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Jessica McQuay

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"Am I losing my mind?"

Paige couldn't help but question her sanity. What other explanation could there be for her hearing a conversation held barely above a whisper in the back of a classroom full of students? What about coming home to find one of those very classmates lying in wait in the darkness of her home, ready to attack her?

Confused, frustrated and feeling every ounce of her social ostracism, Paige confides in the one person she's always been able to count on: her mom. But when her mom reveals a deeply rooted, unbelievable family secret, Paige discovers her world is filled with more than she ever imagined possible. A world where fairytales live alongside nightmares and secrets are the glue that binds them together. Suddenly no one is who they seem and Paige is faced with more questions than answers. Can she survive in a world filled with creatures scarier than anything she could imagine and where deceit runs as thick as blood? Or will the truth send her over the edge?

Black Moon Details

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Author : Jessica McQuay

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From Reader Review Black Moon for online ebook

Abigail says

I wasn't sure what to think at the beginning and by the end I had read a nice enjoyable story. I would deem this one of my brain candy reads. Dealing with some normal teen issues dispute the fact of all the abnormal being thrown at her. Paige does pretty awesome.

What I enjoyed most was the subtle and honest approach the author took to same sex attraction. I have a huge problem with something being labeled YA because it has kids or teens but not approaching the issues as they should be for teens. Jessica did this wonderfully. It has yet to be resolved and could honestly end up just being a curious attraction. It really doesn't matter if it fits this tactful and very well written urban fantasy with some pretty great action scenes to boot.

It was another modern take on Fae with some real coming of age things mixed into a fantasy story. I wish some things were slightly different as well as more things explained better or perhaps resolved, but over all it was a nice YA that I enjoyed.

The small issues for me was perhaps too much was rushed through. The very important fact about Paige's blood lines (which I do not want to go into as it will be a spoiler). Many things and important facts are brought up and never actually addressed. I know there will be sequels which I hope to catch however I think some things could have been explained in this first book.

Bex 'n' Books says

Black Moon is a strong start to a new fantasy series. We are introduced to a world of fae, shape-shifters, werewolves and many other species that makes Black Moon a sure-fest and an exciting one at that.

There are many fascinating story developments within Black Moon that help to shape the characters Paige and Naialah. Their relationship develops in a unique way, one that I thought was a brave and original move from the author Jessica McQuay. Their relationship progresses alongside Paige's acceptance and growth of the many changes going on her life. The relationship and developments were smoothly and delicately handled by the author, and helped to make Black Moon an intriguing read.

There were many aspects about one of the minor characters Rachel, that I found a little confusing. Her background and personality were made fairly clear, but there were occasions within the plot development that seemed to be a little too coincidental without thorough description or detail. It was possible to move past these moments however; they certainly didn't take away my enjoyment of the book.

Black Moon successfully ends setting up the characters and the reader for the next installment. There are still many questions left unanswered and so much possibility for this series. A very enjoyable 4 fluttering fairies!

Christina Torretta says

Ok, what an interesting book! The plot pretty much starts straight away with Paige getting attacked by Rachel. Rachel seems to really dislike Paige. I couldn't figure out why but I was sadly distracted quite a bit while reading this so it could be something I missed but her hatred for Paige definitely shows through from page one!

The other characters are just as interesting. Paige is really the epitome of a teenager but one that just found out that she's part fae. What the heck would I have done if my parents dropped that in my lap, I have NO idea! Probably reacted a bit like Paige. She was pissed at everyone! This doesn't distract from her personality though, it only made me want to know her more. One odd thing was between her and Naialah and I couldn't figure that out and I won't say much here other than Paige kept saying how luscious and full Naialah's lips were! Now I'm a very open gal so this relationship didn't hurt the storyline for me at all. Actually I wanted more between these two! I was questioning my assumptions but got an answer that I will not divulge of course! You have to read it to find out!! I will just say their tug of war relationship is fun to watch, a bit frustrating at times because both women are stubborn, but still fun!

The plot was also really interesting and again the only questions I have are mostly about Rachel. Her character just seemed SO mean. She adds in a lot that happens to Paige that really wasn't necessary if she could just sit back and talk to someone but we each have our issues right? Rachel has a fair share for sure! And even though I wanted more from that character she still made me respond to her, which is always fabulous! The plot is very steady, starts with a bang and ends beautifully. I just wish Paige would have learned more before jumping into some of these situations. If she were my daughter I would cringe every time she was out of my sight!!

