



# **Burn**

*Maya Banks*

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Ash, Jace, and Gabe: three of the wealthiest, most powerful men in the country. They're accustomed to getting anything they want. Anything at all. For Ash, it's the woman who changes everything he's ever known about dominance and desire...

When it comes to sex, Ash McIntyre has always explored his wilder side — extreme and uncompromising. He demands control. And he prefers women who want it like that. Even the women he's shared with his best friend, Jace.

But Jace is involved with a woman he has no intention of sharing. And now even Gabe has settled into a relationship with a woman who gives him everything he needs, leaving Ash feeling restless and unfulfilled.

Then Ash meets Josie, who seems immune to his charms and his wealth. Intrigued, he begins a relentless pursuit, determined she won't be the one who got away. He never imagined the one woman to tell him no would be the only woman who'd ever drive him to the edge of desire.

## **Burn Details**

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Author : Maya Banks

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# From Reader Review Burn for online ebook

**Kristen says**

**Swept Away By Romance's Joint Review for BURN**

**Kristen – 3 1/2 Stars**

**Steffi – 4 Stars**

**Crista – 4 1/2 Stars**

## **What worked:**

**Kristen:** I really enjoyed the love-at-first-sight dynamic between Ash and Josie. Very few authors can write this type of setup and make me a believer but Maya Banks always does. Both Ash and Josie were fun characters to get to know and the chemistry between them was blazing HOT! What I especially appreciated was the fewer quantity of sex scenes. Unlike the last two books in the series, I didn't feel this one was inundated with copious amounts of sex. Instead it had the perfect blend of steamy love scenes and story plot.

**Steffi:** I have to agree with Kristen, I loved the dynamic between Ash and Josie. I particularly enjoyed that Josie is such a free-spirit and completely different from the domineering and controlling Ash. Nonetheless, they are perfect for each other. I also liked that this book doesn't have the high amount of drama in the relationship. There is still enough drama to keep the story going but it comes from the plot rather than the romance, if that makes sense.

I also greatly enjoyed the background we get of Josie's life. When she first meets Ash, she is actually in a half-hearted dom/sub relationship. I really liked how the differences were explained, what commitments had to be made and for Josie to realize that it is not a game but a lifestyle she has to choose.

**Crista:** My quick answer to this question: A whole lot about this book worked for me!! Burn gets my vote for favorite book in this series! Ash has been a favorite of mine since the start of this series, and I am happy to report that my love for him only intensified after reading this book. I loved Ash's protective instincts when it came to Josie and there were many "ahhh" moments as Ash set out to make Josie his. I loved the honesty in this relationship. Ash is completely up front about his past ménage experiences, and I loved that this "secret" came in honesty instead of drama.

## **What didn't work:**

**Kristen:** It pains me to say this, but I had a very difficult time staying absorbed in this story. I found myself frequently putting the book down. I can't quite put my finger on why I felt such apathy but there was just something missing. I felt it lacked the heart-and-soul found in the first two books in this series. I don't know, maybe I've just grown tired of the millionaire man-whore who's into BDSM and falls for the innocent and impoverished girl. Who knows, maybe Maya Banks has too.

**Steffi:** I do have to say that Burn reminded me a lot of Fever. Maybe that makes sense since Ash and Jace used to share on of the most intimate parts of life. For that to happen, they must have similar likes and dislikes and also similar taste in women. I just had great expectations for Ash's story. He was by far my favorite character in the first two books and I would have liked him to be a little bit different from Gabe and Jace. More intense, more demanding and more erotic. While this book is steamy and I LOVED the sex

scenes, Ash didn't come across as intense as he was made out to be in Rush and Fever.

**Crista:** For me, I wish that this relationship had begun a little more gradually than it did. It was insta-lust and insta-commitment. It almost seemed like Ash looked at Gabe/Jace and wanted what they had so badly that he was looking for someone to become “his”. It made Josie seem a little too “convenient” instead of “destined”.

#### **Best scenes:**

**Kristen:** I loved the ending. It fit perfectly for this series. I also loved when Gabe had to FINALLY admit to his friends about his horrendous actions in Paris and the horrible outcome of what happened. It served him right that his actions came back to haunt him.

