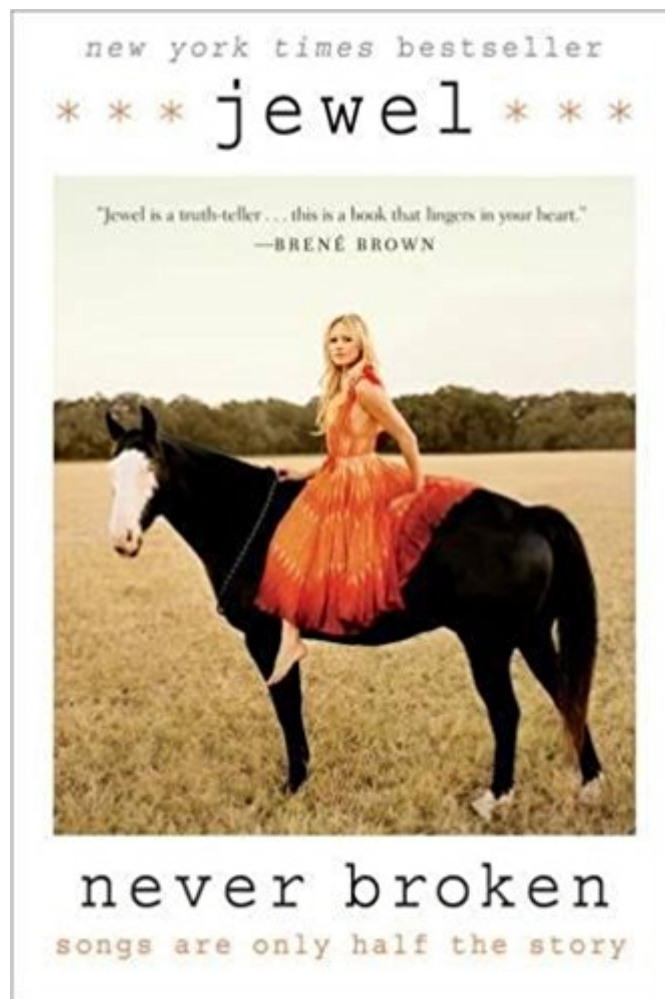




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# Never Broken: Songs Are Only Half The Story



## Synopsis

“Jewel is a truth-teller” [this is a book that lingers in your heart.] — Brené Brown \*The New York Times bestseller\* New York Times bestselling poet and multi-platinum singer-songwriter Jewel explores her unconventional upbringing and extraordinary life in an inspirational memoir that covers her childhood to fame, marriage, and motherhood. When Jewel’s first album, *Pieces of You*, topped the charts in 1995, her emotional voice and vulnerable performance were groundbreaking. Drawing comparisons to Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell, a singer-songwriter of her kind had not emerged in decades. Now, with more than thirty million albums sold worldwide, Jewel tells the story of her life, and the lessons learned from her experience and her music. Living on a homestead in Alaska, Jewel learned to yodel at age five, and joined her parents’ entertainment act, working in hotels, honky-tonks, and biker bars. Behind a strong-willed family life with an emphasis on music and artistic talent, however, there was also instability, abuse, and trauma. At age fifteen, she moved out and tasked herself with a mission: to see if she could avoid being the kind of statistic that her past indicated for her future. Soon after, she was accepted to the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, and there she began writing her own songs as a means of expressing herself and documenting her journey to find happiness. Jewel was eighteen and homeless in San Diego when a radio DJ aired a bootleg version of one of her songs and it was requested into the top-ten countdown, something unheard-of for an unsigned artist. By the time she was twenty-one, her debut had gone multiplatinum. There is much more to Jewel’s story, though, one complicated by family legacies, by crippling fear and insecurity, and by the extraordinary circumstances in which she managed to flourish and find happiness despite these obstacles. Along her road of self-discovery, learning to redirect her fate, Jewel has become an iconic singer and songwriter. In *Never Broken* she reflects on how she survived, and how writing songs, poetry, and prose has saved her life many times over. She writes lyrically about the natural wonders of Alaska, about pain and loss, about the healing power of motherhood, and about discovering her own identity years after the entire world had discovered the beauty of her songs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Jewel is a truth-teller. *Never Broken* occupies that sacred space of soulful storytelling, hard-earned wisdom, and beautiful writing. I couldn’t put it down and I can’t stop thinking about it. This is a book that lingers in your heart.” — Brené Brown, Ph.D., author of *Rising Strong*

