



Ascension

Caris Roane

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Ascension Caris Roane
Vampire. Warrior. Legend. Lover.

Discover a secret, sensual world of winged vampire warriors and the women they crave—in an epic battle between unearthly longing and immortal love...

On The Wings Of Desire

Alison Wells is no ordinary woman. Born with supernatural powers, she can never make love to a man without putting him in grave danger. But when her special vision reveals a glorious muscled man soaring overhead on mighty wings, she feels an overwhelming attraction she cannot resist—even as he tells her: *"I have come for you. Your blood belongs to me."*

In The Heat Of Passion

Kerrick is a vampire and a warrior who has fought his hunger for a woman's love for the past two hundred years. As a Guardian of Ascension, he is sworn to protect Alison from the death vamp armies who crave her blood and her power. But Kerrick has cravings of his own—a forbidden longing to open his heart and veins to Alison. *To share his blood...satisfy his thirst...and seal their fates forever.*

Ascension Details

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Author : Caris Roane

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From Reader Review Ascension for online ebook

Chelsea says

The best way that I can explain Ascension by Caris Roane is this: Imagine that J.R. Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood books and Nalini Singh's Guild Hunter books had a baby, and that baby grew up into a troubled teenager. That's this book. But troubled teens aren't irredeemable, right? Sure, it's going to take some discipline on the part of the editor and a lot of patience on the part of the reader, but it could still turn out alright. At least, that's what I told myself as I powered through the first two thirds of this book. In the end though, it's just a bad seed, and not really one I cared to stick with.

Here is my list of issues with this book:

1. This is a fated mates book. Hero and heroine are destined to be together because the author says so. Their sexual chemistry is instantaneous and irrationally overblown. The initial stages of getting to know one another involve smelling each other, gazing longingly into each others eyes, and dreaming of each other. I'm not against fated mates as a rule, but there is a right and a wrong way to do it. The wrong way is taking away all of your character's choices and forcing them on one another, and using the mate bond as a stand in (or even total replacement) for growing affection. For the most part this book does it the wrong way.
2. The groups of hulk-like warrior men battling evil? It's been done before. Many times. And done better than this. This book is just generally unoriginal, kind of like fan fiction where all the names have been changed.
3. Roane's writing style is horrible. Typos, awkward wording, abrupt and frequent shifts in POV, one and two word sentences, needless repetition. The dialogue is the worst, with lots of phony sounding tough talk. One glaring example was when in detailing a character's thoughts Roane used "helluvan" instead of "hell of an". Now, I was willing to chalk up a lot of these issues to Roane being a new author, but upon flipping to her bio I saw that she has published many books under the name Valerie King. I couldn't believe that an experienced author would write like this.
4. Silly half baked world building. For one thing, the heroine is given an incomprehensible number of super powers. And the hero and his band of brothers are vampires...with wings. I started calling them wampires. There are good vampires and bad vampires, and the bad ones are blue for some reason. There are multiple dimensions including Mortal Earth and Earth Two. So there are all kinds of rules about where the vampires can fight and how they can fight. And there's vocabulary to learn as well. My favorite was the power of making objects disappear and appear, which is called "folding". Whenever it set "folding his sword into his hand" I could not stop picturing him folding a sword in half. Bottom line, all of the concepts are B-movie quality at best.
5. And finally, the sequel baiting. You want to buy the next book, right? That's going to be Marcus' story. He sounds cool right? Buy his book. Buy it! Ugh. I just want to enjoy the novel I'm reading and get a complete story without having to spend another \$8 to complete the tale.

What can I say that's positive? When the heroine, Alison, is first introduced I thought she might be interesting. She has a lot of emotional issues and identity issues that I wanted to see her work through. But when it became clear that her powers and her relationship with Kerrick were going to be her new identity I

lost interest in her. Kerrick bored me with his angst, self pity, and stubbornness. He did sound physically attractive though. Many of the secondary characters, like Endelle the military leader, were intriguing. This was ruined the second they spoke a word of dialogue.

So if you really like fated mates, haven't had your fill of vampire gang wars, and don't mind sloppy writing, go ahead and try this book. 1 star.

Liz F says

Oh. My. Gosh! This book rocked my freaking world!!

