



Broken Illusions

Ellie James

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It's Mardi Gras, but for 16 year-old psychic Trinity Monsour this is no time for celebration. Another girl is missing. Haunted by visions she doesn't understand—of an empty street lined by crumbling old buildings, a terrified voice warning her to be careful, and a body lying motionless in the grass—Trinity embarks upon a dark odyssey she could never have imagined. She'll stop at nothing to better understand her abilities, convinced that doing so is the only way she can make sure the terrifying images she sees never actually happen.

But it seems everyone wants to stop her. Her aunt is worried Trinity might discover secrets best left in the past. Her best friend, Victoria, is afraid Trinity is slipping away, her boyfriend, Chase, fears she's taking too many chances, and the lead detective will barely let her out of his sight. Only one person stands by her side, and in doing so, he slips deeper and deeper into her heart—and her dreams—blurring the lines of reality and illusion.

When the dust settles, one of them will be dead.

Broken Illusions Details

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Author : Ellie James

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From Reader Review Broken Illusions for online ebook

SJH (A Dream of Books) says

'Broken Illusions' is the second book in Ellie James's series about teenage psychic Trinity Monsour. Trinity is still trying to come to terms with the events which unfolded in 'Shattered Dreams' when another girl goes missing from New Orleans.

Trinity has visions and dreams of the past and the future. A lot of the story focuses on the way she tries to make sense of the flashes and the things she sees, not only to save an innocent girl but also to save herself. She is determined to find out more about her own abilities, but threatens her relationship with Chase in the process. Hovering on the sidelines is the elusive Dylan who I can't wait to find out more about. There are some definite sparks between him and Trinity whenever they are together.

The plot is quite complex and I'll admit that in the middle of the book I nearly got lost a couple of times and had to go back and re-read a couple of chapters. You really need to read this one without any distractions around you. I still enjoyed trying to solve the mystery at the heart of the story though as well as puzzling out what was happening at the same time as Trinity.

This was a real thrill ride of a story. And the ending...wow! I never saw it coming and still can't believe what happened. I think Ellie James is incredibly brave to make the decision she did which totally threw me. It was unexpected and surprising and completely shocking. It will be interesting to see how this affects Trinity in the future, as it is quite a pivotal moment in the series.

Next in the series is 'Fragile Darkness', which I'm very excited about, as I'm sure there's a lot more fireworks still to come.

Nina (Death, Books, and Tea) says

Review: Once again, Trinity and her psychic powers are used to solve a mystery. This time, she gets the first clues via a Ouija board. The visions come, and Trinity knows that if she doesn't do anything about it, then that girl might die. But there's a lot of opposition from all sides.

I kind of enjoyed the first one, but didn't really get into the characters. Apart from Trinity, who just about copes with all the things she sees. The others, I found boring again. Some were intriguing, but not hugely so. When I started this book, and Trinity and Victoria started playing with the Ouija board, I was just "oh please why?". Ouija boards are one of the few things that I really really try to stay away from, and you'd think that in a psychic-y world with different planes they'd know better.

I like the tone of this book. there's a lot of mystery, and a sense of threat and always being careful. Sadly I didn't get a really really creeped out feeling like in the first half of Shattered Dreams, but I still enjoyed the air of mystery in Broken Illusions.

Chase gets a bit more interesting in this instalment, but in a negative way in parts. Chase, can't you trust your girlfriend?. Dylan, who I didn't really care for in the first book, was a bit more prominent in this, making me wish I had paid a bit more attention to him in the first one.

I liked Trinity's development, the way she deals with her visions, seeing her understand it all a bit more. There's also a bit of family history, which is nice.

The mystery was built up really well. Lots of twists and turns, very gripping, and a satisfying conclusion. The ending was just NO DON'T DO THAT. I think that Fragile Darkness will be interesting just because you've lost that major person and it'll be intriguing to see how Trinity copes.

Overall: Strength 3 tea. Really good plot, but I'm not as into the characters as I'd like to be.

Amanda says

I enjoyed the characters and the storyline.

