't read the description or the reviews. I started reading and immediately fell into the life of a teenage girl again...young, naive, and innocent. I thought it was probably going to be a teenage romance triangle and I don't usually read those sorts of books, but the book grabbed me from the start and I enjoyed seeing things from Haley's point of view. Then, all of the sudden, BAM!! I was yet again thrust into the past...the very same thing happened to my little sister when she was just 13. The author must have experienced something close to that because you can't write about it with that much understanding and know what you are talking about if you haven't had some...exposure to the issue. I think the author captured the devastation and destruction...the damage...that that particular crime can have on young women. It also gives you hope that you can overcome the trauma and still have a happy life. I have told my sister about this book and I want to save this book to let my daughters read. BRAVO!!!

While I myself have never been an actual victim of date rape, I did have an uncomfortably close scrape with it. The guy that I was dating tried to kidnap me, but I was able to get away because he had been drinking and drugging it up. I remember feeling guilty and scared for months afterwards. Melody Carlson completely and accurately captured the way that all girls and women feel after they are violated in such tragic circumstances. The book was one that I could scarcely put down, and I would definitely consider rereading it in the future.

One of my favourite Christian Teen Writers happens to be Melody Carlson, I find all her books target those edgier issues that happens in teens lives, the issues that many feel ashamed or are unable to write about them from human trafficking to drugs and teen pregnancies to rape. *Damaged* is Book #3 in her latest series "Secrets" and focuses on the issue first of a strict Christian household as her parents are now divorced and her mum is focused strongly on religion , so much that it can almost come upon brainwashed and too by the book. When Haley decides to go and live with her dad, she is happy to be free of the christian spouting and looking forward to freedom . When Haley arrives, she discovers that his dad has a new girlfriend called Estelle and has created a new life for himself, this new life gives Haley the freedom to make new friends etc. One of those new friends is popular guy Harris Stephens - Haley soon falls under his charm and starts to hook up with Harris , despite all the warnings that she receives from others. When Harris takes advantage of Haley one night when she is drunk , his true colours start to shine through. Will Haley be able to let those who care about her know the truth or will she become more damaged inside by letting the pain fester ?*Damaged* is another amazing and heartfelt book by Melody Carlson and touches on the issues of Divorce, Betrayal and Rape.

Melody Carlson has written another great book for YA! I believe every teen should read a book like this, not true, but COULD be true. I love Haley and how strong of a person she is. She has to be strong and learned to truly rely on God and others to get past what happened. Zach became the friend that Haley needed. Harris turns out to be a complete jerk who has hurt other girls too. Emory is the girlfriend to Harris who believes Harris does no wrong. When Haley confides in Mrs. Flores, she was correct in going further with what Haley told her. The counselor and her dad helped her and in the end, was able to help her brother Sean, too. Amazing story!

Feel the pain of such a taboo subject. You will be shocked at how one night can change someone's

life and not for the better. Melody Carlson brings this subject such justice with her writing that you will be urging Haley to speak up about what happens. You will feel her pain and shame. And will congratulate her with her courage at the end! Highly recommend to every teen out there (And even adults!)

I thought this book was written well and kept my attention. I like being able to feel with the characters and I was able to do that with this book. It's important to be concerned with our actions, and for how our actions affect others. I was never left wondering in this book. Very good follow through in all the situations of the book by the author.

I got through this book in one evening. I couldn't put it down. This book reminded me a little of the book *Speak*, but from a Christian perspective. The author did a fantastic job of handling a difficult topic such as date rape. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this book to teenage or maybe even preteen girls. I probably would have given it 5 stars, but I didn't like how the mother was portrayed as a religious freak who had no real feelings of concern for her kids.

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