I could add so much more but the gist of it is this: Absolutely great paranormal book! I can not wait to read the second!

PhotographerAtHeart says

Supernatural and paranormal fun abound in this story. I don't typically read YA adult novels, but Mrs. McQuay has a way with descriptions and words. Her characters are lively and entertaining. You can't help but love them...or hate them. Her fantasy world, Varulean, was described with such candor that I wished it were a real place so I could see what she saw and touch what she touched...to experience it the way she imagines it.

Paige is an interesting main character. She is very thoroughly a teenager being ruled by emotion and quick to get upset. But you watch her grow throughout the story. Granted, not as much as I would have liked, but I assume that is because this is the first story in a series and we don't really want her to grow in one book. She is only 18 by the end of the book after all.

My favorite character is Naialah. I do hope we find out more about the relationship between her and Paige in the next book. It was a very interesting one in this story and I am quite curious to see how it unfolds in later books.

Very well done. This book will not disappoint.

Wanderlust says

Cover & Title - 4 out of 5

Favorite Character - Naialah

Okay i am left with questions..

Who or what is Naialah?

Is Paige gay/bi/whatever? Seriously in a YA book?

Man, i really enjoyed a lot of this but at other times i was like huh?/wtf? I liked the idea, concept, world the author created & I even liked most of the characters.

I am totally up for a bisexual/gay storyline but i am uber surprised if that is the way it is going to go. I cannot think of even one YA book that has same sex relationships for the lead. *shrug* As you can tell this situation dominated my thoughts quite a lot

I think i will have to read book 2 to find out what happens next!

Wendy says

I've read many books about 'ordinary' teenagers, an abundance with a paranormal plot and a plethora of pretty covers BUT Black Moon feels so refreshing...

The plot is quite what you expect from the summary. Paige a presumed ordinary girl, is being dragged into a realm of magic, supernatural beings and other events that are catalysts towards delicious action. I am utterly hypnotised by this book but there were a few faults that kept me from fully loving it.

If i can express this book in words i would use captivating, enchanting and innovative. Captivating for how easily immersive this book is. The start just hits off like a rocket and drags you to depths you can't fathom to go. I am beguiled by how everything move smoothly; the transitions between perspectives just worked and strengthened my emotions for the characters.

Call this book enchanting as everything is so light and easy to read. The descriptions are beautiful and succinct. Black Moon is innovative as McQuay have a murder-worthy imagination. Black Moon contains events and places that steals your breath away both sublime and twisted.

There were two problems i had with the novel, they are:

-I felt as if Paige's mother didn't play much of a significant role other than introducing the magic world to Paige.

- I love Paige but I found I found the tantrums she had a bit overwhelming. I mean i get that female hormones are hard to control but i guess i was personally just a bit irritated by it. However, she does grow and in the end i was satisfied.

Overall Black Moon is a quick but delightful read.

I'd like to thank the amazing Jessica McQuay for giving me an eARC version of Black Moon <3

Dara says

Paige Tailor is 17, an ordinary teen in every way, or so she thinks until her world begins to change. In 'Black Moon' Jessica McQuay has created an exciting paranormal tale in which Paige is quickly removed from the comfort of the known and plunged into a place of magic and monsters.

The story starts off a bit slow for me but soon enough I was immersed in the story and staying up to read just a little more because I had to know what happened next. I love storytelling that draws me along like that, it makes for a fun read, and this certainly was.

It's hard to pick what I like best about the book, the action-y goodness was a huge hit with me and I want to say it is where the author excels:

Then, just like that, it was chaos.

I heard a howl come from somewhere in front of me and before I could make out which wolf the sound had come from, they were running towards us. Panic flooded my mind. I stood frozen, unsure of what to do... p. 206

...I turned back to Naialah in time to see her fighting one wolf with her bare hands, and another with the branches of a tree towering above us. I watched, distracted by her fighting the one with her bare hands. No magic that I could see. There was a noise coming from her as she crouched low to the ground. It was feral and made me dizzy with fear. p.211

Yet the visuals for the world she created were so rich and detailed I find I can't put the action above it.

