

Slow Burn by Ebony Farashuu is a heartfelt poetic journey. We are introduced to characters with so many issues and heart pangs; we get to laugh with them, cry with them and grow with them. Ayzha is married to a man with no interest in her or her pleasure. She is trying so hard to connect but is not reaching him. Little does he know, there is someone willing to do what her man will not do. Will she take a chance on having her desires fulfilled? Sera is past a broken heart and when love shows up in an unexpected place she tosses it out the window, initially like a small piece of paper. However, when love calls again she knows to answer but will a tragedy stand in the way of real love? A voice told Khalil when he would meet the woman of his dreams; would he follow the voice and if he does will he finally be able to have love? Jeremy, the reformed player has had his share of lovers, but the one he loves has gone missing. If life presents an opportunity, when it feels like the right one, will he go for broke trying to regain what he feels is his? Slow Burn is part romance, with glimpses of drama, but ultimately it is all heart.

Ms. Farashuu penned a lovely novel that grabbed me from the first page. Her poetic delivery is a delight to read. She has the ability to provide the reader with what is going on in the head and the actions of her characters. Slow Burn allows us an opportunity to laugh, cry and feel. This novel is a recommended read for any reader interested in a well-told story with feeling. At the end of the novel, you will get a sneak peek of Orchard's Nectar, the sequel to this novel and you will feel the same as this reader, 'Come on Ms. Farashuu, we are ready.'

4 out of 5 stars

Angelia Menchan

APOOO BookClub

www.apooo.org

Serafina Jordan is sitting at a red light sad that her relationship of two years to Dr. Jeremy Sanders is over. When a woman appears at her window asking her "Why aren't you smiling?" and has no idea who the woman is and why she is talking to her, Serafina panics tries to answer her cell, hits her head and holds up traffic. Not realizing she is still sitting at the light, the most beautiful man she has ever seen walks up to see if she needs any help.

Khalil Roberts is a musician and former womanizer who has been celibate for two years waiting on his soul mate. But Khalil hears a voice that tells him he will meet his wife today. Walking up to the car to see why this person is holding up traffic, Khalil has no idea that she is the one.

Azyha Darwin is married to a man 15 years her senior. She's trying to save her marriage

and not succumb to all the things everyone told her would happen by marrying an older man. But Azyha falls for a younger man, without ending her marriage.

Jeremy Sanders is a playa of all playas. He's not tripping over Serafina walking out on him. He thinks she will be back and that she is just mad right now. But it's now three weeks later and he hasn't heard a word from her. Popping up at Serafina's house unannounced did not give Jeremy the response he was looking for. Finally realizing that their relationship is over, Jeremy is checking himself for all the wrong he has done to women...especially Serafina. He is now figuring out that she is the only woman besides his mother that he's ever loved.

When a tragic accident happens to Khalil, Jeremy is the one there to help Serafina through it all. Realizing she will never love him the way he loves her, Jeremy backs off and does the one thing he never thought he would do: pray. He prayed for Khalil's recovery, for Serafina to find some kind of comfort in all that's happened, and for him to walk away without a broken heart.

Slow Burn is a spectacular love story. I'm usually not into books like this, but Ebony Farashuu truly told a wonderful story. Novels of this nature typically follow a precise formula, but this narrative was nowhere near typical. The way the author put her words together and included poems all throughout the book made Slow Burn a really satisfying read.

Keep up the good work Ms. Farashuu, and I look forward to reading Orchid's Nectar.

5 out of 5 stars

Reviewed by *Angie*
for **Urban Reviews**
www.urban-reviews.com

Tired of the cheating and the lies, Serafina finally mustered up the strength and the courage to follow the words of Keyshia Cole and "Let It Go." Moving on with her life, finding another man was not at the top of her to do list. It's when you aren't looking that you find and HE has found her; the one. Happily ever after comes to a screeching halt when tragedy strikes. Will the new Serafina resort to what's comfortable and settle for less than she deserves?

You never miss your water until your well runs dry. Jeremy has come to know the truth of that statement since his relationship with Serafina ended. Reality and hard truths make him realize that she may have been the one for him. At what lengths is he willing to go to get her back?

Azyha is happily married. Correction: Azyha is married but happiness is nowhere to be

found. Emotionally alienated, she just wants some love, for a man to want her and to desire her like her husband used to. When someone else enters the picture, will Ayzha confuse lust for love?

Khalil has left his player days behind him. Settled and more mature, he's looking for his queen that was made just for him. Life crosses their paths and it's a beautiful thing. Circumstances beyond Khalil's control threaten his future and happiness. Is he strong enough to fight for what's his?

"Slow Burn" is a book for anyone that likes drama or who just enjoys a good story. Seasoned with poetry, it serves to emphasize and improve the storyline without overshadowing or holding back plot development. Readers will come away with satisfaction at a tale well-told. I look forward the sequel, "Orchid's Nectar."