Seriously, this book is amazing! Its Book 1 of the World of Ascension series. I haven't heard of this author or series before but I can tell you that I'll be keeping my eyes out for more from her!!! Now, there wasn't an overwhelming amount of Sexy Time in this book but what there was...? Whoa!! It was so hot that my face almost melted off!!! LOL!

We meet Kerrick. He's a vampire, he's a warrior and he's also a freakin angel! Oh yeah! And he's not just a warrior, he's like a super warrior. He has super speed and super strength and he's part of this group of men just like him. They are Guardians of Ascension and they are also Warriors of the Blood. Kerrick is occasionally assigned to guard people who are ascending. Ascending is when you transform from a human into something....else. Not really an angel but kind of sort of. Anyways, Kerrick is assigned to guard a powerful ascendant whose name is Alison Wells.

Alison IS a powerful ascendant. But she's also a therapist (a good one) and she's had a tough go of it. She's been different ever since she can remember: telekinesis, mind reading, some seeing the future, the list goes on. She's never been able to have a normal relationship with a man due to her abilities and how volatile they can be. She's deeply envious of her sister, who she loves dearly. But her sister has a wonderful husband and a child and another baby on the way. As much as Alison loves her sister, she also sees that her sister has things that she (Alison) will never have. Just when Alison thinks things can't get worse.... well, they don't but they DO get weirder.

Alison meets Kerrick, finds out that one of her patients is an other-worldly being who is bent on killing her, and finds out what she's about to become. All in all, not such a frickin hot day. But Alison will not allow herself to get pulled down into despair. She's a handsome and amazing man next to her who seems like he could be interested and she thinks that maybe, possibly there could be a future between them. But all of that will have to wait because the crap is about to hit the fan!

The war between the good vampires and the bad vampires (lead by her former patient) is heating up and everyone is going to be pulled in, including Alison.

This book was so great! It has all of the not-so-great stuff that weighs down all books that kick off a series. But I didn't notice all of the world building as much as I have in other series. There is a LOT of action in this one and a lot of sexual tension!! Kerrick and Alison are hot! It helps that they have this thing between them - kind of like they're fated to be together. But neither of them really wants to deal with it so they fight it which creates all of that delicious sexual tension!! Kerrick is such a great hero and Alison is a kick-ass heroine! I dare you to read this and NOT love it!!

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes paranormal romance that leans more towards vampires and angels and is less about demons and werewolves. I would for sure read this again!

Emily says

Living a life and having to hold back the person you truly are is not an uncommon feeling for Alison Wells, whose special abilities have put others at risk. Alison is plagued with dreams that promise a future she knows she will never obtain but give her glimpses of hope, even if it is only in her dreams. Alison's dreams are about to become a reality when a warrior saves her life Kerrick is a vampire warrior forced to protect Alison while she prepares for her Ascension.

Over the centuries Kerrick has refused guardian details on all females, but his leader is forcing the union and Kerrick is finding it hard to resist as a rare bond becomes apparent between Alison and Kerrick. Incredibly creative, Ascension takes readers to another level as you learn about two earths,

Full review on Single Titles
<http://singletitles.com/?p=5607>

MISS VAIN says

"Discover A Secret, Sensual Worl Of Winged Vampire Warriors And The Women They Crave, In An Epic Battle Between Unearthly Longing And Immortal Love."

Well if you enjoy paranormal romance wrapped with a remarkable science fiction quality to it that greedily devours you into a world of **Powerful, Possessively Protective, Honorable Winged Warrior Vampires** and their powerful and devoted female mates then look no further! Roane has surpassed my imaginations as well as my expectations with **Ascension** and when I finished it left me wanting more.

This **magnificent** and beautifully articulate world created by Caris Roane of immortal Winged Warrior Vampires who take their job as protector seriously. The war ragged on these gorgeous winged protectors are being carried out by **Death Vampires** also known as *pretty boys*. These pretty boys that gain their superior strength and beauty from drinking a mortal to death, are easily spotted due to their pale skin, good looks and black wings. Whereas the Vampire Warriors known as **Warriors Of The Blood** protect mortals, humanity, and are as easily recognizable with their muscled ferociously sexy bodies, lust worthy leather kilts and long seductive hair.

