



Shattered Heart

Dorothy F. Shaw

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When Cynthia Donnelly lays eyes on her high school crush at her brother's wedding rehearsal, she regrets her self-imposed, one-year moratorium on dating. If possible, he's even hotter now than when they were teens. But sex isn't the same as dating, right?

Back in school, Shane Conlon made a point to ignore his best friend's cute, sassy little sister. Now that she's grown into an incredibly sexy woman full of Irish spunk, resisting her is out of the question. Besides, in his book, all "hands-off" rules have expired.

One night should have been enough to sate their desires, but now they're both rethinking everything. And when Cyn's ex shows up, it's up to Shane to pick up the pieces.

Each book in The Donnellys series is a standalone story that can be enjoyed in any order.

Series order:

Book #1: Unworthy Heart

Book#2: Defensive Heart

Book #3: Shattered Heart

Shattered Heart Details

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Author : Dorothy F. Shaw

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From Reader Review Shattered Heart for online ebook

Johanna Sawyer says

Thanks Wicked Reads for a copy to read and review.

Wicked hot cover caught my eye but this was definitely a fun and drama filled read. Cyn and Shane made an explosively hot couple with some seriously nuclear chemistry. Cyn has had a crush on Shane since grammar school, and after 17 years she gets to live out all the fantasies she's had of him in full living color. After a vicious attack though she has some serious trust issues. Rightfully so though. This was a great read and I got through it great despite the fact that it's the third in the series and my first read by this author. Entertainment was four wicked stars!

Illustrious Illusions says

Shattered Hearts pulled me out of my recent reading slump! I was hooked within the first few pages and couldn't put it down even to go to sleep! The story is well-written, HOT, funny and sweet all rolled together.

The characters are well developed with depth and personality that just sucks you right in.

Got Romance! Reviews says

Genre: Contemporary, Erotic Romance

Content: M/F, Spanking, Anal Play, Anal Sex, Oral Sex, Toys

Length: Novel

Heat Level: Scorching

Reviewer: Marchelle

When Book 2 in this series was released I was beyond excited. I had been eagerly awaiting Jimmy's story and if you read my review of that book, you know it far exceeded my expectations. I never imagined another book in the series could top it. I was so wrong. Shane and Cyn's journey to each other is at times incredibly frustrating, sweetly touching, laugh out loud funny and burn up the sheets sexy.

Cyn hooks up with her longtime crush/brother's best friend when he is in town for the wedding of another of her brothers. Their chemistry is off the charts, which leads to Cyn completely disregarding her year long celibacy pact with her sister and inviting Shane into her bed. When her ex-boyfriend goes off the deep end and brutally attacks her, Cyn realizes she cannot trust her own instincts when it comes to choosing a good man. She repeatedly pushes Shane away until he is forced to protect his heart from the one person he wants to give it to.

Cyn and Shane's romance is heart-wrenching, super sexy and best of all, realistic. I love the scene in the strip club where the brothers basically give Shane permission to pursue their sister when Shane has no real clue yet that he even has any intention to do so. It's representative of the true dynamics of a big, nosy family. Everyone is in everyone else's business. It's believable and it's heart warming. It's so easy to connect with these characters and truly care about them when they feel as though they could be part of your own family.

I love how Ms. Shaw presents all the Donnelly characters without making it confusing. They are a big family and it would be easy to lose track of who is who, but that is not the case here. They are all unique characters with their own stories to tell and hopefully we will be enjoying them for a long time to come.

Angela Goodrich says

I proclaim *Shattered Heart* my favorite book in The Donnellys series (so far, anyway). I absolutely LOVED this book. I have found both of the previous installments squirm inducing, but Shaw outdoes herself with Cyn and Shane because they are FREAKING HAWT!!! I-need-a-cold-shower-after-reading-that kind of hot. Even though there is plenty of sex in *Shattered Heart*, the author does not neglect the storyline at all – packing it full of romance, danger, trauma, healing, laughs, and the Donnelly family.

