



## The Awakening

*Joy Nash*

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## **The Awakening** Joy Nash

When Christine tracks the Immortal warrior Kalen to his luxurious castle in Scotland, she finds he's more interested in luring her into his bed than going to battle for humanity.

## **The Awakening Details**

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Author : Joy Nash

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## From Reader Review The Awakening for online ebook

### Emily says

Joining the battle over the Immortal Tain and against the demon Kehksut/Amadja/Culsu/presumably others are the Immortal Kalen and the water witch Christine. Kalen has been collecting art and trying to be an artist himself for the last 700 years, and has fallen under the spell of a half-Sidhe muse who wants his immortal soul for herself. Christine paints watercolors, and apparently is a better muse than the leanan-sidhe.

I was well pleased with this third volume by as many authors in the Immortals series. Joy Nash is quite on par with the other two and my apprehension that one or more of the other authors of this series would be less talented than the first has been alleviated. Although Nash's work seems to contain more sex than the other two, it didn't suffer overmuch, and was actually quite good. Nash is a descriptive writer, but her word choices were not as cringe-worthy as a lot of authors who are heavy on both sex and adjectives.

I liked Christine as a character quite a lot, but Kalen was a little more controlling and 'Alpha' than I prefer romance heroes to be. I am most intrigued by Mac, son of the Sidhe queen Niniane and the sea god Lir. I hear one of the upcoming volumes in this series is his story and am quite excited to read it.

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### Tina Hoeffner says

#### I love this series good verses evil.

Fun read it keeps your attention and the book is done before you know it.

I will read any others that come

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### Night Goddess says

Kalen might just be my favorite immortal so far. He is everything I love: sexy, dominant, aggressive but loving & caring. I could go on for days.....Lol.....With every book in the series it just gets better and better!!!! !???

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### Caryn says

#### Best so far!

Loved this third installment of the series! Christine, a water witch, and Kalen, immortal brother number 3, prepare to battle the black evil threatening the world. Add to the mix a very delightful demi-god named Mac who is the young protégé of Kalen's and let the good versus bad begin! Christine desperately tries to persuade Kalen for them to join the others in Seattle but he refuses. It takes a harrowing fight with the old one, the evil Culsu, to change his mind. With Christine and Mac at his side, Kalen prepares to board the plane to Seattle.

Really think this is the best so far!

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### **Martina the Book Fairy says**

This is a multi-author series along the lines of the 2176 series and the Crimson City series. The general premise is that there is an unbalance of light & dark magic in the world - tilted toward the dark side. Five immortal warrior brothers are responsible for stepping in to protect the balance when this happens, but this time one brother is on the side of evil and the other four have been missing for centuries. Throughout the world, members of the Coven of Light must find the remaining brothers and band them together to fight the evil that is encroaching over the land.

This third book in the series features the warrior, Kalen and Christine, the witch who finds him (and falls in love with him, because this is a paranormal ROMANCE, after all). As usual, they're up against Tain, the brother who went over to the dark side, and his demon master, who goes by a different name in each book. There's also a fun art theme running through this particular book and visits to the European cities of Rome, London, Inverness & Edinburgh with lots of local color from each.

I enjoyed a lot about this book. I liked the pairing of Christine & Kalen. I loved the art theme. And there are some great secondary characters introduced, one of which is a feature in a later book in the series. I'll definitely be picking up the next in the series.

Similar series IMO, are Gena Showalter's Lords of the Underworld and (to a lesser extent and with vampires) Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood and possibly Kenyon's Dark-Hunter series (though I haven't read enough of those to be sure).

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### **Francais Parker says**

World Building: A

Mythology: A

Plot-Twists: B+

Villains: A

Girl Power: A-

Guy-Hero: A

Love-Interests: A

Suspense: A

Feels: A-

For you clean-readers: this book DOES have mature content. You'll need to do some self-editing or scene-skipping to read this one.

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### **Bette Rice says**

#### **Good series**

I like the w as y these authors have intertwined the various tales from one to the next. I look forward to

reading the next one.

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### **Kat says**

This kind of book is not for me. I've loved the other books in the series but this one made me feel a little sick. There is a lot of non-consensual sex of the "no means yes because what I want is more important than what you want" variety. The heroine starts off on a quest to find a warrior to help keep the world from ending, but he kidnaps her and locks her in his castle on an island. It's ok tho cause he's like super hot and the sex is amazing!!!! Ew.

