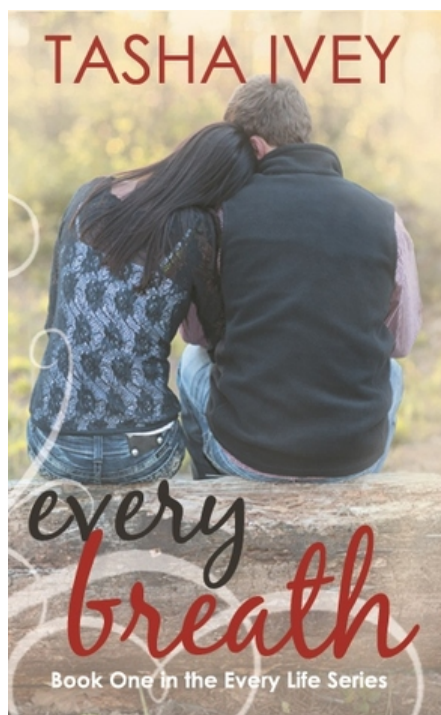




Every Breath

Tasha Ivey

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****Contains mild language, adult situations, and sexual content. Mature audiences only.****

How does someone give their heart away when they don't have all of the pieces?

Not that Makenna really wants a second chance at love anyway. She is stuck in her tragic past, secretly living every day for her deceased fiancé, while her new boyfriend, Drew, is gently nudging her into the present.

Desperate to appear normal again, she slaps on a happy face and goes through the motions of a normal, healthy relationship—but with the exception of even a single kiss. And she's okay with pretending, but Drew needs more than she's willing to give.

Surprisingly, it's an innocent letter from a soldier halfway around the world that has her seeing life differently. Sawyer is at his breaking point, and his depression sucks him in deeper every day. Makenna becomes his only lifeline to home, and he's hanging on by a very weak thread.

By helping him, Makenna learns to let go of grief before she's left with only a ghost of the woman she once was, finally freeing her from guilt and showing her that it is possible to love again. But when she discovers that both of the men in her life are hiding something, she makes two shocking revelations. One of them is insanely in love with her, and one of them destroyed her happy ever after.

Even though a fairytale ending does await her, is she willing to face her own demons to fight for it?

****DOES CONTAIN MILD LANGUAGE AND SEXUAL CONTENT.****

Every Breath Details

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Jessica's Book Review says

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“You know, I thought I had my life all figured out. After that one fateful day, I didn’t think I was meant to have the fairy tale ending. Hell, I didn’t even think I was meant to love again. But I figured something out along the way. Sometimes, it takes someone just as broken as you are to heal you.”

Makenna is a elementary school teacher who is not truly dealing with losing her fiancé in a car accident two years ago. Makenna is living but not really living a life. Aside from her best friend she does not socialize and is a shell of the person she once was. She had her entire life planned out with her first love and now he is gone.

Every Breath is in entirely in the point-of-view of Makenna. Two years has gone by since the accident that took her fiancé’s life and almost hers too. With the help of her crazy, fun best friend Makenna begins to date Drew, the new football coach who used to play in the NFL. He is sweet, patient, and hot! Makenna begins a very slow relationship with Drew, it feels almost like he is more her friend then a boyfriend. She can’t bring herself to kiss him or open up to him about her fiancé but doesn’t want to let him go either because she feels like she must move on.

Makenna’s class adopts a US soldier for her second grade class and the students write letters to their soldier, Sawyer who is stationed in the Middle East. Sawyer & Makenna begin to email each other and soon video chat. Makenna finds herself opening up to Sawyer with everything and her feelings become conflicted between Drew & Sawyer.

Sawyer is just as broken as Makenna for different reasons. He is not only good looking but kind and compassionate. The two instantly click as friends but they are very flirtatious. Sawyer is Makenna’s saving grace. He brings her back to life even though he is thousands of miles away from her fighting a way. Makenna needs Sawyer as much as he needs her.

