



A Breath Away

Rita Herron

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The innocent victim of a childhood tragedy must turn to a sexy sheriff for protection in this classic tale from USA TODAY bestselling author Rita Herron...

Ever since Violet Baker's childhood companion was brutally murdered, she's been plagued with visions of the girl's last hours. Now, on the twentieth anniversary of Darlene's death, Violet's father is found dead, a note beside him confessing to the murder. But something doesn't feel right, and Violet returns to Crow's Landing looking for answers.

Facing the judgmental town as a murderer's daughter is difficult enough, but dealing with the scalding tension between her and Sheriff Grady Monroe, Darlene's half brother, is worse. As the two of them race to unravel the mystery, it quickly becomes clear that Violet is in grave danger...and Grady suddenly knows that he'll do anything to protect her, no matter what the cost...

A Breath Away Details

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Author : Rita Herron

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Paula says

When Violet was eight years old she had visions of her childhood friend Darlene when Darlene was kidnapped and murdered. Violet has always carried guilt with her since she could not save her friend. Violet's father sent her away with her grandmother to live elsewhere after the murder. Now twenty years later, Violet returns to Crow's Landing after her father's alleged suicide and confession to Darlene's murder. Violet, along with Darlene's half brother Grady, who is now the sheriff, must seek out the truth, especially now that a new series of murders are being committed, and Violet's psychic visions are returning for the first time in twenty years.

The story was alright and different although the romance aspect wasn't very strong for me. The main couple was just okay and lacked chemistry. I thought that the secondary characters were much more interesting. The many strange and questionable characters in town made for a wide pool of suspects. The suspense part of the book was better than the romance, but still it didn't completely grab me.

Kerra says

Amazing

Pamela(AllHoney) says

Violet Baker had a strong connection to her friend, Darlene and felt her terror as her friend was kidnapped and murdered. Now 20 years later Violet is returning home after hearing her father committed suicide.

I liked it. It maintained a nice steady pace and kept me glued to the pages to learn the mystery.

Kiara Williams says

Awesome, suspense filled thriller with a touch of steamy romance. Must read

I love this book. Full of suspects and twists and turns. Not to mention steamy love scenes. I only wish this was a series as there are characters who are awesome to dig into. The main character is a bit self absorbed but very relatable considering her circumstances.

Carrie says

Loved it!! Couldn't put it down.

Pauline says

nice quick easy read.

jenjn79 says

Good book, but at the same time there was one issue that irritated and distracted me more than just a little at time. Still a good romantic suspense book, though. Herron knows how to tell a story that's got a solid suspense aspect without neglecting the romance. I've been a fan of hers since I started reading her Harlequin Intrigue books.

In *A Breath Away*, Violet Baker has been haunted for years by the murder of her best friend when they were children. She and Darlene had had a special connection and Violet had lived her friend's terror with her. Then her father sent her away with her grandmother and Violet thought it was because he felt she was evil with her weird connection to Darlene. She never spoke or saw her father again and she's lived with what happened since that day.

Now the visions and voices are starting again, but this time, young women are dying. Then comes a call saying her father had committed suicide and left a note saying he'd killed young Darlene. Violet doesn't believe it so she finally returns to her hometown...where Darlene's brother is now Sheriff. Grady has spent his life trying to find his sister's killer. Now he finally may know...only the facts aren't adding up. And women are dying in a way that appears to connect them to his sister. He and Violet must team up to find the truth. A task made all that much harder by the attraction that simmers between them.

This book had an interesting storyline, but it was kinda hard to get into. For the simple fact that the basic premise is almost exactly the same as Nora Roberts' *Carolina Moon*. They have pretty much the exact same setup...two opposite side of the tracks girlhood friends, one having psychic visions of the others violent death then leaving town after, returning years later to face what happened and maybe find the truth, and getting involved with her dead friend's older brother. Except for some minor variances, that's the way both books are setup (Roberts book was written 5 years before this one). And I found it extremely distracting when trying to get into this book. I just kept thinking about how similar they were. It was annoying. But at least the way the plot plays out and the reason behind things was very different.

Despite the irritating similarity issue, Herron does weave a complicated, engaging suspense and a fairly good romance. She keeps you on your toes trying to figure out who is doing what and why. There's no one obvious suspect and the way the clues are laid out, everyone seems guilty. Which makes it interesting in trying to piece together what is going on. And towards the end, I just wanted to keep reading to see how it was all going to play out.

I did wish there were maybe a few less characters. I read this over maybe 3 days and I didn't always remember who was who and their connections and whatnot. It made the story a little over-busy to a certain extent. If I'd read it in a less amount of time, it probably wouldn't have bothered me. But reading in bits in pieces, it was hard to keep everyone straight.

As for the romance...it was about moderately. I liked both the characters and there was good chemistry between them. But it was a little slow in building for me and got side-lined some for the suspense aspect. It was still a pretty sweet romance, though, with a nice HEA.

All in all, this was a solid romantic suspense. If I hadn't read Roberts "Carolina Moon" previously, I probably would have enjoyed this one more cover to cover. But if you like a good romantic suspense, then I'd definitely recommend this book or any other by Herron. She tells a solid, engaging story.

Liisa says

Once I got past the uncanny similarity to Nora Roberts' "Carolina Moon", I soon became absorbed in *Rita Herron's "A Breath Away"*.

Not unlike "Carolina Moon", "**A Breath Away**" tells the tale of two friends with a deep bond and psychic connection. Two girls on different ends of the social spectre but somehow become best friends. This bond is cut tragically short when one is murdered.

Twenty years later on the anniversary of the murder, another woman is killed and left on the church stairs. A serial killer has emerged and he has the surviving friend in her sights.

It's a compelling read and I found I could not put it down. Looking forward to sampling more by Rita Herron.
