



## Breakpoint

*JoAnn Ross*

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Air Force Combat Controller Dallas O'Halloran is as tough as he is loyal. So he's not pleased when he's recruited into a new anti-terror unit and teamed up with Academy graduate Julianne Decatur—the icy blond JAG officer who nearly court-martialed his friends.

Assigned to investigate a Navy flyer's apparent suicide, they discover the trail of a ruthless killer—and an attraction between them that can't be denied. And when their prey turns the tables on them, Julianne will have to depend on the one man daring and reckless enough to keep them both alive...

## **Breakpoint Details**

Date : Published July 7th 2009 by Signet

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Author : JoAnn Ross

Format : Mass Market Paperback 382 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, War, Military Fiction, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review Breakpoint for online ebook

### Carrie says

TBR Challenge 2012- Personal Challenge: Read books posted on my to-read list before 2011. *Breakpoint* was #1 on my to-read list, added October 1, 2009.

A solid romantic suspense book by a consistent author. *Breakpoint* was a fast, easy read with enjoyable characters and a decent mystery plot. However, there was nothing unique or surprising about the story or the characters.

The author had obviously done her research, but wasn't as adept at blending her knowledge smoothly into the story. Every pause to tell the reader what each word or acronym meant was disruptive, and for the most part unnecessary. The paragraphs detailing the structure and operation of the aircraft carrier, and other parts of military life, were interesting but broke the flow of the story. It would be much preferable to add this information in the form of a glossary of terms and a short afterword with the details.

Overall an enjoyable day of reading, but something I'm likely to forget quickly.

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### Rjsmommy says

Breakpoint is the fourth installment in the High Risk series and I have to be honest and say it took a while for me to get into this book but then it finally clicked. Dallas O'Halloran is an Air Force Combat Controller who is also a nerd genius and supposed womanizer. Juliane Decateur is the JAG lawyer who tried to court martial his friends intending to use him as a star witness. When they are paired 2 years later as Phoenix/SOAR operatives to investigate the possible suicide/murder of a female pilot aboard a carrier, emotions turn from distrust to lust.

Dallas and Juliane were both likable characters. Dallas' childhood made him the underdog who overcame and became an overachiever as well as a guy who had to learn to read people. Juliane was lost in the civilian world after a voluntary yet politically forced retirement.

Two things bothered me about this book. One, though Dallas and Juliane lusted after one another the eventual (and I mean LOOONNNNGGG awaited eventual) lovemaking was a letdown. I expected much more. And second, the crime solution was disappointing. I mean, they really didn't solve it. If Juliane's sister hadn't been kidnapped they may never have solved the crime...the criminals could have gotten away with it! But I still enjoyed it and will certainly read more JoAnn Ross in the future.

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### Jacqueline says

This book was okay but moved pretty slow. I just kept thinking okay, any minute they're going to get to the ship to investigate but jiminy if another odd unnecessary scene didn't interrupt. I kept reading the end of a chapter and thinking okay the next one will start with words to the effect that "they climbed out of the helicopter and onto the deck of the aircraft carrier" but no...

Once they finally got to the ship, things really picked up and I enjoyed the last half of the book much more.

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## Cruth says

**Author:** JoAnn Ross

**First published:** 2009

**Length:** 6065 kindle locations

**Setting:** Contemporary. Afghanistan, Coronado, California, Hawaii, aboard USS O'Halloran, San Diego.

**Sex:** Very Explicit. Not Frequent.

**Hero:** Former Tech Sergeant now private.

**Heroine:** Navy lawyer now working for Homeland.

**Trigger:** Suicide of background character.

**Includes:** excerpt from *Ricochet/The Homecoming*

A nice finish to Ross' suspense series. Winds up the horrific events in Afghanistan and gives Dallas an HEA.

Other characters from the crash (Lucas, Sax) get their HEAs in the *Shelter Bay* series.

A good read. Enjoyable. Nothing particularly remarkable but *good*.

