



## Rise of the Chosen

*Anna Kopp*

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In Sam's world there are two rules. Rule #1: Nobody dies. Protect the living at all costs. Rule #2: Everybody dies. At least once.

The Waking was a global event in which a force called the Lifeblood invaded all humans who died. The few strong enough to control it came back as powerful immortals. The rest let the bloodlust take over and awoke with one goal - to kill.

Newly appointed Watch Guard Samantha Shields has a legacy to uphold. Her father died a hero defending their city and now she wants to follow in his footsteps. Except for the dying part, of course. Unfortunately, fate has other plans as she discovers deep dark secrets that make her choose between her loyalties and the lives of everyone in her city. Both rules are in play as Sam is forced to make hard decisions that could cost her everything - including the person she cares about most.

## Rise of the Chosen Details

Date : Published October 4th 2016 by Blue Moon Publishers

ISBN : 9781988279169

Author : Anna Kopp

Format : ebook 210 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult, Romance

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## From Reader Review Rise of the Chosen for online ebook

### Michelle (Michelle's Book Ends) Shealy says

"The Waking was a global event that began when humans who died began coming back to life. "At first we didn't know what to call them. Most call them zombies, but it didn't seem right, because unlike their fictional counterparts, they didn't hunger for flesh, Others called them demons, sent back from the underworld to the world of the living after a lifetime of sin. Ghosts, spirits, the possessed, one thing was certain: the dead were dead no longer." A.J. Hill.....

It's the future, the worst has come true. Set in Savannah, Georgia. Those that died came back one of two ways, a zombie like killer, or strong enough to help preserve life, an immortal.

Samantha has lost her family. Her father was a hero in his defense job with the "Watch Guard." Now Sam is also part of the guard. A gruesome story at times and a dire warning from a friend "that war is coming."

Sam isn't completely alone. There is someone special in her life, but that person is also endangered. When secrets are uncovered and Sam is drawn deeper into her job, it will be hard decisions and danger for Sam.

"The Watch" has secrets and Sam will have to choose a side. Those that have become immortal and can control themselves become "the Chosen." Now the Chosen have a new plan for their lives. Find out how Sam fits into this and what side she chooses.

I wasn't real sure if I'd be interested in this book. There's a lot of "apocalypse zombie" stories out there. I was pleasantly surprised that it was a rather intriguing story line with a new take on a currently common theme. The ending was a great set up for what looks to be an exciting series.

Thank you Anna Koop, NetGalley and Blue Moon Publishers.

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### Julie says

I can't even COUNT how many years its been since I have read a dystopian. That genre used to be my shit years ago. Thanks to two massive series that came out ... one with a dashingly handsome gentleman named Four. I need a Four. Maybe two Fours. Anyway ... uh ... if I'm totally honest, I didn't mean to click this book on NetGalley. I received an email about it and clicked it to see what all the excitement was about and BOOM! It added it to my shelf.

Yes. So. First dystopian I've read in quite a while and wow. Didn't think that I would like this as much as I did. Not because it's a dystopian but because it's about zombies. Don't like that stuff. Unless it's World War Z ... or Walking Dead ... it's derailment city around here today. Yeah, so I didn't think that I would like it but

DUDE! The story was something I hadn't heard of before and it really grabs your attention!

That being said ... I won't lie ... it was a tad difficult to read. That difficulty all comes down to it being from multiple POV's and you not really being clear on when the switch happens. I'm hoping that it was changed in another version of the book ... maybe a couple of page breaks or asterisks or something between the characters. It takes you a few sentences into the new POV to figure out who it is that's talking. And that can be a bit of a derailment in itself. It caused the book to read pretty choppy and there were what felt like a lot of starts and stops because things just didn't flow how I knew that they could.

I liked the characters but again, they were a little difficult to get to know and I really think that it was because of the multiple POV's and the distracting qualities that were brought with it. The intriguing storyline made up for it. It was a fast-paced book that was full of shocking twists and turns that kept you on your toes from the first page to the last sentence.