**Steffi:** Funnily enough, my favorite scene is actually from the beginning of the book, when Ash and Josie first meet. You can read an excerpt of that scene in our giveaway post [here](#). This first meeting is almost magical and it's love-at-first-sight without kitsch or fanfare - it just feels very natural and is simply lovely.

**Crista:** I have two favorite scenes. The first is the scene where Ash describes the type of Dom/Sub type of relationship that he desires with Josie. He states: “One thing you need to realize. I’m not more than you, Josie. I get that there is an inequality in power in the relationship. The scales are tipped in my direction. But that doesn’t mean I’m more. Never more. You are everything in this equation.”

The second is the scene with the girls out on the town. Maya Banks writes some seriously fun girl party scenes!

#### **Favorite characters:**

**Kristen:** Jace and Bethany from the second book in the series, Fever. I just love these two characters.

**Steffi:** I 100% agree with Kristen - Jace and Bethany remain my favorite couple. I also really liked Gabe and Mia in this book. Mia's girls' night outs are legendary and, with Bethany and Josie, even funnier than before.

**Crista:** Ash (with Josie a close second)!

#### **Overall Thoughts:**

**Kristen:** For the most part I liked this book but I certainly didn't love it. Not like I did the second book in this series. I had a difficult time staying interested and engaged in the story. It lacked the heart-and-soul that was present in the first two books. I'm glad I read this story, though, as Maya Banks is one of my favorite authors. ~ **3.5 stars**

**Steffi:** Fever remains my favorite but Burn is a good end to a phenomenal series. Maya Banks just knows her romance and how to draw the reader in, make them care deeply for the characters. She writes intense emotion like no other and for that reason alone I recommend the Breathless Trilogy. Burn was not what I expected it to be but it was still a very enjoyable read. ~ **4 stars**

**Crista:** Burn is a truly a romantic/erotic novel. Why did I ever think that these two had to be mutually exclusive? I have to admit that I loved the intensity Ash shows Josie in this novel. I’m partial towards the alpha male, and Ash certainly proves to be one of those! I also appreciate that Burn nicely wraps up this

series by letting us see all the couples together from all three books. ~ 4 ½ stars!!!

*\*A copy of this book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review*

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### **Erlynn (BooksHugBack) says**

If you were looking for the third in Maya Banks' 'Breathless' series to be the steamiest of the three you will be disappointed, I sure was. 'Rush' the story of Gabe and Mia was the classic 'Beauty and the Beast' story with an erotic flair not for the faint of heart. The second novel 'Fever', had Jace turning away from his threesome ways with best friend Ash to settle down with a 'Cinderella' Bethany. I was sure Ash was the most deviant of the three and was interested to know the fairy-tale storyline and see who would change him. I was a bit disappointed as immediately after Jace and Bethany's engagement, he spots a girl Josie in the park and that's it for him. Their relationship although beautiful is severely tame considering the previous two books and even Ash's own past.

The idea that Jace and Ash shared everything including women was just resolved and dropped. I was certain there was going to be an inner conflict for Ash to resolve, but it never surfaced. Actually, there were so many different places that could have had conflict and drama created, but it never did. Everything was neatly resolved. Uh, Bethany and Josie immediately friends? It was all just so easy and perfect.

The novel seemed to repeat the same information over and over, almost like she thought the reader could so easily forget why she didn't like ex-boyfriend Micheal or why he had so quickly fallen for her. It seemed like it was trying to prove how screwed up her relationship was and why Ash was so quickly into her. I guess I never really jumped on board to either. It gets more interesting at the end as the men rush in to protect their women from invading dangers from the past, but it resolved itself so quickly and without any problems. It was just okay I guess, my favorite part was the girls night out.

Ugh I loved the first books SO much. I was so looking forward to this being exponentially better. I feel lost, like it wasn't even in the same ballpark as the previous two. What happened?

