



Liam

Abby Niles

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Shifter, Liam Doyle knows Hell. At least he believed he did. The night he feels his mate die, he learns how very wrong he was. Nothing he'd struggled with since Ava's rejection compares to the emptiness that fills his soul by her death. Lost in his grief, he's taken by surprise and drugged. When he wakes, everything changes. Nothing is what it seems, and someone is dead set on making him pay.

When Ava Michaels is taken captive, she's thrust into a dark and terrifying world along with the man she was forced to leave behind. While being near Liam again is heartbreaking, the motive behind her kidnapping is gradually revealed. The more she learns, the more she worries Liam isn't the man she believed him to be. He has enemies willing to do anything to extract their revenge. Can their love survive a crazy man's vengeance?

Liam Details

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From Reader Review Liam for online ebook

Shelly says

I'm not sure I could be any happier after reading Liam's story. If you've read Niles first story in the series about Aidan, then you'll be familiar with Liam and his struggles. Don't worry though because the way Niles wrote this you don't have to read the first book to get the maximum enjoyment; however, I would definitely recommend that you give Aidan's story a go because, yes, it's that good.

Liam and Ava's story picks up after the first book and starts off with a bang and kept me on my toes all the way through. I read this one in about two days. Liam has been in a place where no relatively sane person should be, it's a place where I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy. He's miserable and has no way to control the emotions that keep coming at him. I felt for him because even though he's already been deserted by his mate he has no idea the the worse is yet to come on the night he feels Ava die. This is a very fast paced read. The actions is darn near non-stop. The highs and lows kept me riveted and completely in the moment.

Liam is the most stubborn, wonderful, protective alpha male and an excellent match for Ava. She's protective of those she loves including her family so my respect for her went up by several notches. The love Liam feels for her was palpable and gave me the teary eyes on occasion. I was surprised that I equally liked both the H/h and I must give credit to Niles for writing two characters who have depth. The secondary characters included friends and family who interact in their daily lives and actually care for Liam and Ava and vice versa. The dysfunction is low - thanks for that Niles.

For those who read the first book, we finally get to find out about Ava and why she did the things she did. I felt for her because really, how do you chose in that situation other than the way she did. I would have enjoyed knowing more about her background but I'm happy with what I did find out. Her heartbreaking discoveries about and reactions to Liam and what she inadvertently did to him were some of the best scenes. I think those more than anything else brought out her true feelings. Sniff, sniff.

Overall, the plot, pacing and character development for Liam and Ava's story was spot on and I eagerly await the next in the series. Please please please let it be Brit and Val - the sparks between those two could easily set that town on fire.

Happy reading folks!

Rating: B+

*ARC provided by Entangled Publishing for review.

Review also posted on www.redhotbooks.com

The_Book_Queen says

A few months ago I read book one in this series (The Awakening: Aidan) and I really enjoyed it, finding the

world Niles created for her shifters to be very interesting. I was anxious to see Liam's story, as his pain was shown again and again. But upon picking up Liam's story this week, I have to admit I was a bit disappointed. I still liked this book, but it fell short of my expectations.

My problem with Liam's story was a combination of small things. I felt like the pace was too fast, and major issues were resolved much too quickly. I didn't quiet get a chance to connect with the characters, and felt that Emma, the sister to the heroine, was simply a blank character taking up space in the story; I had hoped that she would have played a bigger role, especially considering how important Emma's safety was to Ava. And what I really missed in The Awakening: Liam was when Liam and Ava fell in love. The story starts months after they broke up, but I didn't feel like we were ever shown why they fell in love, and how. Yes, the fact that they were mates instantly puts them together, but as Ava had to choose Liam for the bond to be complete, she would have to love him in return--right? But I didn't see why she loved him, and I need to see that for me to believe in the HEA.

While this has nothing to do with why I liked or didn't like the book, I have to say--I found Liam's hope chest for Ava to be a very sweet gesture. I want a man who will make me a hope chest like that, and then say all the right things (such as "I want to make so many memories with you that I have to build another chest for you. And another.") *sigh*

Despite the flaws I found, I did like Liam and Ava's story, and read it very quickly. I will no doubt continue the series in the future. Liam's book may not have been my favorite, but that doesn't mean I won't still recommend it to some readers. However, I will point out that having read Aidan's book will help you to understand this world better (plus, Aidan's book was great). If you are looking for a new kind of shifter romance, one with a new twist on the theme and rules, this is the series to try. Niles writes sexy shifters, with a good dose of dirty talk and smexy action, and who doesn't love that?

