



When Day Breaks

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THE ALL-NEW KGI NOVEL BY NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR MAYA BANKS

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...

Eden is said to be one of the most beautiful women in the world. Her face has graced countless magazines and her body has sold millions of dollars of clothing. But her fame and beauty has earned her more than she ever imagined. Evil is stalking her, determined to extinguish the ethereal beauty forever.

Swanson or "Swanny" as his teammates call him is always up for the next mission. He came back from Afghanistan wounded and scarred. Hardly the kind of man who even belongs in the same room with Eden. And yet there's something about the quiet beauty that stirs his blood and makes him dream of the impossible. Because Beauty loving the Beast only happens in fairy tales and KGI doesn't deal in fairy tales. Ever.

When Day Breaks Details

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From Reader Review When Day Breaks for online ebook

Tigmode Sandvigen says

I loved KGI books and was staggeringly disappointed by the previous book, After The Storm, where I felt like I'd been waiting for Van' story for so long and then it was just a horrendous letdown.

When Day Breaks was only marginally better in that it was not as bad as ATS. Faint praise indeed.

I get lust at first sight. I get crazy sparks and physical chemistry. I get those things, but I don't get spending 10 minutes with a group of people, taking a nap and waking up having decided somebody is THE ONE.

I know Maya Banks had some serious health issues this past year but I'd have rather waited for 2 good books in an otherwise compelling series than what we got in Swanny and Van's stories.

Is she cranking out too much, too many too close together in all her writing? I don't know and I can't say, but if this is what we have to look forward to in Joe and Rusty's stories, I'd rather they stay unwritten and that we skip Hancock altogether.

[Aengell] says

This one really wasn't mine... Not at all, I'm afraid.

I love Maya Banks and her novels, but lately the aspects about her works that I liked once are the ones I don't like at all now. I will make an example of When Day Breaks and list all the things I didn't like.

1. Too Much.

The whole scenery was too mushy and too stuffy and too... filled with feelings and unnecessary tears and ... For my tastes it was just over the top.

Also there was MUCH, MUCH too much **Talking**. After the first four chapters I became so bored of the characters always, constantly talking. It was way too much talking and way less showing. Swanny and Eden just talked about how they have the special connection, how they are attracted to each other, how they like each other, how much it was just fate that brought them together. Meh!! Sorry, but they were really constantly talking about things, whereas I would have preferred to see some development in their relationship, some rocks thrown their way. But no. Everyone was constantly talking about how Eden and Swanny are made for each other, not to mention how much they talked about it themselves. The story and the flow of the action suffered a lot from that, the action and crime and mystery became unimportant and faded into the background until the very end.

2. Beauty.

Okay, the premise of the story sounded great. Beauty and the Beast themed, hero thinks himself not worthy of the love of the beautiful heroine. Nothing new, but that wouldn't have bothered me if it was put into a

fresh package. But no.

I love the Beauty and the Beast theme, but this is the first where exactly that "conflict" got on my nerves.

Swanny was always whining about the fact that he was oh so ugly and hideous. Really, every other page he talked about the fact that he was so undeserving of Eden, just because she was beautiful! Nothing about "I'm traumatized by my past and she is innocent", no. Just "It still brought him to his knees when he thought about the fact that someone as beautiful as Eden wanted him". Duh. Really, just duh. Calm down. It's not all about the outer appearance.

That really got on my nerves.

3. Eden.

Just as often as Edens superiority to Swanny was mentioned, her beauty was mentioned. She was a shallow and uninteresting character. And the poor thing didn't do anything, but she was just perfect. She was constantly described as beautiful on the outside as well on the inside. Beautiful. Innocent. Pure. Nice. Sweet. Nice. Loveable. Caring. Nice. Sweet. Beautiful. You see a pattern? I saw it throughout the whole novel. And it felt more like a campaign fighting discrimination against supermodels. Everyone was sure that Eden worked very hard and had a very hard job and it was ... yes, very hard. I just was annoyed and thought:

I don't know whether that was supposed to be an excuse for her not eating normally, but okay. Still, I don't see it as an high priority to make clear that supermodels work hard and do sports to stay fit. Thank you, but no.

