



## **Renhala**

*Amy Joy Lutchen*

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Kailey Rooke, timid accountant dedicated to philanthropic work, finds herself spiraling into a deep depression after she suffers a horrifyingly odd and humiliating assault, to only discover more of these freakish assaults occurring across the globe.

A chance discovery leads Kailey to a meeting with elderly Gunthreon, actual master of persuasion. Gunthreon, who seems to know too much of Kailey's history for her liking, opens Kailey's eyes to a coexisting realm she never knew existed: Renhala, while entrusting her with the knowledge of her newfound power as karmelean, serving as a beacon to the Higher Ones. Kailey slowly starts revealing new talents, and Gunthreon is fascinated with what she starts achieving.

She soon discovers that Renhala is in danger, and this danger has been leaking into her own realm. As she uncovers secrets within herself, and attempts to toughen up, she fuses with an unlikely band of fellow travelers (including a dragon, woodsprite, six-hundred-pound greble, her faithful female canine companion, and a "giver"), falls into an unexpected love triangle, deals with her sexy and flirtatious best friend's "issues," and finds the courage to master a new deadly weapon.

On her mission to save Renhala, Kailey will find herself running from life-threatening disasters, such as greble Tartarin, who likes to remind Kailey that when he catches her, he plans on eating her brains with ice cream; she'll run from the deadly meeples: small cute bunnies with talons and an undeniable thirst for imposing self-destruction on others. Kailey will also run into the possibility that a centuries-old Renhalan rumor is true, that advanced technology existing in Kailey's realm shortens all life spans.

As blood is shed and puzzles near completion, Kailey pulls from deep within herself, conjuring up mystical qualities that enable her to astonish as once predicted at her birth, but despite the newfound strength, Kailey will discover that monsters not only come in ugly packages, but can be easily disguised as those she has come to love and trust.

## **Renhala Details**

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Author : Amy Joy Lutchen

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Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal, Adult, Did Not Finish

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## From Reader Review Renhala for online ebook

### Mandy says

I received Renhala from review in return for an honest review. Kailey has suffered a brutal attack which has left her scared and living at her mother's house. However her mother isn't in the best of shape so dealing with Kaileys emotional issues are taking their toll on her health. Ready to start her life again Kailey gets an apartment and moves out again set on changing life. Little does she know that she will change her life in more ways than she can imagine. Unexplained attacks are showing up all across the area, as Renhala inhabits venture into the human world. Kailey meets an elderly man who knows about her past, and shows her the world of Renhala she didn't know existed. He tells her about her role in saving Renhala from the danger that is putting her world in danger.

Kailey will embark on a danger journey into Renhala to find the Higher Ones and save both worlds before it's too late. Together Kailey and Gunthreon with are joined by Bu a six-hundred-pound Greble who is a sweetheart unlike the rest of his species. Jenna the woodsprite who can't be trusted, but sees Kailey as friend joins the group. Conner the handsome traveler who walks in both worlds, that is interested in more than friendship with Kailey. Ladimer a shape-shifter with the ability to heal, he doesn't trust Conner. Lupa who has a green thumb because she's connected with nature she's also sweet on Gunthreon.

Renhala is an epic adventure filled with mystery, danger, adventure, and even romance. When had a hard time putting Renhala down because it's such a fast paced adventure that leaves you wanting more. I even stayed up late last night just trying to finish so I would know how it ends. The author does an amazing job when it comes to creating a world so unique and exciting. However I don't know if I would want to go running around Renhala with Meeples on the loose. I love the mix of characters you can't help connecting to one or two. I found Kailey to be a wonderful main character she has such a special bond with her mother it makes me jealous. Throughout the story I found her easy to connect with she's not perfect but she tries her best and it's all I could ask for. I also loved Bu I want my own 600 pound Greble who has a sweet tooth, he has such a big heart he's a great companion for Kailey. I really loved Renhala everything about the story is just amazing. I'm looking forward to reading more about Kailey's story.

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### Jennifer (Bad Bird Reads) says

From <http://readingandwritingurbanfantasy....>

#### At A Glance

Renhala was an odd one for me. The first part was sooo boring, but once things picked up, I was amazed at the vivid imagery and world Lutchem came up with.