As they become closer the real Drew surfaces and he isn’t as perfect as Makenna once thought he was. Sawyer is there to help her but there is so much going on between these two. Makenna goes back and forth from wanting more to feeling guilty as if she is cheating on her dead fiancé’. I found Sawyer’s character to be very deep, he has so much more story to tell I feel. He had a very dark life until Makenna shined light into it.

I really enjoyed the story of Makenna & Sawyer. It was depressing and sad in the beginning but I love their correspondence in email and video chat. It was fun to read of their conversations, it was one of my favorite things about the book. Sawyer is totally swoon worthy ladies. He is amazing and loving.

I love that there was build up between the relationship of Makenna & Sawyer and Makenna & Drew. It felt more realistic then her diving into her first relationship since losing her fiancé. Also as for Drew’s storyline, at first I didn’t like the dramatically different change in Drew but after thinking about it, it made sense and I love Sawyer was there to save the day in all his yumminess!

I really enjoyed the story and writing style Ms. Ivey. I love emotional reads that are sad... happy ending or not. I love a good cry.

I give Every Breath 4 Stars.

ARC provided by the author in return for an honest review.

Lia says

"Broken and shattered into so many pieces, I don't know if there is anyone who could ever put my heart completely back together"

This book was heart-wrenching and emotional, yet beautiful at the same time. Makenna lost the love of her life before they ever really had a chance to live. And she almost lost her life at the same time. For two years, she's been a shell of her former self. Faking happiness to hide the heartbreak from her family and friends. Her best friend, Callie, convinces her to try to move on. To start dating again. But it all goes wrong. Until fate brings Sawyer into her life. He helps her move on and open her heart to love again. Something she never thought would be possible. But, obstacle after obstacle get in the way of their chance at a happy ever after.

This book was so well written. The story developed well and the characters were brilliantly written. Makenna and Sawyer, two very broken souls, were illustrated beautifully and Callie (Makenna's BFF) added some comic relief to an emotional story. Can't wait to read more from Tasha Ivey.

? Jeri's Book Attic ? the Romance Bibliophile ? says

French Press Bookworm Blog says

Sweet

I loved the emails back and forth and how sweet it flowed. I had a hard time enjoying Mak. The girl just had no backbone and seems a little too blind for me but she was sweet. I loved Sawyer he was sweet and protective and possessive without being OTT. But this book lacked for me was a real heat factor...I'll admit it...I like my smut with my sweet lol and this just fell flat for me

Katie(babs) says

This started out as an appealing reader, but then half way through I felt like I was in the Twilight Zone. Makenna is a second grade school teacher who lost Shane, the love of her life in a horrible car accident two years ago. Her best friend forces her to accept the attentions of the hot high school football coach, Drew, who seems too perfect for words. Makenna thinks Drew is nice, but there's no spark there. Drew goes out of his way to be a gentleman and courts her, but Makenna still can't connect with him. She is more than willing to connect with Sawyer, who she has late night video chats with. Slowly Drew's personality changes, and he becomes too smothering and possessive. And then Sawyer pops up in Makenna's home town around the

holidays, which pleases her, especially since Drew has turn psychotic.

More than half way through I started rolling my eyes. Drew's personality change is a total 180, and for no reason he becomes this crazed, drug popping stalker, obsessed with Makenna. I really think Tasha missed the boat on this one. She does make a good case why Makenna falls for Sawyer, but not for Drew. Why make Drew a monster in order to push Makenna into Sawyer's arms?

The ending is straight out of *Sleeping with the Enemy* and just seems too cliché or forced.

Unfortunately a disappointing read that gets a big pass from me.

Holly (epiloguebookblog) says

Every now and then, I stumble onto a story *seemingly* by accident...

And then that story is completely and utterly mind-blowing...

And then I ask myself questions like...

“HOW HAS NOBODY RECOMMENDED THIS TO ME BEFORE?” and “HAVE I BEEN LIVING UNDER A FREAKIN’ ROCK?”

Now that I've gotten that out of my system, here's how I came to discover *Every Breath*:

Tasha Ivey is listed as one of the authors who will at an upcoming author event/book signing that I'll be attending as a reader/fan/blogger. My goal is to systematically read as many of the participating authors as possible, in no particular order.