Meet **Kerrick** he's a Warrior Of The Blood and he's one of my new fictional BF's ;) He has a past that left him with heartache that he blames himself daily for failing to protect his wife and children from these morally corrupt Death Vamps. He becomes assigned as protector of **Allison Wells** soon to be Ascending to vampire herself. She has lived a life longing for male companionship, only to deny herself as her supernatural powers accidentally cause injury in past relationships. Instantly they both reluctantly feel a supernatural force urging them together and him to complete a rare mating ritual called **breh-hedden**. From

the instant they meet everything they previously knew about their own life melts and it's as if they *never* lived prior to each other. Within a short matter of time Kerrick becomes her trainer, guardian, lover, while she becomes his achilles heel.

"You're blood Kerrick, like an exotic wine."

I **Loved** this book!!!!

The Warriors of The Blood carry such a heavy passion for their duty of guardianship. Meet "**Thorne**, their leader, with **Medichi** and his love of wine, with **Jean-Pierre** and his love of women, **Santiago** and his ability with weapons, **Zacharius** and his vanity, **Luken** and his gentle soul" and **Marcus** a grieving brother. These men are ruled by **Endelle** and she's a *force* to be reckoned with.

"Back off, Fido," Endelle said to Kerrick. "So she was in his head. Big-fucking-deal. It's not like she had her legs wrapped around his waist." She shifted her attention back to Alison. "I just want to know what the hell you talked about. The fact that you set up a shield even I couldn't penetrate tells me you weren't discussing the weather."

I'm excited to read the next book Burning Skies because it's already been hinted during my read of this book that it will be about Warrior Marcus and the Lovely green eyed Havily.

LOVE Caris Roane's Guardians of Ascension.

He muzzled her neck. He stroked her arms gently. "You're mine Alison" he whispered softly through the euphoric pathways of her brain. "I'll fight with everything I've got to stay alive and keep you safe. You know that, right?"....."With all my heart."

I was delighted when I won this book as a GR first reads contest and I was grateful that Caris Roane so graciously wrote a message in the book addressed to me personally. ;)

Like what you see here, check out more of my reviews at <http://missvainsparanormalfantasy.com/>

Coucher de soleil says

Oh my. This was a bad, BAD book. Just AWFUL. Ugh. I can honestly say that I've read many a book that was not good, yet this was easily one of the worst I've ever read. How do things like this get published?

Things began badly when the lovely man mentioned in the summary of the novel was actually an evil vampire come to kill the heroine who was killed a few paragraphs after uttering the noteworthy sentence, "Your blood belongs to me". This admittedly may not have been the author's fault as said summary was probably created by the publisher. It did however provide a handy warning with regards to this train wreck of a novel, which I should have heeded but didn't.

The quality of the writing itself was truly awful: the grammar was atrocious and the sentence structure utterly terrible. Here is a sample of what I mean:

"Still, what he needed wasn't here, wasn't the f***k anywhere. He'd awakened a few hours ago with a hum in his chest that wouldn't go away, a need unfulfilled and now screaming. It wasn't just sex but sex was what called to him as an opener, a place to begin. He hunted with his groin but couldn't find *her*. Not here. He wasn't even looking. He couldn't look. He'd taken vows, godammit."

Um. Yes. Alllll righty then...

Most of the novel was taken up by the two main characters' musings on how much they wanted to shag each other. Stick their tongues down each other's throats. Stick... Er, I'll spare you the rest, but I think you get my drift. As an afterthought, the author would feebly attempt to liken this to love: after all, neither of them had ever been this attracted to anyone else before! Not very romantic, IMHO.

What plot there was was pure deus ex machina combined with a Mary Sue. I didn't know it was possible to combine these two cliches so completely, but this author managed to surprise me. And not in a good way: most of the plot was taken up by the main female character's wonderful powers coming out of nowhere, powers which no one else possessed. The rest of the story consisted of the evil mastermind trying to kill or subvert her and of one of his minions' uninspiring and uninteresting musings. The world building is also mostly ridiculous: I truly don't know why these characters needed to be vampires, for one. And why vampires with wings? And a world where wing size often substitutes for penis size (as in mine is bigger than

yours contests)? Oh my lord.

And the final irritating element: I truly have had enough of manipulative attempts by publishing companies (along with several authors) to keep me (as a reader) reading by intentionally leaving various plot elements 'hanging' until book seven of fifteen of a series. This manipulative aspect manages to be particularly irritating in this book, as one or two aspects which could have been interesting to me (i.e. the nature of the higher dimensions and the long-term plan of the beings there) were left hanging and 'to be continued'. So essentially, nothing much happens in this book. Here is a quick summary of this work of art, so as to attempt to cure you of any wish to spend your hard-earned money on this drivel:

The evil lord tried to kill the main character a few times, while she and her 'fated' mate resisted getting it on for truly idiotic and unconvincing reasons. The end.