3 STARS!

~ * ~ * ~

For my full review, including favorite book quotes, please visit my blog, TBQ's Book Palace.

I received an e-ARC of this book from the publisher, via a blog tour, in exchange for my honest opinion.

TheBookQueen

Carrie (Book Fairy) Fort says

FAIRY THOUGHTS

Favorite Line(s) "Glorious warmth spread to his extremities, burning away the darkness, until the lightness that was Ava reclaimed every recess of his body and soul"

"I tried to explain that to you last night. She gives me peace,"

"All we have is right now. I can't promise more."

"I love you, Ava Michaels. From now, for eternity, you are mine, even if I can't be yours."

"We only have the future. And a hope chest to fill with memories."

What an emotional book! When I read the first book I was heartbroken by Liam's story! I hated his mate Ava! Then I find out why she left him and was heartbroken for her too! A madman is keeping them apart! Now he wants to kill Ava and its all to make Liam suffer!

This was such a heartbreak book to read! I cried so much! To know the pain Liam felt was truly a heartbreak experience! The author did an AMAZING job of getting those feelings across! I felt like it was me going through those feelings. It really is a beautiful book!

I'm hoping we have Brit's story next!

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review (Bewitching)

FIVE HEARTBREAKING FAIRIES

Les Romantiques says

Posted on Les Romantiques - Le forum du site

Reviewed by Rinou

Review Copy from the Publisher via Netgalley

TA:L is the second book in The Awakening series, but it can easily be read as a standalone, fortunately for me who didn't know it was a series! Apparently the heroes are present in the first book, but not having read it does not hinder the understanding of their history.

Liam is a shifter who was rejected by his mate. Since then he's closer to a zombie than to anything else. When he feels the loss of the residual bond, he believes she's dead and his grief prevents him to defend himself against a kidnapper. He wakes up by Ava's side, who's alive, but they are in the hands of a psychopath. The need to protect her will awaken the sleeping beast inside him.

I must say that I read the first chapters wide-eyed and with my eyebrows raised, thinking again and again "wow". The villain, determined to make Liam pay for a crime of which he has no idea, torture both of them with delight (if these scenes are not unbearable, they are pretty intense for the beginning of a book). The rhythm subsides when they escape, and stay quieter for the rest of the novel. In fact thereafter the suspense is not very brisk, but I think it must suffer from the difference with the beginning.

Soon we learn the very logical reason that Ava rejected Liam, and we learn too the consequences for him.

The problem is each doesn't want the other to know, and this lack of communication is extremely frustrating. I think it's probably why I didn't really connect with these characters, even though they are logical and believable. In the other hand there would be far fewer pages if they had talked directly to each other LOL.

The villain is a completely twisted psychopath, even chilling, who might have deserved more space. Not to mention that I thought his end a bit too rushed, as are the explanations about his motives. The other secondary characters are few and not very present, just enough for some to intrigue.

The world built by the author is interesting without being complicated: different kinds of shifters hide their existence to the humans, under the supervision of a kind of special police. The specific terminology is quite clear and sparse, so one understands quite quickly what it is. The only thing that made me wince is the healing power in the licking of Liam's beast: the nurse in me is willing to believe he can heal minor injuries, but for deep wounds it's not possible.

All in all this is a pleasant novel that is worth reading, and not just because it's about a heroine who refuses (even if briefly) the male that Fate wants to impose, face with tons of stories with irresistible mating.

Angie says

I liked *Liam* much better than *Aidan*, but it's still not great. We already met Liam in the previous book, so we know what he's going through. One night, he's hit with this overwhelming emptiness which can only mean one thing: Ava is dead. He rushes to her home to see if she's there, and she is. Covered in blood and not breathing. Before he can comprehend what's happening, he's drugged and wakes up in some kind of lab, with Ava on the other side of a partition. She's not dead, but someone plans on torturing her in order to torture him.