When I looked up Tasha Ivey on Goodreads, I found the blurb for *Every Breath*. I wanted something sweet, maybe a little suspenseful, but not terribly angsty. It came down to two books: this one and another by a different author.

So then I did the first-page test. (You know, where you read the first couple pages of a book to see whether it grabs you or not?) Well, this one passed the first-page test and then some.

The writing style absolutely blew me away and is what ultimately sold me on this read. In a word, it's phenomenal. All dictated from the heroine's point of view (except for a small part of the epilogue), the manner of narration is engaging, witty, and conversational. At times I felt as if Makenna was telling me her story personally. Like the two of us were sharing a heart-to-heart (at a coffee shop, perhaps?) during which she untabled her problems and concerns.

Another thing I enjoyed about this novel is how **unpredictable** it was. Sometimes romantic fiction can be the opposite. And, let's face it, sometimes that's what we want from romance, isn't it? Nevertheless, this one surprised me. And then surprised me again. So many things about it I just didn't see coming.

The characters are well developed, and no plot holes exist that I'm aware of. I thought Callie (a secondary character) was hilarious, and I have an immense amount of respect for both Sawyer and Makenna. The former is a hero for serving in Afghanistan, and the latter is a saint for teaching second graders (with an insane amount of patience, I might add) even after surviving her own personal tragedy.

Every Breath is a good mix of both heavy and light subject matter. While some serious topics surface and are subsequently addressed, the novel isn't entirely given over to a somber tone. Many, many funny and sweet parts balance out the tenser moments.

All in all, I recommend this one highly! From the storyline to the characters to the writing, *Every Breath* is a gem, and I'm really thankful to have stumbled upon it.

Chris- Bookaddict says

5 +++++ Amazing Brilliantly Stars !!!!!

Tasha knows how to write a story and pull you in right from the beginning. It definitely kept me wanting to read and turning the pages to see what was going to happen next.

This story has, Tragedy, it has a little suspense, compassion and a whole lot of love. I loved the characters, I loved the kids in Makenna's class, William Man oh man was he a hoot !!!!!

Makenna, thought she had it all and in one night her entire happily ever after was gone. For the last 2 years she has been living her life and going through the motions in a shell of herself. She has closed off everyone around her from her true feelings about the tragic night that took everything she had away from her.

Makenna, I loved her, she is a strong character, she was dealt with the tragic death of her fiancé and she could not move forward from it. Every breath she takes she is taking for Shane trying to keep him alive inside her. She needs to finally repair the scar on her heart and let Shane go and move on. She needs to finally be able to open up and talk about Shane and that night .

Through her best friend Callie, Makenna decides to start dating Coach Drew. She figures maybe if she tries what her Best friend wants things will work out and she will be able to move on from Shane. As the story progress' we discover that Drew is hiding something major. And Makenna just is not feeling it at all with him.

Drew, Coach at the high school, I tried to love him in the beginning but honestly my gut told me he was not the one for her. His actions and how things played out I knew he was not going to be the happily ever after she needed. So yeahh Drew don't get to attached to him.

When her best friend Callie decides she has had enough she shuts her out and tells her she needs to get herself together and bring back her best friend that she had 2 yrs ago.

Makenna starts a friendship with Sawyer the soldier her class has sent cards and letters to. They video chat, and email for weeks, getting to know each other and talking about everything under the sun.

Sawyer, Hot, Sweet, sexy Military man, what more do I need to say . From the first introduction of him in the book I loved him. He was so compassionate, caring, and truly understood where Makenna was coming from in the tragedy department. Sawyer has a secret himself, Will it cause a major problem for Makenna or will she be able to work through it?

This does have an HEA . There will be more from the characters in this book and I can not wait for their stories to unfold.

I loved the way That Tasha brought Sawyer and Makenna closer together, What started out as friendship turned into love, Tasha did a fabulous job writing the storyline for these 2 people .

definitely add it to your TBR list!!! Every Breath is scheduled for release on August 6th

Emma says

Well, this book was gorgeous. Saying I went through a whirlwind of emotions would be the understatement of the century. I laughed, I cried (literally full on ugly cried), I swooned, I screamed internally... the list goes on.

