



Awaken

Nina Lane

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“I love that you love me, professor.”

“I love loving you, beauty.”

Since their intense, passionate beginning, Professor Dean West and his wife Olivia have fought dark secrets and betrayal in order to save their marriage. Now reeling in the aftermath of a personal tragedy, Liv and Dean are driven further apart by a vindictive threat to Dean’s career.

Struggling to stand on her own for the first time in years, Liv is determined to defend her husband and prove herself. Then an unexpected letter dredges up old insecurities and endangers Liv’s newfound independence. As Dean fights for his professional life, he is forced to confront his worst fear when he discovers that he can’t protect his beloved wife from her own painful past.

Awaken Details

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Author : Nina Lane

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From Reader Review Awaken for online ebook

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

How was I so wrong about this author in the beginning? How the hell did that happen? I've been pondering it for a little while, and I think I get it. Somewhat. The first book in this series, *Arouse*, centers around the beginning of trouble in paradise for our married lovebirds. I found it rather interesting because it was different in the sense that the couple has been together five years, they're married, and now the reader is seeing what happens when the honeymoon phase has completely worn off and the two have to start facing real issues like pregnancy.

The second book, to me, wasn't as good because while they were still dealing with the fallout from their marital problems, now we've got a whole slew of *other* shit going on, and the sex was getting on my damn nerves. It's frequent. Very frequent. Even for me, and I believe couples should have sex at least three times a week. At the *very* least (I mean, unless someone's ill or away or something, you know?). But even for *me*, the sex was just happening way too much. Like why couldn't she just mention it in passing more often? No, we had to be treated to full sex scenes like, every fucking chapter. And I'm sitting here going, "OK, Dean is 38 years old..."

Now I'm not saying a man of that age can't have a healthy sex life, but Dean's capable of getting an erection five minutes after blowing his load. That's something 20-year-old men sometimes have problems with. Come on, now.

This book ratcheted smarm up to a whole new level. I mean, sweet zombie Jesus, there was *so much fucking corny shit in this book!* And the characters, who maybe had a shot at somewhat interesting development after the setup, appear to exist for nothing more than the sole purpose of spreading the cheese. Or the unhappiness. It's one mind-numbing cliché after another. The many faces of Dean West:

Angry Dean:

Stressed Dean:

Smitten Dean:

And that's pretty much it for our hero. He vacillates between those three extremes throughout the series. He's basically just every manic woman's idea of what a dream husband should be: protective to the point of being a douchebag, but respectful. Sexy and aware of his appeal while not being arrogant or a womanizer. An unbelievably smart academic who also harbors a love of "athletic pursuits" (Liv's words) that keep his arms "hard as steel".

And did I mention he apparently has an IV of viagra?

Liv isn't much better. The many faces of Olivia West:

Liv sprucing up:

Adorable Liv:

Liv upset:

Liv every fucking time she looks at/thinks about/talks to Dean:

Liv any time she so much as overhears Dean saying hi to a passing neighbor:

While looking for gifs to convey my feelings about these characters, I came to the startling realization that they're both like a couple of Disney characters, only slightly less interesting. This series could have gone somewhere great in terms of character development. Liv had a solid basis for some interesting growth, and the relationship between her and Dean could have taken on some profound significance had there been a bit more verbal communication and some revelations regarding previously unknown character traits. Instead, Lane decided to just layer on more sex, throw in some seriously heavy-handed and repetitive purple prose, then bring the sexual harassment story to a close with a smarmy Disney ending, with the forces of good battling triumphant against the cartoonish villains. The sexual harassment plot was the only reason I pushed myself to finish this hokey word trap. I wanted to see how Lane would resolve it. I should have known it was going to make me roll my eyes. I should have seen it coming. Perhaps I was just too blindsided by Liv and Dean coming, and coming often.

Seriously, **constant sex**. Boring, redundant, repetitive, eye-numbing, snore-inducing sex. A lot of "Oh, Dean!" and "God, Dean" and "Fuck me, Dean" and "You're so sexy, Liv"...and the fingering and cock sucking and thumb swirling. The undressing, the eye-fucking, the "One look from him and I'm ready" (yeah, right). Then there's Liv's tendency to press her legs together when she's turned on. Which is, I might remind you, every time she looks at/talks to/thinks about Dean. One thing this book managed to do was make me feel like *my* sex life is wildly erotic. Dean and Liv don't even use any props. Not even once! It's like...what? Their sex life is so full and resplendent and magical and explosive and they're *SO erotic*....yet all that ever happens is missionary, girl on top, doggystyle, fingering, blow jobs, hand jobs, and once, a little upright reverse cowgirl. Oh, there was also one instance of titty fucking and Dean blows his load on her body every once in a while. Big whoop. That's is. Just for the record, I don't care if that's all they did. It just became *really* boring reading about it, and having both characters hold that pompous torch over their heads like their sex life was like, the best thing ever, omg so much better than everyone else's. If you want to make bored housewives love the titillation factor of your books, you have to make them titillating.

Fantasies are awesome. They truly are. And who doesn't fantasize about being able to go at it all day and all night with their significant other? But really, I did not need to know that Liv is capable of getting herself off in .5 seconds, nor did I ever need to read about it more than once. "I brought myself to a quick, fierce orgasm" is not something I need to read to complete my day. I don't need to fantasize about a woman who gets herself off. Nina Lane felt I needed that.

I love sex. I take it quite seriously. I believe it's a wonderful bonding experience that people should experience as often as possible. So when an author can actually make someone like me shudder at the idea of reading more of it, that's probably a bad sign. I just wanted this book to end, and I got to a point where I groaned every time Dean and Liv were alone together because I knew what was going to happen next. So then I started reading those scenes with an almost clinical detachment. "Thick cock, blah blah, waves of heat, yadda yadda, sucking my sensitive nipples, uh huh..."