#### The Good

What Renhala offers is amazing fantasy elements and a fantastical world. I don't think I have ever read a book with such creative descriptions of creatures and surroundings. Even when something seemed impossible, Lutchem made it feel possible. In Renhala you meet wood spirits who look like mini people, vicious bunny creatures, pixies who can transform into anyone, cat people, and a big, stinky monster thing with a protective and kind personality. And this is only skimming the surface of all the creatures in this book.

This is an adventure type book, so be ready for thrill ride. While recovering from a brutal attack, Kailey learns that she is has an important part in saving the mystical world of crazy creatures that she is connected to. She is almost killed a million times, but Kailey has a great group of friends who are there with her every step of the way. The start of this book broke my heart. I can't even imagine what Kailey went through when she was being attacked. The memories of the incident haunt her throughout the book. But Kailey grows stronger through her journeys and with the support of her friends. I respected Kailey for taking on such daunting tasks even when she was just learning her powers. I had fun finding out who she really was and how important she was to saving the realm of Renhala.

The love interests were actually pretty fun. Conner is both sweet and passionate. Kailey and him hit it off right away but he gets easily jealous of Ladimer and throws fits sometimes. I thought his pouting was kind of cute. But Ladimer really caught my eye. He is such a mystery. He means more to Kailey then even Kailey knows. His history is complicated and his powers are amazing. There is something very special between Ladimer and Kailey but it seems like something is always holding them back. I really don't know who I want Kailey to end up with.

The secondary characters were just as interesting as the rest: Bu, the large, smelly other realm creature with the heart of gold. Kioto, Kailey's trusty dog. And Gunthreon, the leader of the ragtag crew of travelers. They all made this book more fun to read.

Really, it comes down to the creativity factor. This book is so creative in it's world, history, and characters it's hard for any book to compete. There are so many elements in Renhala that it was almost too much but also just perfect. I also loved the bad guys. I can't say who they all are because it would give a lot away, but some are right under our noses the whole time. The writing was good and the magical feel just gave it enough spice to keep me reading.

#### **The Bad**

Renhala was too long and dragged on forever. I was so bored in the beginning. I'd say a little under half way it started picking up, but still it slowed down in certain spots. I found myself putting this book down a lot. Much could have been cut out and this book would have been the stronger for it.

Some of the dialogue and the characters got very crony. I would laugh at how cheesy things got sometimes.

#### **The Snuggly**

Love triangle alert. It actually wasn't too bad. I liked both men and I understood Kailey's struggle to choose. And though some hot kisses and more (sexual situations) were shared, I found the romance started to lag the last 1/3 of the book. I wouldn't have minded the lack of romance at the end if the beginning and middle didn't set the precedence of romance being so prominent.

#### **Final Thoughts**

I did like Renhala, it just took some time for me to get into it. This book could have been better with a good trimming. But the vivid magical elements made everything not seem as bad. I would recommend this book to people who love fantasy books.

#### **Quotes**

At this level, I can see that the fog is about a foot off the ground, so I get on my hands and knees to see if I can see anything. And I do see something--something that could possibly be very big feet, yards in front of me, but I have trouble wrapping my mind around the concept. When I squint, I see three feet--not two, but three brown, dirty, hairy feet, with toenails the size of bear claws.

Now I can hear it clearly.

"Kailey, Kailey, come and play with me. Kailey, Kailey, come and slay with me."

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### **karen says**

\*\* NOW WITH ALL-NEW MUSICAL CONTENT!\*\*

gather round, urban fantasy-romance fans...the rest of you can go do something else. or maybe you should stay, too. because i never would have thought to classify myself as an urban fantasy-romance fan, having never read one,(because i don't think Life Guards in the Hamptons: A Willow Tate Novel counts? ) but i liked this one a lot, so one never knows, does one?

take a risk in 2013.

i'm glad i read this one. it is a fun story with likeable characters, good action scenes, and it is genuinely funny in places. i particularly liked the relationship between kailey and her mother; it was touching without being treacly, and even though the book is primarily a fantasy-world adventure story, this relationship definitely stood out for me as the strongest writing. which is probably just my fantasy-inexperience talking; for me it is easier to be affected by things i can hold onto, emotionally, than towards things that are more surreal.

