



# Empress Unveiled

*Jenna Morland*

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**Empress Unveiled** Jenna Morland

**"A fast-paced, mystical adventure mixed with heartbreak and hope that will keep you turning the page well into the night." Brenda Drake, New York Times bestselling author**

What if a magical touch meant leaving everything you loved behind?

I was supposed to die. The doctors told me I had only two months to live.

That was before I met him. Daylan.

He was the miracle cure I had been waiting for. With Daylan, I was no longer the small-town girl with that unexplained illness. I was something more. The fate of a magical world depended on my survival, and I longed to go with him. There was only one thing stopping me.

Tyler.

## Empress Unveiled Details

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Author : Jenna Morland

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# From Reader Review Empress Unveiled for online ebook

## Ashley Gill says

I want to begin this post and review by first thanking Jenna Morland and Oftomes Publishing for providing me with my very first ARC {advanced reading copy}. I am beyond thrilled that it was a book that I thoroughly enjoyed, and it will always hold a very dear place in my little book worm heart. ?? Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

In Morland's debut she doesn't just get her feet wet.. she dives HEAD FIRST into the YA Urban Fantasy world. I give 4 brightly burning stars to this heart warming world full of intense emotion and beautiful imagery. Like most addicting YA writers, Morland left me yearning for more, and I think all of my other YA fans will feel the same way!

As we begin, we meet almost 18 year old Swayzi (seriously lovin' this name) who has the body of a 90 year old woman- when it comes to her health. Unknown to doctors and specialists around the country, Swayzi is dying..approaching full organ failure and there is no way to prevent it. After a summer spent in the hospital, the decision has been made to allow Swayzi to go home and try and enjoy the little time she has left.

From the VERY beginning I was able to feel myself connecting with Swayzi, not because I have anything in common with her, but because the character building in this book was just plain excellent. I love a book where I can feel at home when the character is explaining their home, when the imagery comes into your brain so quickly like you've been there, like you could turn the corner into a room that hasn't been explained, and guess what would be in there.... And Linda!! She just adds to that "homey" feeling. Man, reading this as a Mom, I have so much love and respect for Linda, and I just ADORE the mother daughter relationship that she and Swayzi have, when it would have been very easy for Morland to write this as a strained relationship at times.. I am glad that she constantly used their love as a strength, showing some of her ACTUAL "young" Young Adult readers how EMPOWERING a good mother-daughter relationship is. {Also, probably helps that my mommas name is also Linda - and she is pretty perfect herself}

I could sit here and talk all night long about the characters in this book, that's how much I love them. {which means great things for future installments I believe}  
But lets talk plot...and a little bit more about the characters, because there are 2 [REALLY IMPORTANT] people that I haven't mentioned yet.

In an effort to keep this review \*spoiler free\* I am going to just paste the blurb from the back of the book here before I elaborate on it...

"What if a magical touch meant leaving everything you loved behind?

I was supposed to die. The doctors told me I had only two months to live.  
That was before I met him. Daylan.

He was the miracle cure I had been waiting for. With Daylan, I was no longer the small-town girl with that unexplained illness. I was something more. The fate of a magical world depended on my survival, and I longed to go with him. There was only one thing stopping me.  
Tyler."

In the beginning of the book we meet the life long best friend, the next door neighbor, the super athletic, brotherly Tyler....I do not want to divulge too much information about him because I will allow you to form your own opinions.. Then enters Daylan - tall, perfectly handsome, instant attraction.. and mysterious things start happening, Swayzi is feeling better, and then we learn of this magical world that is depending on her survival.

Morland does a wonderful job of introducing us to this magical world and what it entails, and my ONLY complaint about the story is that I wish there was a more intense build when it came to Swayzi's discovery of this magical place AND to her attraction/"love" to Daylan. I think it was done well, but I would have enjoyed a little more anticipation while incorporating Daylan into the story adding a little more to his mysterious factor, and upping the believability of the whole love at first sight type of thing that the two of them have... which I am just not into..ever.. that is not my thing - so that could totally just be personal preference {TEAM TYLER, BTW}. This is the main reason this is a 4 star read for me instead of 5... I think a little more anticipation would have made the end result that much more exciting.

