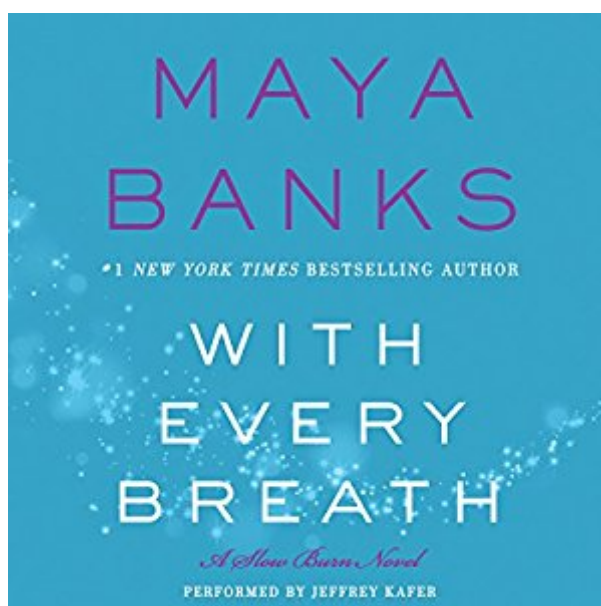


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With Every Breath: A Slow Burn Novel



Synopsis

Number-one USA Today and New York Times best-selling author Maya Banks continues her suspenseful and sizzling Slow Burn series with this fourth book - a mesmerizingly sexy tale of a strong, brilliant woman who encounters the one man who makes her lose all control. Eliza Cummings fought free of a monster who terrorized her when she was an innocent teenager and helped put him away for good. She took a job with Devereaux Security Services and devoted every hour to taking down the very thing she'd nearly become. No one, not even those closest to her, know her darkest shameful secrets. But now the killer has been set free on a legal loophole, and it's only a matter of time before he comes for her. Eliza's only choice is to run and lead the monster away from the people she loves. Wade Sterling has always lived by his own rules, a law unto himself who answers to no one. He's never professed to be a good man, and he's definitely not hero material. Wade never allows anyone close enough to see the man behind the impenetrable mask - but one woman threatens his carefully leashed control. He took a bullet for her, and the result was more than a piece of metal entrenched in his skin. She was under his skin, and nothing he did rid himself of the woman with the courage of a warrior and who thinks nothing of putting her life before others'. But when Wade sees a panicked and haunted Eliza, he knows something is very wrong, because the fool woman has never been afraid of anything. And when she tries to run, the primal beast barely lurking beneath his deceptively polished façade erupts in a rage. She may not know it, but she belongs to him. This time Eliza isn't going to play the protector. She is damn well going to be the protected. And as long as Wade breathes, no one will ever hurt what is his.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is soooo not like what I have come to expect from Maya Banks. It could really use some editing to condense it, cutting out the extremely repetitive internal angst of Eliza that takes up the first 20% of the book. OK, granted, I haven't finished the book yet so this may be a bit unfair. Take my review with a grain of salt. But good grief! It is only Banks past books that I enjoyed so much that is keeping me reading at this point. For 20% of a 352-page book to be nothing more than Eliza's internal angst over how she's going to lie to her team mates (who are her family) to protect them from the monster of her past, with nothing to advance the plot, I am really, really bored. Then, we finally get something different. We're finally out of Eliza's angsty, mental hand-wringing...and it's pages and pages and pages of introduction to new characters (who, I am truly hoping, get their own books in the future). But it's not just an introduction. These men are soooo hot, so full of testosterone that just looking at them gets Eliza's "girly bits tingling." Seriously? Maya, is this your writing? And, what's up with Eliza lusting after these hot guys to the point of getting her "girly bits tingling" when, according to the book description, the H of this novel is Wade Sterling! And so far, we've seen Wade ONCE in the book, although I'm almost 25% of the way through. Another thing I did not appreciate was how the Deveraux brothers whose stories appear earlier in the series, are now dissed. I grew to like the brothers in the earlier books for their strength, intelligence and loyalty.

If you've ever read a Maya Banks book, you know she's wonderful at blending a romantic tale with the element of suspense. She can have your heart pumping one minute from a sensuous moment and pounding while on the edge of your seat wondering what's going to happen next. This book is no different. Eliza has a past, one she keeps secret, one she thought she'd been able to move beyond and attempt to make a life for herself. She's a strong woman, one who knows terror, she's faced the bad guy and come out on top, at least for a little while. Then she gets a call that changes everything and she knows nothing will be the same again; her past is coming to visit. She has to run. Wade's a man who knows what he wants, and is willing to do whatever it takes to get it. He's not perfect, nor would he claim to be, but he can be a determined man, he can do what needs doing if for no other reason that it helps him get what he wants; and right now, that's Eliza. The relationship between Eliza and Wade is different than most, it's taken some time to build it up, taken work for Wade to get in there with Eliza, who had built up walls to protect herself and anyone else from her past. I love the banter between these two, the quick wit, but also the fact that Wade can see through

Eliza's fronts, he can tell that something is wrong without her admitting a word. The chemistry between Wade and Eliza is off the charts, their connection is so very visible. Maya Banks has woven a thrilling ride with the details of Eliza's past, and the man she thought she'd put behind her. Eliza's fear is palpable and with the turn of each page, I wondered what was going to jump out on me, holding my breath and letting it out often.

When the publisher offered me a copy of this book, my whole neighborhood heard me scream from happiness. I love Maya Banks books and I don't think I read the blurb before accepting. And I don't regret that. This might be the fourth book in a series, but I had almost zero problems with getting into the story. Aside from Wade and Eliza point of views we also get Danes and I thought for a second that Danes feelings for Eliza were more on the romantic side which worried me for a second. If I had read the previous books I might have understood that Dane's worry was based on a more brotherly love than romantic. I also got briefed on what happened in the previous book(s?) and while I felt sad for not reading the stories of the other couples I didn't have a problem getting into this story. To be honest I thought it would have more action, but after having read the whole book I can say that for me that worked better. Why? Because for me Eliza needed more time with Wade showing his love for her and making her feel like she had someone than having her chasing someone. That happens because Eliza also need to have a closure with her past. I was surprised by the supernatural elements the book had. I wasn't expecting them, but they aren't a big part of the book so I can't say I minded them. I wonder if Maya Banks has watched Jessica Jones because the villain in the story reminded me strongly of Killgrave. For the first time in forever I will focus only on the heroine. Wade was great, but Eliza won me over. After a series of bad heroines Eliza came to my life. She didn't try to hurt the people she calls family and actually did everything in her power to keep them away from harm. She might have some weak moments, but she ended up being stronger and more capable.

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