so, basic plot-stuff: kailey lives in south side chicago, where she has just survived a brutal assault by a creature not of this world. she is slowly recovering, physically and psychologically, but the world around her is changing. strange creatures are being seen around town, and there have been other attacks on humans. kailey has a terminally sick mother, a high-maintenance best friend named amber, an excellent akita named kioto, and a deep and abiding love of tea.

on an evening out with april, meant to be a "back in the saddle empowerment" outing, kailey meets an old man who gives her a gift. and then things really start rolling.

it turns out, there is another realm, called renhala, and select people are able to travel freely between the two realms. kailey learns that she is one of them, and has many as-yet undeveloped powers. which is an awesome thing to find out after you have been attacked and left for dead. way more empowering than a night out in heels.

but recently, evil elements from renhala have been slipping into our world, and kailey has to discover her powers and fight the bad creatures with the help of some good creatures. including:

a greble, which by its description i kept picturing like this:

a pregnant ceetchan, which is like a raccoon:

because there isn't much that is cuter than a baby raccoon

unless it is bunches of baby raccoons:

a wood sprite named jenna:

and, of course, some handsome gentlemen. you can insert your own images for them.

as far as the baddie things that come creeping, there are meeples, which are like cute little bunnies:

but bunnies who will kill you

and pixies, which are kinda like this:

and mooncats, which are seductive and sexy sentient cats.

so, like, the opposite of that. they can go either way, in terms of whether they will help you or kill you. they are renhala's wild cards.

there are other creatures and humans, as well, but i grow weary of GIS. fun fact: you can GIS any phrase in the world, and the odds are good that one of the results will be angelina jolie.

as for the romance elements... well, i am like a little kid. i am always watching the movies waiting for the close-up makeout scenes to end so we can get back to the killing. this is not an erotica-romance, by the way, so there is less for me to giggle over, but it does have a love triangle, and those of you who like that sort of thing will probably find it very engaging. i will just say that i would definitely have chosen the other fellow. no contest.

so, yeah, for me to have read a 430-page book outside of my genre-preferences, and NOT feel bored or confused at the end of it all, and to feel annoyance at the cliffhanger ending (reader-annoyance, not angry-annoyance), well, that is saying something. if you're looking to get into the genre, or are already into it, check it out. i have no idea how it stacks up against others of its kind, but i enjoyed it, so there's that.

\*\*so, naturally, the fact that kailey is a "karmelean" had me singing this to myself the whole time. and considering one of my first crushes, after admiral ackbar, was on boy george, i think we have figured out why traditional romance novels just don't do it for me.

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### **Sadrina says**

I got to be honest, *Renhala* is such a beauty to read. It has a uniquely enticing plot with interesting characters that I just can't help but to love/hate, depending on their roles of course.

Although I admit the first quarter were a bit dull and flat-out not as adventurous as I expected, despite how relatively fast things were actually progressing. I was in fact bored the first quarter of the book because the whole thing was very vague and doesn't really give out much on what I was to expect. I only went on reading for the selfish reason that I loved Phillip for his mysterious, and wise character.

Then, of course, I just had to take back my words because *Renhala* is so much more than just Kailey's love triangle. It is action-packed, with a touch of magic and plot twists that I loved so much. *Renhala*, the alternative world, was also magic itself; the creatures, the views, the peoples, and the cultures (of some sort) were fascinating and well-described I actually suspected its existence.

I liked Kailey ? I thought she was smart and caring ? but I didn't really see why she put up with Amber's antics so much since she was treated with lesser respect a bestfriend should receive. I also didn't like how Conner was in the way.. Sure he's nice and sexy and all, but I felt that he wasn't the right guy for Kailey dear.

There are a lot going on this book and it got so long I actually wondered, at some point, if I have unconsciously missed the ending and was actually reading the sequels. Not that I hated it but it dragged out for too long with a lot of flashbacks and a lot of ponderings and what-ifs. This made the book a very long read though the overall effect was very satisfying despite how I felt that it could have been summarized and made it straight to the point, and still be as addictive as it is.

All in all *Renhala* is a great read. 4 stars!