*\* I received this novel in exchange for an honest review \**

Check out more of my reviews at Little Miss Bookmark!

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### **Elizabeth Mathis says**

In Sam's world there are two rules. Rule #1: Nobody dies. Protect the living at all costs. Rule #2: Everybody dies. At least once.

The Waking was a global event in which a force called the Lifeblood invaded all humans who died. The few strong enough to control it came back as powerful immortals. The rest let the bloodlust take over and awoke with one goal - to kill.

Newly appointed Watch Guard Samantha Shields has a legacy to uphold. Her father died a hero defending their city and now she wants to follow in his footsteps. Except for the dying part, of course. Unfortunately, fate has other plans as she discovers deep dark secrets that make her choose between her loyalties and the lives of everyone in her city. Both rules are in play as Sam is forced to make hard decisions that could cost her everything - including the person she cares about most.

### **Rating: 4/5 Penguins**

**Quick Reasons: zombies with a twist and a few new names; great dystopian setting/world-building; a few weird/awkward character motivations/plot holes; special snowflake in our MC, Sam; unique and inventive take on the "undead"; a promising start to a new series!**

Huge thanks to Anna Kopp, Blue Moon Publishers, and Netgalley for sending me a copy of this title in exchange for an honest review! This in no way altered my read of or opinions on this book.

"When you wake," David said out of nowhere, "it's like...every part of you, every fiber of your being is burning alive, and you either give in to the pain and let it take you, or you stay until it's

done coursing through your body and becomes one with you. And then become something more."

*And something less.*

Going into this book, I wasn't sure what to expect. I'm sure you know how it is with zombie lore these days: the undead are everywhere, which means the same tired cliches are revisited again and again and again. You can never be sure, when picking up a new book, if you'll be getting something unique...or just more of the same. Imagine my surprised delight when, from the very first page, this book let me know in no uncertain terms it was breaking away from cliche and striking out on its own! It's possible I celebrated with some awkward wing flapping and penguin-toed shuffling. I mean, do you blame me?!

Of course, the world-building isn't completely perfect. There are some missing plot points that, while not fundamental to my grasp or enjoyment of the novel, I find myself now wishing I had answers for. For instance: why are certain of the Chosen also granted special extra abilities? Is this a random occurrence or something else? Why are some people "Chosen" and some "Woken"? (I understand a lot of this comes down to the internal struggle of the one being changed, but is that ALL it is--the choice of whether to fight or die?)

Somehow, even though she'd seen that sky so many times in her life, this was the first time she'd really *seen* it for what it was, the expansive everything that stayed the same while people lived and died under it.

While she lived and died.

And lived.

Some of the character motivations seemed a little wishy-washy and questionable to me in the grand scheme of things. David, for instance, seems almost immediately drawn to Sam...and cares more for her quicker than makes sense realistically. Sam also has some weird emotional motivation shifts, especially in regard to her father. Overall, though, the characters are well-developed and nicely rounded out. I particularly adored the relationship between Sam and Lena--it was cute and endearing, though I'm a bit nervous how it'll play out in the coming sequels.

I had a ton of fun exploring this world! The prose is fast-paced and action-packed, sure to keep even the most bloodthirsty readers engaged and entertained. The twist on zombies was refreshing and inventive, and the characters are vibrant and well-rounded. I recommend this to lovers of dystopians, zombie apocalypses, and creative plots. I can't wait to see where the next book leads--I'm SUPER intrigued!

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**?Stephanie? says**

Title: Rise of the Chosen (Lifeblood #1)

Author: Anna Kopp

Publisher: Blue Moon, 2016

Genre: YA Science Fiction

***\*\*I received this ARC from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*\****

***Review can also be found on my Blog page or TeacherofYA's Tumblr***

My Review:

I actually received this book from Digiwriting as I am auto-approved. They sent me an email letting me know that they thought these books would be perfect for me, so when I went on NetGalley, they were already on my shelf. I had 4 books, and needed to get some read ASAP. Especially since there is a badge right now (available until the 12th) that you can earn once feedback is posted. So I picked this title, knowing that it was the shortest and the soonest to be released.

