



## Dare to Breathe

*M. Homer*

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New Adult Romance. Can you learn to forget? Sam is plagued by nightmares she can't understand with dark visions of a past she suspects may be her own. When she moves into a new co-ed house, she is drawn to the handsome but aloof Nathan. The housemates welcome in Sam but all withhold their own secrets from her which she knows she needs to unravel to truly understand Nathan. But her past is destined to torment her, can she find the strength to face her fear?

## **Dare to Breathe Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2013 by Caliburn Press

ISBN : 9781629290904

Author : M. Homer

Format : Paperback 164 pages

Genre : New Adult, Romance, Sociology, Abuse, Academic, College, Dark

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## From Reader Review Dare to Breathe for online ebook

\*P says

### 4 Daring Stars

In *Dare to Breathe* Samantha Marsh is trying to move on in College. She is plagued by horrible nightmares and she struggles to know if they are true memories or just awful dreams. She had been adopted at age 6 and she barely remembers her past. Due to her sleep problems she finds herself forced out of her dorm and into a coed house. There she meets Nathan, a sexy womanizer with a past of his own. But Nathan is there for Sam and he helps her with her nightmares. In doing so a relationship develops and forces both of them to face their past in an effort to have a future with each other.

This book was really good. I loved the characters and felt the comraderie of the roommates and moreso you connect with Sam. The dream sequences paint the horrid picture of her past and help you understand her struggle to connect with others. I loved the wonderful people she winds up being surrounded by including not only Nathan but also her adoptive parents and Sally her boss at the cafe. I also loved the build up of Nathan and Sam's relationship but was secretly hoping for more details as they finally became more intimate with each other, probably because I have been reading so many NA books and this definitely seems more like a YA book.

Overall, I found this to be a great book about a broken character finding a way to make herself whole on her terms with the help of some wonderfully supporting friends. I think this is a stand alone book but I would so love to get more on the other characters like Mandy or Ben which would give the opportunity for more on Nathan and Sam.

*A copy of this book was received in exchange for an honest review.*

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### Shayna Varadeaux says

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review by the author.

Samantha is troubled and we see that from the very start, off at college and wearing thin on her roommate's sleep. "Sam" has nightmares that haunt her as she begins to realize the nightmares might very well be something more like broken memories of a very painful past.

She moves out leaving her tired of waking through the night friend Jess to move into a co-ed house. The distance she has put between herself and other people is quickly cramped with new her new housemates. Two guys and two girls occupy the coed living home that the school sent her to. She is treating it like a fresh start and trying to gain control of her life dreams and all.

Knowing she has needs such as clothes and what not she inquires about anyone in the house knowing about a job and lands a gig at a diner with a pretty awesome staff. She has a million questions that she feels like only her elderly adoptive and loving parents may have. She has a good life except for the dreams and the memory

of her little brothers whom she has a pic of them with herself and they have smiles on in the picture.

Her house mates are welcoming and the girls Mandy and Carrie inform her of a “rule” of not getting involved with their resident bad boy and deliciously swoon worthy, Nathan. It’s a vague agreement but she has no problem with it because she feels like she isn’t interested in having a romantic relationship. Sam knows she’s damaged clearly and has always had a problem with physical affection. She has never had a boyfriend or anything close to it.

She wakes from her nightmares teary and most of the time screaming, this time she is startled to find comfort in a pair of strong arms that are soothing. Her troubled suppressed memories plague her life and she seeks help after having a conversation with her mom.

Seeing a shrink has been great for her really it’s helping to sort through her dreams and realize that her nightmares are more of a lingering reality of life before her happy new one with her adoptive parents. It also helps her to work through the new budding uncontrollable feelings that are scaring her for the man with the comforting arms that soothe her back to sleep with such care.

It turns out bad boy Nathan the dark haired gorgeous muscled and tattooed Vet in training is sweet and wants nothing more than to help her through her bad nights and just be there without spilling her secret to the rest of the house. Ben the other guy in the house is resident chef even though they take turns. He is a handsome surfer guy that is destined for chef greatness.

