



Forged in Steele

Maya Banks

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The Kelly Group International (KGI): A super-elite, top secret, family-run business.

Qualifications: High intelligence, rock-hard body, military background.

Mission: Hostage/kidnap victim recovery. Intelligence gathering. Handling jobs the U.S. government can't...

Steele, a KGI team leader, is an enigma not even his team mates understand. His emotions are tightly locked down and nothing can break that icy exterior. Nothing except Maren Scofield, a doctor on a mission, a woman who has gotten under Steele's skin and threatens to crack that unflappable cool he's legendary for.

Steele is determined not to allow Maren past his carefully guarded defenses, but when she's in danger, there's no way he'll allow anyone else to protect her. She's hiding something. He's sure of it. But he isn't prepared for the shocking discovery her secrets reveal. Or how they will forever alter the course of his destiny. He has a decision to make. Hold tight and shut her out. Or take a chance on something more powerful than he's ever faced. Love.

Forged in Steele Details

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From Reader Review Forged in Steele for online ebook

Wendy says

Ahhhh, be *Steele* my beating little heart. What a great read. To see the *Ice man* at his most vulnerable, couldn't have been hotter. I adored the attraction and connection that he and Maren share; it's believable and just so touching at times. It also has non-stop action that had me on the edge of my seat and kept me reading until the wee hours of this morning.

To say I love the Kelly men is an understatement, because I absolutely adore every single one of them. The glimpses we get of the Kelly's and the other members such as Rio and where each couple are in the stages of their lives is also an added bonus. Enjoy, you romantic suspense lovers, because *HOOYAH* it's a winner!

Andrea Lujano says

Por fin el hombre con un corazon de hielo, consiguio el sol que lo derritiera y me gusto bastante pero le falto algo mas para que le diera un 5!

Keri says

Loved Steele's book. I will be honest I wasn't totally happy with P J's book, so I wasn't sure what to expect from this book. I was already half in love with Steele from the other books, but when he folded like marshmallow fluff, I loved him even more. This is one of my favorite troupes so it was right up my alley. Cannot wait until we get the next man of steel's book and that is yummy Hancock!! Well done MB, for me this was a sweet, feel good win!

Mariann {at} Belle's Book Bag says

This is one of my favorite series by one of my favorite authors. I have been waiting for Steele's book ever since he appeared in the first book of the series. I am so happy that he finally got his HEA. I wasn't sure that I was going to like him with Maren but I LOVED them together right from the start. They were such a great couple. I cannot wait for Donovan's book and I am definitely interested in learning more about Hancock. So many heartwarming scenes in this book and I was happy to see all my other favorite characters. LOVED LOVED LOVED the epilogue!! This is definitely one of my favorite books in the series. Steele *sigh* 5 out of 5 rating!!

Baba says

2 stars.

It was better than Shades of Gray. Still, it saddens me to say that Forged in Steele could never hold my interest. It's a bit embarrassing but I can hardly remember why I actually enjoyed the first two books in the series (book 3 was a bit 'meh' already). Hence, I assume either my reading preferences did change drastically in the meantime or the series did a serious nosedive into very unpleasant waters. I suspect it's both. All things considered I'm proud of myself that I finished Forged in Steele because it was a pain in the ass. Besides, nobody can accuse me of not giving the book (and Steele) a fair chance. In the end though, it just didn't do it for me.

As usual we have the common clichés such as the scowling, muttering, growling and the widening eyes etc. I was actually waiting for Steele to beat his chest. You know, something like "*Me Tarzan, you Jane.*"

And since you can never have enough growling human beings, Maren had to join the wildlife.

"Impossible, stubborn man," Maren growled.

Ugh.

RAWR...