The beginning of *Liam* reminded me of the first *Saw* movie. It's really nothing like that except for two people being kidnapped and messed with, but still, the imagery was there. Plus the guy behind it was a total psycho. It was a bit disturbing, but I did kind of wish the entire story had taken place there. Lots of tension! But, soon enough they escape, but the kidnapper isn't giving up so easily. The end was rushed, but it was pretty satisfying. Unlike the sex scenes.

I do have to complain about the sex in *Liam*. Liam mentions that Ava likes things a bit kinky, noting a few specifics, like tying her up with her work apron and some dirty talking. However, when it comes time for them to have sex, it's a total bore! There is none of that going on! There is one "close call" scene where he talks about doing the things that she likes, but they never do it! I felt robbed! Why bring up the good stuff, if they aren't going to do it!?

There's not much I want to say about *Liam*. I thought it was a good shifter romance. I really like the mating system used, and how we've gotten to see many different scenarios in just two books. I do feel like I should mention that there are quite a few typos, very noticeable ones.

Read more of my reviews at [Pinkindle Reads & Reviews](#).

Jeannie Zelos says

The Awakening: Liam. Abby Niles.

ARC supplied by publisher.

I'd read and enjoyed the first in this series, Aiden's story so was keen to review this one. We met Liam in the first book, where he was deep in a state of grief as his Mate had rejected him. It's a lot to take on though as a human, being told your lover is really a shifter. Although we saw brief clips of Ava it was really just as part of the scene setting for Aidens story. This time Ava comes to the fore, and we learn more about her rejection of Liam. There's kidnapping, escape and lots of very real danger to Ava, her young sister and to Liam, and the conundrum of how much the shifter officials can cover up from the human police as they strive to protect the secrets of their world.

As more is revealed to Ava about shifters and the Mating bonds it also allows the reader to learn more about the world, the reason for some of the decisions and how difficult it is to integrate while keeping the secrecy so necessary. I really liked Ava once we knew her reasons, she loves Liam but needs to keep away from him. The more that is revealed the more she knows she needs to stay away, and she finds it a struggle having to lie to the police, her friends and family about the kidnapping in order to protect the shifters, and yet if she and her sister are ever to be out of danger she has to let them take control. Its a dead end so far though, tracing who is responsible, he clearly has a hatred of Liam and blames him for something, and yet no-one seems to know what it is he thinks Liam did. Ava can't help wondering what happened, especially when she can see that the shifters, and Liam, are still keeping secrets from her.

Its a great read, not too dark or deep but enough to keep the reader engrossed for a couple of hours. (I am a quick reader though, s may take others longer) It links well with the first book, and I feel it's the sort of series I will enjoy reading back to back in a "paranormal-fest" day. I love to read my way through different series once they're all out, I can immerse myself into another world. Its easy to follow, you won't need to read the first book, though of course that gives a deeper insight into the history. The biggest problem I had again, as with the first book, is the terms used, remembering exactly what each stage was. A glossary explaining that would be useful, as apart from a couple of obvious ones such as dserted they are such strange words. Priced at £1.89 for around 158 pages/253kb its good value.

Stars: excellent read, five stars.

Gigi staub says

Shifter, Liam Doyle knows Hell. At least he believed he did. The night he feels his mate die, he learns how very wrong he was. Nothing he'd struggled with since Ava's rejection compares to the emptiness that fills his soul by her death. Lost in his grief, he's taken by surprise and drugged. When he wakes, everything changes. Nothing is what it seems, and someone is dead set on making him pay.

When Ava Michaels is taken captive, she's thrust into a dark and terrifying world along with the man she was forced to leave behind. While being near Liam again is heartbreaking, the motive behind her kidnapping is gradually revealed. The more she learns, the more she worries Liam isn't the man she believed him to be. He has enemies willing to do anything to extract their revenge. Can their love survive a crazy man's vengeance?

Review:

I have to say right off, the first book in this series was not great for me, but this second book was very good! Maybe because it is the second book I don't feel as lost as with the first one. I liked the flow of story and the terminology did not overwhelm me this time. Now, you do not have to read this stories in order but I would recommend it just so you see some of Liam's fight with Dsershon.