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### **Kristen says**

GENRE: Urban Fantasy

THEME: Magic/Romance

RECEIVED: Author

BLOG: <http://seeingnight.blogspot.com/>

#### **REVIEW:**

Now this is an Urban Fantasy you don't want to miss out on! I was seriously brought back to when I first fell in love with Urban Fantasies, reading about complex fantasy worlds, with imaginative characters and a story that is so detailed you feel as if you're really there. This story is an adventure that just kept on coming and the surprises were at every turn of the page; I can't wait to see what happens next.

*Renhala* follows Kailey Rooke who is trying to get back on her feet after being horribly attacked. With the

push of her best friend Amber, she sets out one night and meets a mysterious elderly man who changes her whole life. She is told of a realm and that she is not only apart of it but holds a unique power of Karma. Kailey sets off on many quests to uncover secrets of the other realm as well as trying to save it. With many dangers heading her way, she and her new friends must fight together to save their worlds and stay alive.

Kailey is one heck of a girl, the readers will see her character develop from a scared and sad young woman, to a warrior and devoted friend to many people. For everything that happens to her and all the information she has to take in about herself and the other realm, I don't know how she kept it all together. She does have her freak out moments; she isn't perfect and starts to discover her strengths bit by bit, which I felt made her a fantastic protagonist. My favorite tidbit about her character was the relationship she had with her mother, it was sweet and they had such an amazing bond.

The men! I'm very fond of romances in Urban Fantasy books. I adored both love interests, even though I'm not a fan of love triangles. Conner is a sweet man who has an immediate spark with Kailey when they first meet. They do have their ups and downs, but most of the time it's jealousy. I enjoyed their development and how he too has a special gift like Kailey. Ladimer is a very unique character that is super hard to explain without giving too much away. I loved finding out about his history and he is also very protective of Kailey. There does seem to be one man that's chosen at the end but in series, you never know who she'll end up with until the very end.

I have some favorite secondary characters that I couldn't get enough of. Let me just say there are lots...and I'm mean lots of characters that get introduced to, this is a longer and very detailed story. My two favorites were Bu and Kioto, Bu is a big, smelly creature from the other realm that I just adored to pieces and Kioto is Kailey Akita who is protective and such a warrior pup. I seriously wished that I had a Bu as a friend, but at least I do have a Kioto but he's a German shepherd.

Overall, this was an insanely creative first book. The details of the worlds and history, were just amazing, Lutchen must have had to brainstorm like crazy to create such amazing characters, creatures and magic. Kudos to her! The only thing that bothered me throughout most of the book was Kailey's best friend Amber; I don't know how Kailey even wanted to be friends with her or stayed friend with her. She was a horribly rude and selfish character, but I loved the interesting development with Amber as well. In the end, this is a must read, the romance, magic, and characters that you will love from beginning to end, you will not want to put this book down!

#### RECOMMENDATION:

This is an adult book with some sexual content for a mature reader. Fans of Kim Harrison's Hollow series and Rachel Caine's Weather Warden series will want to get their hands on Renhala asap!

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#### **Renetta says**

My head is spinning from everything in this book. I loved it all! Loved it!

Review soon...

It's hard to write this review because I liked the book so much I just want to tell the whole story! I think I got it now...

It starts with something terrible that happens to the protagonist, Kailey, and she lets out a scream heard round the world. Not only ours but also Renhala. Something is wakened and its not good, both realms are in danger. Our realm is called Abscondia and true to reality we are the realm with all of the technology. Renhala is the opposite of this. They fear technology and want no part of it. They rely more on magic, which obviously is way more cool!

I love the authors imagination as they travel to new areas of the magical Renhala. They meet new creatures along the way and some join them on their journey. There's stinky, gooey, sweet Bu and Jenna the mischievous Woodsprite. Also, Cheeto a pregnant raccoon type animal, giant rabbits, moon cats and more!

There is an interesting love triangle which is by no means the focus of this adventure but is fun to watch unfold.

Neda and Velopa represent the balance of Renhala. I like when Neda talked about everyone's magic and their connection to the earth. She explains that our technology interferes with our ability to connect to everything around us and scrambles our intuition. Intended or not I found an underlying allegory in this story that I connected with.

