

Breathe

Lauren Jameson

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Two people learn what it really means to give up control in the sizzling new novel from the author of *Blush* and *Surrender to Temptation...*.

When business mogul Elijah Masterson travels to the Mexican coast for his chain of luxury resorts, he purchases an emerald green glass sculpture for one of the properties. He is soon fascinated by the fiery temptress who created it. The attraction between them is instant and explosive, but Elijah resists, unsure that a woman as strong-willed as Samantha would ever yield in the way he needs her to.

Headstrong glass artist Samantha Collins hides a secret desire to submit to the right man. Samantha sees everything she wants in Elijah, but apart from one steamy night, he seems determined to keep his distance. She has always held back, but refusing to let go now that she's found the dominant man she's always wanted, Samantha makes Elijah an offer he can't refuse: a month of absolute submission.

But after a month of incredible passion, will either of them be able to walk away?

Breathe Details

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Genre: Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Bdsm, Contemporary Romance



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From Reader Review Breathe for online ebook

Jonel Boyko says

Jameson had me from the first page. Her well written and easy to follow storyline takes the world of BDSM and presents it in an understandable and approachable manner. Not only my imagination, but also my heart was caught up in this story. This is not simply a Dom/sub tale, but a journey of discovery. Not only did this book make my pulse race, but it also brought tears to my eyes. Jameson's exquisitely developed and intrinsically visual descriptions put everything together in a seamless and enchanting manner.

Jameson's take on character development allows you to get to know her cast gradually while they get to know one another. I became so attached and connected to the main character that I felt like I was fighting an internal battle alongside her. The supporting cast filled out the story quite well. They were fun and unique. I appreciated how each character was an individual and how they came together.

Overall, this is one of those stories that has you thinking 'just one more chapter' then leaves you going to work the next morning tired with a book hangover.

Please note that I received this novel free of charge from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Angela says

Don't know why this bothers me so much, but Elijah never told Sam that he loved her. He admitted it to himself, but when she said it to him, he didn't say it back.

Ana says

as i read more and more i become very irritated with elijah. everyting he did with samantha was because he wanted to know her secret. he didn't dominated her he manipulated and he called it love. oh please! no dom does that. and the only thing he cared was her secret. lame dom!

Amy says

I didn't care for this story too much. It isn't well written. Although the erotic fantasies were hot, I wasn't particularly impressed with the character development. In fact, it seemed like Samantha's character regressed to that of a child over time. And Elijah's choices bothered me. I found him to be very hypocritical by asking for Samantha's complete trust and honesty about her life story, but he wasn't willing to reciprocate much by telling her about his own past. The one scene that really bothered me was when he decided to use a belt on her to "punish" her for not telling him what was going on in her family life. In the real world, torturing somebody like that does not inspire a person to "trust" the authority figure more; it only hinders trust. The author would be wise to learn this bit of human psychology. People don't "trust" people who have abused them. Trust has to be earned, not demanded.

Oh, and then another big act that made my jaw drop was how Samantha started acting like a child because Elijah started treating her like a dependent child when the time came for her to visit her sister. Instead of acting like a grown woman and saying, "Hey, I'm going to visit my family member," she immaturely sneaks out behind his back. What's more is that he is threatening to end their relationship--not over her being unfaithful with another man, as would be completely expected--but because she wants to visit her sister! This is absolutely ludicrous!

Karielle at Books à la Mode says

But being restrained—that had been a major turn-on. More than that, the manner in which Elijah had taken her in his arms after she'd had her momentary panic attack had filled something deep inside her. The way he'd wrapped her in a blanket, held her close, fed her—it had been strange and some kind of wonderful to be taken care of.

That was what she wanted, more than anything she'd seen in the BDSM club. She wanted a strong man, a man who would take care of her without questioning her endlessly about it. A man who wasn't put off by the fact that she could be argumentative and stubborn. Elijah was that man. She was absolutely sure of it.