4. No Story.

As in, there really wasn't a remarkable story at all. The Action was there at the beginning and at the end. The 250 or what pages in between? Nothing but the above mentioned things.

And why am I so ranting about this novel although I love Maya Banks' writing? Because I was really, really disappointed and I don't know whether to expect Maya Banks as I know her or Maya Banks as I know her NOW, when I read another novel by her. The above mentioned aspects have been there in the last few novels of this series, too, and in another few of her newer works.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

Very cute and Very sweet.....

Bj says

*I gave this audiobook a C for the story and A- for the narration at AudioGals.

Narrator: Adam Paul

Sometimes you go into a listen with certain expectations. In the case of When Day Breaks, I was expecting a

hardcore, suspenseful listen with, given many of Maya Banks' prior works, a racier edge to the passion side. Unfortunately, when I discovered that I actually had something completely different, I was just never able to really warm up to what turned out to be more of a sweet romance bearing a slight resemblance to Beauty and the Beast with some light action and suspenseful scenes tying it all together. The one aspect of this audiobook that did leave me greatly impressed was the narration. This was my first experience with Adam Paul, and I will surely be looking for more of his works in the future.

See the full review at AudioGals.

Nicole says

I have such a love-hate relationship with this series. The books either blow me away, or leaving MUCH to be desired. While I wasn't as upset with this book as I was with the last, the book felt boring and like it dragged on. The hard hitting suspense and action that was common in the early books was non-existent here. I needed more, all the way around.

C-

Full review can be found here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2014/06/24/...>

~V~ says

When Day Breaks is book 9 in Maya Banks KGI series and features Daryl Swanson or "Swanny" as he's known by his teammates, as the hero. We were first introduced to Swanny in Whispers in the Dark, book 4. He was Nathan Kelly's Army teammate, they were both captured in Afghanistan and tortured but escaped with the help of Nathan's now wife, Shea. They both came away with internal and external scars, but Nathan now has Shea to help him deal with his, sadly Swanny is on his own and leading a pretty solitary existence aside from his job, his main and only focus is his team and family with KGI. Ryker, a fellow Army buddy, ends up calling in a favor from Joe Kelly (Nathan's twin and fellow team leader) and KGI...his sister, Eden Sinclair, a famous model, is in trouble and he needs their help to protect her.

This is one of my favorite romantic suspense series, Maya Banks knows how to blend in just the right amount of romance and suspense...never having one overpower the other. Book 8, After the Storm, unfortunately lacked the romantic chemistry that has been such a big part of past books...even the suspense was a bit lacking but this book definitely felt more on par with the others. I loved that Swanny "knew" about Eden from when he and her brother were serving together..how Ryker would share her letters and pictures with all the teammates while they were freezing their butts off in the Afghani mountains. It made his crush on Eden all the more realistic and sweet! When Eden first lays eyes on Swanny, she's immediately drawn to him and sees past the physical scars that seem to horrify others. That definitely endeared me to her, she wasn't some superficial model who was all about the looks...she genuinely cared about others and her attraction to Swanny felt real.

It was heartbreaking to see such a big tough guy question why a beautiful woman like Eden would want someone as damaged and scarred as he was but she was a tough cookie and finally knocked some sense into him. As is common with a lot of romances, they are pretty quick with their declarations of love but it didn't seem to bother me quite as much as it has with other books. It could be because of the fact that they knew of

each other from years back, because of their connection with her brother, or it could just be that I felt that their attraction and connection was genuine and real. The suspense/action was a little more fast paced this time around and focused solely on Swanny's team. Although Joe and Nathan Kelly are the team leaders and had some page time, I did miss the involvement of the other Kelly brothers and family, but it was fun getting to know the newest members. Skyler is the only female operative on their team, she's kick*ss and a riot and Edge is another bad*ss alpha male who fits in so well that it seems like he's been part of this group from day one! The camaraderie that is shared between this team and every other member of KGI is fantastic and is another reason this series is a fav!