I definitely didn't expect to love this as much as I did. It really had its funny, beautiful and heartbreaking moments. I know many people, myself included, don't particularly like "weak" female main characters. I guess that is how you would describe Makenna but she has reasons for this. She lost her fiancé and becomes really closed off from people. At the beginning of the book, her best friend basically pushes her towards dating this guy, Drew. She never really feels anything for Drew and a lot of crazy stuff happens between them. I will say no more.

Now, I'm going to talk about one of my favourite things about this book: Sawyer. He is the soldier that Makenna's class adopts and sends letters to, and I suppose a huge contributing factor to the "crazy stuff" that happens between Makenna and Drew. Makenna begins emailing Sawyer, they eventually start having video chats and they become pretty close. But yeah, Sawyer... you *babe*, what an amazing guy. I loved him from the start, he was always such a sweetheart and when I found out about his past I just wanted to hug him asdfghjkl. He's just a babe. Enough said. You'll definitely love him.

There are a lot of other great characters too, like William, oh he just cracks me up. Dalton, Callie, Wes and Darcy the cat all became close to my heart while I was reading this book. It was such an enjoyable read.

The next book in the series, *Every Kiss* will also be out soon, which is about Makenna's best friend Callie and her husband Wes.

Go read this book. Right. Now. You have to. It's an emotional rollercoaster, to say the least. It has a really heartwarming HEA so even after the ups and downs throughout the whole book, the ending is oh so beautiful. So go read this book, it's just sitting there, being all emotional, waiting to be read. You won't regret it!!

Alison says

5 breathtaking stars!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I loved this amazing story! Sawyer was wonderful! I felt every little feeling in this book. I could have gone for a little more of a steam factor, but honestly the book was that good, that I really don't care.

The ending to this story was perfect! I loved the epilogue, one of the best I have ever read! I have chills from how this ended, I guess that's how you know it's a good book!

I took a chance on this book with hardly any reviews, and wow I got lucky!

Christie«SHBBlogger» says

3.5 stars.

Cute little read. Unrealistic at times, but it was light and sweet...just what I needed after the angst-filled book I just finished. The heroine really bugged the heck out of me though-she was shady and immature about how she handled the two guys.

Brooklyn JoJo says

A sweet and sometimes sad story that hit me in the feels. It could've used a little more heat and a little less melodrama but overall a decent read. Trigger warnings: death, attempted rape and physical violence issues pop up - avoid if these are tough for you to handle...

This Coull Chick says

And the award for most improved writer goes toTasha Ivey

Well what a difference a book makes. After reading Destiny Ever-Changing going into Every Breath I hate to say it but I wasn't expecting too much. But man an awesome surprise was waiting for me within these pages. Tasha has proven to be the type of person that can grow, take on constructive criticism and get better and better.

Synopsis

How does someone give their heart away when they don't have all of the pieces?

Not that Makenna really wants a second chance at love anyway. She is stuck in her tragic past, secretly living every day for her deceased fiancé, while her new boyfriend, Drew, is gently nudging her into the present.

Desperate to appear normal again, she slaps on a happy face and goes through the motions of a normal, healthy relationship—but with the exception of even a single kiss. And she's okay with pretending, but Drew needs more than she's willing to give.

Surprisingly, it's an innocent letter from a soldier halfway around the world that has her seeing life differently. Sawyer is at his breaking point, and his depression sucks him in deeper every day. Makenna becomes his only lifeline to home, and he's hanging on by a very weak thread.

By helping him, Makenna learns to let go of grief before she's left with only a ghost of the woman she once was, finally freeing her from guilt and showing her that it is possible to love again. But when she discovers that both of the men in her life are hiding something, she makes two shocking revelations. One of them is insanely in love with her, and one of them destroyed her happy ever after.

Even though a fairytale ending does await her, is she willing to face her own demons to fight for it?

What I thought

The writing in this book was sensational, I just love Tasha Ivey's style, I was sucked in so completely from the very first page and didn't put the book down till I think it was about 2 in the morning. I just absorbed it. I felt really connected to the characters, and instantly loved them!! I really liked the supporting cast, too often they are just there for no real purpose at all, but each and every one of them had a role to play and I really want to know more about Doctor Dalton!!!

