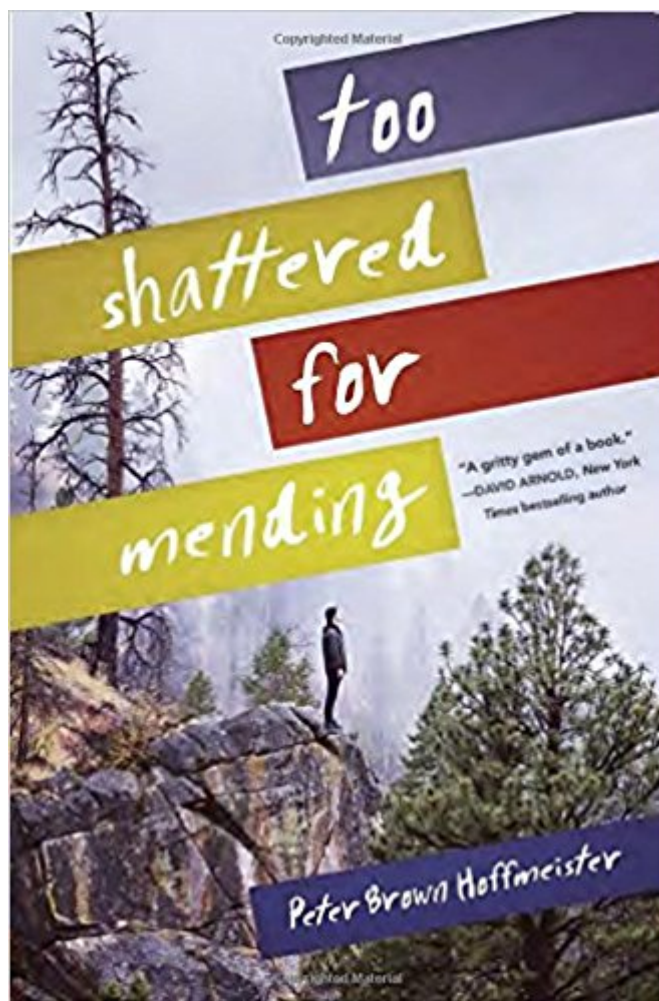


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Too Shattered For Mending



Synopsis

“The missing link between *Looking for Alaska* and *Winter’s Bone*.” —Jeff Zentner, author of *The Serpent King*. “A powerful and uncompromising story. . . You will not soon forget Little McCardell or his unwavering spirit.” —Kathleen Glasgow, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Girl in Pieces*. “Little • McCardell is doing all he can just to keep it together after the disappearance of his grandfather — Big • and the arrest of his older brother, JT. He’s looking out for his younger cousin, trying to stay afloat in school, working in the town graveyard for extra cash, and in his spare time he’s pining after Rowan — the girl JT was dating until he got locked up. When the cops turn up asking questions about Big, Little doesn’t want to get involved in the investigation — he’s already got enough to deal with — but he has no choice. Especially not after the sheriff’s deputy catches him hunting deer out of season and threatens to prosecute unless he cooperates. Soon Little finds himself drowning in secrets, beholden to the sheriff, to JT, to Rowan, and to Big’s memory, with no clear way out that doesn’t betray at least one of them. And when Little’s deepest secret is revealed, there’s no telling how it could shatter their lives. . . .” “A story that is more than the sum of its parts. Proof that even in the darkness, there can be light.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred “A gritty gem of a book.” —David Arnold, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mosquitoland* and *Kids of Appetite*

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Customer Reviews

“Proof that even in the darkness, there can be light.” —Kirkus Reviews starred

review"[Hoffmeister's] characters are complex and authentic, and his subtle, stripped-down writing changes the narrative in startling ways as the story unfolds and more details come to light." "Publishers Weekly" starred review "A powerful and uncompromising story about survival, loss, fear, and what happens when hope is only the bleakest sliver of light. You will not soon forget Little McCardell and his clan, or his unwavering spirit." "Kathleen Glasgow, New York Times bestselling author of *Girl in Pieces*" "As beautiful and brutal as a winter storm, *Too Shattered for Mending* is the missing link between *Looking for Alaska* and *Winter's Bone*." "Jeff Zentner, author of *The Serpent King*" "A gritty gem of a book." "David Arnold, New York Times bestselling author of *Mosquitoland* and *Kids of Appetite*"

PETER BROWN HOFFMEISTER is the author of the critically acclaimed YA novel *This Is the Part Where You Laugh*, as well as the adult novel *Graphic the Valley* and a memoir, *The End of Boys*. A former troubled teen, Hoffmeister was expelled from three high schools, lived for a short while in a Greyhound bus station, was remanded to a recovery and parole program, and completed a wilderness experience for troubled youth. He went on to become a high school teacher and founded the Integrated Outdoor Program, serving teens of all backgrounds, taking them into wilderness areas to backpack, climb, spelunk, orienteer, and whitewater-raft. He lives with his wife and daughters in Eugene, Oregon. Follow him at @peterbrownhoff.

Raw, emotionally searing, *"Too Shattered for Mending"* by Peter Brown Hoffmeister presents the story of an individual torn apart by their family's criminal activity, yet held together by familial loyalty. Drawn into criminal activity himself in order to survive, "Little" McCardell remains a decent individual who cares more for the well-being of others than for his own welfare. "Little" is the younger brother of a star high school football player who has been jailed and is later released. Little has learning difficulties, but loves art class; it is his one refuge from the academic world. As he copes with the dysfunction of his family and the forces unleashed by his grandfather "Big's" activities, the hopelessness of the situation in which Little finds himself and the secrets that are exposed may rip him apart. Narrated in the first person, Little reveals facets of not only his own life but also that of the other characters. These various individuals are exquisitely drawn, but some are so reprehensible that it is difficult to fathom how Little managed to survive the chaos. Peter Brown Hoffmeister uses language and events that may shock some, but these are neither gratuitous or unrealistic. Rather, the situations may be unfamiliar to the reader because there is a difference in Little's environment and the reader's own, but you cannot help but be pulled into Little's world. If you are a reader who is

willing to immerse yourself in lives that are outside your own comfort zone, you may find "Too Shattered for Mending" as powerful as I did. This is classed as a YA novel, but it is a book that any reader may find difficult to put down.

Peter Brown Hoffmeister's Too Shattered for Mending is a coming of age novel for students ages 14 and up. The subject is very heavy. Children raising children should not be a reality in our society, but I guess it is. This novel is well written. I especially liked the nature writing. But the reality the kids lived in was so very desperate. Life should be more than just survival.

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