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### **Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says**

Christine Lachlan, a witch of Light, wants to help the cause in finding the Immortal Kalen. She didn't hold out much hope but she had to try. She finds who she's looking for in the most unexpected way and gets more than she bargained for. Kalen while in the middle of foreplay with Leann finds himself face to face with a raven haired beauty with a streak of indigo across her left temple. He thinks he's imagined her when he sees her again in person near the standing stones for one of Leann's sex tours. He's even more surprised when she thwarts Leanna's plans for the evening intrigued takes her to his castle. Christine tries to recruit Kalen in the fight for Light Magic versus Death Magic but he flatly refuses any of her arguments. Christine cannot fathom why Kalen won't help but continues to try recruiting him anyway. Mac Lir, a long time friend of Kalen, knows the reason why Kalen cannot fight but leaves it to Kalen to explain himself to Christine. Kalen cannot believe his brother Tain is mad and wants to die but until he sees it for himself does not believe. Can Christine break thru the barriers Kalen had erected around his heart? Can Christine convince both Kalen and Mac how serious the fight really is? Will Culsu get what he wants? Will Tain recover from his madness? These questions and more are answered in The Awakening.

This series gets better with each book. I'm definitely rooting for life magic wielders to win over death magic. Christine is my favorite character so far in this series. Kalen and her story resonates with me in ways I can't even begin to explain to myself. I'm looking forward to the next installment in the series.

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### **Jennifer Prescott says**

I loved Kalen's story. He and Christine were made for each other! The twists of the story kept me on my toes, despite the fact that I had read this once before, years ago. I was so happy that Kalen & Christine helped one another heal from hurts in their pasts.

I would \*absolutely\* recommend this series to anyone who loves some mystery & magic with their romance! ?

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## **Theresa says**

Starts in Rome, ends up in Scotland. Kalen's story.

Lots of excitement and magic: both life and death flying around. A lot of monsters. Makes me feel bad for the poor mortals fighting for their lives while the immortals are trying to decide what to do.

That always drives me crazy in movies, etc. Every second the 'heroes' are procrastinating people are dying. Hello. Stop playing around and do your job.

This is another step toward the final battle between good and bad has come together. Another major part of the puzzle, but not without some major pain. I can't wait for Tain's story. I hope he gets all he deserves.

Footnote: 1) WOM=WOW.:D. I play that too.

Fave scenes: Christine and Leanna's light fight, Christine's art show, taking the boat & the portal closing visitor.

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## **Mindy says**

I've never read another book by Nash, so I don't know if this is her style or what, but I felt like almost every single bit of this book was about sex. Who is Kalen? An immortal looking for a muse for his art (generally speaking I think the idea of a muse implies a sexual relationship) Who is Christine? A witch whose magic is conveniently tangled up with her sex-drive. They "meet" while Kalen is having sex with someone; they get together after attending a supernatural sex show. Every time you turn a page, Kalen and Christine are going at it. Frankly, I wondered at times if the series was going to progress at all in this book, or if we were just going to be subjected to 101 sex stories featuring Kalen and Christine by Joy Nash .

To be fair, the other books in the series have also been heavy on the sexual tension and weird sexual plot devices (Darius and Lexi's post-demon-defeating coitus, anyone?), but I just thought it was overdone here. On another note, Mac is an interesting new character...I'd like to read more about him.

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## **Karen says**

### **Christine and Kalen**

This is another great KU library read and addition to the Immortals series. Christine is a water witch who has searched for the Immortal Kalen in Rome after the Calling spell was stopped in book one. She locates him in Scotland, but he tells her he cannot join his brothers in their fight against an ancient demon who plots to end the world. As his story unfolds, Christine learns there is much more to this demigod than meets the eye. He is a force of good, but he has been shackled by his past. And to save him from an eternity of suffering, Christine will have to sacrifice more than she ever imagined. I am looking forward to book 4, which unfortunately isn't in the KU library. This book gets 4.5 stars.

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## Kelley says

Courtesy of CK2S Kwips and Kritiques

A CK2S K2 Recommended Read!

Death magic is spreading across the world and it's time for the return of the Immortals...

Christine Lachlan is water witch and an artist who has joined the Coven of Light, a force against the evil sweeping across the land. She must seek out Kalen, one of the five goddess-born Immortals, who has long been in hiding from the modern world. She will do whatever it takes to convince Kalen to assist them in defeating the force behind this evil, Kalen's own brother, the youngest Immortal, Tain.

Kalen has long since withdrawn from the world after a grave act on his part that will condemn him should he ever lose control again. Now his solace is his art, or it would be if he could only grasp the talent he once had. Even taking a leannan-Sidhe muse to his bed does not help him master his talent. When Christine enters his world, insisting he is needed to go to war, his art suddenly takes new form and his talent soars once more.

Kalen will do almost anything to keep Christine at his side as his muse. If only it were that easy. His former lover is vindictive and will do anything to get rid of Christine so she can steal Kalen's power. Kalen refuses to pick up his spear once again and cannot reveal his dark secret to Christine. Can these two reluctant lovers come together in time to defeat the newest and most pressing danger and accept The Awakening?

I love the whole premise of the Immortals series and have been eagerly anticipating the series since I first heard about it. The third book, The Awakening by Joy Nash is the first I've read and let me tell you this story packs a magical punch! What we have here is a compelling combination of loveable characters, a strong storyline, old secrets, and more magic than you can shake a spear at. Even not having read the books in order did not affect my enjoyment of this story. Yes there is an underlying story that arcs through the entire series but each one stands alone as well and I loved reading about Kalen and Christine. Joy Nash gives enough back story to fill in the blanks so I don't feel like I missed anything crucial.