When I got to the end, I felt like cheering. Not because I liked the book, but because I had been determined to finish the thing so as to write an honest review. I was truly proud of my fortitude. Huzzah!

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

Ok first off I think the story was very long winded and that pages could have been edited out and it would have made the story flow better. There where part I didn't understand. The main story has a good base to it where she could build a nice series but I didn't really care for Alison.. She was a flippin crybaby My God she was crying every 5 seconds and she cried every time they had sex or talked or the wind blew.....

Kerrick I liked I love that he is a sweet man and I enjoyed his caveman moments lol I like the others brothers too. His brothers n law was a jerk but I can understand he is hurting too. overall not too bad.

<https://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessi...>

Laurie Garrison says

Caris Roane has an awesome start for a hot paranormal romance series in The Guardian of Ascension Series. I found Ascension very compelling and thrilling to read. I have seen some compare this to other major paranormal romance authors, I didn't see this one bit in fact, I like the way Caris stuck more to the romance in her story then other authors and with the touch of Sci-Fi world build with the characters traveling between different dimensions, oh yeah, defiantly very different from the rest and explained easy.

In this book you get one hot vampire warrior and one sexy very dangerous heroine. I like that the author wasn't afraid about creating a very strong heroine, so much so, her power can kill people and it does (you'll have to read and find out who). Alison is no ordinarily human. You'll just have to read to find out what all this extraordinary this woman can do. I wouldn't say the hero Kerrick is tortured, but he has some issues that take a bit to overcome, but he is always proud of Alison no matter what she throws at him. I loved how the author bought these two together and build their romance. The sexual tension is smoking all the way through the book, the sex is very steamy, but there's not a lot of it and it takes a long while to get to it. Yeah, I know I don't have to have it that much, but crap the tension was so hot it was killing me LOL.

The other warriors in very present in the story and the author also gave a peek to who may be the next mate for a couple of them. It just makes reading a series so much exciting because you cant wait for the next book to see what's going to happen.

Now, I want to say, the author has a very deep storyline with a lot going on, plus quite a few different characters, so be prepared for going back and forth between characters. It can be confusing at first until you get to know them, so just take your time. The cussing can be a bit much, so if your one who doesn't like it be prepared.

I recommend this to any paranormal romance lover. I don't think you'll be disappointed in trying this series, especially if you love romance with some dangerous action.

Lacy says

4.5 stars. I really liked this book. It captured my interest, imagination, and emotions and kept me reading from the very start.

I really am sucked in and have been fighting sleep at night to read it. I think the series has a lot of potential. In some ways it's very original and in others it is similar to other brotherhood warrior books. But it's definitely holding my attention, which doesn't happen often. :) I love the characters and the world she's created is really interesting.

It has a lot of cool action scenes, it's intense, a little dark, and the romance is sweet, steamy, and intense. So far BDB and the Sentinels are the only warrior brotherhood books I've read completely. It's not at that level yet, but it has the potential to be, I think, for me.

The only thing that I'm not liking is her focus on a particular character (bad guy) but not on the pivotal one. But I think it's intentional foundation laying for the series.

Kelli says

I really hate to do this because I know how much work goes into writing and having a book published. But...this book was almost a "did not finish" for me. It had all the elements: attractive men, paranormal romance theme, vampires; all of the things that keep me turning pages but it fell short. Now, I am a JR Ward BDB, KMM Fever series, Larissa Ione Demonica, Chloe Neill Chicagoland Vampire, Jeaniene Frost Cat and Bones, fan. I can't put this book anywhere near those. And for those of you who have read my reviews on KMM's series, this was a "I don't think I can continue past mile 1 on the elliptical" for me. The characters were outrageous and totally unbelievable, their profanity and love scenes were gratuitous. It reminded me of eating sushi from a supermarket chain. The intent is there but it lacks substance and falls far short of what it was supposed to represent.

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

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DNF @ p. 69 (tee-hee)

Cut to a woman sitting alone in a darkened room with a glass of wine. There is a book on the table before her. The book is on fire. She is laughing. She is crying. Despair is everywhere.