Then I actually got so bored, I started reading it in Adventure voice...

"Then he grabs the knot of the towel and pulls it off, his erection springing up between us."

And now, for your reading pleasure, some excerpts.

"I just love the way my husband loves me. His kisses are like whipped cream melting into hot apple pie, like ripe, red cherries, and dark chocolate swirled with peppermint."

"Just the sight of my handsome professor lights a fire inside me."

"The moment Dean's lips touch mine, a warm, scrumptious feeling blooms inside me."

"A wave of pleasure surges beneath my heart as I lean toward my husband like a flower stem bending to the wind."

"My entire body warms with love..."

"...but I'd been so flooded with exhilaration and love..."

"I clutch Dean's hands as an immense happiness and excitement course through me."

"My soul sprouts wings that lift me through the air, twirling and spinning."

"My heart fills with a wild tenderness..."

"...lean in for a longer kiss, feeling that melted-honey sensation slide through my blood."

Are you getting the idea? This is pretty much all that goes on in Liv's mind. There's also this deal with the two of them putting their left hands up, palms together, so their wedding rings click before one of them shifts and their fingers intertwine. Like some Wonder Twins bullshit for the mawkishly sentimental. It *might* have been cute once. Hell, it might have even survived a second showing. But reading that more than three times had me wishing at least one of these smarmy assholes would lose their hand in a combine.

I suppose I've bitched enough. I also think I've realized why I enjoyed the first book; Liv and Dean were almost constantly at each other's throats. Turns out that was far preferable to them oozing smarmy, Hallmark movie sentiments all over the place.

"It's a picture right out of a much beloved, classic fairy tale. Except this fairy tale belongs only to us."

Jen says

Found out that Awaken will be coming out January 7/2014!!! YAY! I can't wait until you all get to see Dean and Olivia again!!!

I just finished my beta read..and all I can say at this point is that the book is dang HOT!
Wonderful and sexy..but that's pretty much all I can say at this time!!
Waiting for Professor Dean West was worth it!!

Second Beta read finished!! Professor Dean West can rock my world anytime! OMG...the scenes of him and Liv together in this book was beyond sizzling! I can't wait to hear people's thoughts when they finally get to read it!!! PHEW!

Aestas Book Blog says

*** FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED *** (spoiler-free)

5+ STARS!!! BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL!!!!

A stunning conclusion to one of the most beautifully written and intensely passionate love stories I have ever read. Dean and Liv's romance is simply breathtaking!!

What makes the story in this series stand out among romance books is that it is about an already-married couple. It begins after the "happily-ever-after" where most romances end. Over the course of the past two books, we'd seen this couple survive heartache and tragedy together, and we'd also seen the pure, raw strength and limitless depth of their love for each other. And in this book, we saw their story come full circle. This book in so many ways is about healing, hope, and the beauty of knowing with all your heart that the love you feel for your soul mate is limitless.

The writing is perfectly detailed and deeply evocative. I honestly read this book as slowly as I possibly could -- savouring each every word, and *feeling* every emotion to the max. Even apart from the story, just the reading experience alone is incredible.

The depth of emotion I felt for Dean and Liv was so powerful that I often would read for pages on end with tears in my eyes just because I was *feeling so much*.

Please note that this book is the continuation of and conclusion to the romance that began in Arouse and

Allure. It follows the story of the same couple, Dean & Liv, and is not a standalone. I am not going to speak about the plot at all here because anything I say will be a spoiler. But what I will say is that I adored the direction that the storyline went in and honestly, **I loved every single word of this book** .

Awaken delivered everything I possibly want and more. I loved that I was never once frustrated with the plot -- I mean, sure there were times when my heart was in my throat, but it was always in a good way. Looking back on my reading experience, I have only positive things to say and that's rare.

The story was told in alternating POVs so we got to see both sides of the story. The pacing was excellent and I felt invested in each and every scene. Given Dean and Liv's situation at this point in their lives, this book focused a lot on the balance of them healing themselves before being able to heal their relationship. But with the way it was written, I could feel their connection at all times.

It brought a smile to myself watching Liv find her inner strength. She'd always had it but seeing her grow more and more confident in herself was so fulfilling. I knew how far she'd come and I just felt so proud of her.

And Dean? Gosh, I can't even describe how much I loved him. That sexy professor made my heart pound, race, flutter, and melt. If I had to pick only *one* book hero to bring to life, Dean West would be a top candidate. That man was just... wow. The way he **loved** Liv was honestly unlike any other hero I've ever read. He wasn't just in love with her as a whole, he was also in love with every little part of her -- each individual piece that made up Liv. He didn't just see a perfect version of her, he saw *all* of her -- her flaws, her beauty, her insecurities, her strengths... and he loved them all.

"My husband doesn't just love me. He knows HOW to love me. He knows what I need and when I need it, sometimes even better than I do. He knows how to unfold all the tight, tough parts of me and smooth them out with the glide of his hand. He knows how to prove that he - and only he - understands every crevice of my soul. He knows how to remind me that I am forever safe within his heart."

He was sexy, chivalrous, a little kinky, a lot charming, and his powerful, primal need to protect Liv at all times melted my heart. I could *feel* it at all times. It came through in each one of his actions.

"I'm not going to apologize... Yes, I want to protect you. You're my wife. I'd fucking kill for you, Liv, and if that makes me a possessive bastard of a husband, then fine. That's what I am. I'm not going to change either. I love you too goddamned much."