YA novels most often include situations involving the protagonist "coming of age". We follow Swayzi through a variety of changes and emotions in this story, and she handles them very well. Her internal struggle with who she was and who she wants to be is fairly short for the circumstances, and I would have liked to be along for that ride in her head a bit more, and think it could have taken place over a longer period of time... however... time wasn't really something Swayzi had a lot of, so I get why she didn't have days to make difficult decisions.

We can't really talk much about the ending of the book, other than you're gonna be looking for the next one. It wraps up nicely, leaving much to your imagination to day dream about until Jenna decides to grace us with some more magic! I need to add that I made that sound verrrrryyyy happy and light hearted.. but like I said earlier, intense emotion!

All around, this is a fantastic YA read and I CANT WAIT to see what Jenna Morland does next with these characters. I am astonished that this is her first novel and I have a feeling that she will only get better from here!

Mark your calendars for September 3rd or pre-order now on Amazon or Oftomes Publishing.

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### **Kim Chance says**

It's been a really long time since I've enjoyed a book as much as I enjoyed Empress Unveiled!

The book follows the story of 17 yo Swayzi, a girl who has suffered from chronic, life-threatening illness her whole life--and the doctors do not know how to cure it. At the beginning of the book, Swayzi is sent home with two months to live and she fully intends to make the most of the time she has left with her loving, hip mother, her spunky friend, and her loyal (and totally hot!) neighbor and life-long best friend, Tyler. But then Swayzi witnesses the impossible and EVERYTHING changes.

This book is full of everything I love in an urban fantasy: magic, danger, suspense, and of course, a love triangle! I ADORE those and I love Morland's! It was done SO well. This book felt very "classic" to me, and I mean that in the very best possible way! It reminded me of all the books I devoured as a teenager and a young adult, and I think this book is going to be a BIG hit! Heck, I'm 33 now and read it almost in a single

sitting! Overall, I thought this book was fast-paced, exciting, and a true page-turner! I am so eager to see where the story goes next!

A huge thank you to Jenna Morland and OfTomes Publishing for sending me an ARC in exchange for an honest review. I am SO happy I got to read this gem of a book! I can't wait to purchase a copy for my bookshelf!

Jenna Morland's debut is not one to miss out on! I highly recommend!

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### **bookslovereaders Steph says**

Fast paced fantasy book with Faeries, demons and not one but two heartthrobs....

I picked this book up at YALC from the OfTomes Publishing table and admit that the cover was the massive draw for me. I'm a sucker for a pretty cover. I then read the blurb and new it was right up my alley... it had Faeries, it had teenage angst (yes I'm old but I still love a bit of drama) it had action and it had heartbreak and magic.

So the book is about 17 year old Swayzi Salasta who is dying from an incurable disease that Doctors don't know how to treat or even able to diagnosis. This hits home right away and makes you feel for her. 17 and knowing she has months yes months to live!

Throw in a handsome best friend Tyler who has been there from the start and a sarcastic best friend Penelope you have a good start to the book.

It gets interesting when Swayzie sees something one night whilst out with Tyler and as the saying goes her life changes from that moment. Enter the dashing young Daylan with his handsome face and instant attraction for Swayzie. Then as if by magic Swayzie starts to become well and her life seems to get better.

Enter the twist in the book where Swayzie finds out about her heritage and the darkness that follows her.... I won't say more as I want you to read the book!

All I can say is I nearly cried at the end I did not want a certain thing to happen but it did! A very enjoyable young adult fantasy book that ticks all the boxes if you want a fast paced read with magic infused throughout.

My one gripe about the book is that the ending happened a little quickly but it was still enjoyable. I'm looking forward to the next book with more world building and more secondary character action!

