

# Jewel - never broken

read by the author

✧ Living on a homestead in Alaska, Jewel learned to yodel at age three and joined her parents' act, working in hotels, honkytonks, and biker bars. Behind a strong-willed and independent family life was also instability, abuse, and trauma. At age fifteen Jewel was accepted to the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where she began writing her own songs as a means of expression. She was eighteen, homeless, and living out of her car in San Diego when a radio DJ aired a bootleg version of her song. And by age twenty-one, her debut album went multiplatinum.

Jewel's story is complicated by family and financial woes, by crippling fear and insecurity, by parents who forced a child to grow up far too quickly, and by the extraordinary circumstances in which she become a world-famous singer and songwriter. Here she reflects on how she survived and how writing songs, poetry, and prose has saved her life many times over.

"The good, the bad, the love, the heartbreak.  
It's all there and it's all Jewel."

—Loretta Lynn

**jewel** is an American singer, songwriter, poet, actress, philanthropist, and mother. She has received four Grammy nominations and has sold over thirty million albums worldwide. She is the founder of Higher Ground for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that works in education, research, program development, and building alliances with charities. Raised in Homer, Alaska, she currently lives in Tennessee and Colorado with her son.

Running Time: 10½ Hours • Unabridged



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