



Dante's Awakening

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Dante Sonnier is a successful Hollywood agent. She is also a friend to the secret community of vampires living in Los Angeles, and occasionally she assists them when they have a problem that requires a human to handle it. The vampires are led by Voshki Kevorkian, a gorgeous, sexy female vampire, who has made it clear that she would like Dante to be her human. Dante, although attracted to Voshki, is wary of the possessiveness and jealousy involved in being a vampire's chosen human lover and resists. When the Children of Judas, a two-thousand-year-old sect of murderous, rebel vampires shunned by the main community, rise up under a new leader and threaten to topple Voshki's leadership and expose the whole community, the vampires turn to Dante for help. Dante travels to a small town in upstate California where the Children seem to be active, in the company of Ellis Kovacs, another vampire sired by Voshki, and Voshki's "right-hand woman." There, whilst investigating the Children and their leader Robin Shepherd, Dante succumbs to being seduced by the alluring Ellis. When Dante is kidnapped by the Children, Voshki decides it's time to take matters into her own hands. Hell hath no fury like a vampire scorned. This is the first in a brand-new series.

Dante's Awakening Details

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From Reader Review Dante's Awakening for online ebook

L.E.Olteano says

World Building: Vampire infiltrated Hollywood versus Holly Bush Junction (did endless amounts of snickering based on that name, if there's a town out there called that, no offense, but it's hilarious!), it was a cool pair of extremes and it made for a fun world.

Characters: Cool, I must say I loved Dante, she had this cynical-ish tone and great sense of humor, she was very straightforward and honest, versatile and sort of charming. I say sort of because she had more of a bam then a twinkle, if you know what I mean. Names of other characters were interesting to say the least, just like hers, and Ellis and Voshki were fun to follow both on their own but mostly in a combo of all three of them, fun chemistry. Lydia was awesomeness, I'd have liked to know her better.

Plot: Sort of mystery vibe, Dante and Ellis investigate something in Holly Bush Junction, it was interesting as it combined with the romantic arc. It wasn't fluffy romantic, more like a realistic relationship with slow-burn vibe rather than the instalove formula, but the read rates as more of a long novella then a novel to me so I'd say it's a quick slow-burn type :D. Some hot adult f/f scenes, but not graphic.

Writing: Awesome, I loved Dante's sense of humor and since this is a first person narrative from her POV it made for fun reading, I snickered and grinned pretty much all the time. Alert pace of events, dynamic read, but maybe if it would have been longer it might have focused more on some elements I, for one, would have enjoyed, like more zoom-in on some other characters, say Ellis and Lydia for instance. But I am the more character, less action type so it figures I'd think so.

Curb Appeal: Pretty good, the cover has some darkish charm&beauty going on, the blurb gives a good idea of what's the gist of it and it makes me curious, but this probably wouldn't be an instabuy for me if it weren't f/f romance.

Overall, a good read, more of a 3.5 then a full 4 for reasons mentioned above, but it's a quick-ish (125 pages) read with some great humor and romance, and it makes me happy to see more f/f romance around, I feel there's too little of it out there. I want to be able to buy a lot more books with all sorts of LGBT romance stories.

Butterfly-o-Meter Books

MGGMMGGM says

Dante is one feisty Hollywood agent you both want to meet and avoid. Wait, lemme explain the whys first. Dante has been in the Hollywood circuit for a long time making her an effective agent that you want to be handled by. She is that good and effective with her job that talents are sticking to her in addition to her being gorgeous that is. With all the ferocity in being good at her job, there is also one thing that you need to know about Dante.

Dante is affiliated with vampires. Oh yes! Gorgeous and volumptuous but dangeorus female vampies.

Voshki and Ellis, two hot vampies, wants Dante for themselves but Dante doesn't want anything to do with vampires in an intimate way - or in anyway for that matter. Voshki needed the help of Dante with an issue in a set and deploys both Ellis and Dante to investigate it but during the investigation some developments happen that can compromise Dante's relationship with Voshki. I n addition to that, there

were developments in the investigation that provided a fruitful outcome in knowing the cause of the hassle. The fun's not ending there though since Dante made Robin interested in her as well. Who is Robin in the first place. Yet another female vampire who you need to know, Robin together with the children of Judas poses a different issue to the whole vampire race and it's up to Dante, Voshki and Ellis to stop what Robin had in mind.