The story was so well put together considering how much was really going on. We got to know enough about the characters so I didn't lose track of who anyone was. Their personalities all shone through so I connected well with them. There was unexpected surprises, twists and turns and some fun banter between them that had me giggling.

Lastly... where can I get an Everything Bag?! I seriously could use one of those!

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## **Sarah says**

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to author Amy Joy Lutchen.)

Kailey is having a hard time coming to terms with an assault that has left her traumatised and afraid to leave the house.

Finally deciding to try and get back to normal she goes out with her best friend Amber, and due to a bad cab driver, finds herself at a Chinese restaurant. After finding herself in a strange room at the back of a restaurant, Kailey meets an elderly man called Gunthreon, who draws her into a world she didn't know existed – Renhala.

Soon Kailey finds that all is not as she thought she knew – crazy people are just people who can see through the veil to Renhala, and something as simple as a pendulum can give answers to things she never even imagined.

All is not well in Renhala though, a special urn is cracking, which means that a magical being called Neda is in danger, and it's up to Kailey to help put things to rights.

Can Kailey save Renhala? What magical powers does Kailey possess? And who can Kailey trust?

This novel is unique, I can't say I have ever read anything like this before, and it was good!

I wasn't sure where this book was going at first. It started off reading a little like an adult/women's/contemporary/drama sort of story, and then developed into a fantasy, and the best of it was how flawless this transition was! I have read books before which start off reading like a contemporary novel and then seem to switch to fantasy, and some have had real problems where the transition is just unbelievable and awkward, but Renhala did not have any of those problems.

I liked Kailey, she was in a difficult place to start with, but she overcame her fears, and found her confidence again, which was so nice to see. She was compassionate, and showed how much she cared for others, even taking pity on strays.

There were two sort-of love interests, and therefore I suppose this could be described as a love triangle, although there wasn't much in the way of romance in this book, and so this wasn't really a major issue. I liked both of the love interests although I think Conner was my favourite. I didn't quite get why Kailey liked Ladimer. His introduction to the story was a little unusual, and I just didn't warm to him.

Kailey's best friend Amber seemed to be a little hot and cold, and Kailey's mother was ill and needed Kailey to help her at times. Kailey coped with these demands well though, and never resented her mother or Amber for needing her attention at times.

The world of Renhala was an interesting one, and I liked the world building. The creatures were also imaginatively created, and the world of Renhala was certainly different compared to ours.

I liked the storyline, and although this book seemed long (400+pages, but more like 600+ on my kindle fire), it didn't seem to drag, which was good. I have to admit to getting the characters a little confused when I came back to the book after a day, although I think that this was in part because of the number of different characters and their place in the story – not all of them were human either, so there was also lots of different races and their different attributes too.

I was a little confused by the end of the book, although going searching back through the book helped this a little. I can only assume from the ending though that there will be a sequel to Renhala, as in my opinion the ending is a bit of a cliff-hanger!

Overall; a well thought out fantasy story, which is not your average fantasy, and would appeal to people who are not necessarily big fantasy fans.

8 out of 10.

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### **Kelly says**

You know those times when I say that I'm torn about a book? Guys, this is going to be one of those times. I honestly didn't know what was happening through big swaths of it -- not in the sense of \*what\* was happening, but how it all tied in. Yet YET, I was curious enough to keep reading.

Just so we're all clear, I know I have issues about main characters being lied to, important information being kept from them, etc. I KNOW THIS. It irritates me when something that could easily be explained is brushed aside by one or more characters. This happens to Kailey MULTIPLE TIMES during this book. However,

that only engendered mild irritation.

My biggest stumbling block was how readily Kailey accepted all the weirdness around her. After being attacked and violated (I assume. At least that's what I took from it.) by something monstrous, she willingly embraces a passel of odd and/or disturbing creatures coming into her life. Her mom, who is watching her break down in a spectacular fashion, never mentions that Oh, maybe these monsters are real and she isn't as batshit crazy as she thinks she is. \*cue irritated eyes\*

And then there is Amber, Kailey's "best friend", who is SO self-centered it's painful to watch. The way she treats Kailey is awful and I cringed HARD whenever she'd show up. With friends like that... Yeah.