I would say that the only negative, which is something that I also noticed in the last book, is that the characters have a tendency to repeat their thoughts many times...a few things became quite repetitive, it gets old hearing the same thing over and over. Regardless of that, this book was still quite enjoyable and one I would recommend! I'm sure it could be read as a stand alone, anything that was mentioned from past books was explained pretty well so the reader shouldn't feel lost and the plot line is self contained, but I would highly recommend reading this series from the beginning. The earlier books, which are focused more so on the Kelly clan, really are the best of the bunch and shouldn't be missed!

***I received a copy of this book from the publisher via The Blogger Girls in return for a fair and honest review.*

<http://thebloggergirls.com/2014/06/13...>

Kelly says

I'm sad to say I think I am finished with the KGI series :(When this series started I LOVED it & these were automatic pre-orders for me! The last two books have been huge disappointments for me. The insta-love in this story did not ring true at all. I could have seen if maybe Swanny explained that her letters and pictures are what got him through being held captive??? Then she came on soooooo strong (for really no reason)& turned out to be a virgin, COME ON!! I have to say that was it for me...that is when I quit reading it.

I don't even feel like this is the same series I was reading or the same author? I was sticking this series out because I so wanted Rusty's story but I don't know maybe when hers comes out I'll give Maya Banks another shot, as for now I am done.

Audrey says

Well.

I hoped that KGI could get better after After the Storm. I was mistaken.

This book is extremely repetitive and boring. It's actually horrible.

Let's start with the cons first, shall we?

Cons:

I understand that the author wants to catch up readers on characters of other books in the series, but it would be nice if she spent half as much time on developing the plot of this book as she did on rehashing old ones. To make it worse, she repeats the same phrases over and over to describe events, others characters. It's seriously like phrases are copied and pasted into the next book. That's not good writing. It's laziness.

Ms. Banks also repeated several phrases about the characters that made me want to scream outloud Yes I know that!! Mrs Kelly is the matriarch of the family she is wonderful, bla bla bla bla.

If I had to read about Eden's beauty or inspiring sunshine in others again I would want to hurl more. I got it. She's beautiful, she's a bottle of sunshine, all warmth and rainbows. No need to repeat that over and over. Or the fact that she is apologizing each 2 lignes to Swanny to being to forward! seriously. And it goes on and on and on with Swanny and his scars and him not being good enough. Well there is the thing when a man said is not good enough it's probably true...

The characters were pretty bad too. I'm sorry, but as much as I wanted to like Swanny, I found that I couldn't. His is boring. His insecurities about his scars are grounded in reality but his shame about his face and self-consciousness didn't mesh well with his pride for them. At one point, he said they serve as a reminder that he survived something terrible and one would think that this would allow him to be able to cope better. But no, it doesn't obviously.

And I was very confused because he said he wasn't vain enough to consider plastic surgery, but was ashamed of the scars the entire book and the last book too when he was introduced. It was like a never-ending circle of him not believing someone as "beautiful" as Eden should be with him because he's "hideous".

a bit of a spoil: but another character needed plastic surgery and he didn't think it was vain then. If you can support plastic surgery for others, why not for yourself, especially if you're so hurt by people's reactions to you. I'm sorry to say, I got tired of hearing him harp about the scars, and not doing anything about them if it so huge a burden.