It also bears mentioning that these books are not just emotional, they're also intensely erotic. SCORCHING HOT!!! I mean really -- you will be fanning yourself for pages on end. Dean and Liv's chemistry sizzled, it burned, it smouldered. It was palatable. But what I felt brought so much added depth to it all was that it was their LOVE for each other and the raw emotions behind every one of their love scenes that gave them such a strong impact. It was pure passion.

"I want to grab her and shove her up against the nearest wall. Rip her clothes off and fuck her until the earth trembles and the stars explode. Until the universe shatters."

This book was filled with these powerfully charged *moments* that I felt so deeply that sometimes I would have to stop reading for a minute and just sit there letting it sink in. It beautifully highlighted each moment in the story that should be unforgettable.

"And, just like that, I fall wildly in love with my husband all over again.... He smiles, sliding his thumb across my lips, his gaze warm. Pleasure fills me at that look, so replete with love and tenderness that I'm reminded anew that together we can withstand anything."

What I loved most about Dean & Liv, and what I'd always felt regarding them, was that there was absolutely no doubt that they were soul mates. Their **chemistry**, their **connection**, their **desire**, their **longing**, their **need** for each other... I felt it all. God. They were SO in love with each other, undeniable *meant for* each other -- two halves of a whole. But naturally, as with most marriages I think, they had their issues to work through and their struggles to overcome. But I loved that I always had this strong feeling in my heart that they would make it.

This wasn't a short book (none of them are actually) and a *lot* happened but there were no slows points at all. I fanned myself, swooned over and over again, and at times my heart nearly stopped, but the bottom line was that I enjoyed every single moment, every scene, and every word.

And my God. I have to say this again: **The writing was exquisite.** Just BREATHTAKING. Nina Lane has a gift with words and an amazing ability to make you *feel* every single scene she writes.

"...my beautiful wife. Wanting her is like breathing. Needing her is in my blood. And loving her will always be the beat of my heart."

This is the kind of book that raises the bar. This is the kind of book that ruins me for all others. This is the kind of book that is the reason I fall into book funks because, after a book *this* beautiful, it's like -- how can anything compare??

"My white knight. My beautiful, strong, brave husband who loved me more than I ever knew it was possible to be loved."

This man would give me the stars, the moon, the sun. He has slated monsters for me and alongside me. He's battled through dark, tangled woods with me because he has never once wavered in his belief that we are meant to be forever. He would do anything for me. For us.

He's a rare gift, my husband, perfect and flawed and completely, unreservedly mine."

At it's heart this is a story about a couple whose passionate, unwavering love for each other defied, survived, and held strong throughout everything life threw at it. A couple who worked everyday at their relationship. It was inspiring, believable, and beautiful.

"Some things will never change, Liv," he says. "We'll always fall asleep and wake up together. I'll always make you coffee in the morning and tease you about your bathrobe. We'll always love each other to distraction, argue, hold hands and kiss and awful lot. And I promise you that no matter what, we'll always have us."

By the end, tears were just pouring down my face at the sheer beauty of the story. The ending was absolutely gorgeous and the very last words of the book are. just. **perfect**.

Bottom line, **I can't recommend this series highly enough**. The depth of emotion just hits you so hard and builds with each book. I *felt* the passion and the healing and I understood the mistakes. I've honestly almost never read of two people AS strongly in love with each other as Dean and Liv -- they had their ups and downs but WOW when you see the way it all comes together, it's just breathtaking.

This book was perfection. Pure perfection!

5+ STARS!!

*"You and me, professor," I whisper.
"You and me, beauty."*

My casting:

For more of my reviews, book news and updates:

- ◆ **Main blog: Aestas Book Blog**
- ◆ **Facebook Blog Page**
- ◆ **Twitter**

SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

★★★★★! Awaken, book 3 of 3! Professor Dean West & his Beauty's journey of love, commitment, self-reflection & growth, hardship & triumph!

My sincerest thanks to the lovely ladies on our BR; **Melissa, Patty, Katy, Elizabeth, Gisele, Alleskelle, and Linda...**!

“Our eyes meet, and a thousand hopes, fears, and wishes pass between us.”

Books in the Spiral of Bliss Trilogy should be read in order:

Book 1: Arouse

Book 2: Allure

Book 3: Awaken

*In Arouse (book 1) we followed Olivia West's and her husband Professor Dean West as they experience marriage troubles. Mainly misunderstandings and miscommunications, but also their **pasts coming back** to haunt them.*

*In Allure (book 2) Dean and Liv made huge progress in **overcoming issues and opening up the lines of communication** only to have their world rocked by **family issues, tragedies and outright threats** to their happiness and future.*

Awaken (book 3) opens up to the aftermath of shocking events in book 2. Just like title would I indicate it is very much **an awakening** for both Dean and Liv forcing them to **reflect on and deal with their past, present and future**.

For **Dean** it's about coming to terms with and accepting that he **cannot and should not protect and save Liv** from everything. For **Liv** it's about finding her herself and **her footing next to her larger-than-life husband**.

There are **shockers and a darkness** clouding the horizon, but we are also so much **hope and joy in the progress** both are making on the journeys of life. We are also treated to many pleasant **surprises, sweet and tender** moments of love and **off-the chart sex** with one of the best and most memorable heroes ever!

Professor Dean West is everything I could ever ask for in a hero times ten. He is **irresistible** with his combination of uncanny good looks, splendid physic, intelligence and scholar geekyness. Except with Dean it isn't geeky, **it's perfection!**

Seven words to describe **Dean: Captivating, strong, assertive, commanding, noble, enlightened and unforgettable.**

“My husband doesn't just love me. He knows how to love me. He knows what I need and when I need it, sometimes even better than I do.”

