



Dead Moon Awakens: A tale of Cherokee myth and Celtic magic

Teresa Joyce Jackson

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There are those who will do anything to capture the talisman...

Aishling's mother vanished on Halloween, 1989. It's been sixteen months, and she can't convince those at the Home Ma is alive. She's running out of time. Soon, they'll place her somewhere else. Ma would never find her then.

The only thing she remembers about that night is something she can't reveal. Another secret she can't reveal? Ma is a Celtic witch.

Her "gift" of prophetic dreaming also vanished that Halloween, until last night's dream. Now, an enormous, horned serpent dangles in her sleepy memory.

When Morrigan, Lance, and Kelile arrive at the Home, she recognizes them. From where? Propelled by individual quests, the combative, diverse teens escape the Home. During their perilous trek through the mountainous backwoods of North Carolina, some of her dormant abilities awaken. But she needs more than magic to survive. She needs the others.

She dreams of the monstrous snake again and discovers the others have too. Lance explains they are dreaming about a Cherokee mythical dragon-serpent and its all-powerful, magical talisman. Why is she dreaming of it? Why are the others?

Aishling must face her greatest fears, uncover a heart-rending truth, and make a dreadful choice to find out.

—Dead Moon Awakens, Book 1 of the MYSTIC GATES, a magical realism adventure—

Dead Moon Awakens: A tale of Cherokee myth and Celtic magic Details

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From Reader Review Dead Moon Awakens: A tale of Cherokee myth and Celtic magic for online ebook

Teresa Jackson says

Dead Moon Awakens is Book 1 of the Mystic Gates series, a teen fantasy for ages 11 and up about an ancient Cherokee myth and four contemporary teens who collide with it.

The earliest “written” historical reference to the great dragon-serpent called the *Uktena* and its powerful and magical talisman, the *Ulunsuti*, is from the 1762 memoirs of Lt. Henry Timberlake, a Virginian officer who volunteered on a peace mission to live among the Cherokee people, or *Ani-Yunwiya*. While staying with the Cherokees, Lt. Timberlake learned that one *Ulunsuti* remained, and that it was hidden and controlled by two women and the conjuror who had seized it. Within the “fictional” world of the Mystic Gates series, these three Cherokees were the first generation of *Ulunsuti* Holders. Mystic Gates is the story of the **thirteenth** generation—the last generation... the last chance for us all.

By the way, I rated my own book 5 stars for two reasons: 1) I wrote it! and 2) I *finally* wrote it!

Kelila says

I received this book via Goodreads First Reads Giveaway.

First of all, it was so exciting seeing a character in a book with a name so similar to mine. Just one letter off! For that reason alone I would have read this book.

Teenage angst and magic. What a combination.

While I adore the idea embracing multiple heritages, magic, and witchcraft, this book did not deliver for me. Reflecting a lot of fantasy as the main character was on a 'quest' of sorts, there was not enough to hold my attention for long.

It took nearly half the book for the characters to even leave for their journey!

This time is usually taken to build on character depth and character relationships, and while there was some movement toward that, I think it was seriously lacking in this area.

I'm honestly not a fan of Aishling either. She seemed very whiny and completely blind to the things going on right in front of her. While I understand she's been through trauma and just coming into her powers, I don't think she should have been so easy to manipulate. Seems boring to be able to guess what is going to happen at each turn.

I needed more answers. This is the first book in the series, but I'm hoping for more magic, strength, and monsters in the following books!

Lisa says

Thank you so much for choosing me as a first reads winner! This is a fabulous book that I will definitely be recommending to anyone and everyone! I was immediately drawn into the celtic references throughout the book and can't get enough. The whispered wisdom of the Celts and Cherokee aren't lost on me as I read this great book. The shitty part of the book is that it's ended far too soon! This is one book that I'll find difficult to wait for a sequel to!

Brie says

I received this book via Goodreads First Reads Giveaway.

The story follows Aishling a sweet girl who is dealing with the disappearance of her mother a Celtic witch. She insists her mother is alive despite what everyone tells her. Then after being alone for over a year she gets a roommate and friend in Morrigan. Together they plan to escape and end up leaving with two boys also from the home.

Magic and adventure unfolds as they make their way to Aishling's home. Alas her mom is not there but a hidden box has clues for her and her friends' journey which is only just beginning.

The story grabbed and then kept my attention, ending with me curious to know the rest of Aishling's story. The only thing I was irritated by was the way Morrigan treated Aishling and I don't know if I'm overthinking it or if Aishling is just too naive and trusting not to see. Of course this isn't a bad thing because when a character incites strong reactions from the reader ... The story is well written.