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### **Ben Alderson says**

One of the most interesting urban fantasy books I've read in a long while.  
Jenna has worked effortlessly to create relatable, funny and understandable characters.

I adore this book and am HONOURED to be publishing it next year.

If you like FAE, ROMANCE, OTHER-WORLD, MAGIC AND MORE then add this to your Goodreads!

**Fallen by Lauren Kate meets The Love That Split The World by Emily Henry.**

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### **Amii Morrison says**

I loved this story.

I am a huge fan of YA stories and this one is up there with all of my favorites. The story line was very easy to read, and kind of follows the normal path for fantasy novels and love triangles. I hope that does not discourage people from reading the story because how Jenna gets through those things to bring the story to light is wonderful. You can tell she writes with heart and loves these characters, and you can feel it as you read. I became very invested with them; I hurt when they hurt, smiled when they smiled and was hoping everything would come out alright. I can't wait for book two!

If you want to read my full review (spoilers included) on this please check out my blog:  
<http://bluntandhonestopinion.blogspot...>

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### **Ciphertext says**

Man alive, this book was a task for me to finish. I was initially very excited about it, then I started reading it, and everything just went downhill from there. I didn't like it. It made me angry. It made me roll my eyes. It seemed to set up a sequel, and I will NOT be reading it. I paid £9.99 for this and I feel a bit cheated, honestly.

Disclaimer - a lot of the themes in this book (such as a love triangle) are things I don't generally like anyway. So I'm gonna do a whole lot of complaining. I have taken meticulous notes and I am ready to put them into a review. It'll be messy, but I'll try my best! I've been in two minds about writing my review at all for reasons, but I honestly feel very strongly about so much of it.

Seriously, don't read this review if you liked the book.

The book is about Swayzi, a girl who has been mysteriously sick her whole life, and how she's a player and can't choose between two boys (except one is a 200 year old man). It's the story of how she learns what she truly is, and why she's sick, and gets involved in a war she is in no way prepared or smart enough for. Also some other people are there. Spoilers abound!

The characters honestly seemed kind of flat most of the time. Their emotions were told to us, handed on a silver platter, instead of being conveyed using context clues, actions, or just letting us as readers work it out for ourselves. Sometimes these other methods were used, and then some nice telling was added on anyway. Treating your readers like they're stupid, whether intentionally or not, is never good. It makes the writing feel juvenile and unskilled. Almost like reading a middle-grade story? Which this is NOT. Tyler was literally putting his hands up Mellie's dress on page 84. Don't try to tell me this book was intended for a younger audience.

A prime example of this! Swayzi returns home, having just seen she has 12 missed calls and 8 unanswered texts from Penelope. This is the excerpt: *"Swayzi! Thank God you finally answered! Are you okay?" She was frantic. YOU DON'T SAY??*

A lot of the writing was really awkward and clunky, e.g. repetition of the same word multiple times in a sentence, or even several times in a paragraph. I can remember two bad instances off the top of my head. "Docks" and, much later, "box". There was overuse of the word "fear" around my least favourite section. *My muscles had completely atrophied, immobilized by fear.* Hmm...call me anal, but I don't think you're using that word correctly. You can't have muscles that are completely atrophied AND immobilized.

At times, the style seems to try to be a proper narrative, but then other times, it devolves into something more like speech. Not to mention the shit-load of passive voice in almost every single sentence. Sometimes just bad writing. Like the scene, on page 216 for goodness' sake, where Swayzi stands in front of a mirror to describe her own appearance to us. I know it was to illustrate her physical changes, but that has to be the laziest way to do it. And it was totally unneeded considering literally every other character was already telling her she looked different and how.

The plot itself was very predictable. I don't really ever remember being surprised by anything, apart from the things that came right out of nowhere with no build-up or hints or anything.

