



## After the Storm

*Maya Banks*

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**After the Storm** 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...**

Over the years, Donovan Kelly has fought relentlessly for justice, women and children always holding a special place in his heart. Working side by side with his brothers, Donovan has witnessed firsthand the toll it's taken—physically, mentally, and emotionally—on his loved ones, and the innocent lives caught in the crossfire. What he never expects is for his next mission to happen right on his home turf—or for it to take a very personal turn.

Picturesque Kentucky Lake is the perfect place for a soul in search of safe harbor. A beautiful stranger has arrived—desperate, breathless, and on the run from a dark past closing in on her and the younger siblings she has vowed to protect. Donovan must now draw on every resource at his disposal—if he wants to save a woman and the children who may prove to be his destiny.

## After the Storm Details

Date : Published January 7th 2014 by Berkley

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Author : Maya Banks

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

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## **From Reader Review After the Storm for online ebook**

### **Trish says**

I enjoyed this book but it was not my favorite of the KGI series. I really wanted Van's story to be awesome but I will probably forget the story by the end of year. It was cute at times and the storyline was good but the meat of the story was lacking.

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### **Nikki says**

**OMG I NEED THIS NOW!!! I LOVE VAN!!!**

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### **Jenn Scranton says**

Ok, I have fully digested this book. Not my favorite KGI. That being said THIS IS NOT A BOOK BASH! Maya Banks is my favorite author and she has done a fantastic job. It just didn't work for me, that's all.

I would have liked it if it wasn't *so* insta-love. Perhaps if they had build a small report between them. You know? At least a week? Something? That was just a bit much.

Also, did anyone notice how it seemed like the family was trying to *sell* us on KGI? I think if you were reading this book, you are at least familiar with the family and the series in general. Once again, a bit much.

But, and it's a big but... Rusty! You know, I never liked that snot-nosed brat before. But now? Wow, what a way to turn her around!

So it seems that there are 2 books left in KGI! Rusty and Joe. Oh and perhaps Edge and Skylar.

Who else thinks that Joe and Swanny have a thing going on? Anyone? Ok, maybe it's just me.

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### **Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says**

#### **DNF at 90% people.**

Wow. I had to DNF at 90% because I couldn't take this pansified, holier than Jesus gush fest anymore. I can't believe this drivel. And from a Maya Banks KGI book. What is the book world coming to...

This was just awful. Donovan was freaktastic. He seriously decides Eve and her siblings are HIS after meeting them for all of 15 minutes. He tells a 4 year old he loves her after knowing her all of 2 days. Cause that's totally normal. And then he announces to them all that he wants them all to be a family after knowing them for 3 days. Cause that's not creepy at ALL.

The whole Kelly family rallies around to help, providing shelter, aiding with medical care, giving the shirts off their backs, yadda yadda yadda. The Kelly family and their Christ-like "soft spot for women and children" have always made me wanna figuratively vomit in past books, but it almost got literal with this one. I'm sorry, but NO ONE is like these people. NO ONE! I swear, Jesus himself could come down from heaven and be like "wow, that's a little much."

This over the top insta-love orgy just made me not care about anything that happened because it was all too fast, too much, too soon, or just too weird. I need to shower now.

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### **Victoria says**

**I can't believe I'm saying this but DNF at 85% because I just can't make myself care. I don't know if Maya Banks is mad at Donovan or what but he is absolutely the worst KGI hero EVER.**

If you are a fan of KGI, you won't be able to imagine what the author has done to Donovan. He is a total sap and I don't mean in a sweet way either. He falls in love and basically adopts a family after meeting this girl briefly two times. To hear him go on and on about how he feels and what he wants and their future is creepy. I was weirded out. I don't mind instant love story lines but this was just way over the top. Total ick factor for me. I felt like the author wasn't true to Steele's true character in the last book. His whole personality seemed to change because he fell in love but nothing compares to how poor Donovan is portrayed in After the Storm. Not only that, but the way the author portrays the entire family is just very one dimensional in this book. No family is that perfect. I also get that the men love their women and spoil them and all that good stuff. But for Gods sake, let them keep their balls intact. She's made all the men seem like total pushovers and the women seem like total angels. The best part of the entire book was the very brief interaction between Rusty and Sean.

Maybe some readers won't mind. I've read the entire series, pre-ordered each book so I could read it ASAP once available, and I am majorally disappointed. This series has always been one of my favorites! I'll definitely wait to see reviews on the next KGI release before I purchase and read. If the author doesn't get back on track, After the Storm will be my last KGI book I purchase. Unfortunately, I just don't have a lot of hope for where the rest of the series is going.

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### **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

I have read all of the KGI series and liked most of them and I was really looking forward to Donovan's story.....just so you know, I hate the Van side of his name.....after all, the Kelly brothers and their families are a favorite of mine.

But, wow...what a disappointment – and I don't just mean the Van thing!!!!

Donovan's "behavior" in After the Storm just did not do it for me! I mean, he meets this young woman, Eve,

who is on the run from her wicked and evil stepfather who has been abusing her half-brother and sister...and WHAM.....he's in love and not only with Eve but her family too. He just knows that this is the family he has been waiting for all his life!!!!!!