Beyond the characters (which there were more of, mind you, but I'm using my condensing superpower and only touching on a few points), there were a lot of times when the things happening to and around Kailey made no sense to me. While part of this can be explained by the nature of Kailey's power and the nature of the quest she's on (yeah, weird, convenient things happen, I get that.), I had a hard time following along with it all.

Despite all that, I was still intrigued enough to continue the story. By the time the ending came along, I was mentally attempting to tie all the pieces together and figure things out. For the record, I didn't figure it all out. Some events that happened seemed very convenient while other things that seemed monumental weren't explained enough to give them weight.

There's an odd love triangle, odder critters that attach themselves to Kailey, and bad, bad things happening in the world. While the idea was intriguing and I felt compelled to finish the book so I'd know how things turned out, I'm still torn on how I feel.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

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### **Amy says**

[www.the-book-diaries.blogspot.com](http://www.the-book-diaries.blogspot.com)

I completely enjoyed the story of Renhala. The creativity it took Amy to create her world is amazing. All of the characters were intriguing and well developed, making you want to know more about them. She took the mother daughter relationship to a whole new level showing such love and devotion between the two. I liked the love triangle that was created between characters, too bad it wasn't resolved, I am anxious to see who will be the winner. If you've read Amy's blog and saw her inspiration for writing Renhala, you will see how much she has put into this story. It was actually very moving for me to see how Amy used her experiences. I only had two negatives with this story which are minor and maybe my own personal preference. It was long. I am all about a good read even if it's lengthy and able to hold my attention. There were also few parts where the story slowed for me and I found myself wanting to skip ahead. All in all I would definitely recommend this to other readers who enjoy fantasy fiction. So here's a little bit about the story, without giving anything away. We meet Kailey, who has just survived a horrible attack. This attack is just the beginning of a chain of events that will uncover the world of Renhala, Kailey's world. Kailey will befriend a group of people who are pivotal in her survival from someone who wants to keep her from uncovering a plot to takeover Renhala. Along the way, Kailey gets put into the middle of a love triangle between two men, two very different men.

Her mixed feelings put strenuous tension within the group, making things difficult for the group. Kailey is fighting to save a world like no other, against creatures only thought up in dreams and fairy tales. In the end Kailey will need to choose to follow the powers of good or give in to the power of evil.

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### **Dana Camacho says**

Renhala was not my typical read - but I loved every minute of it! A sweeping fairy-tale like fantasy woven into everyday urban life, Renhala is an intelligently written page turner. The characters are well-developed, the story line sucks you in, and the smart humor interspersed throughout the book will make the 400+ pages fly by. A fantastic read! Can't wait for a sequel! I also think this book would make an AWESOME movie!

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### **November Is Nyarlathotep says**

Review of Renhala by Amy Jo Lutchen  
5 Stars

A complex and multileveled contemporary fantasy, with its anchor in our world set in Chicago, "Renhala" keeps readers riveted and easily suspending disbelief while exploring an alternate world, at times lovelier than our own, at times horrifying and dangerous. Young Kailey undergoes a brutal and inexplicable assault, and through it finds that she has unheeded powers and abilities, and so do some of those around her. It is rather as if she looks through a glass table top and sees an entire other world co-existing with her own reality.

Author Amy Jo Lutchen demonstrates an incredible grasp of world-building. There are enough new species, locales, geographies, and cultures involved here to populate five volumes! Yet the tapestry of the two worlds is tautly woven and readily kept in mind as the plot swiftly unfolds.

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### **Jillian says**

4.5 out of 5 stars!

<http://www.read-love-blog.com/2013/01...>

So, as I'm sure you know, I love to read. I'd like to say that I read a lot of different genres and have a broad spectrum of reading material in my bookcases. Truth is, sadly, I don't. So, when I was introduced to a book titled Renhala, I read the description and knew it was something I had to read. Fantasy and magic was not something I normally read...no particular reason, really. Holy hell, I am so glad I found this book.... I was hooked on Renhala from the very first page.

We meet Kailey in the beginning recuperating, both physically and mentally, from an attack. An attack that she still can't make sense of. She's certain her attacker wasn't exactly human...but surely she must be

mistaken, right? In her quest to return to normalcy, her paths cross with an interesting man named Gunthreon. Gunthreon will show Kailey what her true nature is, and he will introduce her to Renhala...an alternate realm she never knew existed. Now, she not only has to learn all she can about Renhala and the creatures and beings that inhabit it, but that she must aid in saving it. Along the way, Kailey meets some amazing and endearing creatures that she learns not to fear but instead, to love. She also meets two interesting men who will both make a play for her affections.