I am glad I did.

Now, I'm not going to say this is the best book ever in the world. It had a very fast pace and I was unable to get too attached to our protagonist, Sam, because there wasn't a lot of insight into her mind. However, IT SUCKED ME IN BAD. I was actually disappointed that it was so short (210 pages or so). I wanted more immediately once the book was done, and I am glad that there is a plan for another one, because it ended on quite the cliffhanger. So let me tell you a little about *Rise of the Chosen*, ok?

Sam is a member of the Watch, an elite group tasked with a challenge: watch out for the dead...because they don't stay that way. In the current world Sam lives in, once a person dies, they either become a Woken or a Chosen. The Woken are like zombies: they awake hungry for violence and seek out to kill anything in its path. (No eating brains) The Chosen are rare, about one in a thousand, and they fight the urge to give in to the death. They are strong in mind, and strong in heart. They awake completely stronger than any human and become members of the Watch to protect humans from those that would die and become Woken.

Sam is about to graduate, but one morning she wakes up to a loud crash, and she finds a Woken killing her mother. Her father, a previous member of the Watch, was killed on duty, so Sam tries to kill the Woken and noticed that the tracker that goes off in every person when they die did not go off for the Woken in her home. Nobody is there to help Sam until it is too late for her mom, but fortunately hear the ruckus and save her.

The general sees promise in young Sam, and puts her with the advanced team that saved her life. The Chosen that heads the group, David, thinks this is a bad idea, as she is young and just out of training. The things Sam sees and experiences start to make her question the very makeup of her society. When a kidnapping takes her and David hostage, the life she knew will be turned upside down...and surprises are in store for her. Will Sam risk her own life to save the lives...and possibly the future of the human race? Will she make the ultimate sacrifice?

Is it Classroom-Appropriate?

I believe so. The only thing that might be considered questionable is Sam's sexuality. She dates Kyle in the beginning, but then falls for Lena, a waitress at a local bar. Some people that are conservative might not like the idea of a bisexual hero. However, in this day and age, it seems like it could be accepted into classroom

curriculum now. I would use it as a fun book in high school because it is a quick read, but I might not use it in a lesson. It's something I might allow as a book for a paper about dystopian worlds, because this story is set in a world where a militarized government takes control and forces the people to have tracking devices. Mostly, though, I see it as a recommended read for outside the classroom.

Age Range:

Since it hasn't been published yet, I cannot find a Lexile profile on it. I would suggest ages 13 and up. No sex really, just the hint at intimacy. Some light swearing (s\*\*\* is the only word I found). I haven't read the rest of the series, but this book alone doesn't seem too mature for teens.

End Result:

★★★★?. I want to give it five but I would have liked to be more drawn in to Sam's character. I got to know David's character a little more, and he is an auxiliary main character, but the story is told from an omnipresent view so I'd like to believe there was more opportunity to expand on their personalities. But as it stands, it is a quick and enjoyable read with a clever plot, and I want more. So I'm ready for book two. I'm waiting...starting now.

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## Kristine says

Original review can be found at [http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2...](http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2013/07/review-rise-of-chosen.html)

\*\* I received an advanced readers copy from Blue Moon Publishers via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!\*\*

I'm not sure where to begin with this book. I should probably mention that this is a genre that I often struggle with and I tend to either love or hate with no in between.

This book took place in a post apocalyptic world where there were basically three types of people. There were humans and undead which consisted of Woken who would immediately kill and Chosen who were special and could live among the humans. Basically whenever a person died they would automatically turn into a Woken or a Chosen if they were lucky.