Okay, so we know, he has a soft spot for kids, but this was ridiculous. Within a day or two....Donovan has his "family" living in his newly built home in the Kelly compound!!

I just found the story totally unbelievable – especially the whole thing about the evil stepfather's power!!! I was like.....and then...the lack of any romance build-up...it's like...wham, thank you maam...kind of thing!!!!

So, why the 3 stars????? Because I actually loved the two kids...Travis & Cammie and the Kelly women. I am looking forward to Rusty's book and I hope it's going to be a great one.

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### **Audrey says**

Disappointed. I am really losing hope. The serie was kicking ass with the first books, but since Echoes at dawn, it goes down and down and down.

The story start well though and I had great hope that Maya Banks have find her "thing" again. But I don't know if it's an editing issue and they wanted to reduced the volume of the book, but how can you believe that the main character of the book Donovan fall in love in not even 2 days of the girl.

And there is too many cheesy lines after lines of cheesy words between the characters. It's disappointing to no end.

I'm sad I like this serie at first but, I'm disappointed each time after the last books.

I have this horrible feeling that the author is sacrificing quality to quantity of book she is writting ! And everything goes wrong.

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### **Amanda says**

it's true there is no official kgi mission (Maya addressed this on Facebook) but I enjoyed the latest kgi book. it was set at home and we caught up with the family. a pressing question was answered at the end of chapter 21 (total happy fist pump here!). yes the plot is love/lust at first sight but I felt it went with what we know of Van. no the action isn't heart pounding constantly on the run while the h&h fall in love it was at home which I felt was a nice refreshing twist.

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### **Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says**

I cannot believe3 that I just gave a Maya Banks book a 1\*, especially a KGI book! But truth be told, I got to 82% and well, I just didn't finish it...so I cant do much more than that.

I have no idea what has happened to this series. I love military themed, covert ops, hot alpha rescuing men,

damsels in distress, and love under intense circumstance type reads. When I started the KGI series, I became a fan of Maya Banks and could not get enough of the Kelly family. I have set my expectations so high for each book, Donovan's especially...unfortunately, I could not find this worthy of being in the same realm of prior KGI reads.

I am blown away at the how fast and intense Donovan fell for a helpless family, and his claim to them was just so far fetched...immediate love, "i love you's", and talk of family in just 48 hours...just not Kelly brother behavior. I wanted duress, I wanted a struggle, I wanted danger, I wanted my KGI book to be phenomenal!

Oh well, I will continue to read Maya Banks...one bad read for me does not make or break my relationship with an author. Many will love the sappy romantic side to this and immediate lovefest...I just didn't! So I will move on and hope that the connection between Rusty and Sean will finally get it's time since I feel that may bring my love back!

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### **Jess says**

DNF - 70%

Oh boy. I hate not finishing this book (or any book really), but I just couldn't keep going. When the KGI series first came out, I loved it. I loved the mix of suspense with the romance that yes, from the start bordered on over the top but the combination worked. Lately, the over the topness is so much it's ridiculous to me.

With After the Storm, I had to keep reminding myself that this was in fact a KGI book, because even 70% in, there's no KGI mission, no feel of the teams and the suspense element surrounding whatever they're planning to do. Instead we get Donovan, a character who've I've been waiting to get to know more about from the start, meeting Eve, taking one look at her and her step-siblings and claiming them as his after knowing them basically an hour. At the point I stopped reading, the story spanned 2 days and we have them all living together in Van's home, there are declarations of love from everyone, the Kelly's welcoming them into their family, no questions asked, etc etc etc. These aren't elements that work for me and I feel like lately with Maya's books, that's all we've been getting. Her stories from the erotic genre and now her rom/suspense books are all reading the same to me and maybe it's a combination of her writing style that's changed along with my tastes in what I enjoy reading that's different, but it's just not working for me anymore. I don't like storylines that have the hero or heroine declaring their love for each other after 1 or 2 days, I don't like reading that the hero wants to put the troubles (in this case a nasty step-father) the heroine is facing on the back burner and making his priority getting the heroine into his bed to cement his claim on her. And I'm sorry, but if I have to read one more book where a character just wants to feel or show someone how "cherished" they are, I'll scream.

Needless to say, I'm stepping away from all her books. I had held out hope that her KGI series would remain consistent as I really did enjoy the earlier books in the series, but this one was a head shaker for me and ultimately I didn't care enough about anything in the story to finish.

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### **Holly says**

December 31st is too far away!!! Also I hope this series expands to the Titan group. I'm dying to know Hancocks deal!!

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### **Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says**

Wow I am at a loss... Wtf! I have loved every book in this series and they have all been 5 stars to me and I loved Van in all the other books, but oh wow this was a miss for me...

Van and Eve's love felt fake, forced, rushed and Van seem desperate . It just didn't work for me and that makes me sad I was really looking forward to Van's story. Disappointed! I only gave it 3 stars for Rusty and Sean now their story I can't wait to read!!!