Kailey is a kick-ass heroine. She is developed so well that I feel like I could pick up the phone and invite her over for a glass of wine. She's spunky, intelligent and has a dry sense of humor that I absolutely ADORE! I mean really, how can you not love a gal who isn't above sticking her tongue out at someone when they are acting a fool? She's snarky but delivers her snark with affection and pulls it off every time. Love her!

This story was amazing. The creatures Ms. Lutchen has created are so vivid in my mind that I feel as though they are right beside me. Her descriptions of the settings, objects, landscapes and characters are truly a gift given to the reader. There are evil creatures called meeples that are described so richly that I won't soon forget their evilness...even if they do sorta look like fluffy bunnies. The characters the Kailey befriends along the way are creatures I wish were real. My personal favorite is Bu....a big, hairy, smelly, sorta scary beast that has a heart of gold who speaks like a child and will protect Kailey with his own life if it were to come to it. Then there's Conner and Ladimer, the two men who suddenly appear in her life and who both want a place in her heart. Each of them have amazing qualities that make it so hard for Kailey, as well as the reader, to decide who her choice should be. The relationship that touched me the most, however, was the relationship between Kailey and her mother. I am actually tearing up as I type this recalling their story. It is just beautiful.

All of that being said, what I found most remarkable was the way Ms. Lutchen told the story. Never once did I feel lost and not understanding of what was going on within the story. We learned about Renhala and all of the creatures and problems right along with Kailey. Not only did Gunthreon teach her what everything was along the way, but he taught me as well. I really appreciated that characteristic of the book. Even if I read a section and was starting to feel a "huh?" coming on, it would be within the next sentence that things were explained and the idea became clear. I can only imagine how difficult a task it must be, from a writing standpoint, to be able to accomplish that.

I feel so lucky to have found this book and I hope that even if fantasy isn't necessarily your thing, you'll give this book a try. I'm certain you will love Renhala and what Ms. Lutchen has created as much as I did! Thank you, Amy Joy, for sharing the gift of your imagination with us and I will be eagerly (notice I didn't say patiently haha!) waiting for the next book!

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### **Hollie says**

*This review was first posted on Music, Books and Tea*

A couple of week's ago, I listed my top ten bookish resolutions for 2013, and reading more Urban Fantasy was one of them. Renhala fits that bill perfectly, combining action and adventure with a main character who's learning to stand on her own two feet again after a horrific attack by something that wasn't exactly human. I've been interested in Renhala ever since I saw it on Faye's blog, and I am so happy to say that Renhala did not disappoint me one bit.

I really liked Kailey. We meet her as she's recovering from a deep depression, after a nasty attack by something that she knows in her heart of hearts was most definitely not human, despite what everyone else tells her. It takes a lot of courage for someone to return to their normal life after something as soul-destroying as that, but that is exactly what Kailey tries to do, and I really admired her for that. In fact, Kailey really appeared to take everything in her stride, especially when she was first introduced to Renhala by Gunthreon. She was weary, but took the plunge and soon found herself swept up in a bigger adventure than she could ever have imagined. And I also adored the fact that she drank tea and that it was a theme constantly picked up on throughout the book, so much so that it really felt like a part of Kailey. And the relationship between Kailey and her mother was fantastically written. Kailey still needed the comfort her mother provided her throughout the entire book, even as they both fought their own battles. It was sad to see her mother deteriorate throughout the book, especially right at the end. I knew it was coming but I didn't want it to happen!