Rise of the Chosen centred around Samantha who started the book as a human. I felt like Sam was a little underdeveloped as a character and I had a hard time getting to know and like her. Perhaps it was because the story moved so quickly but I felt she lacked a bit of a personality. I actually felt that way about most of the characters. If I had to pick one character that intrigued me I guess it would have to be David. He was a Chosen that worked along side Sam. My impression is that perhaps the two of them will get pushed together in future instalments. All signs point to it anyway. I wouldn't have a problem with that except Sam already had a love interest in Lena. Although I could take or leave her, how it plays out might be tricky. I'm not sure I like the way that I think it might happen.

This story moved really fast and at times I would get confused. A fast moving plot with many characters will do that to me. However, the pace did keep it from getting dull. This is the beginning of a series and as such,

it has definitely piqued my interest. I do feel like there are some bumps or hiccups in the story but I still want to know how it plays out. It provided me with enough of a plot that I want to know more and will make sure to follow the rest of the story.

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### **Susan Angela Wallace says**

I received this as an arc from netgalley in exchange for an honest review. In Sam's world there are 2 rules. Rule #1: nobody dies. Protect the living at all costs. Rule #2: everybody dies at least once. Fantastic read. Lots of action from the start,. I loved sam. She was my favourite character. I loved the story. This one was different to all the zombie books I've read. I loved the ending too. I do hope there's more to come. This is a must read and I would highly recommend this book. 5\* from me. Thanks to netgalley for the arc.

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### **Vera mallard says**

#### **STORY LINE RISE OF THE CHOSEN:**

Set in post-apocalyptic Savannah, after a world-wide phenomena, Rise Of The Chosen is an exciting and intriguing roller coaster ride. When the dead started rising, some wanted to call them zombie. However, the zombie of fiction mindlessly ate its kill. Known as The Woken, they are not zombies but just plain mindless super killers of the worst sort. The second type of undead, the Chosen, are rare. The Chosen have the super abilities of the Woken, but still have their humanity. To form a workable society and protect humans, society formed a group called the Watch. The Watch consist of teams containing 2 humans and 1 Chosen, given the responsibility of protecting the living, and beheading the Woken. Closing off the cities, the Watch guards the humans and keeps peace. Meanwhile, not all are happy with this arrangement, and covert groups form to fight the Watch and the Chosen.

Watch team mates, human Julian and Chosen David, found themselves teamed with newbie Sam. Her father was a great fighter in the Watch until his heroic death. Sam will have decisions to make, some will affect not only her life, but the world. Secrets revealed, mysteries uncovered, and inhumane practices will come to light. How will Sam handle what is coming? Is the world on the edge of total destruction? Can Sam and David save their world? Or is this the beginning of the end for humanity?

Grab your favorite beverage, relax, and enjoy this thrilling novel.

#### **CHARACTERS, PLOTTING, AND DEVELOPMENT:**

First, I must say, Rise Of The Chosen is riveting, fast paced, and will entertain the reader for hours. I found myself unable to put this book down and read it in one sitting. The plots keep coming as Ms. Kopp develops her story and includes several surprise revelations. The pace never slows as the author weaves the many threads together to form an exciting and different book. Author Anna Kopp's writing style is clear and easy to read, and the story-line unique.

Ms. Kopp created many layered and interesting characters. I found myself wanting to know more and more

about Sam and David. With a unique story-line, Ms. Kopp created creatures that were very different from the standard zombie. Of course, she also included as hero's the Chosen and Sam. Ms. Kopp left hints that Sam is different and I can't wait for her to reveal the secrets in book two. Also, in this first book of series, we received hints of what the Chosen will become in future books. The Rise Of The Chosen does have a cliff hanger ending in some respects. I can't wait to see what Ms. Kopp has in store for book two.

#### THE RISE OF THE CHOSEN, RECOMMENDATION:

STARS 4

In conclusion, I found The Rise Of The Chosen, a well-written solid book. With a fast pace and well-developed characters, I would not hesitate to buy this book for myself or a friend. Therefore, I gave The Rise Of The Chosen 4 well deserved stars. Ms. Kopp created a unique interesting story which will hold the attention of anyone who enjoys sci-fi, fantasy, or dystopian novels.

