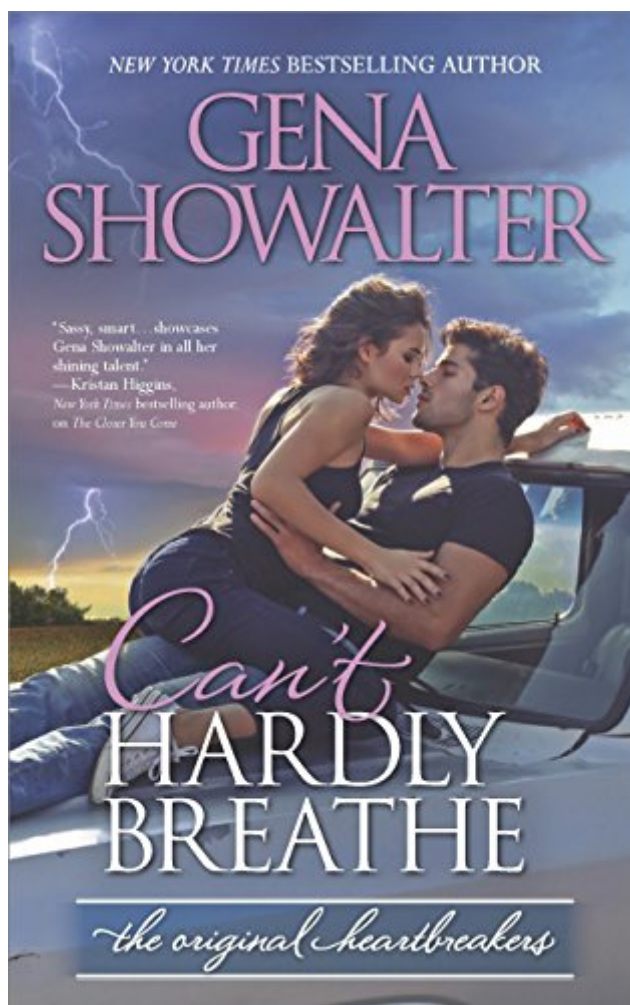


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# Can't Hardly Breathe (Original Heartbreakers)



## Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Gena Showalter returns with an irresistible Original Heartbreakers story about a woman who's never felt desired and the man who wants her more than air to breathe. Bullied in high school, Dorothea Mathis's past is full of memories she'd rather forget. But there's one she can't seem to shake; her long-standing crush on former army ranger Daniel Porter. Now that the sexy bad boy has started using her inn as his personal playground, she should kick him out; but his every heated glance makes her want to join him instead. Daniel returned to Strawberry Valley, Oklahoma, to care for his ailing father and burn off a little steam with no strings attached. Though he craves curvy Dorothea night and day, he's as marred by his past as she is by hers. The more he desires her, the more he fears losing her. But every sizzling encounter leaves him desperate for more, and soon Daniel must make a choice: take a chance on love or walk away forever.

## Book Information

File Size: 2298 KB

Print Length: 416 pages

Publisher: HQN Books (September 1, 2017)

Publication Date: August 29, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B01MTBXD8G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,001 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #94

in Books > Romance > Military #97 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Romance > Military

#109 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary Fiction > Romance

## Customer Reviews

Can't Hardly Breathe is about a girl in a small town that grew up surrounded by bullies and in need of human kindness. This story takes place in a small town in Oklahoma but it could be anywhere. There is still gossip and everyone knows each other.