I found myself wondering many times if this book even saw an editor. Copious amounts of spelling and grammar mistakes, to the point where I stopped keeping track. Also lots of use of the wrong homonym, e.g. "beat red" when it should have been "beet red". One of my least favourite things in writing is "My X-BODY-PART did Y thing". As if of its own free will. Example: my eyes blinked. My eyes looked at him. Or "Daylan's hand held Mellie's neck". SMH

I did not like a single one of these characters. I'll just talk about the main three because I already have too much to write.

I found Swayzi to be petty and jealous at times, which would have been fine except for the fact that she tries to pretend she's not, and she tries to justify her awful actions. What am I talking about? The scene where Swayzi utterly humiliates and straight up assaults Mellie, her personal bully, while she (Swayzi) is at work.

First of all, Swayzi describes Mellie as ugly - she wears too much make-up and fake tan, and is blonde, which already tells me everything I need to know about Mellie's archetype, and tells me that Swayzi is trying SO hard to be unique and hipster and cool, when really she's just annoying. Anyway, Swayzi deliberately gives Mellie the wrong order when the bitch comes into Swayzi's mother's coffee place - she adds things to the drink that would make Mellie sick if the girl had an allergy or intolerance to that stuff. Of course, Mellie is a stereotypical blonde bimbo, so she's probably just a health nut, but that's still not okay. Then Swayzi, at work, insults Mellie and pours the drink right over her head.

And Swayzi's mother? The owner? Who sees her do this? She laughs and praises her daughter. What a terrible parent. I've been bullied. I know how it feels. It's never acceptable to be so unprofessional in a place of work.

Later, Swayzi admonishes Tyler for getting sexy with Mellie because she's jealous, but of course it's totally fine for Swayzi to obsess over another guy (Daylan). Double standards.

Swayzi is...so dumb. Or at least dense. Her friend Penelope freaks out that Swayzi is going away alone with

this fairy guy. Swayzi wonders what her problem is. Now, it's obvious looking back that Penelope (being a witch, and witches don't get along with fairies) was suspicious of dangerous Daylan. But like...maybe Swayzi could use her brain and assume Penelope is concerned that Swayzi is leaving work to go somewhere alone with this massive creepy guy she's never met or heard of before? I dunno.

Later on, she's like "how can this mass and very public suicide with 3,000 deaths all in the same place at the same time be Medallion's (the villain's) fault? Are we SURE it was him?" YES, SWAYZI. IT WAS HIM. PEOPLE DON'T JUST DO THAT. CONTEXT CLUES.

Swayzi isn't concerned at all when she's alone with Daylan, and Daylan is nervously looking around for someone. Doesn't suspect him for a second when there's a mysterious fire at the café they just left, despite his sketchy behaviour. Why? "Yet, for some reason, I knew, even if he was dangerous, he wouldn't hurt me". Hmmm...sounds fake, but okay. Also, them commas.

Swayzi literally runs into a burning building.

Finally plot emerges on page 105, and Daylan explains some stuff. Then some villains show up immediately after Daylan is done talking about them, so Swayzi is conveniently prepared for their appearance. Then Daylan drives Swayzi home, and she at last has the sense to be concerned for her own safety. Only for a second though.

That reminds me, Swayzi is "possibly the first faerie/human hybrid to ever live". Of course she is. Kill me.

Swayzi tells one of the boys, about kissing the other (can't remember which one) "I don't have to explain myself to you." Um...yeah, you kinda do. You got both boys thinking they're your boyfriend, you kissed both of them on the same night not even an hour apart. You probably do owe them something.

BTW, angry jealous testosterone-y boys are not sexy at all.

At one point, when everyone is trying to control what she's doing, Swayzi actually stands up for herself, and all her friends - every single one of them - patronises and undermines her, which left a sour taste in my mouth and also made me laugh out loud. In the same conversation, Swayzi tries (obviously not hard enough) to warn them that something's wrong, and they all just literally ignore her, like no one even looks at her. Cold.

