



# What Becomes of the Brokenhearted: A Memoir

*E. Lynn Harris*

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“In many ways writing saved my life. It’s my hope that sharing my experience will give hope to others who are learning to deal with their “difference.” I want them to know they don’t have to live their lives in a permanent “don’t ask, don’t tell” existence. Truth is a powerful tool.

“But my hope for this book doesn’t stop there. I think there is a message here for anyone who has ever suffered from a lack of self-esteem, felt the pain of loneliness, or sought love in all the wrong places. The lessons I have learned are not limited to race, gender, or sexual orientation. Anyone can learn from my journey. Anyone can overcome a broken heart.”--E. Lynn Harris

## **What Becomes of the Brokenhearted: A Memoir Details**


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Author : E. Lynn Harris

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## **From Reader Review What Becomes of the Brokenhearted: A Memoir for online ebook**

### **Glenda says**

This was a rough book for me. I understood what he we thru with depression. I loved E Lynn and he got me into reading many years ago. He lived a rough life. I'm glad he was happy at the end with where he ended up. I was devastated when I heard of his passing years ago while I was at work. I'm so glad this audio was in his voice. RIP E Lynn you are missed so much.

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### **Ramona Dukes says**

Such a touching story. Mr. Harris was such a talented writer and his own personal story needed to be told.

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### **Aaron Blackwood says**

Someone recommended this memoir to inspire me to sell books because of E.Lynn selling books from his car, and for me to see his process of marketing. There was very little of that here. His career as an author was like an afterthought in the last couple of chapters of the book. It started on a recommendation as opposed to him seeing it as a career initially.

Prior to that was a lot of whining about not having love in his life and when he did find it, before this book was published. He said nothing about his partner but one sentence of them being in a ten year relationship. It's been years since I've read some of E. Lynn's books and give him much props for being a pioneer in this genre. This memoir read like one of his books. There was a whole of crying, everyone was beautiful, a lot of name dropping of inconsequential people and a lot of drinking that lead to depression and attempted suicides.

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### **Kathleen Hagen says**

What Becomes of the Brokenhearted: a Memoir, by E. Lynn Harris. Narrated by Richard Allen. Produced by books on tape and downloaded from audible.com.

E. Lynn Harris is a New York Times best-selling author for his fiction written with protagonists who are usually gay males and African-American. This memoir details his own life. I haven't read anything else by him so the memoir was somewhat lost on me. For some reason, partly due to the narrator, I think, this book made me impatient and felt too self-involved, except for the horrendous abuse he suffered from his stepfather. Here's what the publisher's note says:

Now, in his most daring act yet, E. Lynn Harris writes the memoir of his life from his childhood in Arkansas as a closeted gay boy through his struggling days as a self-published author to his rise to New York Times best seller status. In What Becomes of the Brokenhearted, Harris shares with listeners an extraordinary life touched by loneliness and depression, but most importantly he reveals the triumphant story of a small town dreamer who was able, through

writing, to make his dreams and more come true. With his signature compassion, raw courage and awe-inspiring honesty, E. Lynn Harris applies the same talents to his memoir that have made him a best selling fiction author.

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### **Tricia says**

A memoir of a depressed gay black man that grew up in Little Rock in the '60's. He lived life mostly in the closet hoping for a pill to make him happy, in love, and straight... How sad! But a great inspirational read that proves the human spirit can overcome the obstacles of life.

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### **Miss Trini says**

I've been a fan of E.Lynn Harris from day 1 and the memoir just endeared him even more to me. The memoir allowed me to look in on the difficulties of his childhood and see how he struggled to come to terms with his identity and to remain true to himself. I've seen his writing style improve with every novel and this memoir was the icing on the cake.

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### **De says**

I've loved E. Lynn's books from the beginning and have read them all. This book can break your heart. To think of someone so talented who thinks so little of himself. You just want to track him down and give him a hug. And now he's passed. Re-reading to find inspiration in the self love he found before his death.

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### **Rafael Suleiman says**

A very good memoir of E. Lynn Harris.

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### **Ann says**

After reading *The Glass Castle*, and being disappointed, I reread "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted" by E. Lynn Harris.

E. Lynn Harris has written a number of novels that deal with the theme of the bisexual/gay black man. His heroes are all handsome, wealthy African American men who have sexual relationships with men on the down low. He was ahead of the curve in exploring this issue. I picked up one of his novels on a trip to D.C. and then read them all. Harris was not exactly Shakespeare, but his novels are very much page-turners. His own struggles with his homosexuality infused his characters. His novels are widely read by African Americans and gay men; I'm not sure how widely known they are outside those communities.

This struggle with his own gayness included alcoholism, serious depression, and destructive behavior, and

ended in his late twenties when he turned to God and asked for help, and began to write his first novel.

He published his first novel himself, and then followed that up with another six or seven before turning to this autobiography. When I first read an interview with Harris in the NYT, I went right out and bought it. I loved it. He had a pretty abusive childhood, beaten daily by his stepfather, and becoming aware that he was a "sissy" early on, and trying desperately to change. His emergence from his pain is a wonderful story.

The reason I turned to this book after reading the Glass Castle is that Harris's book is so personal, yet so self-knowledgeable. You don't feel like there's unfinished business.

Harris died last summer of a heart attack in his early 50s. When I heard he'd died, I felt a personal loss.

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### **Wanda says**

I've always enjoyed E. Lynn Harris's books (R.I.P.) and reading about his life and inspirations was very interesting. While I enjoyed the book, parts felt rushed and there were too many names to keep track of. He would mention someone and I couldn't remember who they were or where they'd met.

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### **Diane Rembert says**

Everette Lynn Harris suffered emotional and physical abuse as a child, along with his mother...at the hands of his step-father Ben. He found solace in his aunts, uncles and cousins. He always felt a little different, and fought hard to be accepted amongst his peers and teachers. His comedic relief often took the place of his above average academics, but one administrator took him under his wing and steered him back into the right direction.

One Summer, he went to stay with relatives and had the opportunity to meet his biological father and additional siblings.

Lynn (as he was lovingly referred by friends and family) at one point, had just about anything he wanted, but still suffered with severe depression. For some reason, he felt like people only wanted him for what he could offer them and in some instances...he was right. While in therapy, he started to write down his feelings and the rest, as they say...is history. He actually attributes writing with saving his life.

I learned so much about this phenomenal author, and I regret the fact that I never had ever opportunity to meet him. I highly recommend this book and give it ?????.

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### **RYCJ says**

Read this one in one sitting. IT IS A PAGE-TURNER. It wasn't always easy agreeing with his emotions and choices, but I couldn't disagree with the way he moved his story. I really loved the way E.Lynn told this one.

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### **Christina Packard says**

First I am amazed to see 2 star ratings, and maybe it is because they do their rating against classics, and award winning books. I see this book as a very honest telling of one individual. I found it written well enough for me and easy to read and I wanted to keep knowing what was going to happen next. For me, it certainly was eye opening to view life about a gay man, and interesting to see how he turned himself into a writer. I probably before never would have picked up this book to read except that it is on the 100 best Afro American book to read. I am glad that I did. I actually listened to this book which I felt added to my interest and liking of his story.

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### **Rosemary says**

You became to know the real E. Lynn Harris.

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### **Deedee Henson says**

Excellent Read

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