Olivia West, Liv aka Beauty has come a long way since book 1. Six words to describe **Liv: Strong, endearing, determined, insecure, naïve and empowered.**

“Wanting her is like breathing. Needing her is in my blood. And loving her will always be the beat of my heart.”

I didn’t want this story to end that’s how much I enjoyed it! It has been my absolute pleasure to follow them through ups and downs! I might have wished that Liv stood up to her past sooner and that Dean had used a little less hot-headiness and more smarts to overcome some of his adversaries. But at the same time it takes a village... **What a journey! What an ending!**

Captivating plot! **Spellbinding** storytelling! **Interesting** Characters! **Fascinating, lovable and unforgettable** hero, Professor Dean West! 6-star shelf and top-10 hero! **Epic read!**

“You and me, professor.”

“You and me, beauty.”

Hero rating: 5+ stars

Heroine rating: 4.5 stars

Sex scenes rating: 5+ stars

Sex scenes frequency: 5 stars

Storyline concept rating: 5+ stars

Storytelling skills rating: 5+ stars

Story ending rating: 4.5 stars

Book editing rating (5 = no edits spotted): 5 stars

Overall rating: 5+ stars

Would I recommend this series: Yes.

Would I re-read this series: Yes.

Would I read future books by this author: Yes.

(GIF approved by GR 11-2013)

Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

It's live!! >> <http://amzn.to/1euCzr4> <<

6 BREATHTAKING ~ MAGNIFICENT ~ SOUL-ETCHING STARS!!!

My Liv:

My Dean:

*“Sometimes your heart gets so filled with emotions that words alone can’t express them all. So you need singing and dancing, a philharmonic orchestra, and a full chorus backing you up. Because there is **THAT MUCH** inside you.”*

That sentence above just described my thoughts for this book. As a voracious reader whose acquired tastes constantly changes, my feelings for Dean and Liv, however, have never wavered. This married couple’s journey was emotionally tumultuous, intensely passionate, and their love is one of those rare, special, incomparable loves that lasts for an eternity.

This book picks up right after the events of book 2 where Dean faces the imminent crisis of having to leave Liv. In the past, no matter what happened or who stood in their way, Dean and Liv have *always* been able to stand their ground because they were together. Now with Dean leaving, they are at a loss.

“I don’t know where we go from here.”

“I don’t know either. But why does either of us have to know? There doesn’t always have to be a plan.”

“Yes, there does.” - Dean and Liv

Nevertheless, they do separate for the time being, but are always on each other’s mind. The way that a picture will remind them of a distant memory, the way that a certain place brings back a joyous occasion, and the nights where both Liv and Dean have sexy, erotic dreams of coming back to each other – all of this and more was painstakingly breathtaking as they both explored the insecurities still festered within them, but at the same time, longed and ached for each other with a fervor and passion that only this couple could bring out.

“I’d had visions of our reunion – hot, sweaty, naked visions.” - Dean

Their reunion – short and priceless as is – is bittersweet. More and more problems from book 2 continue to shake Dean and Liv’s foundation, as well as buried insecurities come back to life and test the strength of their bond. It got to a point where I had to stop, pause and ask my boyfriend: “Can *anything* worse happen to this couple? This couple that only wants to be left alone and simply love each other?” Not ashamed to say this, but this third book made me bawl like a baby. The raw, undeniable need and connection Dean and Liv have...it’s **unparalleled**. Dean’s alluring magnetism. Liv’s seductive innocence. Together, their exquisite, enthralling love for each other. It’s truly *a spiral of bliss*.

“Somehow, always, everything is okay when it’s just the two of us alone together.” - Dean

But it's not enough. At least, not then. Not when Dean is on the verge of losing his esteemed job and reputation and Liv battling a past she never foresaw coming into the present.

"We look at each other. We both feel it, the sharp invasion of the rest of the world into our space."

For all the obstacles that they had, I *never* for a second doubted Dean and Liv's end outcome. Throughout this book, I found myself falling over and over and over again with them. I fell in love with Dean's fierce protective and possessive nature. I fell in love with Liv's gentle, kind heart, and most of all, **I fell in love with how *they* fell in love with each other, completely and irrevocably all over again.**

This is one phenomenally well-crafted love story that will have its own special place in my heart, and though the books are over, their love isn't. Their story is one I can read over and over again and **NEVER** tire of.

"You and me, professor."

"You and me, beauty."

ARC kindly provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Please note that all quotes are from an advanced copy and may be subject to change in the final edition.

J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

Overall Dean and Liv deserve

5--**BEAUTYful**--Stars!

What an EPIC ending to Dean and Liv's journey. If you haven't read the Spiral of Bliss series, I can't recommend it enough. Dean and Liv are one of the most REAL couples.

Warning: Contains spoilers if you haven't read Allure and Arouse

Awaken picks up where Arouse left off. Dean and Liv suffered the heart-breaking loss of their baby and Dean was accused of sexually harassing one of his students.

Maggie

Gah...I seriously hate you.

Dean is off doing an archeological dig

Being apart is hard for Dean and Liv. Dean with his intense need to protect Liv and Liv with her intense need to prove herself to Dean.

When Dean and Liv are together everything else just melts away. The painful loss of the baby, the sexual harassment allegations, Liv's past, Dean's past.

“Somehow, always, everything is okay when it’s just the two of us alone together.”

After all that Dean and Liv have been through they just want things to be like they were in the beginning, when things were simple and it was just Dean and Liv and their love for each other.

So Dean courts Liv...they date again. They remember what it was that made them fall in love in the first place. They forget about all of the things that they have been through and just be.

I fell in love with Dean and Liv all over again.

Liv's dreams.....

Damn...they were HOT!!!!!!