I loved the moments that were just her and Nathan. Nathan was truly a friend and Sam knew she feeling more and the first glimpses that she had of the feelings he had for her were hard for her to sort through but so obvious to me. The vulnerability with the two of them was beautiful and scary all at the same time.

I was so sad at every revelation that was Sam’s past and parts of this story hurt because I saw cases like Sam’s growing up with the kids my Grandparents took in as a Foster parents. The love that she showed those kids was always heartwarming the bravery of the good ones as the CPS workers called them to take in the little damaged souls and shower them with true love and show them that it didn’t matter what they had been told or shown in their life. They deserved to be loved and to be happy. Seeing kids that wouldn’t talk or eat come in and by the time they left them they were healthy and happy, talking and given hope. It was a beautiful thing to see and heartbreaking too to know how cruel some of humanity is.

Things finally get to a good place for Sam and Nathan and they are both working through their troubled pasts together but it isn’t long before things start to unravel and life throws a huge curve!

This story took me through a gauntlet of emotions and I was pleasantly surprised by it. A very good read with a brave story and suspense attached to it. Passion and love that’s both deep and profound. Very well written with an amazing cast of characters.

I really recommend this to any YA Romantic Suspense fans out there.

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**Kayla says**

Strap yourself in and enjoy this emotional ride!

I was very pleasantly surprised with Dare to Breathe! It's a one sitting read, which I love, but it's also packed with so much emotion that it was unputdownable!

From the first chapter you immediately sympathize for Sam. You can tell she's used to blaming herself for everything that has happened to her and it's no different when she decides to find a new apartment because her nightmares are stressing her roommate out. But finding a new home turned out to be the greatest blessing for her. She gains new friends, a new job, and some delicious new eye candy that she can't help but be drawn to even though she's been warned to stay away. She's spent her entire life hiding from her demons, but with Nathan by her side she finally realizes the only way to have a normal life and a healthy relationship is to face them.

I seriously enjoyed this book! It has it all. It will make you laugh and cry, it will make you angry and frustrated, and it will make you think. These just seem like normal college kids, yet they have all been through really traumatic situations that have changed their lives. It was a great reminder that you should never judge someone because you literally have no idea what they've gone through. I loved Nathan from the first night he heard Sam having nightmares and he just sat with her and knew exactly what to do. And I really liked every character, except maybe Jess, but I don't think you're supposed to like her. Sally and Beth were awesome and it warmed my heart that Sam, who never had a family aside from her foster parents, suddenly gained so much. Oh and did I forget to mention the sexy scenes with Nathan, yeah those are nice! So you see, it really does have it all!

I highly recommend Dare to Breathe! Thank you M. Homer for letting me review it! :)

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### **Tracy says**

Wow what an emotional book! I was drawn in from the first chapter, so many secrets between people, broken people.....

I immediately felt sorry for Sam from the first chapter, getting hints about what happened through her childhood brought the tears to my eyes. All she wanted to do was live a normal life.

**Sam ~ "It looks hot as shit, to me, but you didn't need to ink yourself to show courage, it's in everything you do anyway,"**

I loved Nathan, yeah I was practically swooning through the whole book. But he too was broken, feeling guilt of what happened in his past.

Would they be able to help each other? Love one another?

**Nathan ~ I don't want her worrying about me or feeling sorry for me. I want her to want me the way I want her!**

This book had so many parts where I was in tears, at one point I thought I had it figured out then BAM I realize I was wrong. The author did a great job in writing this book, it was sweet to read the growing romance between the characters, it was so beautifully written that I felt every emotion the character was feeling. I loved the other characters in the book, Ben, Mandy, and Carrie, they were an amazing group of friends, all quirky in their own ways. I liked that we got to read from Nathans pov near the end of the book, (would have been nice to read earlier in the book but it had more impact the way it was done) I got to see what he really felt about Sam and I think as a reader we needed to be able to see that.

Through the last quarter of this book I was on the edge of my seat, I was reading that fast in complete suspense, I so wanted everything to go right!