Finally, I received an ARC from the Netgalley and chose to review the book. Books reviews of any novel are dependent on the book review author's opinion. Consequently, book reviews on line under my name are my opinion.

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#### **Uma ~Books.Bags.Burgers. says**

*( I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review)*

#### **BLURB**

*In Sam's world there are two rules. Rule #1: Nobody dies. Protect the living at all costs. Rule #2: Everybody dies. At least once.*

*The Waking was a global event in which a force called the Lifeblood invaded all humans who died. The few strong enough to control it came back as powerful immortals. The rest let the bloodlust take over and awoke with one goal - to kill.*

*Newly appointed Watch Guard Samantha Shields has a legacy to uphold. Her father died a hero defending their city and now she wants to follow in his footsteps. Except for the dying part, of course. Unfortunately, fate has other plans as she discovers deep dark secrets that make her choose between her loyalties and the lives of everyone in her city. Both rules are in play as Sam is forced to make hard decisions that could cost her everything - including the person she cares about most.*

#### **CHARACTERS**

There are few books where I love every single character and this was one such book. The good ones, the bad ones ; I love them all because they are such well rounded, three dimensional characters. I could finish the book in one sitting because the characters made me care about them, want to know about them. Sam, David, Lena, Julian..everyone.

Sam is an amazing protagonist. She is determined, grounded and doesn't take shit from anyone. I love how her character develops through the story.

### **PLOT**

The undead plot is pretty common so I love how Anna Kopp gave it an unique twist. Nothing about it was cliched. While most undead plots focuses on the living, this one focuses on the undead. This is a story of how humans can adapt and survive when faced with something new, something dangerous. Also the author knows how to keep readers in suspense, to make them curious and to give such amazing twists that make you jump out of your seat!

### **WRITING**

The writing style was clear and engaging. Throughout the book, i didn't feel the need to take a break even once. I sat and finished it in one sitting. The interesting snippets of information here and there piqued up my curiosity. When you read, this is the kind of book that brings images to your eyes rather than words and I loved that!

### **WHAT I LIKED ABOUT THE BOOK**

- The well rounded characters
- Writing style
- The unique, refreshing take on the undead plot line!

### **WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE ABOUT THE BOOK**

- NOTHING. Nothing at all!

### **CONCLUSION**

One of the best Sci-fi / Fantasy books I've read till time. I was hooked to the book from the beginning. I just cannot wait for the sequel.

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### **Karla says**

There are elements of this book I love and elements I hate. The plot is good, but could have been better. I would have preferred the book take a different direction in the middle but the ending made up for it.

The likeable characters were disappointingly killed off...

I would be interested in book 2, as I found the first book unpredictable.

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## Natalia says

Review is up on my blog : <https://boookishvegan.wordpress.com/2...>

MY FULL REVIEW:

Release Date: 4th October 2016

Genre: Young Adult & Science-Fiction

Read: 26th July 2016 – 31st July 2016

Rating: \*\*\*\*\*

Such a short book, yet so much happens in it! It was brilliantly written, I really have to give props to Anna Kopp as the ideas and concepts she placed into this book, well this series is original and I have never read anything like it before. It does give off The Maze Runner vibes as in that series we have Cranks and in this one we have the Woken and I loved this whole concept. The Woken basically have no control over themselves once the person dies and turns into one they have no control over themselves and kill the first person whose heartbeat they hear. Doesn't that just sound super thrilling?

Basically in this world once you die you either become a ‘Chosen’ or a ‘Woken’ – the Chosen are what everyone aspires to become as they still have control over their actions whereas the Woken as I’ve mentioned before are like Zombies but instead of being the brain eating and flesh eating zombies we all know and love, well in movies and books anyway not in real life but they just kill whilst still looking human almost. Just read the book and you will know what I mean.

Our main character, Samantha Shields or mostly known as Sam, throughout this book experiences terrible tragedies – mostly having to witness the death of the ones she loves and also making a decision that could end up saving everyone in her town or doing the complete opposite and wiping out the whole human civilisation. Working for the Watch, just as her father had done, as new guard she starts to uncover dark secrets that will end up changing the fate Samantha thought she had planned for herself. I know you might think that this doesn’t sound original at all but trust me when I say it I as the main character is different in so many ways from your normal young adult heroine, you will have to read this once it comes out to find out what I mean.