Considering how much I adored the first book in the In Vino Veritas series, Blush, which I reviewed back in May, I thought I would love Breathe, but I was actually very disappointed. With backdrops of breezy José del Cabo and colorful Las Vegas, Breathe is business tycoon Elijah Masterson's story—the story of how he finds the girl who steals his heart, and how he responds to her touch—even though she isn't fully available for his taking.

Samantha, our heroine, is running away from a deep, terrible past that still haunts her in the flesh today. I don't know what it is in recent trends that has glamorized childhood trauma, but as you can imagine, this "escaping the past" trope was predictable, superficial, and left a bad taste in my mouth—not because it was too horrible for words, but because it was so recklessly developed. Samantha has always had to be the responsible one, the one who had to pick up the scattered pieces of her broken family, but when she meets Elijah, a relationship as fiery as her personality ignites, and for once, she gets the chance to give up control.

There are two problems here that I can name already: first, the degree of "heat" of the relationship, and second, Samantha's "sassy" attitude—both the result of poor characterization. Whatever chemistry there is supposed to be between Elijah and Samantha is unconvincing; I felt nothing for them, and didn't care enough to root for their romance either. While the more explicit sex scenes are taboo and decently written, the character interaction, the entire presumption of their so-called relationship, is stinted and utterly painful (and not in the good way!).

Samantha is portrayed as your typical contrary, smart-mouthed redhead who's so uptight that she can't ever be fully submissive. The heart of the book's tragedy lies here: while Samantha wants to surrender to Elijah's kinky ways, she is too much of a "strong, independent woman who don't need no man" to do so; and while Elijah is intrigued by this adorable, passionate character, he is a true Dom and cannot be with a sort-of, kind-of sub. She's the kind of girl that could make him get way over his head—fall in love too quickly and get hurt—again. The dilemma of the impossible power play, as well as the secret he wants to coax out of her without damaging her, is really well elaborated, but that's about all I can praise.

The characters themselves are hard to sympathize with; entirely two-dimensional and routine. Samantha huffs her breath out and puts her fists on her hips too much, while Elijah does creepy, unrealistic things like call her "kitten" and lust after his best friend's fiancée. Jameson tried too hard to make each character ideal—Samantha the brazen, bold heroine, and Elijah the smooth, rich Dom—but she ended up making them unrealistic and rather ridiculous in the process.

I thought I'd at least enjoy the BDSM aspect, but nope, didn't happen. Samantha's immersion into the world of kink is uncannily Fifty Shades-esque; we've got a pathetically naïve innocent girl with only not-so-witty inner monologues to her name, and we've got a billionaire-slash-handsome-devil who's an expert on whips and chains and gags. On top of this, we have an author trying way too hard to be inventive, to be sexy; it was entirely unsexy. A few nights together and a trip to Elijah's infamous sex club later, and they're already developing separation anxiety. They call it incredible passion. They call it love.

Sorry, but this one just wasn't for me.

Pros

Brief cameos of characters from Blush // Intense love scenes // D/s relationship well explored // Quickly paced; I kept reading, didn't I?

Cons

Physical BDSM is poorly incorporated // Laughable characters // Laughable romance/love/whatever // Stereotypical "rich sex god falls in love with unextraordinary girl" plot // Emotionally artless; Jameson tries too hard to be sentimental, but I got nothing out of it

Verdict

Breathe's pages turned easily and were paced well, but the story itself is insipid, unoriginal, and at times, just too over-the-top. A clear Fifty Shades of Grey wannabe—the two books having nearly identical plots and equally ridiculous characters—the second installment of the In Vino Veritas series disappointed me sorely. Frustratingly, I really wanted to enjoy this novel about giving up and handing over control, but I must have gotten my hopes up too high; even if you're a fan of Blush or Jameson's alter ego, Lauren Hawkeye's other works, I can't recommend this one.

Rating: 5 out of 10 hearts (3 stars): Doesn't particularly light any of my fires; I feel indifferent about this book.

Source

Complimentary copy provided by publisher in exchange for an honest and unbiased review (thank you, Signet Eclipse!).