With that short history(hope I didn't provide too much spoilers) for you guys I'll sum up what I thought about Dante's Awakening. Dante's Awakening is a fast read so you don't need to worry about reading it if you have a lot to read. I read this under a days time, quick right? The writing style was easy to adapt without any hassle of multiple POV that some may not enjoy. Dante's Awakening is straight forward story and a great starter to what looks like a promising series. Definitely need to read what happens next. The ending wrapped up without those irritating cliffhangers. There was resolution yet enough story to get you hooked and intrigued of the next story in the series. Read this one guys, you won't be disappointed.

Bib says

An unusual vampire story told with humor.

Cora says

There were a lot of things that bothered me about this book. Let me start on the outside (cover, setting), get to the plot and then really into the characters- especially protagonist Dante.

First, the cover is not what you are getting. Just saying. This is a book about vampires, yes, and their-but-not-their human Dante. I'm sure that by the time you get to this review, you will be familiar with the basic plot already; there is trouble on the darker side of Hollywood, and agent Dante is sent to investigate by her vampire friends. So far, so good.

Which of course is exactly where the problems start- for the protagonist AND with the book. The plot at first is shallow and always easily resolved (no thanks to Dante, btw). There are no major twists or surprises until the very end (which felt sudden and uncoordinated). Dante stumbles along the events without really making any contributions, but I'll get into that when I come to the characters.

As for the (mythical) setting, the protagonist repeatedly claims that the vampires in this book are nothing like common belief- which, of course, they are. Nobody invented a new species here- atleast not with the vampires as we first get to know them (in fact, the vampires vaguely resemble their counterparts in True Blood). I'll admit that the second vampire group, the Children of Judas, are a different story. However, their constant representation as "red-headed bastards" was one hell of a cliché.

Now for the single characters, the one bright side is vampire leader Voshki- the only character who was somewhat likeable or authentic. Let me say that most of these book's characters are women, most of them into women, and men seemingly only seem to exist to hinder said women. Men are portrayed as perps, traitors, creepy and a general nuisance that has to be overcome. Straight romance is portrayed as sickening and barely mentioned (but then, this is a lesbian book).

Apart from Voshki, we have her vampire associate Ellis, who claims to be different but really isn't. Ellis and Voshki are both interested in Dante and lay claim to her. Dante doesn't even attempt to make up her mind and instead fancies every woman that comes along, which renders her eventual romance with Ellis very superficial.

Dante DOES however insist repeatedly that she is nobody's property, which would have been a nice concept, if anyone at all had listened to her. Nobody did, and so Dante let herself be pushed around (ignoring each and every of her own principles and generally being a slave to her own hormones, which didn't exactly make her a strong character).

Her weakness contradicts with her pretentious oh-so-badass attitude, as she ultimately ends up being the damsel in distress not one or two but three times in a row. But then, her character is full of such contradictions. Let me just name a few:

- she constantly complains about Hollywood life and how it ruined her family, yet can't imagine any other line of work.
- she claims to be in love with Ellis, but keeps wanting to sleep around (there is really no feeling of them falling in love AT ALL. This book thrives on lust in every possible lesbian constellation).
- then there is the badass/ damsel in distress thing, which really bugged me.
- also the their-but-not-their human thing I already mentioned.

Considering everything, I am glad I made it through this book (and only so I could write this review). I just kept wanting for it to be over.

Jackie says

This was my first foray into reading F/F fiction. I wasn't exactly sure what to expect, but I was impressed. It was a very good story with an ending leading you to believe there will be more coming. The love triangle between Dante, Ellis and Voshki was portrayed very well. The incorporation of vampires into Hollywood was done as easy as if it were true. The characters and the story were very well done, but I do wish that there had been a bit more to it. I kinda felt it was a bit rushed and a few of the questions could have been answered in this story if it had been a bit longer. Overall, I enjoyed my first F/F paranormal romance was a good story and highly enjoyable.