I love my alpha males but when they (meaning Steele and the other KGI members) come across as an over exaggerated joke then it isn't even funny anymore. I get somewhat tired of this type of "hero." Besides, I can't take the OTT caveman acts and speech seriously anymore. As a result, this story made me roll my eyes over and over again. And what really irritated me immensely was the (view spoiler)**What about variety?** Honestly, like the caveman act, the (view spoiler) is getting **very old. Very fast.**

Since I started to read the KGI series I always wanted to read Steele's story. Steele intrigued me from the first book and he was one of my favorite KGI characters. Let's see, he is supposed to be the *ice man*. Though I must say that being an ice man doesn't equal with being an asshat. Having said this he was an über asshole when he wanted to hook up with Maren and he did lose a lot of points right then and there. Don't get me wrong. I was aware of the fact that Steele wasn't a charmer. But. Who talks to his future lay like that?

"You kissed me and then you ask me what's wrong?"

He frowned. "Was it that bad?"

This time she did laugh. "I think you know it wasn't bad. Why did you kiss me, Steele? What the hell is going on here?"

"I want us to have sex," he said bluntly.

"You drive me crazy. You're under my skin. Stuck deep. I don't need you there. You're a distraction, and I can't afford distractions. So we'll have sex and then I'll stop fantasizing about what it's like."

"I have to say that's about the worst proposition I've ever heard in my life."

Baba: I couldn't agree more, Maren.

Steele shrugged. "So I'm not a sensitive guy. You want to f@ck or what?"

And then get this...Steele tells her...

"You're an idiot," he repeated (Yep, he said it twice) She frowned. "Okay, I'm really not liking that word."

Friendly advice, Maren, if I'd been in your shoes I would have slapped his face.

He sighed. "Okay, you're clueless then. Completely and utterly clueless."

Duh. Good ole Steele is toning it down.

Steele said, *"As a rule, I hate people."* How charming. That's kinda crass, don't you think? Newsflash, you jerk, maybe it would be good to change your ideology, Steele. You know it could facilitate the interaction between you and other people.

Having said this, I found it absolutely mind boggling how Steele did a U-turn and underwent a radical personality change in the blink of an eye. He got mushy and incredibly touchy-feely after he had sex with Maren. It made it very hard for me to actually recognize the man's personality. Simply put, he transformed from asshole Steele to sappy Steele. Yeah, no more ice man, baby! You see, there is my dilemma coz there was not much of an explanation why he got the nickname ice man in the first place. I got it that he isn't a big talker, he is distant and standoffish and in charge of every situation (most of the time at least), and he leads his team stoically etc., but I really didn't get enough background story that would have explained why he became the man he is today and I didn't buy his miraculous transformation either. To top everything off I found all those gushy ILYs...um... slightly exaggerated to say the least. That happened too quickly for my taste.

There was nothing memorable about the heroine. She is one among many others and easily forgotten. What I will remember, however, are the waterworks and the sappiness. Granted, (view spoiler) there was so much excessive crying, sobbing and sniffing in this story, it somewhat made me roll my eyes even more.

The way they talked, acted and their countenance did not appeal to me. Also, the conversations were odd at times. Who asks for permission to fall in love with your "lover" (view spoiler)

"I could so see myself falling in love with you," she whispered. "But you need to tell me, Steele. Tell me if that's not something I should let happen. I'm making myself vulnerable to you and you swore to protect me. I know that means physically, but I've exposed something"

to you I've never exposed to anyone else. My heart. And you have to swear to protect that too."

And then two Kindle pages later...

"Oh God, Steele, I think I love you too."

Now that was *fast*.

The final highlight happened around the 89 % mark. It's so incredibly ridiculous it bears repeating. The stunt she pulled there was so unbelievable I had to laugh out loud. I mean a physically (view spoiler)

Of course I'm fine...

Are you freaking kidding me? Seriously? There are (view spoiler) I knew for sure there were more vital problems at hand. Hey, it's all about priorities, right? Oh, and the false modesty...again, who talks and acts like that in real life?

At this stage the book was a total let down already and the icing on the cake were the final 10 % that have been drowned in sappiness, and the cheese factor was at its highest. There is no denying it, the whole book was too sweet and goopy for me.

