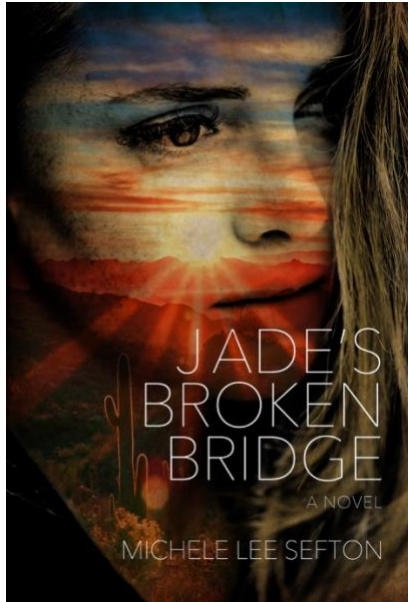




Jade's Broken Bridge

by Michele Lee Sefton

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Genre: New Adult; Women's Fiction

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"If only I could have seen a bright future for myself—without the help of a fickle goddess. If only I had been strong enough to rise above the shadow's darkness. If only I could have understood that beyond the vapor of those fallen stars, resides an entire universe brimming with magnificence. For dreamers to cast dreams into. Not just one 'star light, star bright,' but an entire brilliant universe waiting to nurture fragile dreams."

Synopsis:

Jade's Broken Bridge, by Michele Lee Sefton, is a raw and poignant story of survival, self-destruction, and hope. The narrative follows Jade, a young woman navigating a tumultuous life shaped by family fractures, addiction, and the pursuit of financial stability in the shadows of the adult entertainment industry. The story unfolds as she reflects on her past, particularly her experiences as an Arizona native, working as a topless dancer in Fairbanks, Alaska, and the personal struggles that led her there. Jade's journey is a deeply introspective exploration of self-worth, desperation, and the relentless search for escape — whether through drugs, relationships, or a false sense of empowerment gained in strip clubs.

Inspired by true events, the book delves into Jade's complex family dynamics, particularly the impact of her parents' divorce, and the financial hardships that drove her to make life-altering choices. Through vivid and unfiltered prose set in the late 1980s, Sefton paints a picture of a woman torn between who she was meant to be and who she has become. As she battles addiction and shame, Jade ultimately confronts the truth about her past and her desire to reclaim her life.

In her debut novel, Sefton offers a sobering account of self-destructive life choices and the painful consequences that follow. The story does not romanticize the struggles of survival but instead offers an honest portrayal of resilience and the possibility of change.

Key Themes from the Book:

- **Survival vs. Self-Destruction:** Jade's choices are driven by the need to survive, but her means of doing so often lead her further into self-destruction. Her work in strip clubs, substance abuse, and avoidance of emotional pain highlight the paradox of trying to escape while simultaneously sinking deeper.
- **Family and Fractured Relationships:** The book examines the lasting wounds of a broken home, particularly how parental neglect shapes self-worth and decision-making in adulthood.
- **The Illusion of Empowerment:** Through her experiences in the adult entertainment industry, Jade grapples with the false sense of power and control that comes with her work. While the money offers financial independence, it also entraps her in a world that feeds on vulnerability.

Praise for Jade's Broken Bridge:

"In her vivid and haunting debut, Sefton deftly portrays the life of a survivor. Jade is a reliable character in an unreliable world. Carefully crafted with moving prose and striking imagery, the author delivers a passionate, gritty tale of impossible choices and ultimate redemption. An impressive debut, indeed. "

- **Jennifer Gooch Hummer, bestselling author, *Veridian Sterling Fakes It***

"Sefton offers a gritty and introspective chronicle of one woman's descent into addiction and sex work in 1980s America. The author invites readers into a visceral, memory-laden interior landscape. Chapters move fluidly between present-tense narration and past recollections. Vivid descriptions of frozen sidewalks, smoky clubs, sticky bar floors, and the ache of unspoken shame create an immersive reading experience. While the tone can be emotionally heavy, the work rarely veers into melodrama; the author maintains control over the narrative voice, even as Jade loses control over her life. A harrowing yet beautifully rendered chronicle of loss, self-destruction, and the long road to self-acceptance." - **Kirkus Reviews**

"Sefton carves out one woman's fight for survival in this moving debut, following Arizona teenager Jade, whose desperate need for money propels her into "a life of despair and addiction." ...What makes her journey unique is Sefton's skill at crafting her gradual transformation: visceral disgust at this new world, followed by a begrudging appreciation of the strength and community she discovers there, to the final wild, drugged mess it turns her into... Sefton triumphs with this riveting portrait of a broken girl desperate for the light..." [Read the full review.](#) - **BookLife**

"What stands out in Sefton's writing is her ability to let readers into the story without weighing them down. Despite the subject matter, including addiction, grief, and exploitation, there's an undercurrent of hope and a desire for something more... It's a coming-of-age book for readers who appreciate storytelling that doesn't flinch. With its engaging voice and heartfelt honesty, *Jade's Broken Bridge* is both a cautionary tale and a testament to the strength it takes to rebuild. A heavy story, yes, but told with just enough wit and heart to keep readers turning the page." [Read the full review.](#) - **San Francisco Book Review**

"Author Michele Sefton uses vivid and poetic imagery to tell the story of Jade's descent into a world filled with loud music, flashing lights, and parties laced with "liquid courage" and an overabundance of cocaine. Jade takes the reader on a journey through her inner demons as well as her inner goddess who is trying hard to pull her life forward." - **Sandra Marinella, author, *The Story You Need to Tell***

"In a masterful debut, Michele Lee Sefton carries readers through a woman's journey of self-discovery, unflinchingly guiding her main character from feelings of loss and, perhaps, resentment to strength and independence. Jade's path through the adult dancing world offers readers a glimpse into the shadows and a raw and honest portrait of the opportunities as well as the risks that lie there. Sefton has created a character to root for... it is impossible not to feel her struggles in your bones as you read. A deep, thoughtful and immersive read that will stay with you long after the final sentence." - **Ginger Scott, USA Today, Wall Street Journal and Amazon bestselling author**