D.E. says

Breathe is a BDSM romance novel that tells the tale of Elijah Masterson and Samantha Collins. Samantha is a blown glass artist who attracts the business mogul's attention when he buys one of her glass sculptures. As part of a deal for Elijah to purchase a sculpture, Samantha agrees to be Elijah's submissive for one month. Elijah wants Samantha but he needs a submissive woman. The fiery temptress appears to be anything but submissive.

The writing in this novel is good – clear and crisp, which keeps the pace of the novel moving. I finished the novel in just 2 sittings. I enjoyed both characters immensely. They are both well developed and evolve during the novel. Frankly, I feel that there are entirely too many novels concerning BDSM at this moment but Jameson's writing was able to keep me reading and interested in the characters despite my current wariness. For her ability to get me interested in this book despite my apathy for BDSM at this moment, I gave the novel 4 stars.

Although I surprised myself by enjoying the novel, there were a few aspects that were disappointing. The 'secret' when it's finally revealed – although awful in and of itself – is not entirely what I expected based upon the foreshadowing earlier in the novel. Additionally, like many BDSM romance novels, the story centered more around what the lifestyle is like instead of on the characters and their development. I understand some of this background is necessary, certainly in this situation where Samantha is a newbie, but I felt that the explanations could have been shortened.

I recommend this novel for BDSM newbies.

I received a free copy of this novel from the author in return for an honest review.

Derna says

I received an ARC copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Samantha Collins is a glass artist who meets Elijah Masterson one evening, at an erotic theme exhibition that is showing one of her sculptures. Elijah is the tall sexy powerful Dominant, and owner of a chain of luxury resorts.

Samantha is drawn to Elijah as he is to her there is an instance chemistry and attraction that they both try and but can't fight. Samantha knows very little about that BDSM lifestyle, but its one that intrigues her. Wanting to know more, Samantha makes Elijah an offer in which she will be able to explore her curiosity further, but little does she know it will also turn her world upside down.

The storyline had all the elements of BDSM, and full hot sexy erotica that I love, and like to read every once in a while. I liked Samantha and Elijah, the different aspect relationship and the way it developed. Elijah helps Samantha explore her sexuality, and understand the Dom/ Sub relationship. Elijah wants total submission, honesty and trust from her, which Samantha wants to do, but finds it hard at times due her strong personality, a family issues, and a secret from her childhood.

Overall I enjoyed this book. It was a quick easy entertaining read with not too much drama. It was not what I expected from reading the synopsis. Breathe is the first book that I have read by Lauren Jameson, and I will certainly read more of her book. I like her writing style, the characters and plot development, the pace of the story, the kinkiness, and I liked that it had BDSM scenes that I had not read in other books before, so it was definitely an eye opener at times.

I liked ending, and while there was no cliffhanger or epilogue, I had the feeling the Lauren could continue Samantha and Elijah's story again if she wanted to. Breathe is the second book in the series and can easily be read as a standalone. I do plan on reading the first book in the series Blush that is Maddy and Alex's story.

I recommend this book if are looking for a contemporary romance story, which is a hot, and steamy with some BDSM action mixed in.

"She thought of Elijah, and of how he made her feel sparks that she'd never felt before. From the very first meeting he'd woken parts of her that had lain dormant ever since her teen years, when all the bad things happened".

"What he felt for Samantha was an all-consuming passion. Lust like he had never known before. And mixed with that were intense feelings.....feelings that felt a lot like love."

"This was what she had been missing her entire adult like: a man who would take control without asking for it."

"I want to hear what you have to say. You fascinate me. I'm not interested in a submissive who is little more that a mannequin."

books are love says

I received this book from the author in exchange for a honest review.

I was honestly not sure what I thought about the book until the end. This was very conflicting. Not because of the content which had some smoking scenes wowza but because of the trust issues. Samantha had a horrific past and wanted to submit to Elijah but didn't want to trust him with everything. For Elijah trust is what he needs so he can take care of Samantha. He needs to know that there are no barriers between them. Elijah needs to care for someone. He needs to know that someone trusts him enough to take care of them and although he loves Samantha's headstrong ways and opinions he cannot go without having that trust and Samantha is reluctant to give it.