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### **Bookish Temptations says**

Although I was sure I'd enjoy the last book in the Breathless trilogy 'Burn' by Maya Banks, I didn't think it could top book two for me. Yeah...well I was wrong. 'Burn' is my favorite of the three and Ash McIntyre is the biggest reason why. In the first two books Ash comes off as a little bit too laid back for my taste. I like my literary men to be complex and to have a certain intensity about them. Well...in his own story he is that and more. He's proven to be a loyal and fierce friend to Gabe and Jace, but in Burn we also find out he can actually show those same characteristics to a woman...that was a welcome change.

You can read the rest of my review here: <http://bookishtemptations.com/2013/08...>

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### **Auntie says**

[ attacked Jo

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## Lindsey says

I hate this entire series. No offense. I bought the second one at the airport while I was in between connecting flights, and I bought this third one at a used bookstore because I couldn't find anything else that might tickle my fancy at that moment. I'll just say, these books are very generic, not to mention book 2 and book 3 Jace/Ash are exactly the same person, character and trait-wise. They talk the same. They act the same. They treat their women exactly the same. Nobody uses pronouns. Like for example, instead of saying "I don't want to do this", Ash and Jace will always say "Don't want to do this" instead. But EVERY SINGLE TIME. It gets aggravating. And yes they are into dom/sub, that's soooo original....

This is a bad rendition of 50 Shades of Grey and I hated that series too.

I think these are supposed to be like romance novels? Because men don't act like this towards women, especially women that are poor and ordinary, and who don't shave their pubes. These extremely rich powerful men just sweep them off their feet after meeting them one time?? And the MEN can't wait to get married?? Are you kidding me? That's as far from the truth as possible.

I mean I get this is supposed to be fantasy..but this is a little TOO unrealistic for me.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. This is mine.

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## Michele ~ la Smoocherina says

I enjoyed the third book in the Breathless Series. I've noticed that they've taken out the "trilogy" after "Breathless", so I'm wondering if there will be more books. I wouldn't mind Caroline or Brittany's stories. :)

I liked Ash and Josie's story. It wasn't very angsty, and they fell into a relationship easily. Of course, there is some conflict, but it doesn't season the entire relationship. I think Ash is one of those men that is a good man in spite of the viper's nest he was raised in. And Josie has a vast capacity for love and an ability to give Ash what he needs. To care and *take care* of someone. Ash will do anything to protect what he considers his family- Gabe and Jace and their women, along with Josie and Brittany, his sister.

I love all of these alpha males and their take charge attitudes. :) Again, like the rest of the series this is BDSM without calling it such and there is no safeword. No means no. :)

One of the best parts of the book was the girl's night out. They have one in every book but they get better and better. I laugh at every one.

Fun easy read.

Warning:(view spoiler)

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## **Lynne says**

It's no secret I'm not a big fan of this series. Book two, in my opinion, was absolutely ridiculous, the premise anyway. The premise of this one was better at least, but still had the same issues I've continued to have with this series: 1) All the men are billionaires, despite not having the job/career to really, in fact, be one. 2) The whole "love at first sight thing" is taken just too far. I get that can happen, sometimes. But, in this series, it happens way too quickly and for seemingly no reason at all. 2.1) And, not only is it "love" at first sight, it's this incredible need to possess the woman to the point that she must move in immediately (in the case of this book, even before the first kiss?!?!). 3) With the exception of book one, which wasn't so bad, the female leads have ZERO life...yes, they have personality characteristics, but no friends, no acquaintances other than maybe a troubled family member or boyfriend/lover. So weird. 3.1 And, the friends she meets by way of the men in this book immediately adopt her and they're all BFFs based on little or no reason. I could rant on forever. Let's just say, I think I had a solid 7 eye rolls in before page 56. All that said, I still did read the book. Why, after book two did I even bother with this one? One word. Library. It had it. It was free. And, in all honesty, even though I have mixed feelings about Ms. Banks and her repertoire, the woman does do two things well in all her books...she makes you want to consume the book all in one setting, much like a giant yummy pizza or some other simple-carb laden item that makes you just want to keep eating...and, she can write one heck of a steamy smex scene. This book very much reminded me of a tamed down (smex wise) version of her Sweet series -- very similar formulas with each of the guys being friends and working together, and each book being about them, and all the girls become friends and do silly things together as a side-diversion story, and all-in-all, it's one big happy family. It's all just a bit much for me. Too far flung (even for a romance story). There are many, many other, and better, book options in this genre that I'd recommend to folks first, even from Ms. Banks (still a pretty big fan of all but one of her Highlander books).

