

A life cut short

Broken Doll a story of friendship with a tragic side

Broken Doll, 162 pages
Author: Crissa
Constantine

The line between a tragic story and a heroic one is thin.

So it is with *Broken Doll*, a novel loosely inspired by true events, written by Oceanside author Crissa Constantine.

The book has two main characters, the bubbly, vivacious and self destructive Sunny and the quieter, safer, contemplative Lisa.

They meet while teaching at the same school. Sunny, who is picture perfect, helps Lisa maintain control of her classroom and encourages her. Eventually, a firm friendship develops.

But Sunny, despite her name, isn't always so. She marries and divorces, lies



A News Review

By Alli Vail

and uses men to feel good about herself, often drawing Lisa into threatening situations.

I must confess, it is hard to like Sunny. She is self absorbed, sometimes cruel, oblivious and creates dangerous situations. Her few redeeming qualities are her genuine compassion and love for her parents and for Lisa. People love Sunny. But even so, these relationships are marred by Sunny's emotional shortcomings.

Lisa is unable to stand up to Sunny, even when Sunny sweetly pushes her into dangerous situations.

Sometimes, I wanted to gently shake some sense into Lisa.

At the same time, the two characters share a special and binding friendship and help each other develop and survive the troubles that come at them.

Constantine writes with great sensitivity towards the characters, who each in their own way are fragile and broken.

Where one is weak, the other is strong.

However, as much as the story is testament to the triumph of friendship and living out loud, it is also a tragedy of a life cut short.

Broken Doll is available at bookstores.

THE NEWS primarily reviews books by Vancouver Island authors or on topics of interest to District 69 (Oceanside) readers.

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