



Enlightened

Billie Kowalewski

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A wise person once told me: There's a reason for everything.

Sarah Shaw -- pulled off a cliff

Emma Blackstone -- shoved out a window and trampled by a horse

Mattie Williams -- stung to death by bees

Cora Thomas -- pushed in front of a train

Edith Young -- impaled

Rachel Ellis -- shoved off a boat

Lois Smith -- hit by a bus

Muriel Walters -- UGH...another bus

Lucille Marshall -- involuntary manslaughter

Veronica Edwards -- undetermined

What do all of these names have in common? They all died long before they were meant too, and they were all ME. If there's any truth to that statement at all, I can't wait to find out the reason for this!

Enlightened Details

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Author : Billie Kowalewski

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From Reader Review Enlightened for online ebook

Michelle Whitham (curled_up_with_a_good_book) says

I was kindly provided with a free copy of this book in return for an honest review.

I was excited about reading this but wasn't entirely sure whether it would be for me.....how wrong was I?!

The story follows Harmony, a soul who is sent to earth to learn lessons along with her classmates. The idea that 'home' is a kind of heaven state where souls live, with earth being the place they come to learn different lessons is very intriguing. I really enjoyed reading about the different lives of Harmony, what happened in them and how they ended. I also enjoyed learning about Artopia which sounds like an amazing place!

The characters were extremely likeable, especially Harmony and Kaleb. Harmony is a really strong-minded woman and you can't help but feel for Kaleb at times. The story really did make me smile at points and feel the characters emotions - happiness, anger and frustration alike!

The only minor criticism I have is that some chapters, about two thirds of the way in became slightly repetitive (e.g. the use of sweet-honey smell or sandy-blond hair) which, although slightly frustrating, didn't put me off wanting to continue reading to find out what happens next.

Enlightened ends on a MAJOR cliffhanger which means I now NEED to read the sequel, Divided, to see where it takes the characters.

Overall a great read from Billie which comes recommended from me if you enjoy YA fantasy fiction romance!

Elektra | My Trending Books says

I am always intrigued by the afterlife and the different variables that each person has to say about. So, Of course, I said yes to this book because da need to check out this author view on and how she weaved it to a story.

I have to say I am pleasantly surprised by the story. My mind had gone to a different concept before I started this book and I was yet again wrong. Which is brilliant because I love to be surprised by books.

I had a talk with my husband of a similar concept that came from another guy was doing a podcast I don't remember who but he was doing an experiment of doing DMT that drug puts you to sleep and allegedly gets you in touch with your subconscious and possible the other you in the afterlife. Anyway, probably most of you think I am talking gibberish right now So I get to the review.

So the concept of this book is that earth is a school and we go there to learn; the afterlife is actually our home

and we go there when we "die". Of course, we follow a group and within this group, we focus on our two main characters where the story slowly starts to unfold and explain the whole concept of this afterlife.

I loved the story and the concept. I thought it was really nicely put together. I felt that the author took the concept of dimensions and structured the afterlife on that. I believe the 10th dimension is where it has infinite possibilities where you can imagine anything and it happens, i.e., a house in the forest with a beachfront.

The book had some repetition in words and feelings which annoyed me, but towards the end, I realized why. I think the author wanted to establish the feelings of our main characters and ingrain it in our brains. Then she did the unthinkable finished the book of a bloody cliffhanger. Like WTF I am very angry about it. I didn't expect it. I didn't realize it finished. In all honesty, it could have finished a little more soft not so abrupt. I had to email the author ask her if it's meant to finish mid-sentence or it has been an error. It turned out it hadn't.

Well, am I suggesting this book for people to read?

A BIG FAT YES. Although it finished the way it finished I didn't feel angry after I realized it was a cliffhanger. I am looking forward to reading the second book as well.

Grady says

‘All stories have a beginning, but the best stories start at an end.’

Connecticut author Billie Kowalewski is a refreshing new voice on the literary scene. Though she has published only two books – ENLIGHTENED and its sequel DIVIDED her imprint on the mind of those fortunate enough to read her work is indelible. She appears to have a very strong future.

The afterlife – or the before life – is a topic that has fascinated poets and philosophers and lovers for centuries. Most authors deal with the subject as a time travel genre but Billie allows us to actually FEEL the difference between this life and the afterlife to the extent that the flow is ingratiating and welcoming and wholly credible.