“From the very beginning of her recording career, Jewel’s lyrics reflected the America she lived in with her conversational poetic touch. My friend Ben Keith brought her to my ranch to record, collecting our favorite musicians together for her early songs. The result, the enduring *Pieces of You*, was a great record. Jewel’s lyrics resonated with the times. In this, her first memoir, she has a lot to reflect on, and the touch to tell her story well.” — Neil Young

*Never Broken* reads like one of Jewel’s songs—it’s vulnerable, passionate and forthright. And it tells a compelling story, in this case, one about a young gifted woman’s journey to becoming an adult and an artist. Her writing, too, is like her voice, which, bolstered by sturdy melodies, rings with honesty and clarity. This book is filled with deep, rewarding pleasures.” — Anthony DeCurtis, Contributing Editor, *Rolling Stone*

Jewel’s life in *Never Broken* reminded me so much of my own. But if we hadn’t come from hardship and nothing, we wouldn’t have made something out of ourselves. Her life is in her songs and in her voice, and after knowing her, I know it’s her soul. She is honest and tender, yet has a backbone and a fire that only comes from her roots. In her stories about her childhood I can’t help but see so much of my own. The good, the bad, the love, the heartbreak. It’s all there and it’s all Jewel.” — Loretta Lynn

Jewel renders an intimate portrait of a young woman who, although immensely talented, has spent her life “surviving and recovering and problem solving since being a toddler.” [*Never Broken*] is lushly descriptive, chronicling the author’s earliest days on the old “homestead,” singing in saloons, busking in Mexico, and later living out of broken-down automobiles while trying to make a living in the music business. The author mines her psyche for the benefit of both herself and anyone else embroiled in profound emotional crisis. A moving musical essay that should strike all the right notes with a wide selection of readers.” — Kirkus

Jewel’s evocative and captivating how-to for living a full and creative

lifeâ Jewelâs writing is conversational poetry, filled with rich details, as she explores her heritage or explains what she taught herself about music, art, and the music businessâ. Her book will delight her fans, [and] reach beyond that base to those intrigued by what it takes to be successful after years of plugging away. Jewelâs lyrics, generously included throughout, reflect her authenticity and generosity.â • â Publishers Weeklyâ Singer, and poet Jewel has lived a famous rags-to-riches story and now tells all the painful details of her turbulent life in this appealing memoirâ. Fans will be impressed by the singerâs tenacity and most likely shocked [as] she chronicles her struggle to earn a living, regain control of her finances, and maintain her marriageâ. Her determination to carve out a happy life in the midst of so much conflict is admirable, and her honesty is both bracing and appreciatedâ. her story is sure to inspire.â • â Booklist, STARRED REVIEWâ A deeply personal memoir [that] reveals a cycle of struggles and abuse that, until now, she had kept privateâ. Jewel reflects on an abusive upbringing and the highs and lows of her professional career, including discovering that she was broke at what should have been the pinnacle of success.â • â The Tennessean

Jewel is an American singer, songwriter, poet, actress, philanthropist, and mother. She has received four Grammy Award nominations and has sold more than thirty million albums worldwide. She is the founder of Project Clean Water, and author of the New York TimesÂ bestseller *A Night Without Armor: Poems*Â as well as two books for children.Â Raised in Homer, Alaska, Jewel currently lives in Tennessee and Colorado with her son. From the Hardcover edition.