Samantha is a strong independent woman who wants to have one aspect of her life where she doesn't need to be the responsible one. where she can truly submit everything to someone and let them make decisions. After her childhood and taking care of her sister she needs this. What is her roadblock is her fear that once she tells everything, Elijah will not want her. This is where I am conflicted. Elijah never showed any indication he would be anything but supportive as long as she was honest with him and told him what he asked for. If he asked what is wrong he wanted to know not be brushed off. Samantha had a hard time with this because of her past. She felt that he would walk away and that if she said anything she would break. Other than this she truly was submissive. When with Elijah anywhere it was him she focused on. She also didn't want to be submissive all the time for fear she would lose who she is. Instead of talking to Elijah about this she keeps it bottled up. That didn't sit well with m.

Elijah is a sexy caring dominant that wants someone to care for and need him. His attraction to Samantha is a mystery for she is headstrong and stubborn. Sassy do but he desires her. As they enter a relationship, he falls head over heals and is afraid Samantha will not be able to do what he needs an that is trust him.

This is tested when Samantha has a family issue and she runs without telling him. This breaks what little trust Elijah has but he cannot switch off feelings and learns that the is more to submission than realizes. From here the two will collide in a way that Is unexpected.

when all is said an done Samantha learns that Elijah is someone she can trust and believe in.

It is a interesting book and one that shows that trust is something you need in order to be free and love freely. Although in Elijah's case he loved no matte what. A read that will have you rooting for Elijah an sometimes booing Samantha. You will also cry for her about her past. I can say I would love to see a story on Luca. Hubba hubba.

Tana says

Breathe (In Vino Veritas #2) by Lauren Jameson

Breathe by Lauren Jameson is a well written novel, plot and characters development is laid out very well, I found it very easy to read, fast paced and I didn't stop reading it till I got to the end.

Lauren Jameson gives the readers and great view of what the bdsm lifestyles demands.

We first meet Samantha who is an artist and if very curious about what it would be like to be a submissive for a dominant male. Samantha has a strong personality and at first I wasn't sure why she felt the desire to be in a submissive situation. But you can see and begin to feel her desires. It's about being honest with yourself, exploring you deep dark desires and being able to dig down deep and let the exploring begin.

Elijah who is what you can only describe as strong, confident alpha male who is a true dominant, but he ends up having a few internal struggles when it comes to Samantha and her role as a submissive partner.

What I really enjoyed was the process of the story and having both of the characters internal feelings so well written.

So if you want a look into the bdsm lifestyle from different prospective this is defiantly a book to pick up. Or do you want to read a romance novel with some added spice, hot alpha male then this is a book for you to read.

I have rated Breathe (In Vino Veritas #2) by Lauren Jameson 4 starts and would recommend to anyone who enjoy a sizzling romance novel to pick up a copy for yourself. Also I found I really enjoyed the author's writing style and would not hesitate to read anything else she has or will write.

Debbie Lester says

Lauren Jameson takes readers on a journey into the world of BDSM in her latest erotic novel, Breathe. Jameson's ability to write a very sensual story, while still keeping it fresh and innovative will keep the readers attention from the first page to the last. Jameson's character development shines in this novel, as well

her in depth research and her knack for knowing just how much eroticism is enough but not too much. A great erotic novel for readers who like their romance with a bit of sizzle and submission.

What I liked:

I definitely believe there is a time and a place for every kind writing, including erotic romance. Let's face it, this type of relationship exists and there are certainly readers who fantasize about it. I thought Jameson's research was right on target with this one. She obviously did her homework. This may be a very popular genre at the moment, with all kinds of authors trying to cash in, but Lauren Jameson has a leg up on the rest, she knows what she's talking about. All of the submission scenes, the atmosphere of the club, everything seemed realistic and believable. Not easy in this genre.

The main characters in Breathe were very well written. Jameson has an exceptional way with character development. When we first meet Samantha, she is a successful glass sculptor, she has friends, a good career and she is thriving, but she has some inner desires that she hasn't fully realized yet. This was all about what Samantha wanted. What she desired. I liked the fact that Jameson makes this Samantha's choice. She isn't being influenced by anyone and she knows what she wants to explore. Her emotional journey into becoming a submissive to Elijah was just as riveting as her sexual journey.