The story starts off with a bang! Someone attacks Ava and Liam feeling Ava dying rushes off to get to her. He finds Ava bloody and lifeless and then he is injected with a sedative and taken away to a prison. Ava is not dead just given a drug to make her look like it. What their captive does not them is just pure evil and the villain is very well written. Because of the circumstances Liam's beast is brought back to him and in a very knuckle biting scene Ava escapes and help gets Liam out. This is not the end of the villain though, he seems to be watching Ava and Liam's every move and is threatening Ava's sisters life if Ava does not push Liam away. And I do not want to give away the end, but it is good.

I have to say in the first book I did not like Ava, she seemed self centered and cruel to Liam. Now, that we get the back story, you can understand her motivation and the forces that were against her and Liam. I like the Liam of this book strong, has faith in Ava and him and he is very determined. Now, I really enjoyed the banter between the side characters of Britton and Val, you can just feel the chemistry sparking between these two.

This was an entertaining read and cannot wait to read the next in the series.

3.5 stars

Katha says

ARC provided for an honest review

4 Stars!

I didn't read the first book in the series so I didn't know what to expect of this. I was actually not expecting much to be honest.

But... I was wrong!!

This book was so much better than I thought it would be. You don't have to read the first book to understand what's going on but I guess it would be helpful. There were a lot of terms that I didn't have a clue what it meant. However you get into it pretty quickly and everyone with a brain will know what those shifter terms are supposed to be.

Okay, let's start the actual review. I have to apologize because I think I won't be able to write this review without spoilers. It's just not possible with this book.

So from here on expect spoilers or quit reading.

There was actually not sooo much going on in the whole book. If I had to narrow it down to the major events I would say there were three parts to this book. However this book did not lack anything. From the first page on I was hooked. There was so much action and angst and more action going on in the first part. I couldn't put the book down. And it was not just action. Abby Niles was able to bring every emotion across so well, it was awesome. I felt what I was supposed to feel in every scene. The characters got to me and I could totally relate to why they were acting the way they were.

Normally when this typical storyline occurs were one of the heroes is like "I love you so much but in order to protect you I can't tell you and we have to separate" I feel like this: come on. Everyone knows ones you tell him / her the problem will solve itself.. blablabla...

This was one of those storylines. However it worked!!The author was so good at describing the situations and bringing across the feelings I got goose bumps.

I really felt Liam's pain when being rejected by Ava.

And I loved the scene when Ava returns to her room the first time after the kidnapping. It was not a major scene but I loved how the author described how hard it was for Ava to enter that room and how she did it anyway. It was great!

To come back to those major three parts of the book. That was good! The book was fast paced and there was no dull moment even when there wasn't any action going on at the moment.

I can't give the book five stars though because I had the feeling it was not super original. It was a very nice paranormal romance and I enjoyed reading it a lot. The author is very talented. But the storyline was not extraordinary and didn't blow me away.

If you enjoy a good shifter story this is your book to get your fix :)

Shauni says

This is my second Abby Niles book and let me tell you I am seriously in LOVE.. The Awakening Series is just what a shifter series should be, Dark, Deadly, Dangerous, (I know again with the alliteration). This book literally seethes.. it pulses with Desire..

In Awakening Aidan, we discover what happens when a shifter loses his mate.. or worse is rejected or as known in the shifter world Dserted.

Liam Doyle was left by the woman who should have been his mate. He had no reason why, he thought they were in love.. but no matter what life goes on. Sort of.. For the past 9 months Liam had been in this black hole of depression. Not quite suicidal but totally unable to function. Unable to do the job he loved best. Not able to appreciate his friends.. shoot he couldn't even live on his own. He needed constant monitoring. Life seriously couldn't get any worse.. yeah right.. Because of the Dsertion, Liam felt all of Ava's emotions so when suddenly he felt her terror, then nothing, he knew she was dead.. and the darkness grew.. Rushing to her house to make sure, hoping against hope he could save her..

Ava Michaels knew what love was. After all she had had five perfect months with the man she adored. But when she got a series of phone calls telling her to give him up or risk the life of her sister she had no choice. She walked away from him. Life goes on.. Ava was human and had no clue as to the damage she had done Liam. No idea that while yes she was grieving and missed him, he was destroyed. But her sister was safe and no longer being threatened.. until..