Cary Morton says

Originally Posted to: <http://authorunpublished.wordpress.com> Author Unpublished

Intense. That's what I have to say about this book. Deep breath. Okay, let's get down to the nitty gritty. The writing was well done. There weren't a multitude of grammar, spelling, or punctuation mistakes. The narrative was clean, easy-to-follow, and fast paced. However, there were a few problems with the story that made me rate this book as a 4 star rather than a 5...

While I love the world building of this series, it is incredibly convoluted and vague at times. Despite this being the second book in the series, I am still no closer to understanding the lore behind Trinity's gift, or behind any of the other "talented" people within the series. There's just so much that I still don't know about Trinity's visions, Dylan, and the murderer, that it's hard to keep up at times. The constant dreams and visions Trinity suffers from are so vivid, so ever-present that even I can't distinguish between dream and reality any more when flipping through the pages of this book. I guess I feel that there's just too many questions left unanswered—too many holes in the story that I desperately want to have filled, and because of that, it's hard to feel satisfied about this book.

Another problem for me was the romance. In the first book of the series we were introduced to Chase... the popular boy at school that Trinity was crushing on. I liked him in the first book... although I wasn't fond of how he was introduced. By the time the first line of the book rolled around, Trinity had already met and grown close to Chase... all off camera. I honestly dislike it when stories start the love interest off camera because I feel as if I've missed something. It was harder to connect to Chase from the very beginning than I'd anticipated, but by the end of the book I'd managed to get my warm-fuzzy feelings about him inline with what the narrative was telling me, and it was fine. In this book however, the warm-fuzzies flew out the window. He was needlessly jealous and unsupportive of Trinity. It felt like he was pulling away from her all throughout the book, and though Trinity kept running back to him, trying to patch up the shambles of their relationship... I couldn't help but secretly hope she'd dump the guy and run toward the real hero of the story—Dylan.

I really enjoyed the dynamic between Dylan and Trinity in this story. There's this underlying current between them that seems to draw them together. Dylan is sweet and caring, and despite his standoffish appearance, it's clear that he really cares about Trinity. Every time she needed him, he was there (which is more than I can say for Chase). I was desperately rooting for him throughout the story, and secretly wincing every time Trinity ran back to Chase. There's so much tension and longing between Trinity and Dylan that it's hard to do anything other than support them. I won't give away spoilers, but I'll admit, despite a tragic happenstance in the later half of the story, I was gleeful at the ending. I'm a terrible person.

Overall, I really enjoyed the story, despite how much the story actually hurt my brain at times. It was so busy and tension filled that I couldn't peel my eyes away from the pages. Would I read this story again? Yes. Would I recommend it? Yes. I can't wait to move on to the third book in the series. If you enjoy YA fiction

that is heavy on paranormal and mystery... You'll probably really enjoy this series. Give it a try.

Jiyun says

Trinity finds out that her aunt is kidnapped by the same guy that tried to kill Jessica. But it turns out that a cop named LaSalle was in charge of every kidnapping. Trinity is told to leave and so that everyone else would look for Grace, her Aunt, and Delphi. But she refuses and while looking for them, she faces LaSalle and ends up stabbing him on his side. At the end, they find everyone that was missing and Trinity thinks that everything is over and Ok now.

♥ Ashleigh ♥ contrary to popular belief i'm not actually mad! says

this book may have been just a bit too YA for me, I managed to get to page 126 then I became really impatient and I didn't overly care about Trinity's relationship status with Chase or her aunt's weirdo cop boyfriend, I just wanted to get to the good bits! and find out who was behind all this.

... so I skipped like 2/3 of the book, have to say I didn't see the end coming - I suppose not super surprising being that I didn't read most of the book.

the end was still depressing which I think is a massive compliment to the author - being able to still affect me even though I skipped like half the book.

how good is the start though - its what drew me in

Everyone dreams. some see colour. others experience only black and white. some laugh, and some cry. some run and hide, while others play and dance. some return over and over again. others never go back. very few remember.

they are the lucky ones.

sometimes my friends will talk about what they see and do there in the shadowy realm of their sleep. for them it's no big deal, a movie in their mind instead of a theatre, a comedy or drama to be shared and compared. sometimes it's funny, stupid stuff. sometimes they go on amazing rampages. sometimes they're naked or falling or flying. my best friend gets ravaged by a mysterious vampire at least once a week - or so she says.

for me, its never like that. there are no smiles or laughter or yummy immortals, no silliness. no sex. no salvation.

