

Break Your Heart

Rhonda Helms

Kensington (Jul 28, 2015)

Softcover \$9.95 (240pp)

978-1-61773-122-8

Honors student falls for professor. Honors student kisses professor. *Break Your Heart*, by Rhonda Helms, is the story of a stereotypical crush on a college campus with the potential to end a career. Academic ethics is the villain in this familiar scenario, creating a barrier that cannot be overcome without sacrifice.

Megan Porter feels an overpowering attraction to Dr. Nick Muramoto, her cryptography instructor and thesis advisor. This young woman experiences a wide range of emotion, progressing from adolescent infatuation to serious interest, while dealing with her mother's addiction to prescription painkillers. Vulnerable and searching for an end to her own pain by seeking solace in a forbidden relationship, Megan responds to Nick's flirtation with gusto.

My body became my focus—my body and his proximity, the weight of his gaze. He kept his hands off me, but his eyes roamed me freely.

Portrayed with near-tangible realness, these outstanding characters could inhabit any neighborhood college campus. The first-person viewpoint, honest and straightforward, enhances the quality of this contemporary plot.

JULIA ANN CHARPENTIER (Fall 2015)

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