Terry Baker says

Top notch Hollywood agent, Dante Sonnier, is a friend to a vampire community residing in Los Angeles. Dante is often called upon when they need a human to help them out.

Voshki Kevorkian is the beautiful vampire leader. Voshki wants Dante to be her own human. Although Dante finds Voshki sexy and attractive, she has no wish to be owned by anyone, human or vampire. Vampires are well known for their possessiveness and jealousy. So Dante refuses Voshki's frequent advances.

Ellis Kovacs, a vampire sired by Voshki and her right hand woman, also has designs on Dante. But it goes against vampire ethics to want Dante for her own when Voshki has already spoken of her desire for her.

Dante is drawn to Ellis and there is an almost magnetic attraction between them. Will Dante and Ellis give in to their attraction?

Ellis and Dante are sent together on a mission to find out what is happening with a two thousand year old sect of murderous rebel vampires, known as the Children of Judas. The group has a new leader, Robin Shepherd and their aim is to remove Voshki from her leadership of the vampire community and expose them all.

It's inevitable that after being thrown together in their investigation of the Children of Judas, Dante and Ellis give in to their passion and desires. What will Voshki do when she finds out?

When their plans go wrong and Dante is kidnapped, it's time for Voshki to take over. Heaven help anyone, vampire or human who gets in her way.

This is the first book in a promising new series. It has got off to a thrilling and exciting start. The story is fast paced and a page turner from the first page right through to the last page.

The book is well written. The main characters are delightful, humorous and multidimensional. They are backed up by an equally well balanced cast of minor characters that interact well together and are instrumental in progressing the story forward to an exciting conclusion. I, for one, was very sorry to reach the end. I wanted more, much more.

The vampires in this book are quite different from those in other vampire books I've read. They are to all intents and purposes, quite normal in that they walk around during day light, don't fly around like bats or drink the blood of unsuspecting people. But they do have special powers. So, even for those who are not too keen on the Dracula like vampires, you could give this book a try. There is far more to this book than vampires. The story is exciting, humorous and hot, very hot in parts.

I haven't read anything else from Devon Marshall, but I'm certainly looking forward to the next book in this series and any other books she may write.

Brittany Paige says

Great book!! Hope a part 2 is on the way!!!!!!

T says

Not a lot to say about this book. It was a fun read. i love cynical protagonists. dante is a character you'll love to hang out with.

character development and interaction: 5 stars

editing: 4 stars

storyline: 3 stars (ending was too abrupt)

hot vampire lovin': 5 stars

a lot of juicy secrets started coming out at the VERY end. which means of course i'll get book 2 when it comes out. wish more of the alluded to secrets were explored in this book though.
overall, for the price, you should definitely pick up this book.
it will give you a day's worth of some fun reading.

Rebecca says

Really liked this book, left me wishing book 2 out already. Look forward to seeing where this series goes.

Rain says

"Sometimes in life we get what we wish for and wish we hadn't, and other times we don't get what we wish for and wish we had."

So... this reminded a lot of True Blood, which isn't a bad thing. Even the vampires are almost the same, only the ones here can actually walk in the sun. The plot is not that brilliant or complex, but it was a fun read, with a very sassy and badass main character and written with humor.

"Oh well. As my mother, the legendary addict, always say: If you're gonna be bad, you may as well be bad to the best of your ability. Amen."

Dante is our narrator's name. She's a Hollywood agent whose work constantly involves vampires, contacting her whenever they need help. The vampires here are pretty much "in the closet", hiding their existence from most humans. They sort of divide into two communities, those with vampire leader Voshki, the 'good' ones, who wish to hide themselves from humans, and the ones referred to as "Children of Judas", the more reckless with a different plan on their minds. There's action, drama and sexy times to keep you turning the pages.

It's a very short book but it's very enjoyable. As I said, it's written with great humor and the romance was also entertaining. It was fun to read about Dante dealing with her attraction to Ellis as well as Voshki.

"The trick to telling a good lie is to take a kernel of truth and concoct the simplest recipe you can around that."

Thankfully it doesn't end on a cliffhanger, though it left me intrigued. I want to know what happens!