Somewhere along the way, Swayzi stops trying to be sexy with Tyler, and tries to be a good friend to him. Then he asks her to a dance, and she immediately says yes. At this point, it struck me that she hasn't really talked to either boy about what's going on in her head, so she can go to the dance with Tyler if she wants. But like, she playin'.

Linda, her mother, tells Swayzi she knows what it's like to fall in love with a stranger. Swayzi tells her "Linda, that is NOT what this is!" Yes it literally fucking IS, Swayzi, omg. Also on this page I realised I hate it when characters call their parents by their first names. It's not cool or edgy.

On page 215, at long last, Swayzi FINALLY offers us an explanation regarding her attraction to these two assholes. And I still didn't get it tbh. "You love him?" some character asks her. God, I hope not, I say to myself. She doesn't even KNOW Daylan. She thinks he's hot. That's it. But I was wrong, she says she DOES love him. Love at first sight. Bleh.



Swayzi remarks, near the end, that Mellie suggesting sex with Tyler and herself (Mellie) is "gross". Oh, but it's totally okay for Swayzi to be making out periodically with two different guys, stringing them both along so she can be selfish. That's not gross at all. I guess it's different because Mellie is ugly, or because neither of Swayzi's boytoys are tryna touch her boobies.

Later on, Swayzi is shocked that Daylan IS the dangerous supernatural creature Penelope warned her he was. She's shook that he would treat another human, Mellie, so cruelly. Because Mellie doesn't deserve to be held against a wall and threatened. But apparently she did deserve Swayzi assaulting her earlier in the book. Swayzi plays by her own rules. She a queen, she can do that I guess.

On page 291, Swayzi finally does something commendable. She admits she's being selfish, she decides to forgo both boys. As it should be. All my rage wasn't soothed, though. The damage had been done by this point. It came out of nowhere, too. Like, we got NONE of this in her head at all, she just randomly says it at one point.

Of course, in Daylan, we have another super old dude (like 200-ish) who looks young and hot preying on a barely legal teenager. And she's not even legal yet. She's 17.

Daylan is a petty bitch and tries to make Tyler jealous on purpose. Swayzi is perfectly content to be romantic with them both, but not together, and not when they're all in the same room. Then SHE gets jealous when Tyler stares at Fay - Fay who just materialised suddenly in the middle of the room wearing a bra and sporting a massive gash somewhere on her torso.

On page 120, Daylan says "from the moment I saw you, I felt the need to protect you." I gagged.

Daylan just picks and chooses the most dramatic moments to reveal all his information. Swayzi refers to her dad as "O" because she doesn't know his real name, and Daylan does the same. Except later in the conversation, he says "Oren". If he knew her dad's name, why didn't he just tell her when she first mentioned it? It makes no sense. On the same vein, Penelope later tells Swayzi "I'll tell you when the time is right". Like...WHY? Just tell her NOW, omg, you guys are going to war, one of you could die, just tell her NOW. Why all the dramatics?

I was warm towards Tyler until The Kiss.

Tyler literally assaults Swayzi and gets mad when she pushes him away and tells him "no". He doesn't let her leave the situation to go into her own house. And it's okay because she secretly wants it. NOOOOOOOOOOOOO. I am sick to death of male characters thinking they know what women want. Whether she wants it or not, her lips say "no", you should back off. Tyler kisses her again. And she...kisses him back. URGH. This comes after she just kissed Daylan for the first time too. I hate love triangles. So. Much.

For page 197 I have simply written "I fucking HATE Tyler" and I seem to remember it's because he humiliated Swayzi in front of everyone in order to one-up Daylan, his sexy love rival. What a tool.

Something random that kinda struck me is on page 132 when Swayzi puts on a hoodie she stole from Tyler a year ago...and inhales his scent. Did she...not wash it for a whole year?? Did the writer just forget how gross that would be because she was so focused on the romance?

