



Awakened

Morgan L. Busse

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The monster has awakened.

After her escape from the Tower and from her father's experiments, Kat Bloodmayne wakes up to discover the dark power inside of her has grown stronger. Now more than ever she needs to find the doctor who holds the key to healing her, but the only one who can help her find him is Stephen Grey, the very man who betrayed her.

Stephen Grey cannot change the past or what he did to Kat, but he will do everything he can to help her now. But will Kat let him? Or will his transgression be too much to overcome?

Time races against them as they travel with sky pirates through harrowing storms and across the war-torn country of Austrium in search of the doctor who can cure Kat. But can he cure what is broken inside of her? Or will the monster inside of Kat consume her soul?

Awakened Details

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From Reader Review Awakened for online ebook

Judy Opsal says

Morgan gets better and better with every book. I enjoyed "Awakened" Morgan's descriptiveness is wonderful. Her story line draws you in. Although the story line is predictable, the journey to the conclusion is exciting. I find myself not able to set the book aside. I did find the dialogue a little stiff. Use of conjunctions, I'm instead of I am, etc. may ease the flow. Maybe a little over use of references to that stray curl, and working a little too hard to show propriety in Stephen and Kat's behavior are minor things that I noticed. Over all, I love Morgan's writing. An interesting story teller, bringing a good read along side wonderful underlying messages to be heard, reliance on God, grace to welcome us back when we stray.

Maegen says

Awakened, the second in Morgan Busse's steampunk series, was everything I hoped it would be.

The story picks up right where the first book left off. Despite Stephen's daring rescue at the tower, it takes a while for Kat to trust him again. Kat is trying to keep the monster within at bay while they desperately search for Dr. Latimer, the only person who may be able to save her from herself. As Stephen learns more about how Kat gained her horrific powers, he can't help but fear what may become of her. If they don't find a way to reverse the experiment, she may be lost forever.

I loved the world Morgan crafted in this story. Airships, automatons, it's like an imaginative version of the World's Fair. The characters were full of life, I loved how Stephen and Kat were two broken people trying to find hope in a broken world. They didn't necessarily know where they stood with God in the beginning, Stephen slowly finding his way back and Kat questioning His existence. The story wasn't preachy but there was some artful shadowing of God's provision and grace in the hard times. There were a few spots where they got off a little too easy and some characters were just a little too willing to help, but overall it really wasn't much of a problem for the story. The author didn't hold back in this story. The story gracefully covered some pretty gritty territory. I loved the story.

I did receive an advance copy in order to post an early review, however I pre-ordered it the day it became available so I'm not going to count that. I'll definitely read this book again!

Leslie M. says

4.5 stars

I really enjoyed *Tainted* (book #1), and I couldn't wait to read *Awakened*. I'm usually a bit leery about sequels, as they usually don't compare to the first book in the series. However, that **wasn't** the case this time. Book #2 was amazing! I could totally envision scenes unfolding as though I were watching a movie (and I think the series should be made into movies!). Busse's characters and scenes truly come to life!

I flew through this book in less than a day, as I found it that engaging. I loved the characters, and the adventure is full of fast-paced action, so it quickly (and totally) captivates the reader. The symbolism is well done in this imaginative tale. The characters show how there is good and evil in all of us, and the more we feed the monster inside, the more it builds. The religious angle reminds the reader that, with God, we can fight back. He can heal us if we let Him. (However, this book isn't preachy or overly religious in any way). And then there's the impact that love can have on someone, no matter how dark the soul may appear. Wonderfully done! I will note that it's very important to read Tainted first, as this one picks up where that one leaves off. The ending is satisfying (though I really wish Busse had written a third book in the series!).

If this is any indication of what the steampunk genre is, I'll be adding far more of this genre to my TBR pile!

Emileigh Latham says

OH MY GOSH! I AM SO EXCITED FOR THIS BOOK! I'VE BEEN DYING FOR IT TO COME OUT!

I READ TAINTED IN ONE DAY AND I JUST KNOW THIS ONE IS GOING TO BE AMAZING, AWESOME, EPIC, FANTASTIC, FABULOUS, STUPENDOUS, MARVELOUS, WONDERFUL, TREMENDOUS, EXCITING, BRILLIANT, AND ALL THE THINGS!!!!

AAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!

asdfghjkl;!!!!

I JUST CAN'T EVEN.

Updated 12/21/17

Dear Awakened,

Just like your sister, Tainted, I read you in one day. Wow!

You were such an awesome story and totally worth the wait.

BUT HOW AM I SUPPOSE TO COPE NOW?!

Sincerely, Emmy

Ian says

Having read "Tainted", the first in this 2-part series, I was looking forward to seeing what came of Kat Bloodmayne. In Tainted her character – her strength but vulnerability and her desire to be loved by her father, particularly grabbed me. And her father, is truly a very wicked man.

Having escaped with the help of Stephen Grey, Kat is desperate to find the one man whom she believes can help heal her. Being chased by 3 bounty hunters who her father has engaged to find her and bring her back, Stephen and Kat escape on Robert Grim's spaceship, Lancelot. Funny, that is truly that: a ship that flies. Grim, an old friend of Stephen's describes himself as a 'good pirate', one with a moral conscience.

We soon see Kat's increasingly strengthening powers in a number of episodes which firstly help save the ship and then later innocent civilians on Austrium, that is at war with World City, Kat and Stephen's home.

All the while, Kat and Stephen's affection for each other develops.