business just like how I imagined a small town to be. I really loved this book. My emotions were all over the place. For me, Dorothea was written perfectly. We were given a brief glimpse in to her high school years, which was plagued with bullies, that gave us the reason why she grew into the person she is today. I love the fact that she never gave up on believing in people. She has inner strength that I'm not sure that she even knew she had. Daniel was Dorothea's crush in high school. He never knew what kind of impact he made on her life until years later. He had his own hurdles that he had to get through and I liked that because you never know how someone else handles what has gone on in their life. And everyone handles everything differently. Daniel really cares about his dad, Virgil, and wants him to live a long life and will sacrifice his own happiness to make sure that happens. Dorothea's best friends Lyndie and Ryanne are amazing friends. They aren't perfect and they have life issues of their own but they come together to help each other. They are a great shoulders to lean on. Dorothea's family on the other hand is somewhat missing in action or the enemy. Holly, Dorothea's sister, is selfish and still has some emotional growing to do. She has her own reasons for acting the way she does but that doesn't excuse some of her behavior. And her mother seems to just be going through the motions of life and doesn't seem to be there for either of her children in the beginning. Daniel also has great best friends and business partners in Brock and Jude. They went through a lot together in the service and they are really the only ones that understand what each of them have gone through. I also loved Daniel's dad, Virgil. And it is apparent that Virgil loves his son. Virgil also has some great one liners that make you laugh out loud and also make you think. I really couldn't get enough of this book. It touched my heart. Dorothea and Daniel have great chemistry together and I loved the strength that both of them had to show. And I also loved the fact that this book illustrates that words matter, especially in kindness. And that life does go on after high school.

Strawberry Valley is a great town to live in, everyone knows everyone. It's where Dorothea Mathis grew up. She was not a popular girl in high school, a few friends and even bullied. Her dreams of being a Meteorologist was cut short by a bad decision, and now she is taking care of her little sister and trying to bring back the Inn in order to support her and her sister. Daniel Porter has come home. He also grew up in Strawberry Valley; he on the other hand became popular in high school, the typical Jock. After high school he joined the fight to protect our country and when he came home, like so many others, has some ghosts to battle. When Dorothea and Daniel meet up,

things get interesting. The old high school crush (on Dorothea's side) comes back and Daniel gets a surprise visit to his room, Dorothea in nothing but a raincoat. Only things don't go as planned. This story brings the feels right out of you. A page turner for sure!! highly recommend this book and the other books of the series!!

Can't Hardly Breathe (The Original Heartbreakers, #4) by Gena Showalter. I'm sure there is a sign somewhere that reads: "Welcome to Strawberry Valley, where romance happens." This is a contemporary second chance romance that can be read as a stand alone. A heartwarming underdog story in which Dorothea embraces the strength of her character with high school crush Daniel Porter turned romantic interest years later. I completely adore the interaction between these two characters which makes this book a fun and fluid read. Secondary characters bring added drama and anticipation as well. This is the first contemporary romance I've read by this author, and it definitely shows her versatility. I also recommend The Lords of the Underworld Series if paranormal is more your thing. At any rate, this is a great series that will leave you smiling.

In high school Dorothea Mathis was bullied and alone. One day, the boy she had a crush on defended her, but then unknowingly crushed her the same day. Let's just say Dorothea had it rough her whole life. Until Daniel Porter came home. Daniel Porter is sort of a home town hero. He was a good boy that went off to be a hero in the Army. He came home to take care of his Dad and start a business with his Brothers in Arms. Daniel wasn't aware of Dorothea's crush until she propositioned him and he turned her down. He saw the pain and was determined to learn more about her and why it hurt. During his chase, he learned more about her, which caused him to fall in love with her. But then his fears kicked in. PTSD is a factor in this story. Thankfully it ended with a Happily Ever After.

In a world with so many authors and stories to choose from, Gena Showalter keeps me coming back, and many times, longing for more. Why? Because she is one hundred percent, primetime talented with characters and places readers care about, identify with, and wish they could be! Ms. Showalter's recently released, Can't Hardly Breathe, is the perfect example! The story of Dorothea Mathis and Daniel Porter, high school acquaintances who rediscover one another in adulthood. Their road to love is not an easy one: Dorothea at times struggling with extreme low self-esteem and self-worth, Daniel battling PTSD from his time overseas, protecting his country. They have to fight their tendency to withdraw from life to truly understand love. While Jessie Kay Dillon from book three of the Original Heartbreaker series, The

Harder You Fall, is my spirit character, Dorothea Mathis IS me. Her need to break free from her feelings of never being enough and the consistently second place holder in the lives of her friends and family are understandable and relatable. I'm envious, yes, envious, of her growth as she learns to love herself for who she is, flaws and all. While Can't Hardly Breathe is the fourth book in the series, it can be read as a true standalone.

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