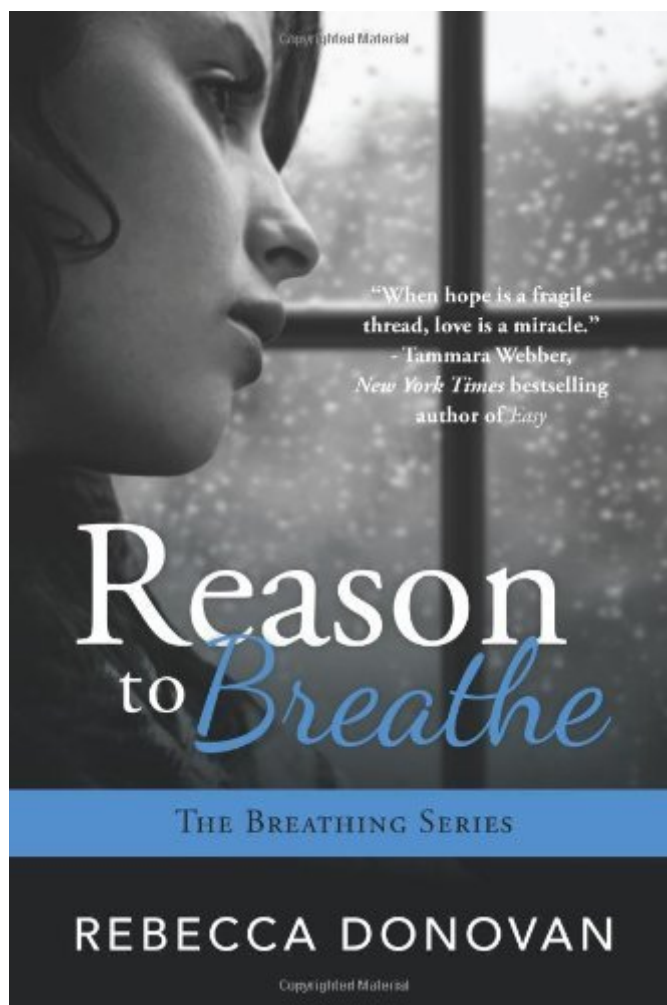


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# Reason To Breathe (The Breathing Series, Book 1)



## Synopsis

USA Today Bestselling Novel "No one tried to get involved with me, and I kept to myself. This was the place where everything was supposed to be safe and easy. How could Evan Mathews unravel my constant universe in just one day?" In the affluent town of Weslyn, Connecticut, where most people worry about what to be seen in and who to be seen with, Emma Thomas would rather not be seen at all. She's more concerned with feigning perfection "pulling down her sleeves to conceal the bruises, not wanting anyone to know how far from perfect her life truly is. Without expecting it, she finds love. It challenges her to recognize her own worth at the risk of revealing the terrible secret she's desperate to hide. One girl's story of life-changing love, unspeakable cruelty, and her precarious grasp of hope: Reason to Breathe is the first installment of the acclaimed Breathing Series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

All I can say is WOW! Reason to Breathe was an extremely emotional (The best and the very worst) story of Emma and this life she has been forced to live.\*\*\*Contains Spoilers\*\*\*Emma is a strong,