4.5 out of 5 stars

Reviewed by: *Toni*

O.O.S.A. Book Club

www.myspace.com/oosaonlinebookclub

This is a book that touch the core of my heart. Brilliantly executed with magnificent prose, Slow Burn by Ebony Farashuu is a heartfelt poetic journey. Experiencing the true emotional gamut, we are introduced to characters with so many issues and go through the mill: we laugh with them, cry with them and evolve. But at the end of this wonderful journey we are complete.

Ms. Farashuu weaved an absolutely incredible story novel that jolted my attention from its onset. Her majestic rhythm through poetic delivery is like reading above the light clouds of heaven. Possessing an uncanny ability to provide the reader with what is going on in their minds, she balances the writing with action, no small feat in our crazy world of African-American Literature. Slow Burn allows us an opportunity to laugh, cry and, in my opinion the most important thing, FEEL. An awesome debut story that I truly hopes Gets It's just recognition.

5 out of 5 stars

William Fredrick Cooper

Best Selling Author of "**THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON**"

Slow Burn takes you on a journey of the true meaning of love through the characters Serafina, Jeremy, Ayzha, and Khalil. Ms. Farashuu tells an old story about love but gives

it a refreshing twist. Each character is well developed and the storyline is so wonderful that you believe every word. My book club loved this book!!!! Get ready to feel love, pain, lust, sorrow and spiritual while you give into the Slow Burn.

If you're looking for a wonderful book to read look no further...buy Slow Burn. Be sure you have a box of tissue handy!

5 out of 5 stars

TaNisha Webb-Reviewer

KC Girlfriends Book Club

www.kcgirlfriendsbookclub.com

Slow Burn: n. Slang; A gradually increasing sense or show of passion or emotion.

Ayzha is trapped in a loveless marriage, barren of children (due to numerous miscarried pregnancies), and resentful of a husband who has no concern for her personal needs. In search of her own happiness, she succumbs to the lure of infidelity, only to finally get pregnant - by her lover - and lose both him and her husband in the process...

Jeremy is the Player your mama always warned you about, but he's only doing what his father taught him to do; when it costs him the love of a very special woman, though, he begins to wonder about the logic of his actions - and when she suffers a sudden tragedy, he doesn't miss a beat for the chance to get back in her good graces...

Serafina never knew about love at first sight - until she meets Khalil; suddenly, things in her life couldn't be better - until things just as suddenly change for the worst, and she's torn between a re-emerging past and an uncertain future, stuck in an emotional vacuum from which she may never escape...

If you've ever wondered about the effects that love really has on the heart, let Slow Burn be your guide. Through page-turning drama and suspense, Ebony Farashuu takes you on an emotional roller coaster of joy, dejection, heartache, redemption - and even some feelings that you can't quite put into words. Her narrative bravely broaches such subjects as domestic abuse, the tenuous bonds of family, and infidelity in the name of love - and she interweaves the themes with the grace and ease of a poetic soliloquy.

For its engaging appeal and true heart, Slow Burn is a pleasurable reading experience. The storyline is compelling, and the characters breathe new life to the age-old quandary of love's true nature: it may sound real, it may smell real, and it may even feel real - but you just never really know for sure until you taste and see...

4 out of 5 stars

APEX Reviews

Ebony Farashuu lights up the pages with her sexy, emotion filled masterpiece, *Slow Burn*.

Serafina is fed up with men. Her heart has been trampled over for the last time and she vows to make a stand. Even with harsh feelings towards the opposite sex there is no denying fate. Serafina eventually meets that special someone who opens her up sexually, mentally and spiritually, a man she promises to love until the end of time.

As the son of a popular jazz musician Khalil Roberts was more than a ladies man. Groupies flocked at the very mention of his name keeping him more than occupied. All the lusting attention wasn't enough to fill the void in his heart. Khalil decides to make a drastic change and live for love, one that he has found in his true soul mate, Serafina.

Lack of love and mental abuse from his father molded Jeremy into a stone cold player. Unable to maintain faith he constantly played with the hearts of many women ... until Serafina walked out of his life. Determined to make things right he goes on a mission to prove his love. He finally receives that opportunity when unfortunate circumstances drive Serafina back into his arms.

Serafina must now tackle feelings she has developed for an old flame while attempting to remain loyal to her one true love as he struggles to fight for his life.

Slow Burn is a very delightful read with realistic characters you are sure to relate to. While the relationship between Serafina and Khalil seemed airtight and so natural I couldn't help but root for Jeremy as he put selfishness to the side and showed decency through her toughest time in life.

I strongly recommend this book whether you're into love stories or hardcore street lit. Five outta five dollars from Da ReVew.

Da ReVew

www.dareview.com

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. The author did not mince on words, meaning, this is not a skimmer! I loved the way she told this story, and the depth with which she developed and revealed her characters. A contemporary, hip, robust novel, that requires the attention of all your senses, *Slow Burn* is that kind of novel that makes you want to slow down and savor this delicious book. Bravo! Ms. Farashuu! And keep them coming!

J.D. Mason

Bestselling Author of *One Day I Saw A Black King*

www.officiallyjd.com