Together Dean and Liv find their way back to each other, face the battles before them and come out on the other side even stronger.

Read this series and fall in love with Professor Marvel and his Beauty.

“You and me, professor.”

“You and me, beauty.”

Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says

5 Beautiful, Heartwarming & Passionate Stars

Anyone can love, but it takes Liv and Dean to love like THIS.

Love is a journey. It doesn't end at the happily ever after. Boy kisses girl, they fall in love, they get married and they ride together into the sunset. That's for fairytales. The real love stories, the deep and meaningful ones start when the lights dim and the problems start. True love endures and awaits. Hurts and cries. And sometimes, some special times it wins. And it is more than beautiful. It's breathtaking and awe-inspiring.

Love the one who proves to you that happily ever after is only the beginning.

Liv and her Professor went through such turmoil and heartbreak. Their bond was challenged and the questioned if love is enough to hold together a marriage, shaken by accusations, tragedy, family and everyday stress. Liv questioned her place in the world and her insecurities threatened her happiness. Dean's over-protectiveness smothered a free spirit that needed to find her own wings and fly. But these aren't some trivial feelings they share to be so easily discarded.

"This intense precious bond we share that is more than desire, more than tenderness, more than adoration, more than love."

Dean is now in Italy, trying to find the best way to emerge winner in an ugly battle of lies and false accusations. Liv is at home, trying to find what she wants to do. Apart by circumstances, they will come to realise that only together they can fight, live and breathe.

Emotional, realistic and helplessly romantic *Spiral of Bliss* Series is a must read. Nina Lane weaves a love story between two imperfect people, but perfect to each other, that teach us that love is invincible in battle, with its flaws and up and downs. Lyric, full of passion and so damn HOT, Dean & Liv's story will stay with me forever and take my breath away every time I remember them...

Highly Recommended to all romance readers! You got to read this series...

Pre-release excitement...

Expected publication: January 7th 2014

Another Birthday release!!!! :D

Sorry guys, birthday party will have to wait... I will be reading *Awaken* that day!

Geri Reads says

5+++++ beautiful, exquisitely written stars!!

Spiral Bliss is by far one of my favorite series of all time. From the very beginning of Dean and Liv's journey in Arouse and then Allure and now, with Awaken, I have been rooting for this couple. I laughed and cried with them through this journey. And now, their story has finally come full circle.

Awaken is exquisitely written in both Liv and Dean's point of view. Everything was well executed and the book captured and held my attention from beginning until the end. I didn't want to put the book down. I didn't want it to end. On the one hand, I'm glad Dean and Liv are finally at a secure place in their relationship without any external threats. But on the other hand, I'm sad because this series is ending.

Awaken immediately picks up where Allure left off, with Dean in Italy to supervise an archeological dig and Liv in Mirror Lake. They both hated the separation, Dean especially. With the threats to his career still looming, he's helpless to do anything. He's frustrated that he can't be there to protect Liv.

Liv hated the separation too but she knew that for them to survive the threats to their marriage, she has to learn to stand up for herself and protect her husband in the process. Furthermore, Liv also needed to confront the ghost of her past and move on. And boy, did she. I was so happy for her. She came full circle in this book. She was no longer the scared and insecure girl that we met in Arouse but a confident and assertive young woman ready to fight for her husband.

I was amazed at how much her character has grown during this series, especially in this book. She was the one who protected Dean and really made a conscious decision to assert herself. I was fist-pumping, saying to my Kindle, "You go, girl," every time she stood her ground, whether it was with Dean, her business, her family. It was awesome to finally see her take charge.

"I can think of a thousand reasons to say no," he says.

"Me too." I press a hand to my chest and close my eyes.

"But if we look hard enough, we can always find a reason to say no. We can always find a reason to be afraid. So maybe it's time to stop looking and see what finds us instead."

Dean was his usual charming self. There are not enough words to describe how wonderful a hero Dean is. His love for Liv and his passion for her, not just physically, but emotionally as well, was palpable. It was just wonderful to read about a hero who is just so in love with his wife and would really do anything, even sacrifice his own career, just to protect her. He is just amazing.

"You're beautiful. You're my wish come true."

I just love, love this couple. Their relationship is intense, passionate, vulnerable and as a reader, you just can't help but cheer for them. When I was reading this book, I felt like I knew these people. And seriously, I want to hurt those who wanted to hurt them in this book. And trust me, there are a lot of people who wanted to hurt them, their careers, their marriage. And if trust me again, you'd want to hurt those people too for causing so much misery and heartbreak for both Dean and Liv.

And I would remiss if I don't mention that this book is HOT. Like scorching, melt-your-panties, HOT. Dean and Liv have this explosive chemistry and Nina Lane can write a sexy scene like nobody's business. There are a lot of smexy times in this book but let me assure you that each of those smexy scenes were fabulously written and add so much to really knowing what Dean and Liv's relationship is like.

One surprising thing about this book for me was the humor. I just loved that Dean and Live, despite the things that they're going through, when they are together, can actually laugh and be silly with each other. It's refreshing to read that. Some of my fave quotes and funniest moments really came from scenes where Dean and Live were being silly, playful and sweet to each other.

“You know I love you like a bee loves honey.”

“You know I can’t wait to pollinate your flower.” I chuckle.

“It’s been a while since you have, huh?”

“Way too long, baby.”

sigh

I could talk all day about this book. I just loved it that much. It's unforgettable and truly amazing. Read this series, people.

Full review will be posted during the blog tour stop on my blog...

Weeeeh!! I got my ARC!! Yeeeeaaaahhhhhh!!!

I can't wait to read more about Professor Dean and Liv!!

