brittle /ˈbrɪtl/ adj

1. hard but easily broken
2. a brittle mood or state of mind is one that appears to be happy or strong but is actually nervous and easily damaged

***Fundamentals of Web Development:***

**Another approach for creating a three-column layout is to float elements within a container element. This approach is actually a little less brittle because the floated elements within a container are independent of elements outside the container.**

***Unit Testing Manning:***

**The next listing shows the most egregious example of brittleness in tests that I ve ever**

**encountered, in which the test reads the source code of the MessageRenderer class and compares it to the “correct” implementation.**