Overall I loved this book, it showed everyone has a chance at something, whether it be overcoming your past, falling in love, even making new friends, it is possible :-)

I was sent this book in exchange for my honest review (YA & NA Romance group)

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### **books are love says**

I admit I cried. I cried for Sam as a little girl. I cried for Nathan as he dealt with his past and all that happens with Sam. I cried for Sam and Nathan as they tried to navigate their relationship. I cried there I said it.

this book deals with some heavy issues such as abuse and survivor's guilt. Sam has to deal with both while Nathan deals with one. For Nathan though it tears him to pieces and makes him overprotective of Sam. When these two first meet even though Nathan really likes Sam he tries to protect himself as he always does via sleeping with women. He tries to numb his feelings off through sex. He wants Sam but doesn't want to hurt her and Sam wants him but is fearful.

Sam has nightmares of a past so sad and horrible that she represses a lot of it. Hoping it is just a terrible dream and yet knowing it isn't she doesn't let people in. Except Nathan, he has broken down her defenses and she trusts him. They like one another but am not sure how to deal with each other and their issues.

What is really sad is just when you think they are handling themselves and are in a relationship they must separate so that they can heal from their past and move forward with each other. The old adage if you love someone set it free, if it's yours it will come back if not it never was comes to play here. Except it is so sad to watch Nathan heal himself.

This is a beautiful and gripping story of overcoming painful pasts and learning to trust and love.

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### **Isa Jones (Jo&Isalovebooks Blog) says**

\*\*\*\*I RECEIVED THIS BOOK IN EXCHANGE OF AN HONEST REVIEW\*\*\*\*

Wow, this story was so compelling I just had to keep reading and finish this book in one go. Sam has nightmares, the type of nightmares that are so scary and real they keep you up at night and keep you from having a normal life, the type of nightmares that get you kicked out of your dorm as it's impossible for your roommate to have one peaceful night, the ones that make you find a new place to live and lands you in a house where the room under the stairs even though is a box, is the perfect solution to your problems, that is until one of your new roommates hears you and wakes you up in a safe embrace.

Nathan thought he had lost a friend and the love of his life few years ago, he thought he could never find someone worth living for so decided to sleep with any available and willing girl and have a happy college life with his best friends and housemates, that is until their new tenant arrives and his caring and protecting nature gets the better of him and soon finds him unable to ignore Sam's nightmares.

Both Sam and Nathan can't fight the attraction and soon they become each other's rock, but Sam needs to find out more about her past, about her painful memories and about the person that haunts her dreams in order to

move forward, and Nathan needs to let go of the past in order to avoid the same mistakes and fall into a unhealthy relationship.

Dare to Breathe is a story about the power of survival, the power that even in the most horrible of circumstances one can always overcome the worst of traumas, and the incredible healing power of love. I really devoured this book, It was a shame we only got to see/read Nathan's POV until the last chapters, but I understood the reason for the author to do this in that point in the book, it was very well written and as it introduced us to other characters in the story i'm hoping Ben will get his story next.

Thank you for the opportunity to read and review!

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### **Caroline Williams says**

As the title states...Dare to Breathe...there were moments throughout this book that I had to remind myself to breathe! An exceptionally good read with the right amount of intrigue and passion. This book has you captured from the first page...I decided I would read a couple of chapters then go to bed...well, that didn't happen I was hooked and stayed up to finish the whole book!! A compulsive read and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

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### **Heather says**

Absolutely A-Maze-Ing. Amazing!

Dare to breathe takes off right from the first sentence where we meet Sam in the middle of a nightmare. It does not let up after that.

Sam has been through hell. She has been through more than any child should ever have to witness and though she is damaged from it (seriously, which one of us isn't damaged somehow) she is a survivor. In my opinion, it takes a lot of strength and courage to make it through what she did and not break completely.

Back to the nightmares, she woke from this first nightmare to her roommate saying this isn't going to work out. She really didn't care what was causing Sam's nightmares, just that it was causing her to lose valuable sleep.