The novel opens with the same delicate sense of light humor that makes Billie’s writing such a joy to read. ‘MY WORLD IS YOUR WORLD, only you can’t remember any of it. A barrier exists between what you think is real and what you know to be. It was put in place during the transition into the world you currently know, and will be removed upon your return. In other words...this is not your real life. My name is Harmony, and I’m gonna let you in on a little secret. I am a student at the biggest, most famous school ever known. And so are you! Earth. Yep, Earth is school. Are you shocked? If you are, it’s okay. This is the most

common and expected reaction to this news. I'll give you a moment to let that sink in... Just kidding! Based on the fact that you've chosen to read this, I'm gonna bet that you're a lot like me. You're probably fine, and not shocked by this at all. If you do, however, find this news to be at all surprising, perhaps it would be best if you stopped here. This story is based on an alternative viewpoint, and I'm not looking to upset anyone's beliefs. I do understand that this story may not be for everyone. Our extreme diversity is an important part of what makes up who we are. So this may be where we will agree to disagree, and possibly part ways. Hopefully as friends. For everyone else, we will move on. Yes, life is about learning, and Earth is the school. I'm sure you've heard someone on Earth say this before. I know when I'm there I hear this often. People know, and it's not because they remember that it is. They know because you cannot get through a single day there without learning something, somehow. It was set up to be that way. On Earth, learning some type of lesson is unavoidable. If you're sitting there right now searching your mind for a tiny clue that this is true, you're wasting your time. You won't be able to find anything. Please don't be mistaken—your memories are there. You carry them along with you, buried deep within your subconscious, hidden by a special barrier. This barrier will remain in place throughout your entire life, and it is what is keeping you from being able to remember the world from which you came. Not to worry—you'll get your memories back, along with your new ones, once you...ahem...return home.'

The plot of Billie's novel follows: 'When Veronica lost the love of her life in a horrible accident she was sure he was gone forever, and she would never love again. Then, five years later she meets her own tragic demise leading her back to the man she loves, but, with an unexpected twist...Imagine waking up to discover that the life you thought was real never was. That your real life is actually lived somewhere else, and the love you thought was lost will go on forever.'

Radiant and mesmerizing and uplifting ENLIGHTENED is. Pleasure yourself with this very fine novel.

J C says

Amazing – Must Read.

This was an amazing book. I loved the theme of reincarnation and soul mates. I think we've all had that feeling at times that we somehow "know" someone or remember them, but we can't understand how. It was intriguing how Veronica (Harmony) was starting to piece things together about Kaleb and the pasts they'd experienced together. I think I experienced every possible emotion about their love story. The characters were easily relatable, and the plot was fantastic. I loved this book so much and I can definitely see how it won an award. A must-read!

Elizabeth says

OMG!!

Enlightened is amazing. I have never read a book like this before. It has everything - intrigue, romance and is so believable due to the author's immense talent with her story telling and her superb characters.

We read the story through the eyes and thoughts of Harmony. She had lived many lives and yet she cannot

fathom why she has a deep connection with a fellow soul Kaleb. He is in every life she leads and they truly have immense journeys together.

I couldn't put this book down. It will certainly stay with me for a while to come. I cannot believe how it ended and truly cannot wait to read the next installment.

Truly incredible. A great story

Jacqueline Anderton says

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review, and honest I shall be!

I realised that I'm not the exact intended audience for this book, but I flexed my imagination and BAM! I was a teenager again!

The beginning was a lot to take in at once, but I think that's mainly because Billie has put so much into creating this world. Once we got into the story I found that I felt quite invested in Harmony and was loving the tale unfolding as to why she kept experiencing all of these dramatic deaths!

Kaleb was everything that I would have wanted in a boy as a young teen, and I liked the beginning of their relationship; I said it in my video review, that if you have the time and the energy to repeatedly argue with someone over something, then it's indicative that there is some kind of deeper dynamic or relationship being hinted at... and I have a soft spot for love-hate relationships <3

I will say though that there were 3-4 chapters in the middle of the book that were hard to get through. There was a lot of repetition ('sweet honey-like scent' was used 17 times from chapter 12 til the end) and the plot didn't move.

However, when it picked up again... it was great!

I loved the premise of Artopeia, and especially the courtyard scene. The world and the concept was a fresh and unique take on some pretty awesome and ancient beliefs on reincarnation (i.e. native American and Hindu), and these links did make me geek out a little bit.

I'm also personally a fan of cliffhangers too, so the ending worked for me - and it was a nice surprise to discover that this was going to be more than one book about Harmony and her journey.

Overall, even after a few speed bumps, it's a nice teen romance with a good dose of high school drama... well, if the school was the planet Earth...

I've also purchased Divided, and based on the reviews that I've seen, I'm looking forward to devouring it!

Energy says

Sometimes there's more to life than what we're able to see, and that's exactly what life is like for Harmony. She keeps getting sent back to Earth as someone new, and she keeps dying early. There's a reason for these premature deaths, and there's a reason there's always a special someone in her Earth life, she just doesn't know the answers yet.

Each life is meant to teach you what you need to move on. If you don't glean all you need to, then you need to go back. Harmony and her friends are in class together, and they always meet up on their return trips, each of them with their own home bases if you will.