What even is this book? Oh my God, it sounded amazing. A hero with supernatural powers? An angel-vampire hero? Um, yes. Yes, yes, and yes. It sounded as fanfictiony as all get-out. Let me plop a quarter in my "mentioned Quizilla in a review again" jar and tell you about this fic I used to read called "Would an Angel, a Demon, or a Vampire Fall for You?" by user: icemakesyoumelt. This book was about a human girl ("you") who was courted, harem anime style, by three guys who all wanted her because, well, because! Anyway, then Satan came to destroy the earth and spoil the fun (except JK, because Satan was hot too, and was even a chaotic evil love interest for those of you into that sort of thing), and you got to fill out survey questions throughout the fic to find out who you would end up with at the end of each chapter.

But no, ASCENSION was all kinds of bad. The heroine was so backwards, she made Bella Swan look like a women's studies professor at a liberal arts college. The whole beginning of the book consists of her 1) being a jealous bitch to her sister for having a husband and being pregnant, to the point where she's fighting back angry tears and acting curt instead of congratulatory because 2) despite having a good job and a decent life and being attractive and privileged AF *life is meaningless if you're alone and your womb is empty boo-hoo-hoo*, and 3) the last guy she was with, she apparently went Rogue on, X-Men style, on account of the superpowers she also isn't interested in/grateful for.

I'm sorry, but WHAT on a bun is that? Are you kidding me? I'm supposed to root for this bitch?

Uh-uh.

I was initially excited because a therapist heroine who is tall (6'0"!) was exciting for me, a tall women with a psychology background, but the emotional whingeing and the whole Black Dagger Brotherhood vibe this book was projecting really didn't work for me, multiverse theory or no.

1 star

Melindeeloo says

From the title of this promising paranormal romance series starters I was expecting angels, and while the winged warriors are very much like angels and while humans with special powers 'ascend' to join their world, author Roane adds a thin vampire veneer and fangs, so the 'ascended' become vampires instead of angels. The good guys of this world protect the Earth from other vampires who have succumbed to the addiction of drinking dead blood and who have become killers seducing their prey with an unearthly beauty.

I thought that the vampire angle was a bit odd but I am a sucker for a guy with wings, so this one worked for me. There's also some interesting dynamics/conflicts being laid out for the overworked hard-drinking warrior band - one of whom lives on earth so he won't kill the brother warrior he can't forgive, one who has turned traitor to fight for the enemy, another who will not use his wings, and the leader who keeps a woman hidden - and there are other issues which also mean that these guys will have to work to win their potential mates even though there is a mate bonding urge to give the pairs a little kick start.

I did like Ascension, yes there are pieces of this series which feel very familiar to someone who has read a great deal of paranormal romance, and personally, I'd have liked just a bit more male bonding moments, so really my only nit is that the author tends to overuse some her descriptions. But the potential's there and the series' version of mate bonding is steamy and cool - the pair seal the deal by being joined body, blood and mind - and that scene was really hot.

As I've already mentioned, Roane has already positioned some of the other warriors for stories and the next installments are coming not too far in the future with Burning Skies (Marcus and Havily) being released in May and Wings of Fire in September.

valee says

5 STARS!!!

OMFG, WHY ... WHY hasn't anybody who read this series recommended it to me before now???
Seriously guys, shame on you all! I just wish I had read this book much sooner than now, it's freaking amazing! A Must read for all pnr romance lovers out there like me.

As I have mentioned many, many times in my previous reviews, there are several **things a book in this genre has to have to be a fav for me:**

1) **Amazing Characters:** In this book we get introduced to many new characters, but specifically to a band of brothers by blood who have sworn to protect humans from the bad guys. I haven't read about a close and funny group like this since BDB and midnight breed. If you loved those series as much as I did, you're gonna adore this book. We have that amazing camaraderie between warriors, that one which makes us laugh and love them so much. We also have a head who rules above them, and in this case she is a kick ass girl about

9000 years old, lol, what's not to love??

2) ***Most original plot I have read in a while:*** We have a world with 6 different Earths, situated in different dimensions. First Earth is ours, the one we know and live in. Then we have 2nd Earth which is the one our super HAWT warriors live in. To get to that Earth, you must ascend. The other Earths, we don't know nothing about as the doors to them have been close several thousands of years ago and not even communication has been possible. We just know the more ascended you are, the most angelic the plot becomes. Our warriors are no angels though, they are thought sons of bitches who would sacrifice everything to save humans from people from 2nd Earth who has gone rogue.

