



## Broken Colors

*Michele Zackheim*

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## Broken Colors Michele Zackheim

In 'Broken Colors', Michelle Zackheim has written an engaging story of a remarkable woman whose long and eventful life takes her to a place where life and art intersect.

## Broken Colors Details

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Author : Michele Zackheim

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## From Reader Review Broken Colors for online ebook

### Kelly (spaceandlines) says

I picked up this book without having heard of the book or the author before, which is relatively uncommon for me now. Having read it, I get why I haven't heard of it before; it's quite average. The story tells of the life of a painter, Sophie Marks, who spends her life chasing her passion and her loves across Europe and America. She was born in England and was raised by her artist grandparents who instilled in her a love for painting and colors. Her life is colored by tragedies and losses, at first caused by the World Wars, which at first makes her life a despondent and unmotivated one, and then by the Luca, a man she falls in love with but eventually leaves.

Marks's life is so pocked with loss that, as a reader, I was left just praying for a break for the poor girl. Given the cards she was dealt and how those cards played out in her life, I don't really blame her for living the way she did, but also just really wanted her to grab life by the metaphorical balls and just do something she wanted to do. Not to say that there's anything wrong with what she did, but it was just quite frustrating to read about a protagonist who somewhat follows her passion, but gives up on her loves once she is faced with any amount of an obstacle. Even then, however, I really did enjoy the story; pretty much all the characters are given a fullness to them, they are not flat and provide a very rich addition to the narrative.

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### Antracy51 says

While it's so refreshing to read about women artists, there was something I didn't quite like that I couldn't quite put my finger on. So, please bear with me while I explore my review here on the page (similar to the way women 'think' while talking). The characters all seemed a bit shallow to me. Zackheim had a good idea with the times her characters go through, giving us a little different look at history through the lives of people but I felt that her writing fell a bit flat. She probably wouldn't like my digital paintings either ;~D

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### Kathy Gilbert says

I didn't think this book was all that well written, didn't hold my interest very well, story was kind of slow.

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### Storyheart says

A beautiful story about love, art, creativity and grief; marred only by terribly wooden dialog.

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### Marty Crandall says

Interesting subject and story, but the writing was too "descriptive/flowery/airy" for my taste. The 20 year jump near the end of the book was unfortunate. I was involved enough in the characters that I would have

rather been included in the 20 years that were left out rather than read the cliff notes though the voice of the son.

An arty book about arty people.

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### **Turner says**

I picked up this book completely at random while strolling through my local library. The only reason it even caught my eye was because it was published by the same editor that published *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* (an excellent book, by the way) in English.

I had been half hoping to read an uplifting novel, and was completely satisfied for about the first 40 pages, but then it took a dramatic turn down the road of depression. This isn't to say that I didn't enjoy the plot; I really did. I would almost go so far as to say that it was almost the best part of this book. The other contender for this position would have to be the writing style. It really shows that the author is a visual artist because of how vivid her descriptions are, and one truly does feel like one can see what the author and the characters are seeing. Also, this book has a very clear design aesthetic. All of the colors mentioned are very similar, certain people that the main character is attracted to are described with sort of the same point of view (if that makes any sense at all).

My only complaint about this book, which is actually fairly major and awards it the 3.5 stars (which only show up as 3) is the fact that I wasn't particularly crazy about the main character. As the book continued, I came to like her less and less (save for maybe the last 20 pages), and I eventually found myself branding her a curmudgeonly old woman. Admittedly, she had been through some pretty major trauma that i could never begin to imagine, but I felt like after a little while she just stayed in denial too long refusing to face her problems (instead deciding to run away from them, but eventually arriving at new ones). It was a tad irritating.

Also, \*spoiler alert\*, I was deeply disturbed by the fact that she felt so much attraction towards Luca's son, Nico who was easily 50 years her junior. I personally thought the whole part where she's sort of falling in love with him only served to show how deeply lonely and lost she was.

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### **Jenn says**

This is a many layered book...much like the paintings created by it's main character. It encompasses all of her life from childhood through old age and illustrates (quite literally) how this woman moves through immense grief towards an open heart. It is clear from the vivid writing that the author is also a visual artist. I was inspired by the descriptions of the creative process at work and moved by the storytelling and humanity of the characters.