Another inconsistency: on page 180 Swayzi tells us she has no first aid training, yet she randomly acquires a

suture kit (or a first aid kit...with suture tools in it for some reason), and just stitches a massive wound up. Like...that stuff requires careful training. But fuck it, guess we'll just do a lil cross-stitch on someone's skin with a sewing needle, probably, because where would she get a suture kit?

At one point, Swayzi just happens to have enough cash in her pocket to pay for SIX prepaid phones. Penelope just happens to have a fancy spellbook hidden in the café. The convenience of a lot of these things was really getting on my nerves by this point.

Swayzi later says Oren's name to Linda, her mother. Linda only knows Swayzi's dad as "O". But she doesn't say anything about this at all. She's just like "okay, honey, have fun at the halloween dance that somehow became a masquerade ball between its first mention and now, here's my wedding dress for you to wear!"

At the end, Medallion is there and he tells his henchman to kill Swayzi. So the henchman goes to do it and Medallion...kills the henchman? Because... "You didn't think I would let you die that easily, did you?" WTFEEEEEEEEEEEE?

Tyler points out that neither he nor Daylan have ever asked Swayzi to choose between them. But like...why? They were happy to get angry and jealous and testosterone-y with each other, which always caused Swayzi distress, but neither of them thought to just talk to Swayzi like grown-ups? Daylan is nearly 200 years old, you're telling me he can't have a civil conversation?

The reveal of all the magic stuff felt so half-assed, like the writer either wanted to get it over with quickly so Swayzi would accept it quickly and she could get on with plot, or she just didn't have the ability to make that part good. Much later, when 500+ year old Penelope tells Swayzi about her life as a witch, we are treated to this: "Her life had been incredible." That's it. Nothing else. Surely if it was so incredible, it would have been worth talking more about? But I guess side characters don't matter so much.

There was a fairy called Fay. That's far too on-the-nose for my liking. Speaking of Fay, she and Ezra are shocked that Swayzi can see them (fairies can hide themselves from humans), yet they supposedly already knew who her father was, so they should know she'd be able to see them? I guess you could argue that because Swayzi is a hybrid, they didn't know what might happen. But come on, guys, use your common sense.

Things I actually liked!

Tyler held the sword awkwardly... I mean, it's honest and endearing and realistic and paints a nice picture. This was page 174 and it was the first part I liked in the whole book.

Learning about Medallion.

Mellie thinking she and Tyler are still a thing when they're clearly not. Made me laugh.

On page 228, Swayzi finally acknowledges that her actions have consequences.

At the end, Tyler bursts in with his shotgun to shoot all these supernatural weirdos, and it was the funniest, most satisfying and real part of the whole book. Shame he dies right after. Or not. His finger twitched. Dead bodies do that sometimes though. He'll be back, I'm sure.

The cover is gorgeous.

2 stars instead of 1 because I laughed in legit amusement once or twice.

I gotta go detox. Read something without a love triangle. I don't know what I expected. Peace oot.

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### **Brianna Nicole says**

I absolutely loved this book! I was reading it every chance I could get. I was immediately hooked. As soon as it comes out in print I'm definitely buying it. And I'm definitely team Tyler! Thanks for the opportunity of reading this before it was released

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### **megs\_bookrack says**

#### **3.5-stars**

*Empress Unveiled* is a debut YA fantasy novel by Jenna Morland. This is the start to a new series and with that ending...I can't wait to get the next one! This book was highly addictive. I am not sure what it was about it. When I wasn't reading it, I was kind of wishing I was...but I was confused about it...I couldn't put my finger on what exactly was drawing me in.

Morland's writing style does have a nice flow to it. It was a quick read that set the stage well for a continuation of the series. It left off on quite the cliffhanger actually. I would say as fantasy books go, this is a good beginner fantasy. *Please note, that is not shade.*

Fantasy is a genre, that to me, can be broken up into different levels: beginner, intermediate and high or advanced. Let's clear something up, I am OLD. I have been reading fantasy for over 25 years and read a lot of epic fantasy and high fantasy - that is why I am calling this beginner. The concepts were very easy to understand and therefore accessible to younger readers or people who may want to try fantasy but are intimidated by complex magic systems, political systems, etc.