I awaken in the predawn darkness, my heart racing, my body frozen, the echo of a silent scream burning my throat. breathing hurts.

remembering destroys.

I try anyways. I'm scared not to. they're messages - I know that now. from some place unseen, some person unknown. sometimes they come while I'm awake, like when I enter a place where something bad has happened. psychic residue has a way of hanging around. but usually, the messages come only when my guard is lowered. when my eyes are closed and my body sleeps.

when I awaken, they fade.

I don't need to look at the clock to know what time it is. the glowing numbers will show 5.21

they always do.

instead I lay tangled in the damp sheets, hot sweaty, forcing myself to breathe. in, out. slow, steady. I know the drill. I know the routine. a few minutes and I'll be able to move. a few minutes and a new day will begin.

but the remnants of the dream will linger as the hours pile up, not falling away until I close my eyes and

the drowning begins anew.

Do you believe in forever?

like I said talented writer, if only the characters weren't so immature.

Ross Phaye says

Trinity is still coming to terms with her psychic abilities. She has not fully moved on from the tragedies from the first book but there is no rest for the wicked. Another girl has gone missing and Trinity seems to be the only one who can help find her. So we still have Chase, now we have another possible love interest, Dylan. And we get more New Orleans supernatural stuff which is a major factor for me to love this series, by the way.

I find this book better since I like the twists better compared to the first one. I mean, I did not see it coming, guys. I trusted this man, you know. And in the end he was the bad guy?! No spoilers from me, I won't tell you who our bad guy is. But I don't know about you guys, I really did not see it coming.

So, someone died in this book, but no tears from me since I did not like this character too much anyway and am glad to move on from... ummmm... okay no gender reveals, just glad to be able to move on from this character, period. I mean, it would have also been fine if the death did not happen but in general I just really wanted to bump the character out of the story, you know.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and am looking forward to reading the next one.

Susie says

Broken Illusions is the second book in the Midnight Dragonfly Series. This book picks up just a few months after "Shattered Dreams (book 1) leaves off, with the full cast of familiar characters. Once again Ellie James grips your imagination with her descriptions of New Orleans. We follow Trinity Monsour as she learns more about herself and her psychic visions. Trinity's story is written in such a way as to make the reader feel what she feels, see what she sees. Broken Dreams is a roller-coaster of emotion.

Sandra says

[they just broke up after he left her standing alone again (especially as she was snatched straight after) rather than killing him - he so didn't deserve that (view spoiler)

Dr susan says

I understand that evil and death exist; I have seen more death in my life than I like to think about. So when I read for escape, I like the evil and death to be much less first person than it is in Broken Illusions. This book is not for readers looking for happy endings and unicorns. Broken Illusions is a good book, but it is dark,

tragic, and too real to be comfortable...Since finishing the trilogy, I have decided to put all three books on my read-again list.

Felicia says

This was the 2nd book in the series and it was just a 3 star book for me. Again I didn't love the writers style of writing, I didn't really like the main character Trinity and at times I felt lost in her story and wondered what just happened. At least I can say the writer did surprise me at who she chose to be the killer, which I won't name and have a spoiler in here. Like I said in my first review, I may not have fell in love with these two books but I'd give the writer another shot.

Tonyalee says

Better than the first! Review to come....

UPDATE

'Broken Illusions is the second novel in the *Midnight Dragonfly* trilogy. After the events in the first book, Trinity is still learning more about her abilities and coping with everything that's happened, while living a "normal" life at the same time, when another girl goes missing.

It was a LOT better than the first. We know more about Trinity's abilities while discovering more about them at the same time. I wasn't as confused in this one as I was the first. I'm not sure if that's because I started right after finishing *Shattered Dreams* or if it was James just weaving the story together better. I still had to sit back a few times, thinking *what!?* and re reading a few things, but over all everything went together nicely.