What I loved most about this novel is that it always kept me guessing especially after I got to Part 2 as this is when most of the action happened – from the start I had no idea where the story was going which I really enjoyed as I never knew what to expect. The cast of characters was so diverse that I ended up loving pretty much every character for different reasons and now I really can’t wait to see what happens next in the sequel. I am happy that we didn’t get to see more of some characters and that there isn’t a chance now that we will but hopefully for others it will be different – I want to know more about the characters that end up becoming quite important later on.

This series overall is one that I am looking forward to reading more of in the future as I see great potential for the plot line and I would recommend this to fans of The Maze Runner Trilogy and Divergent, anyone who loves reading Science-Fiction and Young Adult. I have decided to rate it \*\*\*\*\* as I really did love the story, characters and the pace that everything developed at. Definitely give it a go!

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## Cristina says

### I received an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The "Rise of the Chosen" book is, in a few words, a book about zombies. The only difference from the zombies we are used to read about is that these ones don't eat people and are called "Woken". Also, they have shiny red veins and eyes. And then, you have the Woken ones who also return from the dead but are such sweethearts - called "Chosen". The most important "Chosen" one is Sam, a girl who returns from the dead with something else: some kind of special powers.

Sam gets interested in Lena and when things start to go wrong, Sam makes sure that she does everything to save her. She is an amazing heroine but has her problems too and that makes her such a realistic character!

Then, we also have a vision of how the "Watch", the organization which runs the Waken and the Chosen, runs all the system. And there's where Sam takes action!

All the things in the story happened so fast that sometimes I had trouble realizing at what point the story I was. There were loads of plot twists and that made the story so much better and refreshing! Also, at the beginning, the author gives us some definitions and they were so important to understand all the plot! In the end, there were so many question left unanswered that I feel like I need the next book right now!

Overall, this was a great read and if you like a mix of dystopian and zombie stories I'd recommend it to you!

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## Haley says

My first thought when I started this ARC was "EW, a zombie book! I hate zombie books! They are always the same thing!"

This is nothing like that zombie book. Not even close.

First of all, the zombies—Woken—aren't running around eating people. They are certainly monsters, and they certainly kill, but no braaaaiiiins. Secondly, these guys don't look like maggot ridden grave vomit. Take The Others/White Walkers from Game of Thrones and replace the blue with red, and you have a Woken.

If you take it a step further and add some Captain America Super Serum and keep the human consciousness along with the Woken immortality, you have The Chosen. Basically, Super Zombies who are used to keep the city safe. They run around with swords and sever the heads of the Woken from their hearts—the only way to end them.

I told you this isn't your normal zombie book.

Did I mention the main character is bisexual? She is—and with the exception of one awkward "he is so hot" moment with one of her work partners—I thought her sexuality was presented really well. It's normalized in the story. She likes guys, she likes girls, all is well in the world.

Except, ya know...the whole zombie thing.

The plot is laid out in a before and after sort of way, though. I won't tell you how. It's interesting to see how everything is set up and then how it plays out. I think Kopp shows all her angles really well. I didn't think I'd like this at all, but by the end I was pretty enthusiastic. I'm totally on board to read the next installment!

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### **Sharon Jarvis says**

Rise of the Chosen is a compelling science fiction story with some unusual twists. Well written with easy to follow prose and conversations. While the concept of a future society took a little time to establish it was cleverly developed through the main character, Sam, who is a very likeable and realistic.

Anna Kopp successfully creates a new society which is undergoing change with Humans and two types of 'undead', The Woken who are very dangerous and The Chosen who have great strength but retain their humanity. A lot of moral dilemmas and issues that are delved into and explored but not resolved. Where is this going to go? Are we going to find out in another book in this series?