smart, beautiful girl who throws herself into her school work and extra curricular activities to avoid going home and facing her true reality. She tries to stay distant from everyone but we quickly learn throughout the book that Emma is well liked even though she doesn't want to be. After losing her father and her mother dealing with alcoholism Emma is forced to live with her Aunt and Uncle. The bad that Emma has to endure is Abuse. It's such a tough subject to approach and as most people would say that Emma had options to bring it to end but she felt she really didn't. Carol, her aunt, is a downright sick and cruel woman towards Emma but Emma being the very strong and compassionate person she is (especially to her 2 young cousins) chose to deal with the wrath of her Aunt so her cousins wouldn't lose their mother and father. The horror of what Emma has to live through while her aunt verbally and physically abuses her while her uncle pretty much turned his head the other way was so hard to read and brought tears to my eyes and had my stomach in knots. The good and let me say how sweet it was is the love and friendship Emma has on her side. Sara (Emma's best friend) is a sweetheart. Yes she really probably should have told someone, anyone about what Emma was facing but she couldn't because she understood the tight spot in which Emma felt trapped. Sara was there for Emma as a true friend always is and you could see the love between the two of them. Evan...sweet Evan! He is a sweet boy who has fallen unconditionally in love with Emma even though they are just friends at first. At one point he walks away from Emma because he wants her to trust him but she can't bring herself to tell him the truth about her home life. Of course he comes back and they proclaim their love for one another. Their love for each other is so sweet and innocent that you can't help but smile when they are together and find yourself hoping for their happily ever after! While I may not be a fan of the cliffhanger ending I can only say that it's because I want to know what happens and I don't want to have to wait for the sequel to find out. I saw a lot of other comments about not knowing if Emma survived and I found myself rereading the last chapter along with the epilogue, slowly reading each word and coming to my own conclusion after reading that last word of the book. At least until the sequel comes out ;) I have to give huge props to the Author Rebecca Donovan by her choices in her words while writing this book. I did find myself having to struggle to read through the encounters with Carol and as crazy as it might sound I have to say thank you Ms. Donovan. By writing this book you brought out the unfortunate reality of so many kids in the world and by reading it I have found myself realizing how big a problem this really is in our world. My hat is off to you Ms. Donovan for creating such an ugly situation to which you ultimately turned into something beautiful by giving Emma the love of both Evan and Sara. More importantly you have made me want to make a difference so one less beautiful child has to endure this kind of pain. I am anxiously awaiting the sequel to see if my

personal gut conclusion is correct. Keep up the amazing writing skills as you have definitely found yourself a new and dedicated fan of your work! :)

I sped through Rebecca Donovan's Breathing series too quickly to stop and write individual reviews for each book in the series. I really loved this intense, heart-stopping series. I thought Rebecca Donovan did an excellent job characterizing Emma and writing about difficult subjects: abuse, mental illness, and addiction. Donovan approaches these issues without trepidation, and their inclusion in the series is what made the books so unforgettable and emotional. My recurring thought as I read these books was: how much can one person handle before they break? Emma has had so much loss, heartbreak and hardship in her life. She has no one who truly loves her, yet her circumstances never change who she is at her core: a good, loving, loyal person. Donovan excels at writing emotion, and it felt like the books got more emotional the more I read. Each book was so intense, and I found myself feeling so many of Emma's emotions. My heart would race as I read, desperate to find out what would happen to Emma next. I had a couple of complaints about the series. First, because of the heavy subject matter and intensity of the books, they were not always easy to read. There were a lot of hard times to get through, and I would have liked to read about more "good times" after the conflict resolution. What I mean is that I wanted to spend more time with Emma once she finally got her well-deserved happy ending. Speaking of endings, I loved that the endings of the books were realistic instead of your typical rainbows and sunshine happily ever afters. My second complaint is a minor one, but it recurred throughout the series and it started to bug me. The phrase "flipped her eyes to..." was overused. I've never even read or heard that phrase before, and every time I read it, the flow of the story stopped for me as I remembered, "oh, that's how Donovan describes a glance." Despite my two complaints, overall, I really enjoyed these books. I highly recommend this series, and I would definitely read Rebecca Donovan again. I'm glad I bought these books, and very glad I read them!

I have to give this 5 stars because it pulled me in. It made me feel just about every emotion that exists 60% into it I thought I would DNF but it wasn't a choice. I couldn't put it down as much as I was frustrated this story kept me going

I'd give this five stars if the scenes of abuse weren't so numerous. It's a disturbing book with a pervading sense of doom around every corner - think of "Misery" as an example. Still deciding if I will read the whole series.

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