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## **michelle says**

I was expecting so much from this book! Ash seemed like such a cool character, and to be honest I was hoping they'd keep his laid-back personality because I feel like that's such a foil to his business man persona. It would have made him different from the other two...instead all three men were basically the same. Which made me feel like this book was just a different love story with the same man.

In other words I got bored. I even started to scan through the love scenes because there was nothing special in them. They were the same as the previous two books. Maybe a different kink, most definitely a different personality would have helped.

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## **Melissa says**

If I could give this more stars I would. My kindle was sucked into my face literally. Ash is my new Alpha hot ass crush.....Im hoping for more books that link these characters together. Britney's story perhaps.

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## **Ramblings From A Chaotic Mind says**

I ADORED this book! Of course when I'm talking about Maya Banks, everything is always really good. Ash and Josie together set the page on fire. I loved how Josie spurned the advances Ash kept making towards her. Instead leery because she's still in a dying relationship when they meet, Josie is determined to not jump from one bad relationship to the next. She ends her relationship with a man who was just playing Dom to her sub but when he attacks her Ash finally steps in and takes the reins...not only with her ex but also with Josie herself. He tries to make her feel needed, loved and encourages her by buying her artwork (behind her back..big mistake... but his heart was in the right place). I didn't think Ash made nearly as many mistakes as his friends Gabe and Jace did in their books and instead of righting all his mistakes he was able to evolve his relationship at a better pace than them. Josie's artistic mind made her more of a free thinker and she knew from the beginning that the Dom/sub lifestyle was for her and it wasn't just a game she was playing.

Burn is sensual and erotically sexy without being over the top or hardcore. I get tired of some of the BDSM books with all the physical punishment...it's nice to read one where the men don't constantly flog, spank or whip the heroine. Instead Banks gives us men who dominate in bed, love completely and emotionally consume the heroine.

Ash's willingness to put everything on the line for Josie was amazing and it made me fall just a bit in love with him myself. I thought Ash would be a bit darker than he actually was based on what was said in the past two books, but instead he was just kinda lonely and tired of the threesomes he used to share with Jace. While he considers Jace and Gabe his family, he still longs for that connection his own real family has never given him. Josie gives him a chance to finally have what he wanted and he was unwilling to let her go once finding her.

I was wondering if there would be an actual conclusion to an incident that happened in book one between Mia, Gabe and an investment man and Burn finally gives readers that ending. I wished there would have been more of a threat throughout the books but it does result in a very climactic event and while it was kinda out of nowhere, it made for some good, emotionally wrought reading.

Maya Banks is always at the top of my reading pile and Burn only cemented her place. Banks is an exquisite story teller! Erotic, emotionally charged and compelling, a wonderful ending to her Breathless trilogy!

I give Burn by Maya Banks 5 stars!

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## **Elle says**

### **3\* STARS!**

Plus:

- Steamy.
- A little suspense in the final.
- Better than Gabe and Jase.
- Finally, it's done!

Minus:



- Almost the same like Jase. Too Cinderella syndrome.
- Insta lust and love.
- BDSM wanna be.
- Too stalker-ish.
- Pussy-whipped hero :p

Overall: This is the last book from Breathless Trilogy. It didn't leave me breathless but brainless. It was so dumb and empty. Finished with disappointment and surprised that I finished all the books. Once again, an okay read for Cinderella syndrome romance with steamy sex by powerful and not-really-dominant man.