The characters were interesting and the various relationships intriguing especially that of with Sam with various friends such as Kyle and Lena and then an unusual connection with David.

My biggest disappointment is when the story finished as I really wanted more - is there going to be a sequel as I would love to read how the story progresses.

Highly recommend this for YA and those who enjoy Science Fiction/Fantasy stories.

Thank you to Netgalley and Blue Moon Publishers for an ARC ebook to read and review.

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### **Alex ? Deranged KittyCat ? says**

I have mixed feelings about this one. I rarely have high expectations from a YA novel, and yet I would not really call this YA.

In Sam's world there are two rules. Rule #1: Nobody dies. Protect the living at all costs. Rule #2: Everybody dies. At least once.

The Waking was a global event in which a force called the Lifeblood invaded all humans who died. The few strong enough to control it came back as powerful immortals. The rest let the bloodlust take over and awoke with one goal - to kill.

Newly appointed Watch Guard Samantha Shields has a legacy to uphold. Her father died a hero defending their city and now she wants to follow in his footsteps. Except for the dying part, of course. Unfortunately, fate has other plans as she discovers deep dark secrets that make her choose between her loyalties and the lives of everyone in her city. Both rules are in play as Sam is forced to make hard decisions that could cost her everything - including the person she cares about most.

Basically, this is a zombie book. Only the zombies, called the Woken, don't go around eating people. They just kill them. **BUT** there are those special snowflakes who don't go berserk once they come back from the dead. They are called the Chosen (cliche much?). Of course Sam is the most special snowflake of them all, so she turns out to be not only a Chosen, but something more, manifesting weird powers. What can I say without giving away too many spoilers? Truth is, everything happens so fast in the book, that you're left wondering when did it all end. And Sam just goes along with it (with a few rebellious moments when she says things as they are - that's a non-YA plus for me). I failed to actually connect with her character, or any other for that matter. It all started so good, but picked up way too much speed after the first half of the book.

On the other hand, Samantha's love interest is Lena. I found that fascinating. So Sam is in a sort of a relationship with another woman. But when things go south, she realizes how much she loves her girlfriend and she risks her life to save her. Seeing them interact was very interesting. Also, Sam is not some virgin, and that's a plus, too. The book is not graphic, yet the girls do have intimate encounters. My only concern is the David character. I have the feeling the author will discard Lena, so that he can have a go at Sam (the latter is bisexual). I wouldn't like that. I think we can have a good, strong female character who's in a relationship with another woman.

Also, the ending raises a lot of questions. So I'll definitely be checking the next book.

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*\*I thank Anna Kopp, Blue Moon Publishers, and Netgalley for this copy in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Magda says**

"Rise of the Chosen" is a fantastic story that pulls you into the world ravaged by the Lifeblood. It's an original tale with vivid characters, surprising plot twists and a refreshing take at zombie-like creatures who aren't always the blood-thirsty beasts you're used to.

Ooooh I've got one thing to say about this book: I love it! The story's awesome!

But seriously, I love the writing style. At first, I thought the introduction with all the definitions wouldn't work, but they fitted in perfectly because they clearly stated what is what and how the situation looks like. The story read much better with me knowing what the author had in mind while using a certain word.

It all felt refreshing. You might think it's just another zombie-like, postapocalyptic story, but it's different. The world is in order, everyone has their place and it's clear they're not the only survivors. After all, they have to keep the situation at bay to stay alive because, contrary to "normal" zombie plague, everyone who dies can become a dangerous bloodthirsty beast... or a chosen.

The characters are believable and realistic. They have their good and bad traits, problems and hopes for the future. Sam is a great heroine - strong, but not without issues. I did like her progressing relationship with Lena and how she dealt with the waking.

Overall it was a great read that I could recommend to anyone who likes dystopian, young adult or zombie stories. I had a great time reading it and I wish there was a continuation. It's a good standalone, but I'm selfish and I'd like to read more ;).

Big thanks to Anna who allowed me to read her story! I loved it :D I hope you'll write some more.

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