If you read *Unworthy Heart*, you'll be excited to know that Maiya and Ryan's wedding plays a big part in this installment. A Donnelly wedding means that we get to meet all of the Donnelly siblings we haven't met yet and this goes a long way in helping the reader understand Shane's relationship with the Donnelly clan – beyond that of being Cyn's childhood crush. Being best friends with the eldest Donnelly sibling and losing his father at a young age meant that Shane spent a lot of time with Donnelly clan out of friendship and seeking that feeling of family he was missing at home – and let me warn you, his mother is a real piece of work. Having watched the other Donnellys grow up, Shane sees them all as siblings...until he sees Cyn at Ryan's wedding rehearsal and discovers she's not a little girl anymore. But the bro code means he's not going there, so he decides to enjoy the sights until Joey actually encourages him (while warning him) to see if there's anything between them. Despite his best intentions, when the bachelor and bachelorette parties converge, so do Cyn and Ryan and as I mentioned earlier – freaking hot! Seriously, if there were ever a case for pregnancy-by-book, *Shattered Heart* would do it. After a bit of a hiccup, what starts as a one-night stand soon becomes a nightly occurrence while Shane is in town. As his time in L.A. nears an end, Shane starts questioning whether or not a long-distance relationship can work. But when Cyn is attacked, there's no way he can leave, not when it's clear she needs help that she's refusing to get. And thus begins the biggest war Shane has ever waged, winning Cyn's trust and heart.

At this point, it's abundantly clear that I loved the chemistry between Cyn and Shane. But I also liked how the author took a realistic, yet painful scenario and used it to show how harrowing the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can be. Too often people dismiss the possibility of PTSD because the sufferer didn't serve in the military, forgetting that traumatic events aren't exclusive to warzones. What happened to Cyn was every woman's nightmare and is, without a doubt, traumatic. Cyn's belief that by getting professional help meant that her attacker won illustrated how pervasive the effects of trauma can be by showing how it skewed her reasoning. Shaw also did an excellent job in showing the downward spiral of Cyn's behavior and how her anger grew over time as a result of feelings of helplessness and fear. It was quite impressive in my opinion. And Shane's own military background was vital to him understanding what was going on with Cyn, exercising patience and not taking her verbal attacks personally. The man deserved a medal and while I hated that she forced him to leave, I thoroughly enjoyed the way in which Shaw resolved their standoff and the happy ending Shane and Cyn seem to be headed for. *Shattered Heart* was another excellent addition to The Donnellys series and I cannot wait to read the next installment in the series.

I received a complimentary copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.
Reviewed by Angela at Crystal's Many Reviewers!

Mybooklatte says

WARNING : WAY TO HOT TO HANDLE !! EXPLICIT ROMP INSIDE !!

“You’re gonna be the death of me, aren’t you?”

3.5 DONNELLY STARS !!!!

Shattered Hearts by Dorothy F Shaw is a passionate story of finding love after going through some bitter experiences. This is the story of Cynthia Donnelly and Shane Conlon in the Donnelly Series. Its the story of a girl who is forever in love with her brother’s best friend. Its not forbidden but it has a lot of limitations and baggage attached to the relationship. It can be read as a stand alone in the series.

***Cynthia Donnelly** is a smart and savy young woman. She runs her own business and continues to imbibe strong family values in her life. She was in relationship with Carlos which hit a rocky road. After ignoring constant signs of her distressed relationship, she finally breaks up with him, when she finds him cheating on her with some random skank at work. Cyn aka Cynthia is heartbroken and vows a self- imposed celibacy on her for an year. But life has something else planned out for her. Little did she know !*

***Shane Conlon**, After retiring from Marines, had started a new life for himself in LA. But upon insistence of his hoity toity mother he has to go back to his home town after years and years.*

Shane meets Cyn’s elder brother who is also his best friend and brother for life. He practically grew up in the Donnelly’s house more than his own. After getting an invite to the wedding in the donnelley’s family, Shane bumps into Cynthia the first time at the church during rehearsals.

She is no more his best friend’s little sister. She is a bombshell and its the lust at first sight.

Cynthia always had a crush on Shane and after seeing him all alpha male, she cant resist the sparks and they both give in. As much as she tries to stay away from him and keep things casual, more she fell in the lovers trap. But things aren't that simple.

Carlos is back and he is determined to get Cynthia back and he will resort to violence if needed. Her trust is broken again and she is shattered. Shane has to go back to his life in LA, which was evident from the beginning.

Will Shane be able to save Cynthia from Carlos or Will he go back to his life in LA.

Will he be able to heal the shattered heart of his only one true love in life?

Read Shattered Hearts by Dorothy F Shaw to know their destiny !

Amanda at WickedGoodReads says

You know, I have said it once and I will say it again....
Dorothy Shaw write a damn good sex scene.

I don't want to spoil anything, so I will try not to.

This is book Three in The Donnellys series, and it is about one of the girls, Cyn....

Her man in this book, Shane.....holy hotness....I really just have nothing else to say except damn.....