I took in the strange, exotic land as we followed a trail in what I assumed was Varulean's version of soil. It was a rich deep brown color like the red brown of an almond. It didn't feel like soil though. It had a spongy texture that reminded me of moss. With each step I felt like the ground would thrust me upward like a trampoline. I had the urge to take off my shoes and feel the strange texture with my bare feet. p.67

That doesn't mean I don't find the characters compelling! Paige is very 17 and learning her way through new situations that constantly challenge her and many of those moments really resonate with me.

I grabbed my pillow, covered my face and screamed as loudly as I could. I screamed for the old me and my old life and all that I knew slipping away. I screamed for this new person with all of these new ideas and for how little control I felt I had over my own life. My reality was shifting, the world was turning upside down and I couldn't do anything to stop it. So, I screamed. I screamed because I couldn't think of anything else I could do. p.62

The other main characters include her arch-nemesis, who is vicious, out of control, and enjoyably unlikable. And a friend she makes who is the stuff of girl crushes everywhere. Loyal, beautiful, mysterious and capable of handling anything that's thrown at her, Naialah is one of the major reasons I say bring on book two!

This book resolves nicely, with a hint of what's to come, and I'm giving it 4 out of 5 because it's a fun, quick read that left me wanting more!

Kevin Klehr says

From its seductive cover to the last page, this novel had me intrigued. It is definitely the first of a series and sets up the adventure waiting for us, very well.

Paige is your typical teenager - she has attitude, a few hang-ups, and while an incredible series of events comes her way, she still views them with the self-concern a typical teen has. And, of course, she has a youthful interest in fashion. This point of view makes for a charming read.

For me this story came to life when she visited her magical homeland for the first time. Perhaps this is just personal preference as the novel shifts from light horror to mystical sci-fi, and I always loved old movies about other worlds when I was growing up. The place of her mother's birth had me wanting to visit with its hybrid of nature and never ending royal parties. I'll have to add it to my list of holiday destinations.

Ms McQuay mixes first person with third person in this novel a few times, and although at first it takes you by surprise, the reason why it is written this way makes sense as you continue taking in the story. It begins to fit.

I'm looking forward to the growth in relationships, the secrets to be revealed, and the personal insights that you know are yet to come in this fascinating tale.

Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says

Black Moon really intrigued me from the description, and little did I know that I'd be in for a treat when I started reading it.

Meet Paige Taylor, your average, socially awkward teenager just going through the motions of high school. While she's in class, she begins to see bright white lights and hear the thoughts of her classmates. Pretty soon after, you learn that she's half Fae, and her mother takes her off to the strange land of Varulean.

It's here where she learns about her true heritage, how to take control of her powers, and the secret behind her father's death. We also meet Naialah, a cocky, smart-mouthed, beautiful instructor that teaches Paige how to harness her powers of controlling nature and seeing auras.

While there's a few things here that are a bit contrived, ie. Paige actually being royalty in the book and being more powerful than most, I really enjoyed the rich descriptions surrounding the world of the Fae. With all of its politics and niceties, there's something a bit off about this world and Paige's matter-of-fact comments are really enjoyable.

The book was really fast paced and there was never a dull moment. If you're not learning about Varulean and how the Fae operate, you're being dragged off to another training session with Paige and Naialah. Paige's first person perspective also interweaves with Rachel, a werewolf who is after Paige's blood. The

action sequences and character development are excellent.

Continued here...

Check out my Happy Indulgence Blog for more reviews!

Jennifer says

I will start by saying this is completely out of my norm as far as reading. I don't generally read YA books and I don't generally read books having to do with anything supernatural. I am SO glad I stepped out of my reading comfort zone.

Reading some of the earlier reviews show that some of the reasons others didn't like Paige are the reasons I fell head over heels for her. She's a shy, geeky, introvert. She behaves the way she is described. You don't really connect with her character UNTIL she allows you to. It added to her draw for me. She was the main character and while I normally like to connect with the main character either in a positive or negative way, right away, I didn't with Paige. And it only made her seem more real. I didn't have a passion for her until Naialah brought out her passion.

I love the lingering questioning feelings between her and Naialah. Being a teenager and exploring your sexuality is not something that she be taboo or gasped at. I like that very true to life feeling between Paige and Naialah. There ARE teens who go through these same feelings and Paige gives them someone to relate to.

Lastly the HUGE draw for me was how incredibly the author described her surroundings. When she was in Varulean, I seriously could see it on the pages in front of me. The flowers, the ground, the castle, the people. In the battle scenes with Rachel, the descriptions were so colorful that they leapt off the page.

I cannot WAIT for Book 2!