In conclusion, Forged in Steele put me into a sugar induced coma and I'm glad that I escaped *Sapsville* alive and kicking. Again, this is my opinion and what does not suit me might suit you. However, after having read five books in the KGI series I can honestly say that I'm done with this adventure, and I might as well be done with this author's work in general because I don't see Baba enjoying another book written by Ms. Banks anytime soon. Good luck and happy reading!

Rach says

I loved this book and as a **BIG** fan of the KGI series I can honestly say I was not disappointed with this one :)

I **love** how you learn more about previous characters from other books, **yet** if you have not read the whole

series you do not feel as though you have missed too much, in fact it makes you want to read other books in the series :) :)

Although it would have been nice to see a bit more of Steele's Badass side and a little less gushy love scene's

But did I still like it???...

I want **Hancock's** book ASAP...

Hancock...don't bother changing!! **You are PERFECT!!!**

Buddy read with Blacky :) I **loved loved loved** reading this with you it was sooo much fun **THANK YOU**
mwah mwah

Ann says

The Steele/Maren relationship just didn't do it for me. Didn't feel their connection. Maybe if I'd just come off of reading this series back to back, I'd have seen a spark of something previously unrealized between Steele/Marin. Definitely nothing I recall though from past bks. Just seemed like they were thrown together for sake of the story. At times I was just downright uncomfortable reading Mr. Ice as Mr. Hot for Doc Maren. Just too much of a sudden character reversal. A slow build up might have been more believable. Still I love these KGI guys and once the rest of the crew joined in and the action ensued I enjoyed the story.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

"Jesus Christ, woman, I'm a goddamn walking hard-on around you. Haven't you ever noticed?"

"N-no," she stammered out.

"You're an idiot," he repeated.

I'm just gonna keep it short and sweet :D

Steele

...was awesome here. Just awesome, even though for him being the silent type, he sure did talk a lot in this one. And express his feelings a lot in this one. A lot! But he was uber-funny cause he was so uber-direct ahahah hilarious :DDDD

The woman

I don't even remember her weird name anymore, she was Ok I guess ahahahah although I wish she got kidnapped more often ahahhahah :DD

The suspense

I loved all the action bits here, they were great, but even though it says this book is rom-suspense, I can't really see it. Some ordinary contemporary books have more suspense than this.

The book as a whole isn't suspenseful at all, there are a couple of scenes that have suspense and a bit of action and that is it :)

The non-suspense part of the book

That is actually 2/3 of it where nothing really happens, and I mean nothing, it is all just the two of them and their relationship and talking and having sex :)

The romance

...was absolutely lovely and I did love Steele and everything about him, especially how he behaved toward his woman (still don't remember her name), and the ending brought a tear to my eye <3 Totally wonderful <3

The sweetness factor is a bit huge and I wish there was less of it, but oh well.

Overall - I had huge fun reading this book, I really did, the first half was amazing, even the non-suspense part of it, and when the action came it was UBER! The second half was too sweet for my taste bit still lovely, and again, the suspense part was pretty great too :))))

But as far as I can see, in the future, when I'm in the mood for rom-suspense, I don't think I'll be grabbing Maya Banks, cause these read like an ordinary contemporary books with too much mushiness for me, sorry :(((

Still, I don't mind reading ordinary contemporary books at all so I know I'm gonna go back to this series for sure :))))

PS: I am dying to read Hancock's book!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*buddy read with Rach, woman I had huge fun, thanks for reading this with me <3 *

***Book-Lover* says**

Euphoria: is medically recognized as a mental and emotional condition in which a person experiences intense feelings of well-being, elation, happiness, excitement, and joy.

Why do I list Euphoria you ask? Because this book was that damn good!! I have read her entire KGI series so far, and this one may just be my favourite!! This is Steele and Maren's story!

This book is so true to Maya Banks style!! Great writing, deep emotional connections, characters with good depth, fantastically written steamy scenes, **the whole she-bang!**

It starts off with a **BIG BANG!!!** KGI team headed up by Steele is in the middle of a hostage retrieval mission that goes wrong, which ends up getting a couple of members of his team injured, needing them to go see Dr. Maren Scofield to get patched up!!

