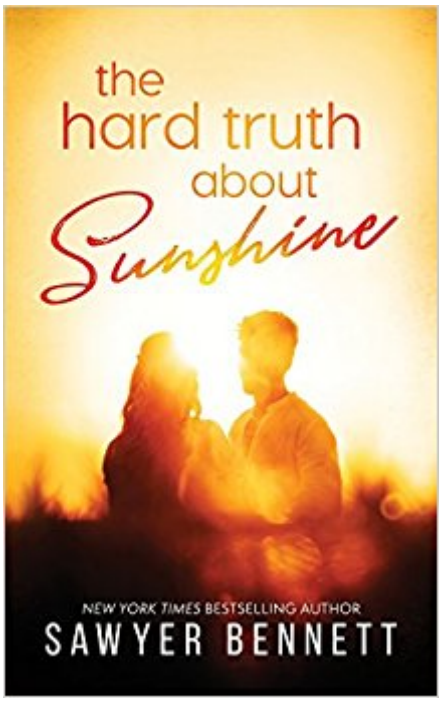
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The Hard Truth About Sunshine



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Synopsis

"New York Times bestselling author Sawyer Bennett has written her most gripping and poignant tale yet. Provocatively heart-breaking, audaciously irreverent and romantically fulfilling, The Hard Truth About Sunshine exposes just how very thin the line is between a full life and an empty existence.Despite having narrowly escaped death’s clutches, Christopher Barlow is grateful for nothing. His capacity to love has been crushed. He hates everyone and everything, completely unable to see past the gray stain of misery that coats his perception of the world. It’s only after he involuntarily joins a band of depressed misfits who are struggling to overcome their own problems, does Christopher start to re-evaluate his lot in life.What could they possibly learn from one another? How could they possibly help each other to heal? And the question that Christopher asks himself over and over again... can he learn to love again?He’s about to find out as he embarks upon a cross country trip with a beautiful woman who is going blind, a boy with terminal cancer, and an abuse victim who can’t decide whether she wants to live or die.Four people with nothing in common but their destination. They will encounter adventure, thrills, loss and love. And within their travels they will learn the greatest lesson of all.The hard truth about sunshine...Warning: This book deals with some tough issues including suicide and sexual abuse. "

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just finished the last words of this sad, funny, tragic but unbelievably beautiful book and I’m speechless. Absolutely speechless! While this book is so very different from Sawyer’s books to date, it is no less amazing than any other.I have to admit I was a little nervous going into this book, only because it is so different and as one can tell from the blurb, it’s not going to be all sunshine

(seriously had to) and rainbows. I had no reason to be nervous..at all! This book is beautiful, moving and thought provoking. And it is sweet to, there are some unbelievably moving moments that just make you smile and think about "things". I was especially moved by Sawyers explanation in her acknowledgements as to how this story came about.I know I’m being extremely vague about a lot of things in this books but honestly...you have to experience it for yourself and you will know why. And in turn you will understand how amazing this book truly is!

The Hard Truth About Sunshine by Sawyer Bennett is a standalone story of four very damaged individuals who meet in group therapy and the road trip they take that changes them all irrevocably. It both is and isn’t a romance. There is an element but the friendship and healing is the strongest and most powerful part of the story. Told solely from the POV of Christopher Barlow, a wounded vet who is furiously angry and raging at the world, we get a more complete story as he goes from present day to past moments.Beautifully written and such an emotionally engaging story it was definitely a change from the usual stories from one of my MUST-READ authors but, as she IS a MUST-READ author for me it was a no-brainer. When you want something more than than the steamy romance, fluffy love stories I HIGHLY recommend this story to you. Enjoy!

I have enjoyed many a story from this author, going all the way back to the Off series collection. Each book from each collection always has an element of a topic that deals with a socially conscience topic or issue, which illustrates Sawyers empathy and awareness of the realities of the world. However, this story goes way beyond the surface, and hits deep into the grit of people trying to navigate their lives in the face of incredible challenges. This story will grip your heart, rattle your soul, and sharpen your consciousness. It will make me value the true gift and sacrifice our Veterans have provided; they are much much more than a symbol to be revered on one day on November. This book has touched me deeply, and will leave an indelible mark on my heart. Thank you SawyerÃƒÂ¢Ã Â•Ã Â¤.

I’ll admit that at first, being blind myself, I was irritated that Jillian was predominantly characterized by her drooping eyes. In past, many have noticed my nystagmus, or dancing eyes, and shied away; they thought I was a space case, maybe even thought I was high, and asked stupid questions that hurt my feelings. But I realize now that two things have happened here: Christopher does not shy away from Jillian’s differences, and the main reason he focuses so much on Jillian’s eyes in the first place is because he can’t get past his own disfigurement. Makes sense, doesn’t it? But Jillian’s

eyes, personality, and outlook are endeared to him throughout the story, and Christopher's falling in love with her, his observation of her self-acceptance, and his recognition of her as a person beyond her disability end up being partially responsible for his advancement in the grief process and greater confidence in himself as a disabled person.I loved this book. It made me laugh and cry by turns, and I was on the road right there with Christopher, Jillian, Barb, and Connor. Bennett writes the characters in such a way that I became truly invested in them and related to each personally, finding a piece of myself in each because each represents a spin on the grief experience. Jillian represents hope and acceptance, sometimes even denial, but in the end learns she can feel sad, angry, or even afraid without fear of being a fake or losing herself and her outlook. Similarly, Connor embodies acceptance. He has to, in a way, because his circumstances won't change; but nonetheless he is courageous in allowing himself to live in the moment, whether that moment is in joy or sorrow. Christopher, of course, represents anger and depression but eventually learns hope and acceptance. And poor Barb, who I think is my favorite, experiences depression and anger like Christopher does, but although she doesn't reach acceptance in as conventional a way, I truly believe she comes to terms with things the best she can. She transcends what people understand bravery to be.I'm no stranger with the grief process, so I read all of these things naturally. Even so, sometimes even the highest self-awareness can't touch the despair clawing at your heart. You just have to extricate yourself from grief's clutches in whichever way you can, and every process has been slightly different for me as a result. I think Bennett illustrates this concept beautifully. There's a universality to grief, and yet everyone experiences it uniquely; even the same person might experience different losses in different ways. The release of this novel was very timely for me, and I will treasure it.

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