This was a rather emotional book in parts the only one flaw I had with it was the timing I felt 18 months was a little rushed for her friends to be getting on her case, but that was more my issue than anything else. I really feel Makenna's thoughts, feelings, emotions and reactions were so well done, I felt what she felt and really sympathized with her. And Sawyer...Swoon!!

There is also a couple of twists that I honestly didn't see one of them coming, and well not to toot my own horn or anything but I am rather good at seeing twist coming, so kudos to you Tasha!!

I now eagerly await the next book in this series, yes it is now a series ...Yay but any book she writes!!

Jennifer LaFon - Book Bitches Blog says

5 EMOTIONAL stars!!!

"My relationship with Shane was pure and innocent and perfect. But with Sawyer, it's all that, plus something that I can't quite verbalize. I didn't find what I had with Shane. I found much more."

I will start this review off by saying I could never do this story justice with my review so PLEASE read it no matter what!!!

I can't remember the last time I read a book that made me laugh and cry at the same time. I am talking, tears in my eyes and chuckling to myself. Every Breath tested me!! I don't normally cry for books...teary eyed maybe but hardly ever do those tears fall. Yeah, I know, I'm weird!! But, MaKenna Madison's story got to me. I was sad. I was happy. I was laughing. I was mad. Do you get the point?? It was an emotional roller coaster that had me up until 1am the night before a microbiology test. Yes, that's how bad I needed to know what was happening next!

MaKenna is tough. She might not know it but she is. I mean, seriously, she loses her fiancé(Shane), dates a psycho(Drew), and then learns that her boyfriend(Sawyer) made a decision that changed her life forever. Every damn time I thought HEA was getting close, something else happened to this poor chick. There are so many things happening all at the same time. I felt like I couldn't even come back up from an emotional low before I was thrown back into another state of sadness. If it wasn't one thing, it was the next. How MaKenna didn't end up sitting in a corner, with her arms around her legs, rocking and humming to herself, I have no idea. I need to be checked into the psych ward just from reading it! LOL

So, every story(or at least most of them) have that one guy that is swoon worthy and oh so damn dreamy, and Sawyer is that guy this time. But, damn, I needed to see a pic of this hunky man in his military uniform. He sounds so hot, or at least hot in the picture in my head. But more than hot, Sawyer is all around AMAZING. Like MaKenna, he is also broken and has many a skeleton in his closet but that doesn't even take away from his amazingness....it makes him even better. Responsible, compassionate, trustworthy, and sensitive are just

a few of the words I use to describe him. Short version is, he is perfect for our poor broken MaKenna.

“I touch my lips and smile like a teenage girl. I think this is the part where I’m supposed to call all of my friends, dance in front of my mirror, and write all about it in my Lisa Frank diary.”

I love the sweetness of how their relationship grows. It’s true that a kiss can tell a lot about your feelings for a person and this story proves it! I swear I could go on and on about this story. And I have to tell all my book friends, but I would not want to ruin even one paragraph of all the twists and turns of it. There was not one moment of this story that I didn’t enjoy. The only thing that pissed me off was that I couldn’t finish it in one sitting. I didn’t want to put it down. I am SOOOOO in love with it and will be rereading it again in the future.

Read it! Love it! And then come back and tell me what you thought so I have someone else to talk to about it :) I won’t tire of it for a long while!

ARC copy received from the author for an honest review

Hetty says

I am still in a state of euphoric bliss from how fantastic this novel was. I feel it is impossible to properly express how much I loved this book and do it justice but I am going to try.

“The scar on my heart won’t ever heal because I won’t let it.”

Every Breath should have an enormous neon sign above it blinking, “I AM AMAZING!” I am completely shocked by the emotional and physical reaction I had to this book. My heart was racing, butterflies were swarming, I was blushing... and I CRIED! I rarely cry so that is really saying something. This was an extremely powerful journey I would love to take again and again.

“I am broken. Broken and shattered into so many pieces, I don’t know if there is anyone who could ever put my heart completely back together.”