### **High Risk:**

Book 1 Freefall - Zach Tremayne and Sabrina Swan

Book 2 Crossfire - Caitlin Cavanaugh and Quinn McKade

Book 3 Shattered - Kirby Campbell and Shane Garrett

Book 4 Breakpoint - Dallas O'Halloran and Julianne Decatur

### **Shelter Bay:**

Book 1 The Homecoming - Sax Douchett and Kara Conway

Book 2 One Summer - Gabriel St. James and Charity Tiernan

Book 3 On Lavender Lane - Lucas Chaffee and Madeline Durand

Book 4 Moonshell Beach - J.T. Douchett and Mary Joyce

Book 5 Sea Glass Winter - Dillon Slater and Claire Templeton

Book 6 Castaway Cove - Mac Culhane and Annie Shepherd

Book 7 Christmas in Shelter Bay - Cole Douchett and Kelli Carpenter

Book 8 You Again - Meghann Quinn and Adam Wayne

Book 9 Beyond the Sea - Conn Brennan and Sedona Sullivan

Book 10 Sunset Point - Tess Lombardi and Nate Breslin

### **References:**

Author's website: <http://www.joannross.com>

Author on w'pedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JoAnn\\_Ross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JoAnn_Ross)

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**jenjn79 says**

Rating: 4.5 / 5

I almost gave up on this series after reading the first book and finding it rather blah. But I decided to try the next book, which was better and had me wanting to keep going with the series. I'm glad I did because I really enjoyed this fourth book of the series. It engaged me on all levels.

NOTE: the High Risk series is about a group of SpecOps military men who have to move on with their lives after a mission goes bad and they are almost court-martialed. This fourth book could possibly be read on its own without much confusion, but I'd recommend reading the books in order because the full backstory is pretty glossed over in this one.

In *Breakpoint* Air Force combat controller Dallas O'Halloran is one of the few who stayed in the military after the horrible events of the Afghanistan mission. He suspects his much-valued skill-set kept him from being court-martialed, but not from being interrogated for 3 days by rigid Navy JAG lawyer Julianne Decatur. Dallas made it through and went back to work. Then a freak incident outs his cover and ends his military career. He goes to work for the Phoenix team like his SEAL buddies Zach (Freefall) and Quinn (Crossfire) and former SOAR pilot Shane (Shattered). He's also tagged to be part of THOR, a division of Homeland Security that reports only to the President.

Also now working for THOR is Julianne - who ended up leaving the military after being obligated to pursue a court-martial against Dallas's friends. The two have a run in at a party one night and thought both try to deny it, the attraction the felt during that 3-day interrogation is still there. Then they are assigned a THOR mission together. Dallas is intrigued by the notion of working with her; Julianne is horrified. But they will work together to figure out whether a female pilot's death was really suicide...or something more. It's not long before it becomes obvious that there is something between the two of them...or that there is something much more devious going on than a pilot's suicide. The two have to curb their attraction - temporarily - to figure out why bodies are piling up and uncover and unexpected conspiracy. But when that's done, all's fair in love in war.

In each of the last books, there was always an area that fell kind of flat: weak romance, weak suspense plot, bad ending. But *Breakpoint* was solid in all areas for me. I didn't have a single major complaint as I was reading or once I finished.

I loved the romance part of the book. The dynamic between Dallas and Julianne was fantastic - the rough, tough military man and the rigid JAG lawyer who almost court-martialed him. There was some serious chemistry there. So much sexual tension. And even though it was a long way through the book before they could finally act on that tension, I didn't mind. It added to the anticipation and let the characters get to know each other and find out each wasn't quite what they other thought they were. They were able to realize they actually liked each other and weren't just sexually attracted.

I also enjoyed the characters of the book. I remember in one of the past books that Dallas was mentioned to be a womanizing flirt. And I wondered if I'd like him as a character, but he was actually very likable. I loved that he was more than a little secretly nerdy. So sexy. Julianne was a pretty good character as well...maybe a bit too rigid. I thought she could have relaxed and opened up a little more to Dallas.