Christine's gift is enhanced by water but is still not as strong as many others in her coven. This is partially due to a tragedy in her recent past that has scarred her emotionally and magically, making it harder for her to maintain her faith in her powers. But she tries very hard to overcome past events and focus on her current mission... finding Kalen and convincing him to aid the Coven of Light in defeating Death Magic. Kalen is weary of life in these modern times, preferring to live without all the modern benefits technology provides. He also suffers in his own private hell over events in his past which, if he isn't careful, can condemn him once more. When these two tortured souls come together, nothing can keep them apart, even the very embodiment of greatest evil.

The secondary cast of characters also makes an imprint on the story. From the beautifully seductive but vindictive and cruel Leanna to loveable teenaged (or is he really?) Mac, gruff and odd-looking but kind housekeeper Pearl to a whole passel of brownie servants. And these are just a few of the assorted magical creatures we encounter on the adventure of The Awakening.

In short, Joy Nash has written another beautifully told story of love and magic. You will not be disappointed.

I can promise you that!

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## ? ?randi says

♥♥♥

I didn't believe the romance for one second. I bought the initial attraction and thought it was really cool how they first 'met,' and I totally dug every second of Kalen's caveman like tendencies, immensely, but as for being and falling in love, it was simply too quick; a common trend in this series. I'm not bellyaching about the romance though. The pace and believability were inconsequential to me liking or disliking the book. I love highlander romance, which in many ways this is. This book offered a story that diverged from the others since it deals with Celtic creatures, in a different country and with a different background, but it stayed true to the plot design of the entire series. I liked this book well enough and LOVED Kalen. I love the high-handed, alphas, I do!

Kalen lives in a castle in Scotland with no modern amenities. He wears a kilt, employs/befriends lots of different magical kind (brownies, Sidhe, halfings, etc.) and lives a quiet yet, individual existence. He loves the arts and has amassed an unbelievable collection of priceless masterpieces. He longs to create his own masterpiece which is why, for the last decade he has maintained an intimate relationship with a half human, half Sidhe muse, named Leanna. Yet, even after all these years, Kalen recognizes that something has always been missing. Then during one of his pairings with Leanna, he looks down and notices that the she is gone and in her place is a raven haired beauty with an indigo streak in her hair. She's there only a few seconds but it's long enough for him to sketch her. The sketch is a disappointing disaster but he remembers the women and notices her instantly when he sees her again, this time at Leanna's Sidhe Sex Magic tour. Christine a skyclad, water witch (the witch in Europe who helps uncover the Calling spell from book #1) who accidentally transported herself into Kalen's bed while scrying for him. After the unsettling event she sets out from Rome to Scotland to find Kalen and convince him to join their cause in Seattle. It's a long, troubling trip but she meets a young Scot named Mac along the way who knows how to get to Kalen's castle simple by looking at Christine's drawing. When Christine interrupts Leanna's sex program and accuses her of invoking dark magic, Kalen has to transport her away before the grudge holding Sidhe kills her. Kalen takes her to his castle and they pretty much get busy immediately. After that Kalen is determined to keep her at any cost and if the world is to end then he vows to take to Annwyn (home of the Sidhe) and have Lir (King of the Sidhe) give Christine immortality. So Kalen captures and keeps Christine, refusing to let her go. He isn't interested in fighting for humankind or the world. He is willing to help magic kind get to Annwyn and he'll do anything to make sure Christine is there too.

We learn eventually that Kalen was created by Cerridwen for the sole purpose of protecting the Tyrrhenus line of the Etruscans. Once their line dies out, Kalen refuses to continue to fight for anyone which is why he doesn't respond to the Call. There's actually much more to his story but he needs to give you the details, not me.

Kehksut/Amadja is back and this time called Culsu. He has a history with Kalen which is a part of Kalen's big secret. Tain is also present but plays a very small role and he's as lost as ever. And now Culsu uses Leanna and brings her into their evil ranks. Leanna is the unacknowledged daughter of Niniane, Queen of the Sidhe and a Scottish highlander. She has some mommy issues and thinks that an immortal baby, sired by

Kalen, is her ticket to all the things she wants. So calls on Culsu, knowing his/her history with Kalen, and invokes death magic into the conception plan and becomes a demonwhore. Demonwhores are explained a little more as Christine also has a history with them.

This story introduces the reader to a host of new magic kind. There are the Sidhe, Unseelies, brownies, gnomes, zombies, golems, sorcerers, merfolk, Selkies, faeries, leprechauns, ogres and pookas as well as the Gates of the Otherworld which lead to their home in Annwyn.

I liked this one and felt like Tain's sacrifice and what he's gone through are the worst of all the brothers so far. I'm mean Tain's past is awful, but Kalen's was so sad to me. I'm eager to move on to the next book. Can't wait to get to Tain.

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