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## **Vina says**

### **Am I feeling the "Burn" ??**

I always wanted to know more about Ash since his appearance in Rush as the mysterious 3rd business partner and then in Fever where you learn a bit more about the interesting connection Ash has with his best friend, Jace. But by the end I was like :

The beginning of the book I just felt like Ash and Josie kept having the same conversation of what he expected from her but not what she expected from him. I just kept thinking the relationship was kinda dull. In all of these books everyone falls in love crazy fast so I expect that, but I just meet you once so move in with me was kinda out there. When Jace did that to Bethany it was a little different she was homeless. I would have liked to have seen Josie resist a little bit more and have Ash really have to work to woo her at least for a week before she moved in. I mean I get that Jace had asked Bittany to move with him and she agreed quickly because, hello, the girl was homeless. But in this book, it was just creepy.

The other thing that really made me roll my eyes was the ending. I love happy ending but come on, we're supposed to be adults reading a damn book, not some children reading a fairy tale. By the end everybody gets married to their prince charming and their only problem is how much kids they will have. It screams bullshit.

Overall an OK book but nothing exceptional.

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## **AprilA says**

Disappointed... That's my one word review for this one. I loved the first two of this trilogy and I was eagerly awaiting Ash's story because he had so much potential. Jace's story was filled with angst. The whole Cinderella type thing with Bethany. I LOVED it. And while I loved Ash and Josie both and immensely enjoyed the hot sex scenes (Maya Banks can write some steam), I was sorely disappointed by the lack of conflict.

There is absolutely ZERO conflict to these two getting together until 80%. Z-E-R-O. So the first 80% of the book is how they get together which really isn't all that eventful. It was a little fast which is ok, I mean it's not unheard of. The steam scenes made up for total lack of plot and conflict to a degree, but I kept waiting for there to be some conflict. Then at 80% I'm hit with the weakest conflict ever and I wanted to throw my iPad so bad!

What really sucked is that I saw the conflict coming from like the 15% mark and I kept saying to myself, "No, she's going to amp it up and make it worse, there's no way it's going to be this weak." WRONG! In fact, it's so weak that (view spoiler)

There was so much potential here. (view spoiler) Ash is such a worthy hero and Josie was awesome. They deserved more. I'm just so disappointed.

This was basically a story of how Ash and Josie fell in love with absolutely zero obstacles. There's absolutely zero character growth that I could find, I mean what lessons did they learn? Nada. (view spoiler) Done.

Now, I give the story and plot 2 stars, but I dole out 5 for the steam/sex scenes. They're worth the read, but not if you're looking for a really engaging plot.

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### **Shannon says**

I quit about halfway in. Just utterly unreadable. The characters got less and less developed as this series went on. I'd recommend reading Rush and not bothering with the rest of them. The author wants us to believe that the 3 male leads all have different personalities, but they really don't-- they're all written exactly the same and, oh! Surprise! Ash is the one who's supposed to be carefree and charming, but he's the same grunting caveman as the rest of them underneath. The male hero/savior complex, with these men constantly swooping in to save women in need, is just gross. This is basically a more boring retread of the second novel. And the characters not talking in full sentences...I really wanted to hurl my Kindle across the room.

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### **Vikki ~ \*squee\* lite ~ says**

2.5 disappointing stars

I so so wanted to like this book. And it wasn't bad - it just wasn't anything.

We start again with the insta-relationship. While Ash and Josie hold off on the "I love You's" for a short while - we seriously go first meeting (which leads to the apparently inevitable stalking of the heroine) to first date, to moving in together in the first week (and they didn't even see each other in the week between the first date and the moving in talk).

It felt more than a little like a re-tread of Fever. On their first date, Ash is all "we are real". This is long term"

yada yada. Ugh.

Josie was a blah heroine - she's not the sensitive fragile heroine that Bethany was - or the independent feisty heroine that Mia was - she was just - middle of the road. She claimed she wasn't a pushover (and I guess she wasn't a total doormat) but she just agrees to everything Ash says - which was flat out insane given the speed he was moving their relationship forward. She had no spark - I couldn't connect to her at all.