Ava and Liam are captured.. some whack job who knew about the shifters had a grudge against Liam and had found a way to make Liam think Ava was dead.. But he has more evil plans for them. Forcing Liam to watch Ava be tortured was almost too much.. and somehow forced Liam to be able to once again connect with his beast. To find that other part of himself.. If for no other reason than to protect Ava. His, very heart.

Ava is totally confused. She has absolutely no idea what Dserted means.. sure she broke up with the guy, get over it already.. but now that they are locked together in the house of terrors.. Ava realizes that Liam is the only man she is ever going to be happy with and together they just might work it out.. Ava's reversal manages to stop Liam's reactions to the Dsertion.. and if they work together to escape all should be well, right? If only life was that easy..

Together they must battle, said whack job, and work out who and what Liam is and just what Ava really is to Liam. They have to find a way to escape the constant threats and find a true path back to each other.. And yet is that what is really best for them. Or will Liam walk away.. accepting Dsertion because Ava has to protect her family??

A great follow up to Aidan.. Can't wait to hear who Ms Niles is going to write about next. This series has all the passion you could dream of. And not just the let's hop in the sack passion. But passion for family, for friends.. for doing what is right.. and even some of the darker passions like revenge. Seriously people.. this book truly ensnared me and made me angry when it was over.. I wanted MORE..

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of The Awakening: Liam provided by netgalley

Stephanie Ziegler says

Liam Doyle is a shifter. He found his mate in Ava Michaels, but after six months of dating, she abruptly breaks up with him. She offers no reason.

Once a shifter finds his mate, he becomes bonded with her. Liam can feel all of Ava's emotions. When Ava left him, Liam became debilitated with a condition called Dsershon. Forced to live the "dismal life of a bonded shifter...after being abandoned by his unbonded mate". He was disconnected with the beast inside him. If his beast actually believed that Ava Dserted him, Liam would fall into Bahrraj, "completely lost in his mate's emotions". Frozen in a trance - feeling nothing but pain.

Eight months after their break-up, Liam can still strongly feel Ava's emotions. He feels her fear. Completely submersed by her fear. She needs help, but Liam does not know where she is. Slowly he feels Ava die. He drives to her house to find Ava dead in her bedroom; so much blood everywhere. As he holds Ava out of anguish, someone creeps up behind him and sticks a needle into his neck and everything goes black.

When Liam wakes up, he finds himself in a padded room, like in a mental hospital. There is no way to escape. One wall is covered by a curtain. It opens and Liam is staring at Ave through a window, dead and strapped to a board that stands straight up, facing Liam. A door opens and a figure wearing a wolf mask enters the room. He injects a syringe into Ava. Liam watches and feels Ava come back to life.

I GIVE THIS BOOK: 5 Stars

I usually like to start my reviews with a simple word or sentence that illustrates my initial response after reading a book. Recently, especially from this publishing company, my first thought has been wow. To stop being redundant, I need another word for wow. In this case, I decided on two words - bewilderingly surprised.

I say bewildering because there are some paranormal terms used that I did not quite understand. Luckily, I found the first book, *The Awakening: Aidan*, on Scribed.com and got a better sense of the shifter vocabulary in this book. What you may believe is a spelling error is in fact not. It is how shifters in this book spell things in their world.

When Liam woke up in that padded room and saw Ava come back to life (I am not giving away anything here), I was shocked! From that dramatic moment on, the surprises kept on coming.

This book is a quick read, partly because it is really good. I read it in one evening. I needed to know what was going to happen next.

Until next time, live life one page at a time!

Katie_la_geek says

This was ok. It had a really strong exciting start then dwindled into nothing but to characters thinking about their feelings (cos they won't even talk to each other about it either). Lacked chemistry or any real flow but I got through it.

Heather book whore & shifter slut extrordinaire says

I was provided a copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review.