Megan says

This book left me a little confused.

It was a very interesting story, original and unique... but it was the characters that left me really confused... Paige was a very cool character I really liked her, she was strong and very willing to adapt to the situation. However, she has no friends... none whatsoever... she only has is her mom.

Then she meets, Naialah... Naialah was a really cool character and I really want to know WHAT she is, because she is definitely not fey. However with her arrival, Paige seemed to become even more confused because she doesn't know how she is suppose to feel about her, is she a friend? Or more?

Other then those two things, or maybe in spite of them... I was still fascinated with the story because it is a Fairy story unlike anything I have read before, so it kept me constantly changing my opinion, or coming up with different theories.

I am actually really excited about where the next book takes us, and I am hoping that it will have Paige figuring out some of the things I found so confusing.

I usually read books that have a magical element to it, but still a major romance as well... this book totally

delivered the magical elements, and I found myself not even missing all the romance! This is a fantastic quick read and I totally recommend it to everyone who is looking for a fairy book!

Kimberly Schaaf says

I am going to preface this review with the statement that I'm honestly not a "fae" fan. I've tried to read several "fae" books in the past - and have just not been able to get into them.

However, at the recommendation of someone that I truly trust when it comes to book, I dove into Black Moon - with an open mind and high hopes.

Now - with all that being said, I am pleasantly surprised at how much I did enjoy this book! I went through a range of emotions while going through the journey with Paige. I mean, it's not everyday that you find out you're part faery!!! (Yes, I said "PART"...but you'll have to read for yourself to find out what the other "part" is....) She gets mad, excited, intrigued, happy, sad....everything you can possibly think of for a teenage girl who just had her world turned upside down.

The one thing that I enjoyed honestly the most about this book was Jessica's vivid use of colors to describe the faery world of Varulean. Oh my wow!! Some of the most beautifully written descriptions of how things looked that I've EVER seen in a book before. I felt like I could close my eyes and see the colors that she was describing. It made me wish for some illustrations!!

During her visit to Varulean, Paige is thrust into the care of a "creature" by the name of Naialah. A strikingly beautiful woman that is assigned to be Paige's mentor while in Varulean. The bond that they have from the beginning is strained. It's like there's something more connecting them...but neither one of them is 100% sure what it is. Well, at least Naialah's not letting on that she knows anything. Paige feels uncomfortable around her at times, frustrated, scared, intrigued, enraptured....and there's also a hint of flirtatious longing there. I'm super anxious to see where Jessica decides to take this relationship.

There's the secondary story of Rachel (the werewolf set out to keep an eye on Paige) and Cail (her alpha) that was interesting. Again, I'm anxious to see where Jessica takes Rachel's role in this story especially after....well, you'll just have to read to find out what I mean.

All in all - I enjoyed this book and I'm looking forward to #2 in the Paige Tailor series.

Satarupa says

I got this book from the author, free of cost, in exchange of an honest review from my side!

Firstly I would like to thank Jessica McQuay, author of Black Moon, for this wonderful opportunity of reading and reviewing this fantastic book.

I thoroughly enjoyed this and if you're a fan of YA books then this is the 'it' book for you. Here we get our heroine Paige Taylor as a regular teenager whose biggest problems are not much different than any other

teenage girl until one day all her conceptions regarding herself and her bloodline changes leaving her life in a whirlwind of difficult situations.

I truly heart the emotional and deep mother-daughter relationship and really appreciate the way the author presented it in this story. The twists and turns are really breath-taking and the supernatural world that the author is created is really believable.

I loved the writing style of the author which forged the bond between me and story and it's characters from the very first page. The suspense is eerie and you'll keep on guessing the end of the story and will be truly surprised by it.

Hope to catch the next book as soon as possible and I really want to continue with this story and hope to get the chance of revealing the up coming twists and turns in Paige's life.

Jess says

Originally posted on <http://readmybreathaway.blogspot.ca>

Rounded up from 3.5 stars.

Right from the beginning of the book, we've got mystery. Paige Tailor would just be your average teenager, except for the white lights that glow from her hands and her ability to hear a whispered conversation from across a classroom. The story only picks up from there, with Paige being attacked in and around her own home by a seemingly crazed classmate, Rachel (who has her own little story woven into this one in select chapters, which is interesting!). When she finally tells her mother what happens, Paige gets the shock of a lifetime: her mother is full-blood Fae, making Paige a half-blood. They travel to Varulean, the home of the Fae and her grandparents' kingdom, where Paige learns she is the granddaughter of the ruling King and Queen and will be taught how to use her wild powers. As she discovers, being a royal can get complicated, as can being a teenage girl. Put them together, and Paige ends up with a lot on her plate!