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### **Shawna says**

3 stars – Contemporary Romance

There's been insta-love in this series before that worked for me, but this time around it felt ridiculously fast and just too unbelievable. The story dragged and seemed repetitive at times and the suspense aspect was minimal. There are some moving, sentimental moments with lots of Kelly clan closeness, including the great epilogue, and I came close to tearing up at one point. But I felt like there was too much filler and that it could have been a novella.

I'm still a fan of the series and looking forward to Swanny's story, When Day Breaks.

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### **Auntee says**

Oh my. Where to begin? This could've been soooo good...if only I believed in this **instant romance**. But sadly, I couldn't. So call me **disappointed**.:(

*KGI* is one of my favorite romantic suspense series. I've read every book--some I liked better than others but all were enjoyable. And I couldn't wait for Donovan's book. It should've been something special. He deserved it. He was a sweetheart, a friend to women and children. A nerdy badass with a heart of gold. But in this book he just came off as desperate. Crazy. Manipulative. What the heck happened?

If the author had changed one thing I think this could've worked. But it was a big "one thing". And it was the fact that Donovan fell for the heroine in just 2 days time. Okay, so in Romancelandia things happen fast, and sometimes you just have to go with it and accept it. But this was just nutso! Donovan knew next to **nothing** about our heroine, yet he knew that she **was the one, she was his, she (and her brother and sister) were his "family"**, and he told her that. Say what? Then he made sure he "sealed the deal" by making love to her. What? This woman was on the run for her life and extremely vulnerable, and this just smacked of taking advantage of the situation to me. And would the Donovan we readers knew and loved do that? Strong arm her like that? Okay, so I can understand him being attracted to her and wanting to help her, I just thought this could've played out a different way so as to make it more believable (how about convincing her to stay at

your compound, and then get to know her a bit? or maybe have her brother--Travis-- continue to work at the hardware store for a while and then you gradually come to get to know her--say maybe in a week?) I just could not get past the instant "possession" of this family that reeked of "desperation" on Van's part. So that kind of ruined the rest of the story for me. I don't like rolling my eyes and talking back to the characters when I'm reading a romance--it sort of ruins it for me.:)

So yes, call this a miss for me. I expected more for Donovan and didn't get it. And I'm bummed. The only bright light for me was the potential story between (view spoiler). Looks like some potential heat there! 3 stars

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### **Laura the Highland Hussy says**

Read this review at Got Fiction? Books

I love insta-lust/love-at-first-sight plots, and we all know I love a good alpha hero, I even dig on those less-popular alphahole heroes. But this book's hero rubbed me the wrong way. Actually a few things about this book bugged me. The first thing that bothered me is that the whole first few chapters are told from the perspective of Rusty, not the heroine. I know she's a part of the Kelly family, and for KGI fans, this may not bother you the way it did me, but I was incredibly confused when I realized the hero was her brother (not by blood, but she was adopted into the family). It took me a few minutes to realize that she wasn't his heroine (THANK GOODNESS!). Oh and the blurb doesn't mention the heroine's name, so it's an easy mistake to make!

But it was confusing to say the least.

Moving on, because that really wasn't a big deal, it just bugged me. The hero Donovan goes with his sister Rusty to check up on a kid who she hired at their dad's store. They know he's got a lot on his plate taking care of his 2 sisters, they can tell he's in trouble and they know he won't talk about what's going on. When Donovan sees this kid's broken down trailer and how they're living, he's furious. But when he looks into the eyes of Travis' big sister Eve, he knows she's the one. She's it for him. And he'll do anything he can to have her.

That's actually not bad for me, as I said, I like love-at-first-sight plots. What I didn't like was how he instantly was talking family. He was ready to move Eve and her little sister and brother in and adopt them. Every other word in the story was "his family." I think if this had been any other author, Donovan would have been a hard sell for me. I mean he's the nice guy, the good guy, and he was pushing Eve instantly.

A thunderstorm swept through their area and a tornado demolished the trailer they were staying in, so Donovan instantly brought them to live with him. Okay, I can handle that too, I've read and loved far less believable fated mate stories before. But...as a reader, I have a hard time believing she fell in love with him. She really just seemed super grateful, and sleeping with him so quickly, especially after everything she'd been through really ruined the book for me. I wanted love to have a chance to bloom, I wanted romance. This is why it was so easy to believe the worst when Eve overhears Donovan say something to his brothers and friends.

If I could have him be less pushy about moving her in and marking her as his (through sex of course), I really think this book could have been a favorite of mine. The actual plot was good, the ending was tense, and I like the whole concept. But there was very little suspense in this book, which is part of a well-known romantic

suspense series, and Donovan just really pushed Eve, even knowing what she'd been through.

The good parts though, come in the form of the plot, the side characters, and Eve's brother and sister. I like the KGI series (I haven't read all of them, just 1 or 2), and I know I will still read them, and many other books by Ms. Banks, but this book really just...confused me. I mean, I honestly can't rate it a 2 star because I was glued to the pages, but I can't rate it a 4 or 5 because of Donovan. But the writing was good, and the storyline was good. I think I'll give it a 3 because I did like the plot and I refuse to let one character ruin a good book!

\*\*\*ARC provided by Berkley

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