I wasn't as put off by the romance in this one, but it wasn't swoon worthy either. Her and Chase are *cute* together, that's about it. I didn't like the double standards. Chase seeing Jessica and him being extremely non trusting of Trinity. I liked the new characters introduced, and the twist toward the end was unexpected. I really had not suspected that person was the killer. And we also see a lot more of Dylan in this one.

I'm not going to go into too much about this one, because of spoilers, but I got to give it to James for that ending. That takes some series guts to do what she did. It was heartbreaking.. but I wasn't overly upset about it. Almost like it was *necessary*. Not some cop out of an ending or a way to hook us readers into reading the next one. It was meant to happen that way.. and it worked.

Overall, great sequel.

Addie R. says

Originally posted: <http://addie-bookwormrecommendations....>

Broken Illusions was a fantastic sequel to *Shattered Dreams*. It was just as fast-paced and addicting as the

first. You may think this is just a story about psychics and mystery, but it was so much more complex than that. But so complex, that it did leave me to be confused at times. However, in the end, everything makes sense and was completely unexpected.

The characters were all realistic, just as they were in the first. Chase and Trinity's romance was sweet and believable, although it did frustrate me how little trust Chase had for Trinity. Dylan confused me in the last book, but he has proved to be one heck of a swoon-worthy guy. His attraction to Trinity wasn't as forced, and more believable this time. I could see how much he cared for her. Trinity might have been losing her sanity much more in this book than the last. And because of that, I still couldn't get a feel of what her personality was like.

Broken Illusions has a dark and creepy mood throughout the book. I actually felt scared or creeped out sometimes. The mystery added to the creepiness, and kept me fully engaged. There are a lot of twists in this book that you will not see coming, but maybe too many- adding to the confusion. I just think there was too much going on, and things could've been clearer if things slowed down a little.

Overall, Broken Illusions was just a roller coaster of different feelings and events. I loved the mystery, the romance and the outcome of everything. The only thing I didn't like was how overwhelming things were, leaving me confused several times. But even though I was confused, I just could not put the book down. The ending was very satisfying. I seriously did not see any of it coming. I loved the concept and plot of Broken Illusions, I think if I read it a second time, I wouldn't be as confused and it would be even more enjoyable.

Emily Blake says

An ARC was provided by St. Martin's Griffin in exchange for an honest review

After reading and liking the first book, *Shattered Dreams*, I was pretty excited to read this one. And, in ways, it was even better.

It was a good idea. It really was. Like I said in my review of *Shattered Dreams*, I love the combination of psychics and mystery. It's such a cool, original idea, and it really work well. I feel like there might have been a bit too much drama in this one, but that's hardly enough to make me give it a low rating. In *Shattered Dreams* Ellie James got right into the story from page one, and I feel like in this book it took a bit longer, and it wasn't as thrilling as *Shattered Dreams*. I really liked the ending though. You guys know how I always say and ending can make or break a book. Well, it made this book.

Like in the first book, I really like Trinity. She's strong, smart, and is not afraid to do whatever she has to to save a loved one.

Unlike in the other book, I didn't really like Chase. I didn't like the way he treated Trinity. If you really love someone you trust them not to do anything, even if they are in a different city with another guy. He's too possessive and kind of mean, so I don't really like him anymore.

This book comes out on May 8 (my birthday!!) so make sure you mark your calendars so you can get a copy when it hits the shelves.

~Emily @ Emily's Crammed Bookshelf

Jenn says

3.5 stars

The book wasn't as confusing, things were much clearer. I still had moments though that I felt events got skipped and only knowing about it when someone mentions it in conversation. There was a lot of 'wait? what?' moments while reading and me going back to reread to see if I missed something.

Trinity had a lot of dumb moments. A lot of me mumbling under my breath of 'don't be stupid, why don't you listen?' She never seemed to listen to others, it always seemed to hurt her more than help.

I originally was going to give it 3 stars but that ending brought it to a 3.5. The ending totally was unexpected, I never guessed that would have happened. Pretty cool how everything went down.