Enlightened is an interesting and unique concept that Kowalewski has thought up and she's created Harmony

and Kaleb as deep characters. They are fierce in their emotions and they love hard. Aside from some repetitive word usage and a few spots that I stumbled over, there's a good, enjoyable story underneath, it's just a big disappointment to end on a cliffhanger with no warning, as the book is not labeled as a serial.

Mary Yarde says

Harmony has lived many lives, but one thing that was constant in every single one of them was Kaleb. But for the life of her, she doesn't know why...

Oh. My. Days. I had to take a moment after reading *Enlightened* by Billie Kowalewski just to gather my thoughts. This book was amazing. From the opening chapter to the very last sentence I was utterly enthralled. To say I loved it is an absolute understatement.

Harmony is such a well-drawn protagonist. She is one of those characters who feels deeply, loves deeply, and hurts deeply. She was so believable and so brilliantly written. And as for Kaleb... Oh, my giddy aunt... I will tell you something, Billie Kowalewski has got herself a new fan.

I could go on about this book all day. It was brilliant. This book has made it into my top 5 reads for 2017. I am hoping, very much, that there is going to be a sequel.

I Highly Recommend.

Gordon Bickerstaff says

Behind a confusing start, there is a good story

This is an unusual paranormal reincarnation-type love story, in which Harmony is a student soul who returns to Earth to learn more about herself as Veronica. In fact, she has had many lives on Earth as part of her education. I liked the concept although I found the start of the book confusing until it became clear what had happened. Just when I was about to give up, the story started to make sense, and I'm glad I continued. The drive in the book is the characters. They are interesting and the plot certainly poses thought-provoking questions about spirituality, life and afterlife.

Steph ? says

I received *Enlightened* from the author Billie Kowalewski in exchange for an honest review.

Despite struggling with the beginning of this book, I really enjoyed it once the initial confusion made sense. The story is brilliantly written and the theory makes you sit and think about life and the things that happen to you. You do find yourself thinking that some of these things make sense and could happen.

There were a couple of chapters about 70% in that did become a bit repetitive, which unfortunately had me wondering if I would actually finish the book. However, I did finish it, and I'm so glad that I did. The story

picked back up and continued to wow me.

The ending leaves you on a massive cliffhanger, ensuring that you will no doubt pick up the next book, Divided, to find out what happens to Harmony and Kaleb. I can't wait to read Divided and see what happens next.

the glitter end says

This book is amazing. It captured me from the very beginning and had me till the very end.

Billie Kowalewski says

I love this book because I wrote it. This is the story I searched my whole life for.

Kaili Taghon (Entertainingly Nerdy) says

I don't typically read many romance novels but the blurb to this book caught my attention. When I first started the book I was a little confused about what was going on, but not so confused where I was completely lost. I don't want to post any spoilers about this book but all I'm going to say is that this is a complete page turner!

Cassie Greutman says

The world of Enlightened is a fascinating one. Living several lives, with a base to come back to in between is something I'd never really heard of before. Though it does make it a little hard to come up with a solid plot, since the characters don't remember their previous lives while on Earth, it does leave a ton of room for great character development. I was a little confused in the beginning, with the extra explanations about stuff, but it ended up becoming clear. Interesting read!

Andrea Rittschof says

I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review

Review: "Enlightened" by Billie Kowalewski

When I received a request from the author for a fair review, I was more than willing to read her book. The title sounded interesting and the story unique with its concept of afterlife and how afterlife is considered home.

The characters sweep you along into their lives, making you want to read more. Harmony's troubles as she tries to figure out what the problem is with Kaleb and her dilemma as she struggles with her lessons on Earth are engaging. Kaleb is more difficult to understand but as the story is told from Harmony's point of view,

first person, this follows her understanding, providing her feelings about him and her other friends. The concept in the novel is unique, the idea that Earth is where we learn our lessons and then return to the afterlife to spend the rest of our time. I like the way the author shows us the different lives of the group and their afterlife. As you get to know more about the world and what Harmony's purpose is, you want to read more.

I did find the story unbalanced along the way, with far more exposition than action. I felt that some of the story could have been left out, some of the day to day events to further the pacing and build more tension in the plot. The characters are interesting but the entire novel needed a better balance between action, dialogue and exposition. I loved the descriptions of certain places, especially the use of imagination in creating those places but I would have loved more action.

The ending did leave me wanting to know more, especially as you just get to the action and conflict at the end of the story. I really liked what the author was going for, in her development of her concepts but again, I would have liked to have been shown more, especially developing more tension and moving the story along at a faster pace. Overall, it is a good novel but could be improved with more balance in the different components. Still, I'm intrigued enough to want to read the next book in the series and I would recommend it if you want a different take on supernatural concepts, on the afterlife and like character driven stories.

You can also check out my review on Duncansbooksandmore.com