Baba says

5++++ chivalrous, beautiful and intensely erotic stars.***Review completed December 12, 2013**

Awaken was my first beta read and I'm very grateful for having experienced Liv and Dean's journey come to an end at first hand. Thank you, Nina, you're an awesome author and a wonderful woman! A special thankyou goes to my dear friend, Jen. Doing the beta read with you was a true blast! <3

I don't tell you any news when I say that I loved all three books, yet it's obvious that Awaken is my favorite, regardless of my beta read.

Since I started to read Dean and Liv's journey in Arouse, Nina achieved to deliver a very compelling story and character growth and came to an extraordinary conclusion with Awaken. Liv and Dean have come full circle. Even though I beta read Awaken, it doesn't get any more honest and objective when I say this is an outstanding erotic romance book (emphasis on erotic **and** romance). I mean it with all my heart and I love Dean and Awaken to pieces. This is Nina Lane at her very best! I know Nina did all the writing and she deserves all the praise and Awaken is definitely her baby. Yet a tiny part of me is very proud that I got the chance to make a great book even better, and I'm very happy about the outcome. In conclusion, this is also a little bit my baby (and Jen's of course) and I feel protective about this book. Nina, Jen and I discussed Awaken extensively and after the first round of beta reads, Nina performed some major rewrites which proved to be very advantageous for Liv as well as Liv and Dean as a couple.

Fans of the Spiral of Bliss series know already that Liv and Dean's happiness but also Dean's career are threatened by "certain circumstances". For the sake of readers who have yet to read the series, I prefer to not get into details here. Suffice it to say that a lot of things are going on in this conclusion and it ties up all the loose ends perfectly. As a matter of fact, Awaken leaves nothing to be desired.

On the one hand, this third book deals with a specific, nasty problem. On the other hand, Awaken depicts an Olivia who evolves, thrives and—in the end—truly shines. This is Liv's awakening and she starts to stand on her own. Also, she's ready to take a risk, to make her own decisions and refuses to accept Dean's safety net. As a consequence, she evolves from the somewhat shy and innocent Liv to a mature and much more decisive woman. It pleases me tremendously to tell you that I loved Olivia without reservation in this story arc. She has come a long way and really deserves my praise.

Dean...Dean-a-licious...

Dean is my knight in shining armor. Looking at Awaken, he's so chivalrous and honorable, protective, selfless, handsome and sexy as all get out. Whatever is thrown in their path, he'd go to hell and back to give Liv anything and everything she needs. Whatever the cost, Dean never flinched from doing what was best for their relationship. His love for Liv is so incredibly deep, I always feared for him that a probable loss of the love of his life would destroy him irrevocably. No worries though, there is no such thing. So, here we are at

the end of their journey and what an exceptional journey it was. Please keep your tissues at the ready—I promise you'll need them.

Dean is a fabulous dirty talker and this particular scene went down in my book history!

"Soon you're getting on your knees in front of me," I tell her. "Naked except for tight cotton panties that rub against your pussy. You're going to squeeze your pretty tits together so I can push my c@ck between them and f@ck them. Thrusting into that tight, damp valley all the way up to your throat. I'll shoot hard all over you, like a goddamn geyser. My come will drip off your tight nipples before I make you rub it in. Then you're going to lick my c@ck clean, swiping your tongue all over the shaft, taking it all the way into your greedy mouth."

"Do you still want me to touch myself?"

Holy f@ck, do I ever.

"Do it," I tell her.

The love between Dean and Liv is unique and their intense emotional connection will make your heart pound and race. Awaken is an intensely passionate conclusion to their journey, and I'm convinced that this story is going to make your fingers and toes curl. It's advisable to have a bucket of cold water at the ready, so you can cool off now and then. Honestly, the sex scenes are **fantastic and scorchingly hot!** Witnessing their erotic encounters is not only a physical experience, you'll be swamped by many feelings and deep emotions. You can feel their bodies tremble, the air is saturated with heat and sparkling electricity, their strained breaths are palpable. The damp skin, the drops of sweat trickling down bare skin...it's mesmerizing. The thrill of anticipation, all the sensations, the blazing heat that surrounds these two whenever their bodies are melding together...it's going to leave you breathless. Liv and Dean's chemistry is truly explosive and the urgency, need, lust, passion and longing will push you over the edge. Also, I'm sure that the sexy dirty talk will make you all hot and bothered. Don't forget to breathe otherwise Liv and Dean are going to drive you senseless. *fans self*

I'd bend over for Dean anytime!

This is another little sample of one of my favorite scenes.

„What are you going to do with all those pictures?“ Liv asks.

“Plaster them on the ceiling like stars so I can look up at them at night.”

“Aw.” She smiles. “Good one.”

Dean you're my star! *swoon*

Awaken has been beautifully and compellingly penned by Nina Lane and it shines in its various and intriguing facets. Excellent plot, great and witty dialogue, some well-placed banter and first and foremost two very likable main protagonists made this story a huge all around winner. This is a labor of love, I could feel it and I will always hold it very, very close to my heart.

The way Liv and Dean love each other is primal, visceral and intense. It's like breathing because it's so vital and every beat of their hearts is pure devotion and strengthens their unbreakable bond. Awaken provided not only scorchingly hot sex scenes, I could also swoon over many intimate and utterly romantic moments between Liv and Dean. Fortune favored...

Readers, you're in for a real treat. Savor and cherish every loving and titillating moment of this story because it doesn't get any better.

Steam: 4 to 4.5

Nina, this is for you...

Reading order:

Arouse

Allure

Awaken

Highly recommended.

<http://baba.booklikes.com>

Release date January 7th, 2014

All quotes approved by author

Farah *Professor Dean's Beauty* says

5 million stars!!!!!!