Makenna Madison is a glorious character. Even though she is struggling with grief and emotional pain throughout most of the novel, Makenna is a shining star. There is so much turmoil and conflict she deals with yet manages to plaster on a happy face every day. After Shane, her fiancé, died she has been wandering through life in a fog unable to escape. Sadly, she doesn’t want to burden anyone with her troubles she has bottled them up deep within. I appreciated that Makenna’s struggle with life was realistic and very plausible. It was easy to image her story as being real and I believe that is why I was so strongly affected.

“Don’t be embarrassed, and don’t be afraid of me. Ever. God knows, I’ve wanted to kiss you since the moment I saw you bite your lip when we met a year ago, but it won’t happen until I know you’re ready.”

Makenna meets Drew Pierce at the school district they work in. He is the first man since Shane that she considers going on a date with. Drew is charming and handsome plus he appears to genuinely care about Makenna. He takes time getting to know her and surprises her with all sorts of cute sentiments. Drew definitely adds a lot of suspense and mystery as well. They spend a lot of time together but is Drew the right man to help Makenna find the light again?

"I really needed to hear your voice. I don't tell you enough what it means to me."

Completely lost in the moment, I want to open my eyes, desperate to see that dark amber honey again to know that I've found my way back into that dream.

Sawyer Harris stole my heart. He is everything you could ever want. Sawyer is a deployed soldier that Makenna's second grade class writes letters to. After she receives his response, they begin communicating frequently. Even over the internet, Makenna feels an instant spark with Sawyer. She feels at ease with him and begins imagining what might be. I could feel her joy and excitement when she was talking or thinking about Sawyer. I treasured their special bond and it was executed to perfection. The way their relationship was conveyed was magnificent. Can Sawyer and Makenna help each other heal from the past and find peace for the future?

"Every single day, I like you a little bit more. Every day, I think about what my life could be like down the road with you in it. For the first time, I'm looking past today. I'm actually considering the fact that there's a tomorrow for me. Maybe even a happy one. It's having hope for a better life that scares me the most."

Did I mention Sawyer calls Makenna darlin'? SWOON!

This emotionally story left me breathless and happy. The ending is incredible and brings everything together beautifully. I had a wonderful book hangover because I was so content. Tasha Ivey spent a lot of time sending details and teasers for Every Breath so I was really looking forward to reading it. My expectations were blown to smithereens and it was so much better than I could have imagined. I loved everything about this novel! The writing, the characters, the concept... everything was simply splendid!

"It's kind of poetic, right? You falling for the man who saved your life. It's like it came full circle; maybe it was supposed to happen this way."

Extremely well done Tasha! You are extraordinary!

5+ Diamonds

Ashley Christin says

***** 5 Addicting Stars!!!! Truly an amazing book!

Sometimes, it takes someone else to show you that you won't heal until every breath you take is for you, not anyone else. The scars may not ever fade, but the heart can be put back together piece by piece, if you have the right person for the job.

WOW, ummmm I don't even know how to start this....

WOW.

I have been put through so much during this book! I felt sooo much emotion with Every Breath, from laughing at Callie and MaKenna's friendship to having my heart ripped out by MaKenna's struggle. I fell deep into the world that Tasha created, she takes you through a heart breaking story of a lost love, but don't worry there is a HEA ?

MaKenna is struggling over the loss of her fiancé and has not been able to be her normal self because of it. Her friends and family try to stick by her and help her a long, Callie her BFF decides to try to push her to date the high school football coach, Drew. Drew is handsome and sweet and MaKenna tries so hard to MAKE herself feel something for him, but it just is not there. MaKenna is an elementary teacher and every year around Christmas her class sends letters to soldiers, this year one of the soldiers ends up being more than just a blank face overseas.

Sawyer has his own past he is struggling with and MaKenna is just the person to help him take his mind off what he is dealing with. Sawyer and MaKenna's friendship grows throughout their late night chats and emails but, that is just the beginning...

I really do not want to give away too much about this amazing book! **Early Release date of August 4th you won't want to miss this one!**

-Ashley Christin, Blogger at Fiction's Our Addiction

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