I was so tired (again) of reading his disbelief that Eden could want him out of everyone else in the world. He didn't seem to have a personality. He was just this really self-conscious guy who fell in love (in few hours; the exact time the plane has to make to go to Eden location) with a beautiful woman. And he's quiet, really quiet. Apparently. (and it's sarcasm)

Eden. Oh god sweet Dear Eden. I disliked Eden's character because she's not a real person. At least Swanny had flaws that made him human. But nope, not Eden. Eden is perfect. She is beautiful, she could protect herself (or so I was told because what happened near the end didn't inspire me to believe that), she's sweet, caring, angelic, lovely, virginal, etc... Where are her flaws? What can we use to relate to her as a person, because we all have flaws. Even in a moment where she was perfectly justified to be angry and cranky, Banks portrayed her as being understanding and forgiving which didn't make any sense. And it was all to give her a personality that's different from the stereotypical view of models as cranky, snobby women. So in order to have Eden not stereotyped, Banks made her a saint. And I can't buy that. No one is that perfect. I also didn't like that Eden's father and brothers treated her like a child instead of an adult woman. They made important choices for her and instead of taking a stand against this, she blindly accepted it. It's ridiculous. Utterly ridiculous. I had a hard time believing that Eden was an independent adult of 24 and not a child. Her sexual innocence, her deference to her father and her brothers had me doubting her age. She is like a porcelain doll. People can tell her anything in a wrong way, she'll comply with a stupid huge smile on her face because she is so sweet and so nice. Seriously again.

The plot was bleeeeee, have seen better obviously. It actually wasn't completely horrible, but it was not horrific either.

I find that since many books now, KGI is a shell. With a nice good philanthropic family (apparently) but that's it, how is it runned and successful: I can't explain, (thank you fiction), because they do so bad job, I don't understand why no people in their teams are not kill in each book now. They screwed up all the time. And this in collecting info, verifying info... and they are military! wow.

Even Hancock who made an appearance in this one, goofed up too because he didn't bother to find out information either, he just acted. His character has been introduced as a highly trained man but also erased from the file of the USA military, and the guy do what he did. well no sorry I don't bought it and even I didn't want because it doesn't look like this character. I shook my head at that part because he ripped into Steele for doing that and then two books later did the exact same thing.

Even in the beginning, the incident that spurred the whole plot was poor. Does reconnaissance not exist in this fictional world or what? It didn't make sense to me.

There's not a lot of action that moves the plot forward either. There's a lot of sitting around and waiting in this one, which made it boring. Joe called the mission a babysitting job, and honestly, it was the most accurate statement in the whole book. They babysat her and then even then, didn't do it properly.

The romance between Eden and Swanny wasn't believable either. While they were instantly attracted to each other, there weren't really any conversations between them that made me believe they truly loved one another by the end. Swanny was in awe of her beauty and ability to "love", I will choose to set an interest on him, even with his scars and Eden was drawn to some quality about him that I didn't quite catch. Since most of their conversations consisted of him telling her he wasn't good enough for her and her calling him beautiful to prove to him otherwise or apologizing to being too forward, I don't quite understand how they fell in love.

Another point that irritated me was all of the inner thoughts of Swanny and Eden. Since they were the same thoughts repeated over and over, I didn't particularly care to read them more than once. And while I should have found it cute that they didn't know how to talk to one another, at the same time, I found it ridiculous. I kept thinking to myself, just tell her/him. What's the big deal?

We have a short too short introduction of the new babies. It's badly done for me.

We can see again Donovan, and seriously since after the storm I cannot see Donovan as other thing than a creepy guy. Not what this character deserved.

.....

Pros

Um, well, although Hancock's behavior was jarringly different than the previous Hancock we've seen, it was nice to see him in a different light. I like his character and I hope to see him again but I hope his tough personality isn't dismantled the way Steele's was.

In this book we delve into Skyler and Edge's characters. We found out some information about Edge's background and Skyler was fleshed out. She seems nice and I honestly saw more chemistry between her and Swanny than I did between Swanny and Eden.

.....

For the end

I was hoping and, this since a long time now, to read a book like the firsts ones of KGI, but it still no happened.

This book was so bad to me. I'm so disappointed. I sincerely hope Ms. Banks returns to her earlier formula

for this series but changes her language, and remove her pink care bear glasses. Even her love declarations are starting to sound repetitive boring and without flavor.