I was lucky enough to receive an Arc from Nina for this book and let me just say it made my day when I received that message and was the highlight of my 2014

I've waited for this book for months and months....

And boy did Nina Lane deliver!

If there is one book I wish I could rate more than 5 stars this would definitely be it!

Dean and Liv overcome the mess they are in and we see Liv become such a strong person to the woman we first met.

Professor Dean...

From Allure to Arouse to Awaken...

Professor Dean *Allured* me....

Professor Dean *Aroused* me in ways I never thought possible...

Professor Dean *Awakened* me to the feelings of love which wish I had in my life...

We were taken on the breathtakingly beautiful love story of My Professor Dean and his sweet wife Liv.

"I love that you love me, professor."

"I love loving you, beauty."

They are the perfect couple but even the most perfect marriages also have their own share of problems and dramas.

I really don't want to give away anything with this book as I feel every.single.person owes it to themselves to be part of this beautiful Series...

My Professor is so perfect I dreamed him into life and married him in the process....

Katy Loves Romance ♥? says

6*** sensual, beautiful and PERFECT stars!!**

OMG where do I start with this review, first of all I 100% fell in love with Dean and Liv all over again in this one, Nina has exceeded herself not only with Dean and Liv and their complete devotion for each other but the story really did grab me in, I couldn't put it down...

Whats it about?

At the end of Allure Dean is now dealing with an alleged sexual harassment charge at Kings university with one of his students, so he is taking some time away in Italy to do some research and get away from things back at the university, and this is their conclusion how they became more strong and how they became complete.

Dean and Liv are thousands of miles away from each other so are therefore dealing with life independently and yearning for each other...

This does not mean they are any less connected to each other with the internet and phone calls they are able to continue to communicate but they still miss each other.

Mrs Olivia West

Liv in the past books has had to deal with miscarriage and marriage difficulties where she has very much needed to rely on Dean for everything, her whole world was Dean and it still is but what I loved about this book is Liv really does come into her own this is where she finds herself, what she wanted out of life, what she wanted out of her marriage and I found her being the strength in the relationship rather than the other way round. Dean is needing her strength more in this one and Liv comes full force, stands up to her mother, finds an occupation that she loves, keeps herself busy and is there whole heartedly for Dean, but ultimately she believed in herself and could achieve what she wanted to be.

Professor Dean West

If I had one word that would sum up Dean it would be **PERFECT** why? He's Hot, sexy, loyal, loving, protective and his love for Liv is the one thing that oozes out of the pages, really he is going through a hard time with the sexual harassment charge hanging over his head he still is always there for his wife, but when they are in their bubble nothing else matters and of course life is getting in the way, people are trying to drag him down but they both keep pulling through communicating together and Dean is one character that I will miss. There are usually something that drives me slightly mad, puzzles me or confuses me but Dean and Liv as a married couple do lean on each other, I have no faults in them as a couple and individually I would say they have been through the problems that have been in their marriage and because of that they are stronger than ever.

The sexy

I felt completely connected to them and because of that the sex scenes rocked my world!! Their chemistry together is Intense, their scenes were sensual, sexy, HOT, animalistic but it wasn't just sex to me but LOVE. It was deep, and because they are a married couple they know each other therefore those scenes were explosive, Dean was a doting Husband who knew how to press Liv's buttons and vis-versa. Keep a bucket of cold water by your side and box of tissues at the ready.

The Dirty

The sweet

" I wish it could be like this forever," I whisper. "Just us and the stars."

"pie loves you, professor," I whisper. "Have faith in me, okay?" "Ah, Liv." He presses his lips to my forehead. "I don't have faith in anyone but you."

"You promised you would kiss me for a long time, "I whisper. "How about we start right now?"

My lasting thoughts

Okay I've said this in my previous reviews in Arouse and Allure and I'll say it again I found this series refreshing, I usually 9 out of 10 times read girl meets boy, date, fall in love, get married, have kids= HEA. What I love and adore about this series is its normal life, normal problems about marriage and working together, getting stronger. I have loved reading the effects of their unity, their love and how they have been through the tough and are now at the other end stronger than ever. This book was the Icing on the cake Nina turning the notch up with everything, the writing was brilliant, flowed well easy to grasp, and the chemistry and connection between them blew me away.....

So will I recommend this series: **Yes**

Will I re-read: **Yes**

Will I read anything Nina Lane writes in the future: **YES YES and YES**

And lastly a BIG thank you to SueBee for organising the buddy read and to Patty, Melissa, Elizabeth, Linda and anyone I've missed out I've really enjoyed chatting with you all <3

Alexis *Reality Bites* says

Full review posted on 1-7-14

LOVE LOVE LOVED IT!!!!

5 BIG BRIGHT SHINING STARS!!!!

Oh Professor West, you and me baby, let's go

REVIEW

My Husband doesn't just love me. He knows how to love me. He knows what I need and when I need it, sometimes even better than I do He knows how to unfold all the tight, rough parts of me and smooth them out with one glide of his hand. - Liv

This series is utter *perfection*. Nothing is more beautiful than reading about a married couple so deeply in love and dedicated to each other. The growth we get to see with Olivia was absolutely *magnificent*. Such a fitting title, *Awaken*. Liv desires to establish her own independence by feeling her way out in this world, no longer feeling less than but **whole** with nothing missing, nothing broken and nothing lacking.

That Olivia, the one who feels whole, comes to full bloom in **AWAKEN**.

