



Jessie McIntyre, 17, starts her last year of minor hockey—and high school—with loads on her mind. Her AAA team is short a head coach, her future plans are unclear, and some of her teammates aren't impressed with her new role as team captain. On top of it all, her little sister is making some lousy decisions while Jessie's parents seem unaware. But, hey, should Jessie be critical? She's made some pretty bad ones herself—especially when it comes to guys.

## Excerpt

*My vision has adjusted to the darkness, and I can see his face more clearly now. He's frozen in place, dark eyes intent.*

*"If you won't go out with me," he says, "don't go out with anybody else. Okay?" He grabs my hand and squeezes it. His palm is calloused.*

*"Look, it's not you that's the problem." I try to take my hand back, but he threads his fingers through mine. "It's me."*

*He steps closer. "How about I kiss you? That should convince me it's not going to work."*

*"You're only interested in me because I'm not interested in you," I tell him. "If you kiss me, you won't find me nearly as fascinating."*

*He brings his face close to mine. "Close enough to a yes."*

## Reviews

***Breakaway*** steers clear of every cliché minefield and offers no simple resolutions. This is a story about a girl growing up, and while dating is a part of it, like friends and like hockey, it isn't central, and nothing ever works out storybook perfect. . . There are some great one-liners, and a lot of wonderful locker-room scenes.

- **Catherine Egan**, author of *Julia Vanishes*

Jessie faces uncharted situations with her teammates, coaches and guys with her usual blend of impulsivity, kindness and soul searching, and Ulrich does a good job of bringing together story events that force Jessie to confront reality and make difficult decisions. Teen readers will recognize many of Jessie's struggles and find encouragement to face their own with honesty and courage..

- **Sharon Plumb**, author of *Kraamlök*

***Breakaway*** has a gritty and realistic tension which will appeal to a variety of young adult female readers. There is hockey action, interpersonal drama, and romance.

- **CM Magazine**

***Breakaway*** is a fast moving, action packed novel that teenage girls will relate to at many different levels. The author's observations on how teens cope in today's contemporary society is refreshing and realistic.

- **SaskBooks**