Cyn almost got on my nerves with her thinking she was not going to date for a year after a bad break up and trying to push Shane away. Dorothy warns of a domestic violence incident, which almost breaks Cyn....BUT with such a large an loving family, and Shane *swoon*....she pulls through....

In this book we get to see more Jimmy(book 2-Defensive Heart) so that makes me extremely happy....What I am hoping is that if I keep singing the praises of Jimmy because I love him THAT MUCH...maybe I can persuade the wonderful Ms. Shaw to write a novella about him and Sonja ;)

We also see Ryan and Maiya (Book 1-Unworthy Heart)get married *awwwe...makes me smile for them :)

I can't wait to see what's next :):)

Julianna says

Cynthia has held a torch for her brother's best friend ever since they were in elementary school, but hasn't seen in for seventeen years. Until she lays eyes on him her brother's wedding rehearsal. He's everything she remembered, but ten times better unfortunately she's taken a vow to stay celibate but as we all know rules are meant to be broken.

Shane had always made it a point to ignore he's best friends little sister when they were younger, but as he watches her now he knows that she can't be ignored anymore. Especially when he got the green light from his best friend.

After one igniting night that should have been the end of everything, but instead it just added to the fire that grows between them every time their together. Even though things are going good, her ex who was recently dumped is about to say otherwise.

When her ex's text start to escalate into violence it breaks something inside her. Now Shane has his work cut out for him to not only get her to heal, but to move forward for his one shot with the woman he's love - Cynthia.

??Cynthia is a strong headed woman and I love that she's a take charge kind of woman. She and her family interactions were the best and when she was with Shane. Whoo. Sparks were defiantly flying. Oh man, Shane sounds like a handsome and sexy piece of eye candy, but what I love about him was that he's sweet

and completely transfixed on Cynthia. He swooned over her when she was doing the exact same thing.

??I love that they got together and the relationship they were kind of building through the intimate moments, but I have to say that I wish that this story had toned down the sex a bit (even though it is an erotic story) and had more moments where they weren't always in bed or against the wall.

~Reviewing On Behalf of Once Upon An Alpha

ARC for an Honest Review

Char (1RadReader59) says

What happens when fantasy becomes reality? Do you embrace it or run from it? Guess you'll have to see... Cynthia (Cyn) Donnelly was coming to grips that her boyfriend Carlos was pulling away. They had been dating a year and well it was about the same time with all her exes seemed to go south. Now she could hear herself begging for his time. So on a night a few days before her brother's wedding she was actually glad to be on the couch alone with a chick flick for she had been busy at work.

You see a few days before Carlos had blown off a dinner with a couple of her siblings. So as she's watching the movie her phone rings and it's Carlos. She answers says hello but what she hears is rustling material and a woman giggling. Then she hears Carlos say come here baby let me take care of that. Or at least something to that effect. Then more material moving around, then the phone goes dead.

She throws on some shoes on gets her keys and heads to Carlos's where she catches him off guard. He's half undressed and she finds a woman coming from his room she dumps him right there and then!

A couple of days later is the wedding rehearsal and bachelor and bachelorette parties. Guess who is in town? The unofficial brother, Shane Conlon, Cyn's crush from junior high until 11th grade. She used to tag along everywhere Shane and Joey her brother went. Until they scared her off and that was often. In the 11th grade Shane shipped off to boot camp. She'd written him a few letters but he never answered them. By the time she was a senior she had moved on. Because really all she would ever really be is Joey's little sister.

Now seventeen years later he's just sitting in the pew at the church for her brother's wedding rehearsal.

Burning a hole in her ass because he's staring at it so hard. All those years he almost lived in their house and he never noticed her. Now...

Well after the rehearsal the guys and girls split up and all Cyn and Shane can think of is each other. So when it was time for both parties to merge and the two literally run into each other the sexual chemistry is hotter than dynamite. One kiss and it's on like Donkey Kong. (Think I just dated myself, Oh Well!) If you have a problem with graphic erotica description then this is not the book for you. If you have a fear of violence to women this is not the book for you. I will say I have heard worse on the news and that it is done in the context of the story line and in good taste. Yet, the emotional rollercoaster it took her on was gut wrenching. But if you want to read a story of a fun loving family who says what they mean and means what they say. Yet, always with and out of love this is the book for you. You will laugh, cry, feel fear, and a whole lot more. I give this 5 ++++ stars.

Provided by netgalley.com. Follow us at:

www.1rad-readerreviews.com.