I know Mrs Banks said she doesn't read reviews, but maybe she should start...

Alli says

Always loved Banks and her great action books but these last two books have been a waste of time and money. The romance was so poorly developed and so unbelievable that it should have not even been written. If not for the other books in this series, I would swear this book had been written 20 years ago and just recycled here. No action, not even a full paragraph devoted to a bad guy, none of the stuff I actually like about Maya Bank books. If you want to read it just because you read the series, wait until the local library carries it, otherwise you are wasting your money. trust me, not worth it.

'Q' aka CoCo says

When did KGI turn into girls?

I used to love this series. Ms. Banks could write an Alpha male with hot sex scenes mixed into crazy special operations mission plots. This? This was an insecure man that had inner dialogue and nauseam about how he wasn't good enough. The sex was slow, sparse, and agonizingly sweet... and the mission? I get more excited watching my kid's cartoons--no suspense. Even the plot twist was kind of lame. I don't know what happened with this series but I think I'm done. They've really gone downhill.

Libby says

I tried, I really did, but I just couldn't finish this. It was tooooooo boring. I kept thinking I should read just a bit more, because something (anything!) interesting must be about to happen, but it Just. Never. Did.

Basically, it went like this: Man with a facial scar meets pretty woman. He worries she won't like him because she's physically 'perfect' and he is not. She says she does want him. And repeat. Again. And again. And again. Are they ever going to move on from this endlessly tedious rut? Frankly, it got to the point where I just didn't give a shit any more.

Once I started to feel like pitching my e-reader across the room, I knew it was time to throw in the towel on this one.

The 'love' story also had a very unrealistic and rather bizarre timescale. The protagonists had only spent about 5 minutes together before she was throwing herself at him in a, frankly quite unhinged, way. I would have run a mile to get away from someone like that. The characters were undeveloped and I didn't understand at all what they saw in each other. Strange.

I enjoyed the earlier books in this series, but I get the impression that the author was either in a huge rush or has simply lost interest in KGI. The book felt slapped together, incredibly repetitive and just, well...dull.

Amy McGlone says

I was rather anxious to read and review this one. I am always hesitant to review someone like The Maya Banks. I mean come on, she's phenomenal, what could a little ole reviewer from Kentucky have to say? Ya know what I mean?

So I adore the KGI series (thanks Tonya ;)). Adore it. It's an addiction. We've got sexy, bad ass, military guys - kickin butt, takin' names, & rescuing the damsel in distress. Who doesn't love that?? I never - EVER - thought I would say this, but...

I was disappointed with Swanny's book.

With the KGI series, readers have come to expect a couple of things. 1. The aforementioned hot, sexy, military guys (check that off the list) 2. Damsel in distress (check) and finally 3. Kick butt and takin' names (no check here). And yes, I'm fully aware I just repeated myself. There was very little fighting in this book. There was very little interaction from the entire Kelly family. Very little interaction with the brothers. There was also several key characters missing from this book that we generally get an update on in a KGI novel. It was more of a babysitting job than it was a recon mission. I feel as though I was jipped.

While the story itself was indeed a great story, it's just not what I have come to expect from the KGI & Maya. Please, I am not discouraging you from reading this story, it is after all a piece of KGI. I am warning you that it's not a typical KGI addition.

~Amy TTP

CC says

First I am a fan of the KGI series and have enjoyed those I have read. I missed the last couple because they are not yet in the library on audio so I skipped ahead.

This might possibly be the WORST written book ever! Maya Banks could not have written this book. I have read tons of her books and I have never thought it was poorly written. I really hope this was a ghost writer or an editor who was subsequently fired. ok on to the book.

I listened via Overdrive. Must the narrator make Swanny sound like a hick from the sticks? It was so annoying.