For me the plot is one of the most important things I appreciate in a book. Not many authors in this genre take it really into consideration, so when I see a book with an amazing plot like this one I just can't help to love it.

3) ***A Terrific HERO and HEROINE:*** Let's start with the hero... OMG... what can I say? Just HAWT! I loved him. Sexy, possessive and lethal. He may have not been the leader of the warriors but he was one of the strongest. I loved that the writer didn't start the first book with the most strongest of them all as the hero because now that will be the book I will be longing to read the whole time I'm reading this series. Kerrick has suffer so much, which is only natural as he has been alive for thousands of years. It will take him a while but to understand he really can have some things he decided not to have ever again, but that will only make it sweeter once he gets them.

The heroine was just amazing. I have been dying to read about a heroine like this since forever. I love my heroines STRONG and powerful and Alison Wells is just as strong as the leader of 2nd Earth. But the amazing thing is that she has been human for 30 years and containing her powers because they made her a freak. Then, from one moment to the next, she gets the possibility to ascend, a super hot vampire with how wings as her guardian and the possibility to live in a world she has always dream of! But she is also very sweat and good-hearted which makes us see her even more real.

4) ***Super strong and unnatural attraction, IMPOSSIBLE to avoid:***

This has been used in many series but not all authors know how to do this well. Caris Roane is definitely one of the wise ones, I just couldn't get enough of this couple. The attraction was perfectly managed because while they needed to be together and recognized they were destined to mate they still tried to avoid it as it could only end bad. So we get this constant sexual tension between the two of them but the necessity to not see it through. Here is where most authors mess up because they have us waiting for something to happen between the hero and the heroine the first 80% of the book... BORING... well, in the case of this author we get it from the beginning, just little by little but it doesn't take them much to get the whole thing.

Also there's just so much in a mating between beings from 2nd Earth, is amazing. To really mate they must share their bodies, blood and mind all at the same time, and both of them must do it together.

5) ***Science fiction Rocks!:*** I adore well-created fictional plots and this is definitely it. In this installment we don't have humans with some weird powers, no, we have super strong beings who can do so much with many different amazing powers. We have different dimensions we don't know nothing about but will be dying to know the whole time.

Sigh** I haven't been this excited about a series in this genre since the big ones, like BDB, Psy changeling, midnight breed, LOTU, dark hunter, Immortals after dark and demonica. This series has serious potential, I

just hope the next books are better because this could become a new obsession for me. I'm so excited to read more.

MelissaB says

This book did not work for me. I didn't like the world at all and I didn't like the writing style. I didn't mind the main characters but I wasn't impressed with the romance. The world wasn't explained enough, the "rules" didn't make sense. There was so much discussion of committees and laws instead of just having action. The law part made no sense, who was in charge? Why would a bad guy listen to rules? How freaking boring. The author also did a very pale imitation of Ward's BDB, it did not come off well.

So I guess in short - I didn't like it and forced myself to finish.

Sarah says

Ascension is the first book in **Caris Roane's** Guardians of Ascension series and it introduces readers to a world of winged vampire warriors who protect the human dimension from evil vampires who have become addicted to draining their victims to death. The world building is actually really interesting, I enjoyed the author's unusual take on vampires and I liked the idea of multiple dimensions which humans can ascend to if they have certain abilities or powers. I also enjoyed the camaraderie between the warriors of the blood, I'm a sucker for that kind of set up so it's no surprise I was excited to read this story.

Alison is a human with extraordinary abilities that have meant she never quite fitted in, she has had to keep at a distance from others so that they don't get hurt accidentally and although she has a sister she is very close with she feels isolated and alone. All she ever wanted was a family but she's never been able to risk a long term relationship since her attempts at sex always end in a trip to the hospital for her partner. Kerrick is the warrior who has been assigned to protect Alison throughout her ascension into the next dimension, it is a dangerous time and more than one side of the war are interested in Alison because of her incredible powers. Kerrick has sworn off love because he has lost too many people who are close to him but he immediately recognises Alison as his breh-hedden (fated mate) and finds her very hard to resist.