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### **Patti says**

I wanted to like this book. It had all the ingredients that should have made it a success. But Sophie became merely frustrating, and her aging wasn't realistic. I felt I was reading a young woman's idea of what it's like to get older.

The writing was flat and unengaging.

The author was historically and internally inaccurate which was irritating. For example, she clearly states

that Sophie has white hair, then several pages later, refers to her hair as silver and grey, and finally says that she still has a lot of black in her hair. Small details like this throw me out of a story...

She also states that the buildings in Paris were damaged by explosions enough in WWII that Sophie and others were able to harvest the damaged stones. Paris was certainly not bombed in that war- though there may have been some minor damage otherwise to the buildings.

I realize this is just nitpicking, but I might have overlooked them in a better-written book.

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### **Kathleen says**

I wanted to Like Sophie Marks more. Of course the tragedies that occurred in her life were so mind numbing, that it was difficult for her to ever get past them. Somehow, many of the characters seemed flat or contrived. The details of the art and the beauty of the places she lived kept me turning pages.

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### **Daniel says**

One day, riding the subway home, a woman seated next to me made a comment about the book I was reading. We got to talking books, and I discovered that she is a published author. I asked her to recommend her favorite from her repertoire, and she offered this title. But for that conversation, I probably wouldn't have found my way to this book--which makes me fortunate that I both spoke with a thoughtful artist and read a lovely book. she wrote.

The first seventy-odd pages rocked me. I've read about the devastation some families suffered in World War II, and Zackheim makes you feel it for this character and her loved ones. The fallout from these events is intense and quite internal, and I appreciate how Zackheim walked through the main character's recovery without rush or melodrama.

In fact, Zackheim does an excellent job depicting how someone lives her life after experiencing traumatic happenings. After further reversals occur in the heroine's life, Zackheim jumps across large periods of time and describes how the heroine has continued her life and her art. The book follows the heroine into her later years, and I very much appreciated the way Zackheim showed that creativity and love do not wither by default with old age.

Altogether, this book captured my emotions and has held onto me since I put it down. I am quite glad that I ended up sitting next to Ms. Zackheim that day, and I thank her for the recommendation.

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### **Terry says**

I don't get the title. I get that the story is of an artist and of the "breaks" in her life. I get that the story is about finding, losing, finding, losing, finding. Love. I get that it's about endurance: the endurance of Nature, the endurance of Art, and the endurance of Love. I liked the story. I liked the ways in which it evolved across the pages and the words and their constructions that helped it do so. I liked Sophie and Eli and Claire and Luca and Nico. I liked that the conflicts (not to say the big one, WWII, that is the cause of so much of Sophie's inner and outer griefs) were resolvable in the terms set by Nature, Art, and Love in the terms, if you will, of those grand ideas as Sophie and her companions of the roads of the story envisioned and made use of them. I liked all of the colors and strange, to me, methodologies of Sophie's artistic ventures. I liked the resurgence,

if you will, that is portrayed by Sophie's surviving "child" Nico's art that seeks to explore the mystery of timelessness, of endurance. I liked the story well enough to ignore the title. Maybe I'll wake up one morning and suddenly "get" it.

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### **Matthew says**

Good story, poorly written.

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### **Jane says**

Read it in one sitting - wasn't ever not going to once I'd started. Loved this story of art, love and the journey of the central character, Sophie Marks as it follows her life from child to octogenarian. Loved the settings of Midlands, Paris, Umbria and South America. Fab characters and emotionally wrought in broken colours!

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### **Ilaria says**

La lunga e tormentata esistenza di una pittrice, attraverso un secolo e due continenti, alla ricerca della verità della sua arte e di un amore perduto e mai dimenticato. Lo stile di scrittura risente inevitabilmente dell'immaginario visivo, com'è naturale in un romanzo scritto da una pittrice. Tutto è visto e descritto attraverso una tavolozza di colori; non solo le descrizioni del paesaggio, ma anche quelle dei personaggi sono vere e proprie ipotiposi.

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### **Jon Stout says**

What I most enjoyed about this book was the interpenetration of visual art and literary art. The novel is very visual, and is about the life of a painter, so that plot developments are talked about in terms of acquiring a new style or medium, and artistic resolutions also help resolve personal struggles in the life of the main character. The author, whom I have heard read her work, is both a visual artist and a writer, and I like the way she explores the artistic process in life in general.

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