The story follows a relatively predictable path: they find Dr Latimer, the bounty hunters find and capture Kat and return to the Tower, with Stephen and Dr Latimer in pursuit. Kat's father re-starts his experiments on Kat to draw out the 'monster' within but mistakenly believes he can control that power.

And it is this theme that I found so absorbing. The good and evil within all of us; we all have a monster inside waiting to consume us, if we let it. And the more we give ourselves over to the lusts of the flesh, the more energy we give to the monster until he can consume us and our ability to experience the wonders of the light or good diminish. But God. He can heal us. But we need to choose to turn to Him, to the good, to the light; otherwise our nature will keep feeding the monster.

The story reaches a predictable end except I was surprised at the extent of the damage the monster was able to create. I found this quote shocking but it is a good example of when we feed on evil, one never knows what havoc may come as a result.

Kat's internal struggle was absorbing. Interestingly, she was able to control the monster until it came too difficult and it 'killed off' the good Kat. The imagery of deadness in her soul was a fascinating analogy. But it was love that saved her. Of course. Because it is the most powerful force of all.

I found I enjoyed Awakened more than Tainted.

Richard Spillman says

This is the second steampunk book I've ever read and the second in Morgan Busse's The Soul Chronicles. As much as I loved the first, I adore this one. The masterful way she weaves God through the story without being preachy is a work of art. The ending was especially action packed in a I-can't-put-it-down kind of way. The only sad part is that this world ends with this book.

Julynn says

I loved the wrap up of the story but the trauma in the middle was a bit much for me. The author made a powerful salvation allegory. I appreciate the depth of characters and the overall lessons learned. I especially loved the devotion that Stephen showed to Kat and their story line. I just had a hard time hanging on during the dark parts of the story.....For one who usually reads this genre, a must read.

Rachael says

Given the way this book picks up immediately where book one leaves off, the two volumes could really constitute one stand-alone novel (it sufficiently concludes in the end, so I suspect there will be no more installments). I'm glad to see things I had noted in the previous book--sky pirates, the war, corruption--all

have a larger role in this story!

I enjoyed that the story was meaningfully symbolic without diving deep into allegory (allegory just not being my thing). And I really liked that the author doesn't hold back--she could have gone an easier route, but the story definitely has a stronger impact for the climax as is. I guess it might be a little on the dark end for Christian fiction (though nothing compared to a lot of mainstream fantasy), but ultimately it points to light and God. An enjoyable conclusion.

A.C. Williams says

Excellent conclusion! I love the characters and the adventure. The world Busse has built is captivating and realistic, with the sort of gritty beauty that truly makes you feel like part of it. A delightful steampunk-ish romp with a lot of heart, some deep symbolism, and great imagination. Highly recommended.

Jennie Webb says

I love this story!! This one is even better than Tainted, the first book in the series. I was hoping for a good ending that would not leave me hanging, and I am very happy to tell you that Morgan delivered. There are a few new characters in this book, and a few from the last one that you will get to know better. Suspense, intrigue, good vs. evil, steampunk machines and inventions, what more could you ask for?

Thanks so much for the advance copy!

C.O. Bonham says

Awakened by Morgan L. Busse is the second part of The Soul Chronicles. A two part steampunk series about Kat Bloodmayne and her quest to overcome the monster inside of her.

Where the first book was about discovering what was wrong with her, the second is very much about fixing it. Inside Kat is a power that is growing, and it will consume her soul if she doesn't get it out.

This is very hard for me to write this review without spoilers. I will say that this is, at its core, a spiritual story. It's not preachy, it isn't even really a conversion story. What it is a really powerful portrayal of a soul's need for love, acceptance, and ultimately -- redemption.

Kristen Stieffel says

Great finish to The Soul Chronicles. I hope the publisher will produce an omnibus version, at least in e-book, because it really is one story in two volumes. The plot is like a cross between Frankenstein and Jekyll and Hyde, with a Jules Verne setting. A great adventure story with a thought-provoking conclusion.

Ashley says

It seemed like I waited forever for this sequel to be released, but I've gotta say, it was definitely worth the wait. It was SO good, just as fantastic and maybe even better than the first.

It starts off almost immediately where Tainted left off. I didn't think it possible, but Awakened was even more fast-paced than its predecessor. There was a lot of action and suspense. And often times, I'd find myself holding my breath in anticipation of what was to come and the situations the characters found themselves in.

Awakened was such a gloriously fantastic conclusion to this series. There was so much meaning and depth embedded into this story. I absolutely loved it and highly recommend it to everyone!

Rondi Olson says

If you follow me and my reviews, you know I adore author Gail Carringer and the Finishing School YA series. The Soul Chronicles duology is nothing like Gail's writing (Gail's other series is Soulless, so this series is begging for a comparison) but that doesn't mean I didn't enjoy it.

I already described Tainted as darker and not as light a read as the Finishing School YA series, or even Soulless. Awakened is darker yet, with more references to scripture and the Christian analogy of being born again is very plain. I did have a difficult time accepting everything the main character did, then watching her essentially walk free, although I can see why the author did it.

I would not read Awakened unless you have already read the first in the series, Tainted, as to me they felt more like one book than two in a series, but don't worry, they are both quick, enjoyable reads.

Highly recommended if you like darker steampunk, especially written with a Christian world-view.

Janeen Ippolito says

A satisfying conclusion to the steampunk world of Tainted. Busse increases the pace and the action into a solid finale that holds true to the faith principles of the book and also offers a unique twist on the Frankenstein concept. Well thought out, clever, and cathartic.