This is the second book in the Awakening series by Abby Niles. This book features Liam and his mate, Ava. Liam was in the first book, Aidan's book, but this book was written to be a stand alone if necessary. I knew there was a first book but did not read it before I read this. While there were some things that obviously arose from the first book it was an easy read and I do not feel like I was missing anything - other than questions about another of the men but I have a feeling we won't get any of those answers till his book (which I hope we get someday....) This was the first Abby Niles book I have had the pleasure of reading and will definitely be backtracking to read the first book in this series - *The Awakening: Aidan*.

I enjoyed the pace of this book - the action was fast and interesting but the people and the love scenes were

slower and you had enough time to savor the emotional intensity she created. This was quite an intense book as Liam, whose mate Ava deserted him after he had bonded to her. This left him suffering and alone and tortures him for 8 months - until the night he feels her die. He FEELS her die - her emotions and struggle and then nothing. Talk about intense and powerful. In fact he is so overpowered by this emptiness that he is taken by surprise and kidnapped. By a madman. An absolute whack-a-doodle that I very easily began to hate as much as I liked and enjoyed the others! Did I mention it was intense?

In this book Liam and Ava try and figure out who is doing this, why they are doing it and most important how to KILL HIM so he stops doing it and they can somehow be together. (yes it is my suggestion to kill the whack-a-doodle not necessarily the whole intention of the book) I adore Liam (he is a shifter for goodness sake) and Ava is someone I would like to have as a friend. Strong, loyal, resilient, smart-mouthed when necessary (and plain sassy when not) - she is a true match for Liam in every way.

Enjoy this book as you watch Liam and Ava struggle to overcome one crazy and his whack-a-doodle plans, bent on revenge. I certainly did and give it 4**** stars.

Now go - you have a whack-a-doodle to help find!

Emily (Mrs B's Books) says

Ava and Liams story. This story was really well written and had me hooked very quickly.

We start off with Liam waking up gasping realising that he is feeling Ava's panic and clawing at himself not to go into her emotions and being stuck. It is only when he wins that he notices that something is wrong. He can no longer feel her. She has died. He gets in his car and drives, finding himself at her house where he finds her in blood. He hears a mans voice before it goes dark.

He wakes in a padded cell but cant get out. There is a wall with a curtain which comes back to show Ava strapped to a table. A man walks into her cell and sticks her with a needle where she wakes and he can then feel her again.

Many games are played on Ava, another where she dead dead to him. She is giving porridge to eat where he has been given steak, he goes nuts any time the man is in the room with her and bangs against the glass. It is only when the man uses a knife on the marks he put on her that he finally breaks through the glass and the man runs.

This is where Liam and Ava kiss for the first time healing him where he knows he is now longer knows he's going to get lost. He suddenly knows he can change.

The man returns with a gun and shoots Liam three times and Ava with another gun. When he wakes up, he is inside a cage he cannot get out of and Ava is still on the ground. The man wakes up Ava and hurts her in front of him, trying to get Liam to change but he fights no to.

Liam taunts the man and grabs him through the cage and tells Ava to run. She runs but the man gets free. She gets out of the building where his friend Brit finds her. Both are saved but the man escapes.

Once awake Ava is told little but watches as Liam changes to his Lion and licks her cuts better and healed. But she knows for her sisters safety she has to push him away. However Liam is persistent even as she tries to push him away.

The man calls and she pretends is her friend and it only when the friend comes round and hugs Ava he loses it and goes into a trance. Ava calls Brit who in turn calls the doc, however Ava fixes it by kissing him. Stalking off after his embarrassment it is the doc that tells her a few truths. She also finds out what would happen with death and bonding.

Finding herself alone she goes upstairs only to find the man in her bedroom. She screams and runs falling down the stairs and twisting her ankle. He catches her and they end up in the kitchen with her on the floor under him. He slowly sinks a knife in her side, killing her slowly. Liam crashes through the window and the man takes out the knife and a fight ensues. The man dies and Liam licks her wound closed.

She dies twice on the way to hospital where Liam saves her. When she wakes up she has a weeks rest before they bond for their happily ever after in life as well as the ever after.

Trish says

I am a fan of Abby Niles and her unique shifter world. After reading the first book of the series, Aidan, I knew I wanted to follow up with book two.

Liam was seen in the first book and has been rejected by the woman that he loves--his mate--Ava. Most men would typically mutter a "Screw you" and go on their merry way. But Liam is different. He's not human, but a shifter. And when a shifter finds his mate, only to be deserted, that shifter loses his connection to the beast that lives inside.

