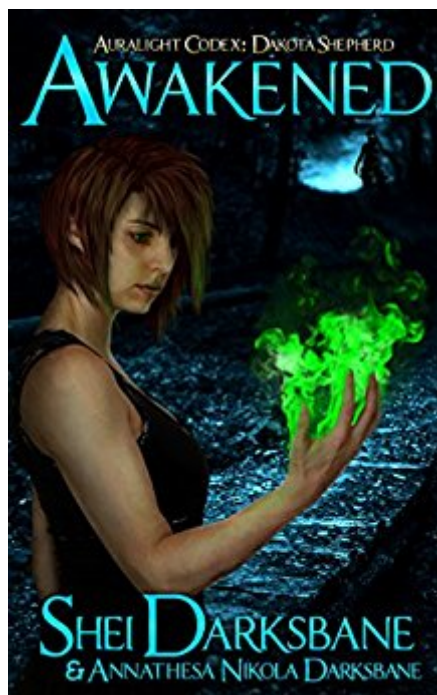


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Awakened (Auralight Codex: Dakota Shepherd Book 1)



Synopsis

Geeky lesbian Dakota Shepherd was just a bored night security guard, working at a museum in Knoxville, Tennessee until one fateful encounter changed it all. A rogue wizard. A demonic ritual. A silver chalice. Dakota Awakened, Hellfire blazing from her hands. Dakota's powers are a danger to herself and everyone around her, and she has to learn to control them quickly or risk losing her one chance to finally fulfill a lifelong dream. While coming to terms with her new reality, she stumbles upon a secret that changed the course of her life. Now she wants to know who is responsible for the holes in her memory, the blocks that hold back her powers, and all the years she spent alone. Who put her back to sleep when she Awakened years before? Books in the Auralight Codex: Dakota Shepherd series: Awakened - Start here, Hunted - Book 2, Available Now! Driven - Novella 2.5, Available Now! Blooded - Book 3, Available Now! Risen - Coming soon! And many more!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book wasâ |.okay. Just okay. While it was an interesting premise, it never really gripped me. I had a hard time enjoying the ânerd/geekâ aspect of it (a large facet of Dakotaâs character),

not because I don't enjoy or relate to it (I very much do), but because it felt many times as if I were being beaten over the head with it. As if Dakota was screaming at the reader with every reference, "GET IT- I AM A NEERRRDD!" • Another part of Dakota's characterization that was off for me was that, while it states early on that she's 28 years old, there were times while reading I'd question whether Dakota was actually a teenager and I had simply imagined her being in her late twenties. It was difficult to swallow the romance between Dakota and Amorie. None of it really felt earned. I couldn't understand the supposed instantaneous chemistry between them. I can see the attraction from Dakota's side at least, but why is this vampire interested in this nerdy, sometimes awkward young security guard beyond mere curiosity? What on earth is it that causes her to be instantly smitten? Maybe it's just me, but I'm tired of the vampire/supernatural

being-who-is-instantly-attracted-to-the-awkward-human-for-no-discernable-reason trope. It feels like shallow and lazy wish fulfillment. If anything the connection between Raelya and Dakota felt like a more organic foundation for a romance. With regards to the plot, there never seemed to be any real conflict other than a few manufactured moments of tension/drama that were quickly resolved, and by the end of the book, it felt like nothing much had happened. One other thing (that is completely nitpicky on my part I admit) that I couldn't stand was the use of the phrase: "Green Burny Hands" •.

This is a story about a woman whose entire life changes on a chance encounter with an intruder where she works. Dakota's world is opened up to new possibilities she'd never dreamed of. The world is far more interesting and dangerous with her introduction to the supernatural world around her. This story has a lot of potential, being the first in the series, there are many questions that go unanswered, things that aren't delved into that will presumably be resolved as the series continues. Initially, I felt a bit of a disconnect with Dakota's character. In the first few chapters, she seemed a little immature for my liking, but that did change as she seemed to mature as the story progressed. That aside, she is quirky, funny, and is a straight-forward speaks your mind type which I enjoy. Dakota has great instincts about people and the confusion of those instincts with her mysterious love interest keeps you wondering how things will play out for her, which I'm hoping we learn more about as the series progresses. As Dakota discovers more secrets about who she is and what she can, or at least should be able to do, the story truly opens up. We meet her new family and it seems like things really begin to click into place for her. One big secret of her past is revealed, but a threat to her present is as well. Things aren't always so black and white and it is all the

grey that makes you want to see how things work out for Dakota. Keeping it Hot!: There's a nice mix of magic and varied supernatural species to keep you wondering what's going to turn up next. Don't get me wrong, I love a good werewolf book, but when you add in more, it just makes the reading that much more fun. The side characters are a very likeable lot.

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