The suspense part of the story was more on the low-intensity side. The romance is the more dominant part of

the story, but I still liked the suspense angle. A simple supposed suicide turns into a complicated conspiracy. There were some nice twists and turns in there. And the climax, though a bit short in length, was nicely done. If I had one little qualm with the plot it would be that throughout the book, Ross gives a certain impression about the conspiracy being revealed. It made me feel like something really big and sinister was doing on. Then the real reason for everything is revealed and I thought it was a little mundane. I had been expecting something more. But that was only a mild annoyance for me.

On the whole, this was just a really solid book that was enjoyable cover-to-cover. I couldn't wait to keep reading whenever I had to put it down. So I glad that I stuck with this series and got a chance to read *Breakpoint*. I'll be looking forward to the next addition to the series.

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### **Erinaceina says**

Not a bad read, but I felt that there wasn't enough conflict or interest in the romantic plotline. The conflict which was inherent in the original set up was resolved almost immediately, and what remained was too sweet and easy. The resolution of the whodunnit didn't feel entirely convincing, either.

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### **Cindi says**

*Breatpoint* is another great novel from JoAnn Ross, and I will definitely keep reading this series. It is filled with realistic details, and because of that I was disappointed with only one aspect of this book - but it was a biggie IMHO. Without giving away the story, I was simply shocked that to bring the H/H together, Ms. Ross just changed their minds about each other. Just like that. Of course, the man had a good excuse - he discovered the heroine was hot, even hotter than when they first met, so of course he changed his tune. But when the female lead did the exact same thing, just like that, I didn't buy it. There had been too much water under the bridge (pun intended - this story takes place on a Navy carrier) for them to get over it that quickly. Other than that, I enjoyed the zig-zaggy plot and the mental gymnastics the two went thru to solve their case. JoAnn Ross creates a believable Alpha male in all her books, and this was certainly no exception, however I would have enjoyed hearing a little more about our hero's military experiences which made him the man he became.

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### **Mary says**

Military, paramilitary, Spec Ops...fast read, lots of innuendo & sex. Who knows if the military types are really like this?? Who cares?? Fun to read fast & no brainer. Good at a hockey game between periods when it's boring. It's a series, this is #4. I don't think they are connected by the same people/characters. I don't remember if I read any of the others. large print ed., also good for the treadmill!!

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### **Linda says**

This was different than what I thought it would be with a JAG lawyer in the story but I was pleasantly surprised. Julianne Decatur had met Dallas O'Halloran during a trial where he was a witness against his best

friends. Just because he witnessed the event where his comrades had stepped across the military line, did not mean he thought that what they did were wrong. Now he was paired with this ex JAG lawyer as civilian investigators with the power of the American government behind them.

Great story with an interesting twist.

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### **Wendy says**

I was disappointed in this one, I'm sorry to say. I have really enjoyed the other books in this series, and I looked forward to getting my hands on this one. But Alas, I can't give it my Wendy's glowing review.

I thought that this one had great potential to be good, but It fell flat. There just wasn't enough action and I thought I might go mad with the characters complimenting each other on their intelligence. I think that JR really missed the boat here with these two. Dallas was a really hot character and was definitely attracted to the heroine, but though the chemistry was there the story and all of the suspense was not enough to get it there.

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### **Cheri says**

Wasn't a big fan of this one.....kinda dull :(

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### **Carolyn says**

This Was A Great Book. It's A Fast Page Turner, With Interesting Characters. The Suspense Is Well Written And I Liked The Sexual Tension Between The H/H. Great Story Line And I Can't Wait To Read The Others In This Series.

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### **Marianne says**

Rather juvenile writing style. Shallow plot. Ross has done better

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### **Heather Graham says**

This one was a little better than the last one. It had better suspense

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### **Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says**

3.5 stars