There is a lot to enjoy about this book. The plot is fairly fast-paced and has tons of unexpected twists and turns. As a reader, I felt as shocked as Paige did at some of the incredible things she learns. This is definitely not a predictable story, which is refreshing! Just when you think things will begin to clear up and make sense, the author throws another twist at you!

Paige is quite the character. We get a real sense of who she is right from the very beginning and she continuously develops as the story progresses. Early on, it appears she is fairly level-headed, even when worried or confused. However, once she gets to Varulean, she has a hot head and a quick temper, which likely comes out due to the abrupt change in world she experiences. Certainly going through everything she does would be too much for many to handle! Paige is not afraid to express herself and is very outspoken, which I admire, despite it sometimes coming off as rude. She also remains very much a typical teenager through the story; losing her cool when things go wrong, and not wanting to be her mother's "tag along". Not to mention the interesting, shifting dynamic between her and Naialah, whom she meets in Verulean, which never fails to be interesting and rile up emotions on both parts!

There is definitely an awkward family dynamic among Paige and her newly-discovered grandparents with her mother caught in the middle. This adds a sense of truth to the story because they do not immediately form one big, happy family when their ways and customs are so completely different.

I absolutely love the world-building. Varulean is presented as an absolutely enchanting place, with moss-like soil, an abundance of flourishing nature, and vibrantly coloured plants like you wouldn't see on Earth. I really appreciate that some history and description of Varulean is woven into the story, as it helps bring it to life. The magic in the novel is also incredible. The author describes things I've never imagined before, and it all sounds incredible fluid and unique.

There were a few things that didn't impress me as much. Firstly, that there were some errors in the writing as well as some awkward phrasings that should have been caught by an editor (which is who I am blaming for those!), though I was able to enjoy the story despite them. There were also moments where I wished there was better indication of who was speaking the dialogue. I am glad to say that this did improve over the course of the novel. I was also very interested in the side story that was going on with Rachel and was disappointed to find it disappear when Paige went to Varulean (though that's not the last time we see Rachel, thankfully).

There were definitely lots of enjoyable things about this novel! Those who enjoy magic would likely find something to love about this one. Especially the very climactic ending! It wasn't too much of a cliffhanger, thankfully, though there is definitely material for the next book in the series! It got me wondering what would happen next without feeling like the individual novel is completely unfinished, which is how I feel books in a series should end!

Jonel Boyko says

This paranormal YA book is unlike most other books of its genre. Within the Faery realm of Varulean the author tackles many difficult subjects. On the surface, it is a story about a young lady about to graduate high school who discovers that her mother has been hiding the fact that she is actually a supernatural being. This puts a strain on a very close mother-daughter relationship. Underneath the surface, however, it is about so much more. It is about the many different trials and tribulations that accompany the life of a high school student.

I loved the main character. She is not part of the popular crowd and has very few friends. She is not very confident in herself and depends on her mother as her closest friend and ally. She can be whiny and unsure of herself at times and sarcastic and gung-ho at others. She also follows through on the difficult things that she feels she must do and learns very quickly that she must stand on her own two feet, and can depend on the few people that she trusts. She manages to come to terms with the parts of her life that her mother has kept hidden. In fact, she forgives (almost) all of those who have wronged her in some way. She also discovers that revenge is not something that will help her recover. She battles against her own desire to exact revenge against those who have wronged her while also recalling her closest friend from the brink of loosing herself to revenge. All the while this main character is learning what it means to be not one, but two different types of supernatural. She is real, not just your typical supernatural hero.

There were definitely a few moments where I found myself thinking "I didn't see that coming," which was a welcome change from many authors. The story line is by no means predictable. You can rarely guess what is going to happen next. That type of writing comes right through to the final chapter of the novel where you see a budding relationship begin to take root. This is your typical girl falls for her savior relationship, but yet it is not. This is simply because it is a same sex relationship that is so rarely found within YA literature. I loved this twist, especially since it is something dealt with on a daily basis by many living regular human lives trying to escape into the supernatural via literature.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this novel and cannot wait to get my hands on the sequel.