For the most part I liked Alison, I was interested by her abilities and I do love the fact that the women in this series seem to be just as strong as, if not stronger than, the men. It makes a change to have the girls kicking ass as much as the guys even if I thought the way Alison learned to fight was a bit on the ridiculous side. One thing I didn't like was how much she cries though, she seems to weep at the slightest provocation and I found it irritating to read about. Kerrick is easy to like but he's fairly standard for a paranormal romance romantic lead, there isn't anything about him that particularly stands out so I think he'll be fairly easy to forget about now I've finished reading the book. I would like to see something a bit more from the other warriors so that they stand out against the other PNR series that I read.

Although there were a lot of things to like about the story it does suffer a bit from first book syndrome, there are a lot of new terms to get to grips with (there is a handy glossary at the back of the book though) and there were times when I struggled to keep track of who the characters were and what was going on. In my opinion the story is just too long, there is a lot of repetition and I found parts of the story quite dry and boring. I got sick of reading about the way Alison & Kerrick smell (they recognise each other as their fated mates because

of the scent they give off but it's mentioned CONSTANTLY) and I was also ready to scream at the number of times Alison said the words "Warrior Kerrick", yes we know he's a warrior but his name is Kerrick, you don't have to use his job title every single time you think of him! The word warrior was just overused throughout the whole story if I'm honest and I'm really hoping that is something that is toned down in the rest of the series.

The second half of the book has much better pacing though and that's where the story got its hooks into me. So much so that I've gone ahead and ordered the next book in the series so I can see what happens next. I have a feeling that this is one of those series that will just get better with each new book so I have high hopes for **Burning Skies**.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Ascension took me a while to read, when I typically devour most paranormal romances. The writing style didn't grab hold of me and refuse to let me go, which is a shame. However, I did like enough about this book to keep me wanting to continue the series.

What I liked

*The concept of ascensions was captivating. I loved the idea that there were various Worlds accessible via dimensional gates that only a person who had ascended could pass through. This had some metaphysical aspects that appealed to me as a person with interest in the ethereal and the scientific.

*I liked the mix of high tech science with fantasy aspects which are integral to this book.

*The romance was strong and involving despite the dense writing style. The steam and attraction elements were well done.

*I'm a sucker for a brotherhood of warriors. What can I say? (view spoiler)

*Good action sequences, and the displays of superhuman abilities were well done. I had these images of large-scale, majestic battles between winged warriors. She conveyed this imagery very well.

*There's something about winged people that just does it for me. These aren't angels, but I'd probably lump them into that category because of the whole ascended being with wings aspects.

*Endelle is a character that totally stands out. Normally, you don't see these kinds of 'outré', unabashedly over the top alpha females in these books. She is a good source of humor and I love that her word is law, even to this group of very powerful warriors.

*I liked the concept of the breh-hedden. While the fated mate theme is nothing new, I liked the way Roane presents her version. Although I'm not 100% keen on the idea of a hot warrior who is your fated mate smelling like fennel/licorice (Marcus, a secondary character smells like licorice to Havily), at least it's kind of unique.

What could have been better

*Honestly, I think that this could have stood a very liberal edit, at least 50 pages. I felt as though there were excessive pages and words used than were needed to tell this story. This was quite striking considering that I had a question mark in my mind over the whole concept until about 300 pages had gone by. A surgical use of words could have conveyed more of what the author intended in a more concise fashion, and made for a shorter, easier read. Admittedly, I'm a reader who prefers more short and snappy writing. I can get past that with a really compelling read. However, in the case of this story, it just felt apparent to me that not all the words she used were needed.

*I felt that most of the warrior brethren are still somewhat sketchy as far as characters. I can name them and give brief traits about them, but for all the length of the story, I would have liked a better integration of them

in the narrative than I saw. This made the book have a samey feel in comparison to other popular paranormal series out there, when there is more than enough to distinguish this book from others in the genre.

*The villain was a bit sketchy too. I couldn't feel his motivations. I was told rather than shown these, and it didn't quite ring through to me. I hope that he is better developed in the subsequent books.

Final Verdict:

After a rather slow, frustrating read, with some moments of brilliance that spurred me on to keep reading, I can say I liked this book, but I did not love it. I like the ideas, and I really want to fall in love with this book. I hope that I will feel more drawn in with the subsequent books since I have gotten a introductory feel to this world. For a first book in a high concept series, Ascension isn't bad. It is just one of those books that it takes patience and determination to get through.

Overall rating: **3.5/5.0 stars** .