Sam, being the sweet person that she is, goes to housing and finds a solution, she moves into a co-ed house with Carrie, Mandy, Ben, and Nathan. She hits it off with everyone from the start, except maybe Nathan, though there is definitely an attraction there.

And so it goes.

I loved the interaction with all of the roommates, though the book is primarily about Sam and Nathan, that isn't all there is to Dare To Breathe, there are friendships to be made, hurdles for all of them to overcome, and so much more. I loved Sally and Beth, Sam's boss and more or less surrogate parents while she is at college and away from her adoptive parents Mr and Mrs Marsh.

There is just so much more to this book than just a romance story. For those who can't handle reading books that go into horribly traumatic experiences, especially when they happen to children, you should have no

problem reading this. While we know what happened to Sam, the author goes in to just enough detail where we get an idea, without giving images that will be traumatic to some readers.

It is just a beautiful story.

I am so glad I was able to be part of this blog tour and received an ARC. I truly feel I would have missed out if I would have not heard about this book. M. Homer is an author to watch. I have a feeling she is going to be truly amazing. She is definitely going on my favorite author list.

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### **Mary Ann says**

I received this for an honest review. I really enjoyed this book and Sam and Nathan were very easy to relate to. Sam had a horrible beginning to her childhood and has repressed most of the memories her whole life. However, nightmares of that time plague her and when she moves into a new co-ed house, Nathan feels he needs to help her. They are both attracted to each other but both have a past that they aren't able to let go. I do feel some areas of the book moved a little too quickly and would have been good if more details from their past could have been explained. BUT this didn't deter it from being a good book and I'd love to read more from this author!

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### **Felicia says**

#### *Summary:*

Sam has nightmares about her past, although she vaguely remembers any details from her childhood before she was put into a foster home and later adopted by two wonderful parents. Every night Sam has dreams of protecting her two younger brothers and hiding from an awful man whom she fears. These nightmares leave her waking up in panic and leaves her with so many questions about her life before the age of eight. Sam's roommate has an issue with these nightmares so Sam decided to move out. She moves into a co-ed house where Nathan, Ben, Mandy, and Carrie live. Little does she know that Nathan, who's practically has a different girl by his side at all times, will be the one who gets her through these nightmares each night. Nathan, Ben, Maddie, and Carrie have known each other for years and have gone through something tragic back home and keep it a secret from Sam. They all become really good friends, something Sam was really lacking, for all she had was her parents. Nathan and Sam bond with each other and they both start to develop deeper feelings for each other.

#### *My Thoughts:*

My only complaint was that it felt a little rushed once Sam met Nathan. I would have liked to know what kind of things they talked about instead of just being informed that they talked for hours. Other than that, I really like this story. I loved seeing Nathan be there for Sam every time she had a nightmare, although I didn't think it fit his character at first since all we knew about him was that he is a man-whore. But once the story develops, we learned why he feels the need to comfort Sam and protect her.

I loved the seeing the growth of Sam once she had Nathan by her side and how she worked through things during her therapy sessions. I loved Nathan. I fell more in love with his character as the story progressed.

Of course, as many of these stories go, Sam's past come back to haunt her and you won't want to put your book down until you find out what happens! This story was nicely written and kept my attention throughout, but it did leave me wanting more Nathan and Sam scenes as they became friends. It was emotional and heart wrenching and I loved it!! The Story is written from Sam's POV up until a certain incident, then it changes to Nathan's POV - I loved how this was done, by the way :)

It was a great story showing how you can overcome just about anything and live a normal happy life as long as you realize it's possible.

\*\*\*I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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### **Kimber Wheaton says**

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

*Dare to Breathe* is a story about two wounded hearts finding each other, and helping one another come to terms with a painful past in order to have a chance at a future together. From the very first page I felt such sympathy for main character Sam. To have so many debilitating nightmares and wonder if they're repressed memories must be awful. It doesn't help when her sleep problems turn off her first college roommate.