A fast read that you cannot put down. Jewel reveals more in this book about herself that no other person would dare reveal about themselves. She shares her experiences of being bullied, being physically and verbally abused and neglected as a child, and being surrounded by perverts at a young age, as well as her positive experiences of being treated for free by a physician, being divinely protected throughout Mexico and while homeless, being protected by bikers and Inuit, and obviously being given a HUGE break. She spins her book into a self-help reference throughout and especially toward the end, showing how she overcame her past and showing us how we all can too! Packaging and shipping were great too, free no rush is the way to go when you live near an fulfillment center.

I like everything about the book, from the dedication, story, the poetry and pictures of her younger years and family. I found it quite touching. She writes in a way that makes the reader feel like they

are almost there, in Alaska.

Let me start off by saying this review is probably incredibly biased: Jewel is my idol. Her life story is inspiring. Jewel's autobiography doubles both as self-help manual at times. The frankness of her narrative is no surprise to those of us who have grown up listening to her music or who hold it close to heart. Her words have seen me through some of the lowest times of my life, and she has been an every day angel for me when I needed it most. Jewel has taught me so much about myself, and I hope she goes to bed at night knowing how special she is in this world. She holds little back as she unleashes her narrative, yet holds a distinctly forgiving attitude towards the world despite her childhood traumas. She is a woman who has faced hardships and learned to love others through them, but most important she has learned to love herself.

I dog-eared nearly every page! This book is bursting with enlightened, heartfelt wisdom told through her beautiful, true stories. The poetry woven throughout is icing on the cake. Truly from Jewel's heart, this book is right up there with the likes of Elizabeth Gilbert and Brene Brown. I wish I could give it 10 stars! It is a must own for any person on a journey to find their true selves and purpose here.

Stayed up all night reading Jewel's autobiography. Her story is truly amazing. I'm so inspired by what she has achieved in her life; yes, her success, but more impressively, not succumbing to cynicism and hate by all the obstacles in her way. Her powerful writing takes you into her shockingly neglectful/abusive, yet colorful and music-filled world as a child of the great wide open Alaska, gigging with her parents to make a living in bars since she was little, all the way through her early years of homelessness and being preyed upon, with no one/nothing to rely on in the West, but her way of seeing the world and her thoughts. Her tenacity is a testament to her creativity and brilliance. Seriously awesome read.

Jewel did a good job of sharing her experiences and feelings. I was left with such admiration for her and how she overcame the negatives in her life to not only survive but be amazingly successful. So glad she was able to overcome and to share her wonderful talent with us.

I remember buying the Pieces of You CD in the 90's and listening to it non-stop. Her voice is amazing, and her writing is so personal and very honest. Jewel has always been this way. I also got

the chance to see her perform live years ago. It was just her and her guitar. That's all she needs. She sang every type of music, including opera and yodeling. She spoke to the crowd like we were just friends hanging out. My husband and I also love her family's show, Alaska: The Last Frontier. I admire so much their way of life. When I found this book and began reading it, I couldn't believe how much she struggled and was able to overcome. She always stayed strong, true to herself, and never lost faith. I will think of her and the words in this book when dealing with my own struggles. I thank her for being brave enough to put it all out there so that others may learn from her experiences. She is a beautiful woman.

Jewel has been on the edge of my radar for many years. I knew of her songs & knew she was a talented singer/songwriter, but had never purchased any of her tunes. Being a big fan of the TV show "Alaska the Last Frontier" and knowing she is the daughter of Atz Kilcher piqued my interest in this book. I was amazed at Jewel's back story and also her relationship with her parents ... an incredible story! She tells of her mental and physical abuse with candor and honesty. How she came through this upbringing with her humor intact is unbelievable. And I was so glad to read that her father has been able to mend his fences as well as his life. Such a talented, sensitive and loving soul Jewel has become. Very well written - and it also inspired me to purchase a few of her newer and older songs.

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