Elijah wasn't a brooding hero with lots of flaws and underlying issues. He was also a successful man, who was handsome and wealthy. That was a bit predictable but Jameson pulled it off without it seeming too overdone or unrealistic. There are definitely wealthy men out there, who don't need a shrink. I thought Jameson wrote Elijah in a very natural and unassuming way. He had it all together, he just hadn't found the right person to share it with.

When Samantha asks Elijah to guide her into the world of submission the book really starts to heat up. It's certainly not recommended for young readers, but adults will be very satisfied with how this one unfolds in and out of the club in this instance. The sexual exploration by both characters was easy to read and in a way to understand as well. They are strong passionate people in their social lives and in their private lives, it just stands to reason that two people like these characters would want to try something very different and challenging. I thought it was all very well done.

I liked the club atmosphere as well. A lot of books of this type feature a club of some sort as the meeting place for people who are interested in this kind of sexual exploration. I often find them a bit tedious to read about because they don't really seem inviting to me. If I were going to go to a place like this I would want it to be somewhere I felt comfortable being myself and that definitely comes across in the setting for this book. It is definitely luxurious as well and that helps. But it catered to the clientele it was targeting and I thought it really worked for this one.

What I didn't like:

The only thing I can think of that I didn't like was the length. I wanted more, but so would any fan of erotic romance! It was that good.

Bottom Line:

Lauren Jameson excels with character development in Breathe. She has created two characters that have strong back stories and a desire to explore the BDSM world. It definitely isn't for everyone, but if you like this type of scenario, you have to read this book. There are so many erotic romances coming out these days,

it's nice to find one that has been well researched and written with a deft hand.

TinaMarie says

Billionaire who's been burned before finds and wants glass artist living in Mexico. She 'thinks' she's submissive but has a lot of control issues due to her upbringing but she knows she wants to give up control so a man who deserves it. If she can only let herself trust him. Before she makes a decision she asked a friend Dom to take her to a club, really didn't like how that Dom handled her intro. I liked Elijah's portrayal and need to control, also liked his idea of punishment.

Mar says

Interesting start to the book with in the first pages you get a little glimpse into what type of theme we should expect throughout the book. Right away we start with an incredible encounter with Elijah an interesting, successful and sexy man and a reluctant woman named Samantha. To say the least this relationship has many steamy moments with an off the charts attraction. It is very explicit true to the theme of the book but it's not to a point where it leaves a bad taste to the story. We get scenes between them in different locations plus a BDSM club. The book doesn't try to downplay what the life style is about and even though it's one of the main focus we still get a good storyline of the characters relationship.

The book goes from one sexual moment to the next and it really gives you an eye opener into the BDSM life style and what submission entails. Samantha in the story I think encompasses most curious woman in regards to this life style playing the blushing you got to be kidding me type. Then you have her complex issues and strong willed character that doesn't seem to work well with being a submissive. On the contrary we have Elijah a complete and utter Dominant with confidence and a love for this life style. If one thing rocks him to the core is Samantha which we get to see a vulnerable side to him. The characters were well developed and work good with the story line.

The book is fast paced but well written. I think it does get resolved rather fast in the end after so much reluctance from Samantha to share her secret. The story also falls in to the rich guy falls for struggling woman and fall in love cliché. By passing that the story is captivating and you just can't put it down. This book really encompasses what it is to push ones personal limits and finding freedom in submission. I also liked the way it was written since we get both Samantha's and Elijah's prospective on what's happening. Especially getting Elijah's thoughts on it because we get the reluctance and all the turmoil he experiences. I did enjoy the book and recommend it.

cosmogirl7481 says

I have to start this review by saying that BDSM is generally hit or miss for me. Mostly because I'm into alpha males, but I don't generally fantasize about a man bossing me around and making me do whatever he wants for his pleasure.