Moving in with Nathan and his friends is really the best thing that could have happened to Sam. Through them, she begins to learn what friendship should be. Sam gains the courage to explore her past, to confront the nightmare images in an attempt to overcome the powerful hold they have over her. Every single one of her nightmares made me cry. Ms. Homer does an amazing job making Sam such a strong character in spite of the horror she faced as a child.

Romantic interest Nathan has his own demons that he copes with on a daily basis. He's a womanizer, jumping from bed to bed, refusing to get emotionally involved with anyone. From the moment Sam moves in, she and Nathan are attracted to each other. Nathan's room is above Sam's, and from the very beginning he's been holding her after her nightmares. How could Sam not fall in love with the sexy guy providing such comfort.

I enjoyed *Dare to Breathe*. The romance between Sam and Nathan is really sweet. This novel contains sexual situations and mature content and is suitable for ages 18+.

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### **Missy \*Am I alive and a reality, or am I but a dream? \* says**

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Her real family is not quite perfect, at least not how she thought, she lost her two baby brother in a fire and of course h

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## Nancy says

\*\*Received from author for an honest review\*\*

This book has you connecting to the characters so much that I felt all of Sam's pain. Trying to move on with her life, she heads off to college, only for her nightmares to follow her. Sam was young when her life changed drastically and wonders if these nightmares are her earlier life. As she fights these nightmares and tries making sense of them, she finds comfort from one of her new roommates, Nathan. Nathan and the rest of the roommates all share a secret of their own. With the help of Nathan, the love of her adoptive parents, her bosses who adore her, her roommates, and her therapist, Sam fights her nightmares and learns about her earlier life.

This book had me hooked with so many emotions for Sam and her roommates own struggle. The courage and friendship of this group is so touching. You feel for Sam, the brothers she's missing, and her roommates. The book has a twist right towards the end that I wanted to scream! The writing has you feeling and loving each and every character in the story which makes it very hard to put the book down.

Looking forward to more from this author.

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## Natalie says

This book is about a girl called Sam who when she starts college has to move from a dorm to a co-ed house as her nightmares were keeping her roommate up. Enter Ben, Callie, Mandy, and mysterious Nathan. Warned off of Nathan from the beginning, Sam knows there is something her roommates aren't telling her. Busy with her own problems of persistent nightmares and a haunted past, Sam slowly gets closer to Nathan as he helps her to get over her nightmares and face her past. When her past comes back with a face and a grudge, is her love for Nathan enough to save her and let her move forward?

This book sounded perfect for me when i read the description and i was looking forward to getting to know the characters- and this author didn't disappoint. With a great writing technique and enough of a storyline beyond a soppy love story, this book had me hooked from start to finish! Throughout the book, you glimpse enough of Sam's nightmares to get an idea of what is tormenting her, but leaves enough to the imagination that as she discovers more, you feel the suspense along with her. Overall a great read that was finished in one sitting! 5\*\*\*\*\*

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## Kelli says

*I was given a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review*

**Dare to Breathe** is an utterly heart-wrenching story of two broken souls finding each other and finally being able to piece themselves together again. Sam has been plagued with horrifying nightmares for as long as she can remember. Under the cover of darkness, her past is able to reveal itself in snapshots through these nightmares. Now that she is in college, her nightly screams have pushed her roommate to her breaking point and is forced to find a new place to live.

It is here that she first meets Nathan. He is a typical college kid, from the outside at least, and seems to always have some nameless girl in his sheets each night. Sam notices that Nathan, along with their other roommates, seem to have a big secret they have been hiding from her. Though it peaks her curiosity, Sam can relate because she, too, has secrets of her own.

After some time, Sam is able to discover what her new housemates have been hiding. This new revelation allows Sam to understand Nathan a little more and the connection they seem to have continues to grow stronger. Nathan's strength and compassion give Sam the courage to dig deep into the recesses of her mind to find the source of her pain and the answers to what happened all those years ago.

I really enjoyed this book. The plot held a lot of different layers which helped hold my interest. I enjoyed the connection between the roommates and how they were able to all come together through their own tragedies.

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