This story follows, Swazyi, a high school girl in 'our world' Alaska. When a portal to another world opens, that's where the magic comes from. The portal leads to the world of Empress, home to many mythical/magical creatures and peoples that we all know and love, such as fae, vampires, witches, werewolves, etc. I think portal fantasy is a good way to introduce magic or magical concepts into an otherwise normal world and in fact, it is quite frequently used.

This story is heavy on your standard YA tropes as well. Most notably: instalove, angsty love triangle and the 'chosen one' trope. If any of these is not your bag you may not enjoy this as much. The love triangle was my least favorite aspect of the story but 16-year old me probably would have loved it. There are tropes for everyone, it's all about finding the right books to tickle your fancy! I had a couple of other small, personal taste, things that weren't quite for me but as mentioned earlier, I couldn't stop thinking about it and that's not a bad thing!

Thank you so much to the publisher, Oftomes Publishing, for providing me with a copy of this book to read

and review. I always appreciate the opportunity to read a book early and provide my thoughts. For a debut book, this is solid. I had a lot of fun with it and look forward to continuing with the series. Jenna Morland should be proud of her efforts and I look forward to watching her develop as a writer! The sky is the limit...unless you find a portal to another world in the sky...then there is no limit!

Previously: So happy to finally be starting this new YA fantasy! Also happy I get to marvel at the beauty of this cover every day whilst doing so... **I mean, look at it!!!** ???

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### Ashley Hall says

I received an earc from the publisher Oftomes publishing for an honest review. I have to say I enjoyed this book. I did relate to Swayzi because I have been dealing with pain and health issues all my life and that can be very challenging so I felt the author handled that very well. The characters in this story are very well developed, I liked everyone and connect with all of them.

I NEEDED a sequel, this story ends in a big cliff hanger and I need to find out what happens with these beloved characters. I really enjoyed this novel and I appreciate this story because it shows for me no matter what you go through you can still find strength within yourself and overcome anything! Go read this book! #teamtyler or #teamdaylan my heart is split in the middle but after long thinking I'm going within #teamtyler

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### Heather says

Omg, I cant wait for the next book!!!

*Is it ever enough? We get so caught up in school, work, and crap that we forget to actually live.... I imagine no matter who you are, knowing you're going to die-its like milk...even if I don't feel like having a glass of milk but I open the fridge to find a looming expiration date, I chug it...knowing it's going to go bad, you seize the day*

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### Mcf1nder\_sk says

I have been eagerly awaiting the release of Jenna Morland's debut novel Empress Unveiled for a while, after seeing all of the internet buzz about this work. So I was ecstatic when @oftomespublishing offered me an ARC to read and review before this book's formal release in September. This novel definitely raised the bar for all new authors.

Swayzi is a 17-year-old girl who is dying, since her organs are all failing, as if she were 90 instead of 17. When she goes for a walk with her best friend Tyler, she sees something no human was supposed to see, and her entire world is changed. Swayzi and Tyler are brought into a world of supernatural creatures (faeries, demons, and witches, to name a few), and Sway is a pivotal part of ensuring the safety of multiple worlds in the battle to come.

Morland has created an incredibly well-crafted world, which will undoubtedly touch the reader's minds and hearts. The beginning of this book was heart-wrenching for me, seeing a child facing an imminent death and

realizing all that she has never experienced. The development of these characters was so well done, it is difficult to believe that this is Jenna's first novel. Her storyline is smooth, and there is rarely a sense of forced dialogue or wasted words. The triangle created between Swatzi, Tyler and Daylan was fun to witness, and the choice Sway had to make was unexpected, to say the least. The ending of this tale was the perfect cliffhanger to the next entry in the Empress series of books.