Unable to completely bond with Ava when she rejects him, Liam has been falling into a coma-like state called bahrraj. The more frequent these episodes occur, the higher the risk that Liam will not be able to return to his normal state. It is ultimately a death sentence for the deserted shifter.

At the beginning of Liam's story, Liam senses that Ava is being threatened and in serious trouble. But before he can reach her, he feels her life force slip away. When he rushes to her home, he finds her lifeless body on the bedroom floor covered in blood. Cradling her, rocking her back and forth, totally distraught, an unseen enemy approaches and knocks Liam out.

When Liam awakens, he finds himself a prisoner of a mad man. And this mad man's evil plan starts to unfold with a shocker--a two-way glass revealing his precious Ava strapped down and alive.

And Ava and Liam are his pawns in a very deadly game.

I loved Liam the shifter and Liam the man. His alpha instincts, the caring gestures he has toward Ava, make a sexy package that Ava has a hard time resisting. And Ava has her altruistic reasons for rejecting Liam, even though she has continued to love him. Their story is beautifully told with heart breaking emotions and sizzling chemistry.

Niles starts out Liam's story with nail-biting intensity and I couldn't put it down. A must read for fans of shifter romance readers out there who love a protective hero who will do anything for his mate.

Sapphyria says

Please note that there may be some Book 1 spoilers in this review. Proceed with caution!

When Liam Doyle's unbonded mate rejects him (we first learned this in Book 1 - it set the stage for Aidan to meet his mate), the rejection tosses him into and unhappiness like no other. He is in Hell and no amount of therapy from psychiatrists privy to the shifter ways is going to help. The best they can do is help him prevent the mind benders known as Bahrraj that he will continue to suffer through as long as his unbonded mate continues to turn her back on him.

Ava Michaels harbors a secret - a Huge secret. One that, if revealed, will kill her, Emma, and Liam. In order to save everyone she does the hardest thing she has ever had to do - she chooses between Emma and Liam....guess who she picked?! The man behind the eerie phone calls and stalker-type behavior is relentless in his control over Ava. But when he goes to far??

Liam feels almost everything that Ava does, including her heartbeat. After eight months of walking around like a zombie, Liam tries to face Ava and get her to change her mind about them, when he sees her with another man. Trying again to pick up the pieces, Liam is shocked to feel her slow death in his veins. The last thing he remembers is her bloodied, dead body before waking in a room separated by glass through which he can see, and now feel, his formerly dead mate, Ava. He also gets to watch while their kidnapper tortures Ava, in turn, torturing Liam.

What ensues is the wildest ride full of twists, turns, and psychotic needs for revenge. The emotional war that rages on within Ava is intense, fully immersing the reader in her thoughts and feelings. Ava is very strong heroine, dealing with some serious issues. Her love for those in her life knows no bounds and that love is what is being tested, ultimately causing the distress and agony thrust upon Liam. Her inability to ask for help at her most crucial times, all while having to lie and be deceitful, just about breaks her. Fortunately, she has a pretty great alpha male in her corner.

Liam is a very strong hero but he's not without flaws. He brought Ava into a world she only read about in fairytales and horror stories then freaked when he was rejected. The uniting of a shifter and his mate is supposed to instant, mutual, and above all else....easy. Liam doesn't get any of those traits when he marks Ava. Her refusal sends him over the edge; an edge that he may not be able to be rescued from. The harrowing experience of Ava's death, life, and traumatic experience at the hands of the kidnapper exposes the feral side of Liam; the side that is totally devoted to Ava and willing to risk it all in order to protect her.

I fell in love with both Liam and Ava - the author did an excellent job writing their story!!

I found The Awakening: Liam to be a more action filled, engaging story that isn't just about a shifter and his mate. There is substance in the novel that brings forth mystery and suspense along with shocking turns of events. I was completely drawn into this novel, almost unwilling to stop reading at any point. I needed to know who the kidnapper was, what was behind his/her reasoning(s) to mess with a shifter and his unbonded mate, and if, indeed, Liam and Ava truly received their happily ever after.

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