Kristie says

3.5 Stars

Hmmmm. I think I started off not liking this a whole lot, moved into liking it more, and then more. I then

went back to feeling not so sure, and now I'm in this place where I think it's pretty darn good. A lot of that has to do with the way the author handles some sensitive issues.

Something I appreciated a lot, Cyn's strong and healthy attitude towards sex. When Cyn's with her partner, one who is just as strong as she is, she's something else. Cynthia is open and honest in her needs/wants. She's focused on her lover, and that's a fun thing to read. It's even more amazing because the person she's with is Shane, someone equally adventurous, excited, focused, open, and ah, energetic. They're great together. If you enjoy a lot of sex in your books, you'll get it here. For me, there was maybe just a bit much.

I also enjoyed the focus the author puts on Cyn's issues following an attack. The way her family, friends, and especially Shane, are there for her, trying to help her along the way. They never hold things against her. They all have a genuine love for her and want to help in the best ways possible, with the best advice. And seriously, Shane is a great character. He's a very nice person, caring, and so supportive. He's like this total hero. I did struggle with Cyn's attitude during her ordeal, but that's where the story needed to be. I think the things that rubbed me wrong were those little things that I'm not really sure I can articulate well.

All in all, I enjoyed this.

Thank you to NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for my honest opinion

Mary says

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

~~OOOOhhhhh~~ I love a good story about grown up men finding themselves in lust with their best friends little sister years after high school, and trying to obey the "bro code" they grew up with.

Shane Conlon is surprised to find just how well Joey Connelly's little sister turned out. Seeing her for the first time after so many years at the wedding rehearsal for one of their other siblings, sends feelings of lust throughout his system making him wonder if a trip to confession is needed before he even talks to her.

Cyn Donnelly has had crap for luck with men and her latest *ex*boyfriend is the cherry on the top of the loser cake. Being done with men, she's proposed a one year moratorium on dating, romance, and sex - especially sex. That is until she spots Shane Conlon sitting in the pews of the church during her brother's wedding rehearsal. Gone is the girlhood crush she fanned for years, and in its place is the raging lust of a woman that has just seen the boy of her childhood become the man any one woman would fight to have by her side *and* in her bed.

During the time that Shane is town, Cyn is determined to get him out of her system. Shane is feeling a little lost, and a lot in lust with this new version of Cynthia Donnelly. As he spends more time with Cyn, he begins to realize that he's falling for her. Cyn is determined not to fall for Shane because she honestly believes that she only attracts the wrong guy.

After Cyn is attacked by a former lover, she withdraws into herself and Shane finds himself on the outside looking in. Leaving Cyn is the hardest thing he has ever done but having Cyn whole is more important than Shane's love for her.

~~Wicked Reads Review Team~~

Samantha says

5 *you'll be the death of me* stars. As always, Dorothy F. Shaw's writing sucks you right into the story by painting you into the very world you're reading about. Unlike the second book in the series, *Defensive Heart*, *Shattered Heart* doesn't make you ridiculously angry with the female lead. There's moments where you need to fan yourself because the sex and Shane are just that hot. Then there's moments when you want to ring Cynthia's neck for being so stupid. Still further, there's moments when you can't help but laugh at the interaction between both Shane and Cynthia.

Shane is, well, he's that hot thing on the cover of the book. Shane's an ex-Marine living in Dallas but is back in California visiting. He's just in time for Ryan and Maiya's wedding, the couple book one focuses on, and as the best friend of the oldest Donnelly son Joey, Shane is invited. He finds himself panting after his best friend's younger sister. He tries to deny himself the pleasure of her because she's off-limits. Funny thing is Joey gives Shane the green light.

As a business owner, Cynthia is strong, independent, in control and very confident. She's kind of what one would call a modern woman. Cynthia caught her soon-to-be ex-boyfriend cheating on her and that is why she's sworn she would be single and celibate for a year. Poor Cynthia didn't realize Shane was back in town and that he was just as hot for her as she was for him. She didn't stand a chance seeing as the moment he was in her space, kissing her, she forgot her own name.

Cynthia puts her and Shane on a timeline since she knows he will be returning to Dallas, away from her and back to his own life. Realizing they only have a set time, she can't help but soak up everything she can from him, even when she's giving him her heart along with her body. After what I like to call "the incident," Shane chooses to extend his stay indefinitely which causes Cynthia to only continue to spiral out of control. She pushes her family and him away while struggling with coming to terms with "the incident" and its lingering affects on her.