BTW: Ms Morland, how did you know Dirty Dancing was my favorite film?

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### **Auri Blest says**

My favorite novel this year. Amazing characters and just enough mystery and magic to keep you on the edge of your seat. It's a coming of age story about relationships, various types of love, strength and trust, all within the clashing of two worlds. Don't hesitate to pick this one up. It's free with kindle unlimited. I purchased a hardcopy because it's a beautiful cover. Thank me later.

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### **Catherine Kopf says**

An engrossing story with remarkable characters, an emotionally raw plot, and full of amazing magic, Empress Unveiled by Jenna Morland is an AMAZING story you won't want to miss out on. The story follows Swayzi, a teenager diagnosed with only a few months to live. The story itself is filled with magic, a very believable love triangle, and a lot of great description that'll really transport you into the story!

Throughout the story, you meet so many unforgettable characters: my favorites being Penelope, Tyler, Swayzi, Linda, and Daylan. Each character Jenna crafts is unique and realistic, driven by real goals and having unique voices and personalities.

Though I'm iffy about the love triangle trope in YA fiction, it is done so well in this book. I had a lot of trouble figuring out which one Swayzi would choose at first, much so that I didn't know if I shipped her with Tyler or Daylan more! By the end of the novel though, I can say I was definitely on Team Tyler. :P

Action packed and filled with great suspense and romance, Empress Unveiled is a MUST READ for 2018! It filled me with so much raw emotion while reading and the twists it took were unique and kept me turning pages. Do not miss your chance to read this well-crafted, beautiful book.

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### **Feli says**

Swayzi is a 17-year-old girl who spent most of her time in hospitals while the doctors aren't able to help her: she is going to die. Always by her side: her best-friend-type-of-mother and her closest friends, one of them is Tylor, the guy next door with whom she grew up with.

One day, Swayzi not only witnesses a scene which almost certainly isn't from this world but also meets this above all attractive guy Dylan who has a mysterious aura about him.

And thus, our story begins. Or, not really. Jenna Morland really takes her time for introducing her characters,

the setting and providing a good background for her debut novel. Somewhere in the middle of the book she finally starts to give us a real story. When this happens, everything goes very fast. New characters, fighting, different worlds, more background to all the characters and and and. I really enjoyed this part of the book.

Nearing the end, I got a feeling that everything's going a bit too fast. I would have liked to have more information on what happened, a bit more character development for the new characters, a bit more world-building (but I hope we will see this aspect in a future novel of her), all in all just a bit more. I liked the overall premise of the story, but it just felt a bit thin or flat to me in some parts.

Overall, I could enjoy this book very much, although I am not into romantic books, cheesy love triangles, girls talking and giggling about boys and their bodies... This book has all of this, but that's okay and it wasn't too much for a reader like me.

What I loved most were the fantasy aspects. The idea was very interesting, and I really hope to get to read more about this.

The character development and relationships were well captured during that first part (although a bit long and repetitive) and while reading I had a feeling of being part of that group which was enjoyable. Also, there were some Gilmore Girls vibes in it which I loved ?

This leads me to the big question: #teamtaylor or #teamdylan. Well, the instant Taylor was introduced I knew I was #notteamtaylor. So, I guess this left me with Dylan (but that's okay).

Thank you to Oftomes Publishing and Jenna Morland for giving me the chance to read this ARC ?  
The cover is beautiful and you both did a great job for this debut novel to come out.

???? from me!

\*\*\*This book was read as part of my 2018 O.W.L.s in the subject 'Charms' (read a fantasy book)\*\*\*

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## **Jessica says**

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O.M.G! I just finished this amazing book by Jenna Morland, Empress Unveiled. I received an ebook arc of it and as soon as I picked it up I couldn't put it down. I read it in a day and a half.

This book is available for preorder now and will be out in September and it is a must have! If you are a fan of fantasy books with fairies, witches, angels, kings/princesses. and magic then this is the book for you!  
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