J.Steele

Steele has made appearances in all the previous KGI novels, and I've been itching to get into his head, and unfold his layers....and If his nickname says anything about him "**Ice-man**", I just knew it was gonna be good!!

It seems for quite some time, Mr. Iceman has been silently lusting **BIG TIME** for Dr. Maren. No matter what he does, he can't get her out of his system. So what does the mighty Iceman does?

“You drive me crazy. You’re under my skin. Stuck deep. I don’t need you there. You’re a distraction, and I can’t afford distractions. So we’ll have sex and then I’ll stop fantasizing about what it’s like.”

One Night. One chance to get her out of his system. Now you may think that a proposition like this would anger Maren...probably so, if she wasn't secretly lusting for the "Ice-man" since the moment she saw him!!

So what happens next?.....**10 pages** of smoking hot sex!! (ipad ebook version)

He wrapped his arms around her and rolled until he was atop her once more. He stayed firmly embedded inside her and when she landed on her back, he went even deeper. She moaned raggedly and let out a satisfied sound that made Steele tighten all over.

Morning comes, Steele packs up and leaves Maren as promised. Safe to say, that night only made it worse for the Ice-man. His mind is filled with images of Maren, and he's finding this burning need to see and touch the good doctor again!

Using that night to get her out of his system? Hell, she was further under his skin than ever. He couldn’t sleep, because she was there as soon as he closed his eyes. Her scent, the way she’d felt against him. The way it had felt when he’d slid into the tight clasp of her body. He shook off thoughts of her—she was more of a distraction than ever.

So he shows up at her door step, needing to be with her. I gotta say, I absolutely loved Steele's vulnerability with losing control over a woman, his desire to want more than one night with her, to breaking down his walls with her! **WOW!!!** I was highlighting like crazy while reading!

What follows after he shows up is a couple of days is pure beauty!! You see them fall in love, and it was **ammaazzinnng!!!!** But of course their bubble is burst by the call of duty..

He kissed her again, their tongues colliding as he deepened the kiss. “I’m coming back,” he said in a strained voice. “Believe that, okay? I know I never said I’d be back that first time, but this isn’t over. We’re not finished. As soon as I wrap things up, I’m heading back.”
“Okay,” she whispered.

Dr. Maren Scofield

I absolutely adored her!! From page 1 until the last, not at one point was she a stammering, blubbing, double-minded whinny woman! She said what she thought and fought for what she wanted!

“I like that you give as good as you get,” he murmured. “Love that saucy tongue of yours, and I love that you give me shit. No one else does that.”

“You say it straight. You aren’t afraid to admit things even if you’re unsure of the reaction or if what you want is reciprocated. I like that you don’t play coy and that you seem to be as into me as I’m into you. There’s no guessing with you and I like that. It’s pretty damn refreshing.”

See what I mean?....pretty great chick, right?!

Sorry to say, he's not the only one who notices the beautiful Maren. Javier Mendoza was a dangerous man who needed her to help him with a medical procedure, at the same time he's developed an obsession for her

which doesn't mean good things for her. Together with that, she's dealing with a pretty huge discovery that she never saw coming!

Easy to say that when Steele finds out about Maren's kidnapping, he basically loses it!

The entire KGI team band together to rescue Maren. Some interesting people pop up in this search, and the story unfolds at a great pace! Never did it felt dragged or repetitive!!

Maya Banks' story of Steele just blew me away!! In so so many situations when you expected him to slink away or freeze up, he doesn't! He boldly steps up to the plate, stands by Maren, and becomes her rock! and they laugh! You see a side of Steele that makes you swoon constantly!