Then there was Ash. I've always liked Ash - he was the affable hottie with an edge. Yum. But in this book - he turned into the relationship whisperer. Half of his conversations with Josie were lectures on how relationships should work. How they should "fight" (touching - no putting any distance between them). How they should communicate (she always needs to tell him how she's feeling) etc. It's not that there was anything wrong with what he was saying - it was relationship 101 - but it was just too much - and really - for the guy with zero real relationship experience, the whole "I'm an expert" thing was a little baffling.

There was also this "shadow" part of Ash's life - connections to apparently unsavory characters that is hinted at - but never explained. (And which lead to no less than five conversations with various people about how it wouldn't "touch" them. )

In general, I was bored most of the book. I didn't care about Ash and Josie's relationship - and very little - on any front happens until the last 20% of the book (and by that point I didn't care) Even the "big conflict" was blah. We get what felt like a re-hash of a lot of the things that happened in the other books (like girls night part trios - blech). I even started skimming the sex scenes because they weren't anything new or exciting . And if one insta relationship isn't enough - we get an extra one from the secondary characters.

Overall, a seriously disappointing ending to the trilogy. I can only be glad it's over.

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## **Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says**

It's a really sad thing, when the ONLY book you really loved was the First book of the whole series... :/

Book one *Rush* was an absolute four star read hence clearly entertaining compared to *Fever and Burn* which Both sadly earned 2 stars from me.

**Fever** was sadly rather slow and predictable almost like every other billionaire romance in its genre. I found myself putting the book down way too often than I normally would..which happens very..VERY rarely.

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## **Nicky says**

This book is unreadable it is so bad. I rarely don't finish a book, but I got through 35% and could take no more. What happened to this series?? *Rush* was SO GOOD. Gabe Hamilton was smart and sexy. Jace in Book 2 was ridiculous. He couldn't speak a full sentence to save his life and the whole concept about falling in

love with a homeless girl after 30 minutes was absurd. I had hoped that Fever was the exception in the trilogy in that it was so bad, but unfortunately that was not the case. Rush was the exception because it was actually good. Burn is a repeat of Fever.....Ash sounds like a neanderthal. Smart, educated people to not speak like that. There is a purpose to the subject in a sentence when speaking....Maya Banks seems to have forgotten that. I am all for a love at first sight story, but at least make it remotely believable. In both Fever and Burn it was so wrong....the characters made no sense together and she did little to help me understand why they would be together. I am also OK with the whole Dom/Sub storyline, but this was just vulgar at times. Again, I think it had to do with a lack of development rather than the storyline (or the statements) themselves. I am beyond disappointed. And the absolutely ridiculous relationship she tries to develop between the girls in the book is nauseating. The first time I read about "fuck me shoes" in this book I knew I would not be finishing the book. Again, a great friendship between women is a plus in a book....this was simply silly and stupid. I'm not sure what happened in Rush to make it so good, but it was far from repeated in the rest of the Trilogy. I sent my copy back to Amazon for a refund. Hopefully I will at least get my money back. If only I could have my wasted time back.

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### **Syndi says**

This book is delicious. Warm chocolate delicious good. I always curious of Ash. He is the most layback guy among the three. Even at this book he reveal himself as the most intense among the three, I still find him very complicated.

I especially loves Josie. Her character is providing the 'burn' of this book. I especially love the argument between her and Ash towards the end of the book. The dialogue is smart and sparky.

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### **? Sammy ?? says**

#### **DNF @ 51%**

As much as I liked the first two books in this series, this book just isn't working for me.

First off, I LOVED Ash in the first two books! He was charming, playful, easy going, and was my favorite of the three guys in this series. Unfortunately, he's like a completely different character in Burn. I didn't see any of the charm or playfulness that I came to love in Rush and Fever.

Secondly, the insta love and the fact that Ash and Josie's relationship is moving at lightning speed is not working for me either. (view spoiler)

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### **Yolanda March says**

I wasn't really to thrilled on Ashs story! It seem to similar to Jaces story! I would of liked to be more convinced of his dying love! I was not! I still enjoyed all the streamy sex scenes! I just think it is sad I wanted to know more about Brittany and Kai relationships more than the main characters of this book! It was

not horrible but not wonderful!!!

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