After realizing what she needs to do, Cynthia gets her act together. The hardest part is getting to Shane. When she finally wakes up, he's already headed to Dallas. What do you do when the love of your life heads to Dallas, Texas? Well, you get your happy ass on a plane and head there yourself. After some pushing from one of her sister's and newest sister-in-law, Cynthia shows up at Shane's doorstep. The two say what they need to say in a way only they can understand, through their bodies, and finally talk. The happily ever after neither one was too sure of became a reality and leaves the reader satisfied, content, and emotionally spent in the best of ways.

SamJ ★Needs a HEA★ says

[No (hide spoiler)]

Deneale Williams says

Cynthia had a crush on her brothers' best friend all through high school. Now we all know, this is not an unusual thing for annoying sisters to get crushes on their brothers' friends. However, we do think that sometimes those crushes, they usually fade away once we grow up. Don't they? Yeah sometimes...

So here we are at her brothers wedding rehearsal where Cynthia once again, finds the even sexier-Shane.

Some of you that have siblings may remember the cardinal rule, you're not allowed to touch your best friends sister. But now that you're grown, and Cyn is one sexy assed woman, all bets are off. To hell with the rules now.

So Cyn and Shane decide to take a chance on love and even a long distance relationship. Everything seems to be working out for the both of them, and Shane was even considering moving back to LA. But then low and behold Cyn's ex decides he doesn't want to play second fiddle any longer! Instead, he wants back in her life!

With everything coming to an uproar, Cynthia manages to lose faith in herself and everyone else of the male persona. She isn't sure who or what is right for her, and what choice to make, if any at all, maybe her choices are always wrong?

I will leave you here hanging, wondering if Cynthia is going to go ahead and decide to take back her ex, or get together with her high school dream boat Shane. What would you do? Cynthia is truly confused, and lost in her own thoughts. If only she could think straight...

As with most of Dorothy's books, this book comes with a warning label. This one is different than any of her labels I have ever come across, and when I read the book, I realized why. So I am going to share this with you now:

"This book contains a physical assault. Buckle up for a bumpy emotional journey with the characters as they fall and then slowly find their way to healing, and to each other. You might get angry or tearful along the way, you may even get frustrated, but as with any good love story, it'll be worth it in the end."

I want to assure you, the warning is indeed true in every aspect. This book is very true to life. When "we the people" argue we sometimes throw a fist or two, don't even lie. How else would you expect Dorothy to write? Her books are exceptional in every aspect of the word. She hides nothing, and gives you everything you want and more when you sit down to relax and read. Every time this woman puts pen to paper, expect a five star book out of her, nothing less. This is one talented woman, and she knows exactly what people want to see, feel, and read. And it's called reality. And this woman can put love, sex, and passion in every word, and make you feel the wind blow across your face if she writes it to do so. Trust me. Dorothy F. Shaw is and always will be, an amazing writer.

Kimberly / Love Notes Book Blog says

3.75 stars. This was a good book! This is Cyn and Shane's story. Cyn is from a big family of 10 kids, all adults now. Shane was her brother Joey's best friend and she crushed on him all growing up. He has been away in the military and is now living in Texas, but he is back for a visit. Shane is surprised and shocked to see Cyn again and feels an instant attraction. Cyn has just gotten out of a relationship with a cheating boyfriend and vows to be single for a year because she feels like she keeps picking bad relationships. But she can't help herself from fulfilling her wishes with her crush and having one last fling while Shane is in town. They discover that their chemistry is combustible. (They both gave great dirty talk too.) They really like

spending time together and find themselves starting to fall in love. They both start wondering if they can go on to have a real, lasting relationships. But then, Cyn is violently attacked by her ex and everything is derailed. Cyn has a really hard time recovering and moving on. Shane tries to be there for her, but she pushes everyone away and hurts him badly. She has to go through a lot to come out stronger on the other side and convince him she is ready to start a life with him.

I liked Shane. I felt bad for him at times because of how Cyn treated him. I know that Cyn was dealing with PTSD but she acted like a total bitch to everyone for much of the book and it made it hard for me to sympathize with her. She wasn't my fave heroine, but I still liked the book, despite that. Cyn and Shane were totally hot together. The sexy times in this book were really god and definitely a standout from most I read. The back and forth they went through was frustrating a bit. I liked the family aspect and the siblings, friends, and other side characters. The story was good too. This was my first book by Ms. Shaw and I was pleasantly surprised to find a new author that I like! I will definitely read more of her work, especially more about The Donnelly's.

Paige says

I'm pretty sure this is an "it's not you, it's me" type of situation. Hard time feeling a connection but it seems really sexy at least. I started and stopped a couple times and just haven't felt like picking it back up again.