Steele:

"I love you, Maren," Steele whispered against her belly. "I need you to believe that. I don't know how or when it happened. But it's there and it feels like it's always been there. I can't remember what it was like before you. Only that until you, my life was cold, lifeless and mechanical. No color. No vibrancy. I didn't live. I existed. You changed all that. Before, my purpose, my goal, was to protect others. My life didn't matter and I would have given it to protect my team or a person we'd been sent to save. But now it matters. You matter. You are the most important person in my life now. Not my team. Not KGI. Not nameless victims we rescue. You and this child are my life. You've given me reason to really live and not just exist anymore. I don't think you realize just how much you've changed me in a very short period of time."

Maren:

"I'm yours. Only yours. I hope you know you can trust that part of yourself with me. I'll never hurt you. I'll never betray you. I'll never share what is between us with another living soul. What's between us is special. It belongs only to us. Private and precious. I'll protect that and you with my every breath. You'll never have another person who will protect your heart and soul the way I will, and that's my promise to you."

Wow! These two were a perfect fit! Definitely one of my top 3 KGI novels(so far)

The epilogue:

I loved loved loved it!!!

He stared at them all and smiled. Really smiled. A smile that no one in this room likely ever thought him capable of. (view spoiler) Laughter went up. Cameras clicked, cell phones were held up to capture the moment where the ice man met the one thing guaranteed to melt him into a puddle on the floor. (view spoiler)

My Favourite Line:

"I love you," he said hoarsely. "I'll never love anyone else the way I love you." "That's good, because I plan on keeping you around for a very long time. I did the impossible." He reared back, giving her a puzzled look. "I took down the ice man," she said with a smile. He grinned back. "Damn straight you did."

You love romance-suspense novels: **READ THIS BOOK!!!!**

Emma ~ The Indecisive Reader ~ says

4.5 stars

Wendy says

Well...I liked this one, just not as much as others I've read in this series. Steele and Maren were both sweet likeable characters, but at some point I found them a bit too sweet. I liked Steele the way he was and I didn't mind him going soft for a woman but damn...did he have to go that soft.

I was also a bit bothered with their thoughtprocess. They spend too much time thinking shit...I hate when I have to read page upon page about what someone is thinking. I rather they just speak and do, if you understand what what I'm saying ;) It just made the book a bit long and boring.

The action in this one was also way less. I think, because the last book was so emotional and full of suspense, Maya decided to make this one a bit more romantic. Nothing wrong with that, except I liked all the action and suspense.

The one character in this one I really enjoyed reading about was Hancock...and he was treated like shit. I understand that the KGI didn't know what he was up to, and they were weiry because of what happened to Grace, but come on, Grace and Elisabeth survived and he did save Maren. Three times actually by the end of the book. He deserves a freaking medal for that !!! I would love to know more about him. I think he deserved way more respect than he got...and that pissed me off !!

So if you like a bit more sappy romance in your suspense novel, than this is the book to read. I liked it better when shit was blowing up ;)

3 stars from me

CC says

This book would have been awesome if Steele had not been so wishy washy in the beginning. I do not like heroes that resist too much. I also kind of wish he was more assertive with her after he rescued her.

But all in all I really liked the story. The MCs got where I needed them to be, even though it took a little time.

Auntee says

['Jackson'--who knew Steele had a first name! (hide spoiler)]

Marianchu says

Qué bien me lo he pasado con esta lectura. Nunca pensé que estos dos personajes dieran tanto de sí, y fueran tan interesantes..... Muy buen ritmo y sobre todo escenas y diálogos ágiles y simpáticos.

Maren es médico en un pueblecito de Costa Rica, es fresca y divertida, faceta que no pudimos vislumbrar en los anteriores libros ya que siempre está remendando a algún agente; y Steele uno de los jefes de equipo de KGI, siempre tan callado, arisco y observador, mostró cuánto le importa su equipo en el anterior libro y ahora me tiene :O al ver cómo bebe los vientos x ella a pesar de su brusquedad. No me extraña que Maren esté desconcertada, lo estoy hasta yo jajajajaja.... pero en el fondo Steele es un amor....

El pero que le encuentro es a la trama de suspense que en algunos puntos no me ha resultado del todo creíble y bien engranada, pero x lo demás bien, mucha acción.

Mi puntuación 9/10

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

God I love this series!
