

## Bookseller Praise for **BROKEN COUNTRY**

"A passionate story of love, betrayal, and family set in rural England that is both endearing and heartbreaking. The secrets the characters are keeping are expertly revealed which maintains the intrigue without being formulaic. **This is definitely one of my top picks for the year.**"

—Todd Miller, Arcadia Books

**"All I can say is WOW and WOW!! This is one of those books that captivates the reader from the first page to the last—it is truly that good!** A story of a love triangle that dares us to accept what we know is wrong and evaluate the ability of the human condition and its capacity to knowingly take risks that will likely have unimaginable consequences. Propulsive, impactful, and beautifully written, this book deserves your time and attention!"

—Kathy Mailloux, East City Bookshop

**"A beautiful, emotional and propulsive novel; a success across the board.** In Clare Leslie Hall's very capable hands, this story explores the intensity of first love, the staying power of mature love and the unimaginable heartbreak of losing a child with the pacing of a thriller. Can't wait to share this winner of a novel with readers."

—Linda McLoughlin Figel, {pages} a bookstore

"Fast paced story of a love triangle with a long-kept secret at its core. Characters were so humanly portrayed through love and tragedy. Secrets were not revealed until the very end—quite a surprise. Look forward to what comes next from this newly discovered author."

—Mary McBride, Monstera's Books

**"I may have already read my favorite book of 2025 with this haunting, emotional debut.** I loved the setting, rooted hard for each character, and soaked in the gorgeous writing sentence after sentence. This is a masterpiece."

—Elizabeth Barnhill, Fabled Bookshop & Cafe

"Passion and heartbreak collide with familiar and contentment in this story involving a love triangle. A history of love lost that will ever be regained? A fast-paced debut for Hall who grabs hold of the reader to watch the drama unfold as two families are devastated by the ensuing complications. **Fans of *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Owens will discover another enthralling story.**"

—Caity Dolezal, The Novel Neighbor

"This is the book I can't stop talking about! It has a little bit of everything—a sweeping love story, thoughtful commentary on motherhood and marriage and grief, big secrets and choices that help give the novel the pacing of a literary thriller. I stayed up hours past my bedtime to finish this book, and I had tears in my eyes when I finally set it down. I love this book so much, and it will definitely be a favorite of 2025. **I will be putting this book into the hands of everyone I know!**"

—Sherri Puzey, Zibby's Bookshop

"What an extraordinary novel! I read *Broken Country* in one sitting and soaked up every word. **This powerful, beautifully written book has something for every reader**—a family saga, heartbreaking romance and gripping mystery intricately layered into one unputdownable story."

—Anderson McKean, Page & Palette

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"I was seriously possessed by this book. It's a captivating and provocative love story. It's a compelling murder mystery with unexpected twists... What a debut! **Clare Leslie Hall's *Broken Country* is pure literary entertainment."**

—Joanne Berg, *Mystery To Me*

"A family saga, a devastating love story and a mystery that piqued my curiosity from the beginning to shocking end. An exploration of class in mid-century England, this novel explores young love and how past trauma has ripple effects through generations. **Highly recommend!"**

—Jessica Nock, *Main Street Books*

"**A long-lost love, family secrets, grief, and second chances are woven through with exquisite storytelling to make *Broken Country* impossible to put down.** With complex characters and a very visual plot, this is the kind of book that draws you in so much that you will look up from the pages and forget where you are."

—Mary O'Malley, *Skylark Bookshop*

"A murder mystery wrapped in a passionate love story, ***Broken Country* is a triumphant blend of secrets, family drama, tragedy, and resilience.** A tender, perceptive, and enthralling novel of heartbreak and healing."

—Alyssa Raymond, *Copper Dog Books*

"*Broken Country* is a beautifully written novel of complicated relationships and interesting characters that will hold your interest to the last page."

—Elizabeth Merritt, *Titcomb's Bookshop*

"**Gorgeous and devastating in the best possible way!** *Broken Country* is a story about love, grief, desire, and grace—a mystery, a courtroom drama, and a family tragedy all at once. I loved it and couldn't put it down."

—Emilie Sommer, *East City Bookshop*

"***Broken Country* is an homage to life and all that it brings with it.** Young love, broken hearts, dreams, loss, loyalty, secrets, fear, courage, honor—they're all here, on display... Yes, there's destruction—laws are broken and someone must pay the price—but it is somehow fair, not ravaging."

—Linda Bond, *Auntie's*

"Is it a mystery? A family drama? A love story? **Whatever you call it, *Broken Country* is a book you cannot put down.** Hall is brilliant at character development, slowly letting us in on backstories, revealing a bit about one character then turning to another. The way she took her time to let the story unfold made me rush to return to the pages each chance I got. Caution: you will cry at the end."

—Laura Anderson, *Lala Books*

"There are complicated love stories, and then there is *Broken Country*. Readers will agonize along with Beth and the two men who each claim her heart. Clare Leslie Hall's novel is a murder mystery wrapped in a love story that culminates in an ending so surprising it will leave readers gasping. **Gather your book club members and prepare for an epic discussion."**

—Pamela Klinger-Horn, *Valley Bookseller*