If you've read the previous books in this series, *Arouse* and *Allure*, then you should be familiar with the names Dean and Olivia West. Which means you're also aware that Liv has been feeling somewhat unfulfilled in life on a personal level. She wants to carve her own path without her husband's money as assistance. As Legal concerns for the couple from the previous book sadly continue in to this one; Liv decides that Dean needs to leave the country on the scheduled archeological dig. He had already planned to attend the dig in Italy before family matters deterred those plans. He of course is hesitant but Liv all but packs his bags and pushes him out the door to avoid making a bad situation become worse.

They say distance can make the heart grow fonder, in this case I think distance makes the libido go higher. These two are insatiable.

'He's a rare gift, my husband, perfect and flawed and completely unreservedly mine'

The separation leads to some hot phone sex between the couple. And a lot of erotically charged dreams for Liv. Which she shares with her husband much to the delight of readers. I think her retelling the dreams are by far my favorite scenes.

Dean focuses on work **and** his wife even from a ocean away. Liv takes on the role of business woman like a second skin. She has always had this reserved non aggressive tone to her personality but as you read she **finally** with a sheer will takes control by going after what she wants with full determination.

Reunited and it feels soooooo good!

Once these two reunite the temperature rises

Enough said, you get me, right? Right. **GRINS**

On the heels of Dean's home coming is another arrival, this person causes a small ripple between the two. But it does not last long. Dean wants to save his wife from the evil in this world but Liv proves her strength as she stands in the ring alone and goes toe to toe with the opposition; gracefully I might add. Her development was a pure pleasure to read. It brings hope to those still trying to find their way.

My Thoughts

Every move this couple made I found myself cheering for them. I was eager to see them succeed. I was eager to read and enjoy their happiness. OH and I shamelessly lusted after Dean. **wink,wink**
The writing is simply *beautiful*. Words are just not enough, you really must read this series in order to grasp these characters. **I love their love!**

Their love is *FIERCE, PROTECTIVE, AROUSING* and most importantly *EXCLUSIVE* to one another.

Join the spiral of bliss in Arouse, Allure and Awaken by Nina Lane.

My Ratings

Characters- Lovable

Writing Style- EXCELLENT

Plot/Storyline- Emotionally charged and very erotic

Steam Factor- HIGH/Very Steamy on a scale of 1-10 10++++

Overall- I LOVED IT!

My Recommendation: Read it!!!! Start with book 1, Arouse.

Now go forth and read. Then come tell us about it on Goodreads!

For more reviews got to: www.realitybites-letsgetlost.blogspot...

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/realitybitesletsgetlost

ARC kindly provide by author for an honest review

12-22-13 GOT MY ARC

Candace says

Oh, how I've enjoyed Dean and Olivia! I hear that there are some more books in this series, but I'm stopping here for the time being. Why? Mainly because Dean and Olivia seem to have arrived at a happy place and I'm not willing to let anything change that right now. After reading and listening to these three books back to back, I feel like I should be able to bask in my HEA for a while.

Let's face it, these two had to work for it! Personal tragedy and vindictiveness continued to taint their life together, well into this book. However, like in the previous book, I was impressed with how strong they were together. It really did feel like it was them against the world.

To further complicate matters, Liv's deadbeat mother reappears in her life. Surprisingly, I was actually impressed by her actions a time or two. Ultimately, she couldn't change who she was. However, I did feel like I understood her motives a little better than before.

Unlike earlier books, this one really highlighted Olivia's strength. She really went out on her own in many ways, doing things for herself and not standing in Dean's shadow. It was nice to see her stand on her own two feet and prove that she could take care of herself if need be. In many ways, the tables turned in this third book.

All in all, I continued to thoroughly enjoy this series. Dean and Olivia have certainly faced more than their fair share of problems, but it only makes me want to see them succeed all that much more. They're not perfect, but they're real. I love them!

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

+ 5 PASSIONATE STARS

"You and me professor." "You and me beauty."

OMG I love this series so much!! It's one of my favorites. Nina really knows how to make you feel so many emotions through her books!! She is an amazing author! Awaken takes the reader through the trials of Dean and Liv. But in this book there is so much love!!! I hope that one day when I get married, I can have as much love and as good of a relationship as Dean and Liv!!!

Awaken picks up with Dean going to Italy in addition to keep away more problems from accruing with King's University and the alleged sexual harassment charge. This leaves Liv alone wondering what she wants to do with her life professionally. And this moment her mother is back..so She has to learn to stand on her own, without depend on Dean for everything and to deal with her mother.

While the first books were more about Dean and Liv's struggles to their marriage in this book there were about finding themselves and learning how to stand on their own.

Dean and Liv learn a lot about themselves, their relationship and how to battle together. This series focuses on the passionate love. And believe me in this couple there are so much love <3

"Say it for me."

"I'm yours."

"Say it back."

"I'm yours. Always will be."

Their love is so intense. It's filled with passion.

Dean is hottest than ever! OMG he is amazing!! I don't think I have ever been in love with a character as much as with Dean! He is so hot and sexy and he has to deal with his problems, also he is still so protective with Liv.. he cares about her and he wants the best for her!!

Liv oh Liv!! She is amazing too!! In this book she was so strong!! She comes into herself. She gains so much confidence. I'm glad to see her finally become more confident. She learns how to stand on her own, make her own decisions and take risks. And Dean couldn't have been more supportive. He was still willing to give Liv anything and everything, but he knew that she had to do this on her own.

There are so many hot moments in this book!! I love them all!! So much passion!!

This series is so beautifully written and it is a story of two passionate people.

I can't believe this series is over :(((I want more of Dean and Liv!! I'm really so sad!! I'm sure I will read this series again and again until I have enough of them. And believe me I will need to read them more than thousand times!!!

Hulya Kara Yuksel says

Oh please stop Professor! *blushing*

I love you too darling.... :D

My God, I just can't get enough of this series... Loved it so much!!! <3