With that being said, overall, I enjoyed this book. I liked the idea of the heroine, the artistically inclined Samantha, having this secret desire she doesn't completely understand. And it haunts her so much it presents itself in her work – a piece that's very personal. So personal, in fact, that she refuses to sell it to Elijah, the hero, even though she could really use the money.

These two had chemistry right off the bat. Elijah is attracted to her because he sees something in her that calls to his dominant nature. And Samantha is attracted to him for reasons she's not quite ready to admit. However, their connection is something they can't really fight, and they end up having super hot "vanilla" sex when Elijah comes to visit her at her studio.

This story has a lot of twists and turns. Elijah has lingering scars from a previous marriage to a woman who claimed to be submissive, but really wasn't. And Samantha is carrying around a lot of guilt and shame from something dark that happened in her childhood. This secret has affected her for her entire life. And it's a secret that she's not ready or willing to share with Elijah...even though she thinks it might help her.

This is a story about sexual discovery for Samantha. And I must admit that I found that truly interesting, especially given the age of her character. And I really enjoyed Elijah as the alpha male hero, although there were a couple of things about him that I didn't love.

It was definitely a hot read. And a book I enthusiastically read from start to finish without really stopping. Fans of the BDSM genre will really enjoy this. And it will definitely appeal to readers of contemporary romance who don't mind a little kink with their love story.

This is the first book I've read by Lauren Jameson, but based on this alone, I will definitely be checking out more of her stuff.

4	stars.	
4	stars	

Dustin Burris says

I received a free copy of this book through Firstreads for my honest feedback.

From the moment I opened this book and started on the first page I literally could not stop reading. The characters though not new to the genre are compelling in there own right. The wealthy jaded Dom and the sub not sure of herself seeking away to explore limits within herself. But what makes this story is not just in its d/s sexual relationship but it it's overall sensuality. Everything from the description of a glass sculpture, blowing glass into form, the wine and the characters appreciation of it brings about its own sensual aura that is arousing and spell binding. I felt that this story though in comparison to previous BDSM novels I have read had more adequately explore the dynamic of a new d/s relationship as it blooms. Though a short read you don't feel like you were short changed by the plot characters or the developing relationships. Lauren Jameson accomplished something that I don't often find in a book and often wish more authors would take into mind, she created a plot where it is based on the dynamic of the relationship without needing a constant barrage of external forces trying to create explosive situations for the protagonist to have to overcome to the point where you are like seriously how much more has to happen before they get to the fairy tale ending, if they are going to even get one. I found this story fulfilling while also hoping by the last page that the author may one day consider continuing the story of Elijah & Samantha as they develop their complicated relationship at In Vino Veritas, otherwise kudos to Lauren Jameson for wonderful and intriguing story.

Jenn says

I think I've come to the realization that almost all BDSM books are the same...and I actually don't really like them. Writers seem to think they can take the '50 Shades' route and everything will be great. Rich, powerful man seeks submissive to control. Enter blushing girl with a "sassy" inner monologue. Throw in sex on every page and BAM! Get new ideas.

Samantha is an artist who likes to be in control of her life but she longs for someone to control her in the bedroom, but she has secrets in her past that she wants to stay there. Elijah is a Dom who wants a true submissive. He's been burned in the past, but when he sets his sights on Samantha, he instantly wants her. Like instantly, I'm talking tracking down her house and showing up the next day instantly. He's that stalkerish.

The whole story is Samantha's inability to decide is she wants to be a submissive or not. It's a constant back and forth from "I want control" to "why won't he control me?". It was getting a little tiring. If it's something you want to try, then do it! Stop freezing up and freaking out right before every little thing only to end up feeling sorry for yourself.

If I was supposed to root for these two to be together, then something went wrong somewhere. Honestly, I didn't care where they ended up at the end. The characters were underdeveloped to me, especially Elijah. I have no clue how these two fell in love since their only interactions revolved around sex and acts of humiliation. Because I'm sorry, her punishment for being insubordinate was for the pilot of the plane to molest her?? I just wasn't feeling it. They were boring and routine and had no chemistry.

I was looking for something new, something that I hadn't read before, but alas this wasn't it.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.?

This review can also be found here at my blog.