The beauty and the beast storyline usually works for me. But not when the Hero spends 75% of the book inside his own head bemoaning his ugliness I just wanted to scream. Eden is too perfect, Swanny is a freakin Moron. Totally lovesick over her perfect looks. What a freakin hypocrite!

ok - so why was this book so terrible? Well I think there were probably 10 novel lines/paragraphs in the entire story and they were just copy and pasted everywhere. If you were told anything once, you were told at least 50 times. No joke. Small details - Swanny is huge - to past set ups - KGI meets their wives on the job - are told, retold, told again, and again and again and again and then about 100 more times. And each time

they are told like you have never heard the detail before. I guess the author thinks her readers have gotten so stupid we cannot remember a detail given to us only a few pages before. If I had no life I would sit and count the number of times certain sentences showed up just to prove my point. But lucky for me I do have a life.

The other really horrible and annoying issue was that most of the book was spent inside Swanny's head. I hate this style. Pair that with him continually telling HIMSELF all of the above facts and recollections and I wondered about his sanity.

No OW/OM drama. Safe read.

Auntee says

Hmmm, that doesn't look like Swanny...

Ahhhh....just okay for me. Really there was not much too it. Swanny falls in love with a supermodel who is not only beautiful on the outside, but is perfect on the inside. And she falls in love with him. Actually, she makes the first move. But why? Swanny is horribly scarred--she deserves so much better than him (this is Swanny's inner monologue repeated over and over...). This got to be so annoying...

Anyhow, Eden has a baddie gunning for her (this is tied to her father's past) so Swanny and his team are hired to protect her while she does this important ad campaign. Of course the KGI team leaves he alone for just a few minutes(like they usually do when they're protecting someone) and Eden may end up with an experience similar to Swanny's!

That's about it. A lot of "I don't deserve someone as wonderful as her" from Swanny and "I'm not good enough for her" thoughts that got to be a bit ...boring. I think this story could've been a novella--and it may have worked better that way. There just seemed to be an awful lot of filler. I was hoping for a better story for Swanny, not this Beauty and the Beast theme.

Oh well, maybe this series has run its course. Please marrying off Joe soon! 3 stars (less)

Jacqueline says

I think I am officially done with Maya Banks. This one started out well but for me at least it went downhill pretty rapidly. First I am sick to death of authors telling me that one scar down a man's face makes him "a beast." If you want me to get behind thinking a guy is scared no one will love him if he's scarred you should at least make him look like Sandor Clegane from Game of Thrones. That guy might have a legitimate worry that people will judge him on his appearance.

Okay I was pretty happy that here was a stoic guy, a guy who stays in the back ground and is not a talker and is terse when he does speak. But he's sure of himself and competent and capable in his job. I love to read about a hero like that. I like to see them melt for a heroine who brings them out of their shell. I just wanted that bit of plot to take longer than 3 pages. He meets her and basically has diarrhea of the mouth. He's all

about loving her and kissing her on the plane the next day and he's all overcome with how this beautiful girl is coming on to him and he is so nervous and shit around her. Way to cut him off at the knees MB.

And let's talk about how the heroine meets him and is immediately all over him she wants to sleep with him and fix him and tell him his scars don't bother her and jeez right in front of his whole team she sets it up so that they share a hotel suite. The next day, people! There's inst love and then there's just ridiculously unbelievable.

And everybody is all "I know getting involved with the person you're protecting is bad for your attention to your job but it's expected of the entire Kelly family and everyone who works for them so go for it!" She's all "I just want one thing, you. I feel so safe with you." Blah blah blah Unicorns and rainbows and snookums and babies and *argh! could we just concentrate on the bad guy and not whose baby has a messy diaper?* *sheesh*

A lot of people are going to love this one, I know. I just need more tension and a longer build up to romance and fewer hearts and flowers.

So after about 90 pages I skipped to the end. And (view spoiler)

Nope done with this author. Although in the interests of full disclosure there have been one or two of hers that I liked. The first in this series for example. She's just gotten too sickly sweet for me.