The rest of the characters in Renhala were all written really well, and each had something to add to the plot. I loved Conner, especially when he was with Kailey. His soulspeak ability was incredibly interesting, and I didn't expect it to come from his character when he was first introduced to the story. I had my suspicions about Gunthreon and his intentions, especially towards the end of the story when he disappeared with Lupa. I adored Bu! He was so sweet and kind, and really cared for all of his friends, and even though he was scared to fight, he still did so, because he wanted to help protect his friends. Ladimer was a clever character. He was in love with both Kailey AND her mother and wanted to do right by both of them, although he could be a little whiny at times. Then there was Amber, Kailey's 'best friend'. Oh man, I did not like her at all. She treated Kailey like rubbish throughout the entire book, and blamed all her misfortune on Kailey, even when it wasn't Kailey's fault. Then when Kailey tries to be more like Amber, and forces herself on a night out, Amber just deserts her for the first guy she sees. Even when her actions were explained at the end, I just could not find a single redeeming quality about her.

The plot took a little while to kick off, but once it did, there was no stopping it. I found all the separate lands within Renhala interesting, although I wished Kailey had appreciated the fact that parts of it were dangerous, and had it not been for Ladimer and Gunthreon, she probably would have ended up dead on several occasions. I also found the ring that Kailey mentioned very interesting, but couldn't work out the connection with it until it was practically staring me in the face, which is something that I really love in books. I don't like being able to easily guess parts of the plot, and that's something Amy Joy Lutchen did really well.

All in all, Renhala was one incredible read! I just could not get enough of this book, especially as it ended on one heck of a cliffhanger that has me desperately hoping there's a second book in the works! Please?

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### **Lori says**

Kailey is living her life day to day. Then she is attacked by something. Something hideous. Something that is not from Earth. This book follows the aftermath of her attack. Kailey learns that sometimes not is every thing or everyone is who or what they seem to be on the surface. She learns that she is strong, and capable. She learns that her family is a lot bigger and more varied than she could have ever imagined. She learns she has special powers and that she is Karma. She joins the fight to bring balance back to her world and Renhala. Blunt honesty: Renhala was a tough book for me to get into. The world building is complex here guys and gals. It's labeled Urban Fantasy but the complexity is like that of a regular old Epic Fantasy. Fantasy is not one of my favorite genres. I like it but I don't love it.

To be even more honest: Once I hit 30% I was hooked and in LOVE with this story. The characters were

awesome, and interesting. There are two drool worthy guys, a kick butt heroine, a sage leader and lots and lots of comedic relief. Action, suspense and possibly even the kitchen are all thrown into the mix, making this story one amazing captivating story that I just could not leave alone. I kept waiting, pacing, hiding to read the next page, the next chapter. I stayed up until 1 am knowing full well I had to work in the morning. I lost sleep for these characters.

The creatures in this book are creepy and creative. Three legged brown fury guys that stink like rotten eggs. Sprites, pixies, dragons all exist with their own special twist. My personal favorite are the Giant fury bunnies. They are gruesome and remorseless killers. After Kailey witnesses brutality at the hands of the bunny she loses it:

This sucks. I think I'm going to throw up," I say as I bend over dry-heaving. "I'm never watching Bugs Bunny again, ever.

Yeah, I totally loved Kailey's twisted sense of humor. She and I could be really good friends. Speaking of friends, Kailey's best friend Amber. Yeah, why was she ever friends with her. The things that come out of this girl's mouth made me want to slap my kindle. But Kailey being the good person she is (after all she is Karma) she usually just brushes off Amber's bad attitude with an 'Oh that's Amber' excuse. UGH!!!! In one instance Amber is telling Kailey about how she thwarted a mugger with the pepper spray that Kailey had given her earlier in the night.

'...See what happens when you fight back?' There's a long pause.

It's very obviously a stab at Kailey for not being able to fight off her attacker.

By this time I had really had it with Kailey's so called friend Amber, after this I just wanted a furry bunny to come rip her head off.

Kailey has no shortage of real friends though. From her mentor Gunthreon, to the two hotties in her life Conner and Ladimer, and a Grebel named Bu, a woodsprite named Jenna and several others. I have to say that the romance in this book is very much backseat to the other troubles in our heroines life, and I am ok with that. She really had a lot on her plate so it was refreshing that she had two guys Conner and Ladimer willing to help her along and be there for her. She enjoys both of their company and by the end of the book I still have no idea which one is the right fit for her.

The ending...what. was. that? Oh I needed more, and this book was long, but by the end I was so hooked I wanted it to keep going. I cannot wait to read the next installment. Thank you Ms. Lutchen for the wild ride with some amazing characters.

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### **Emma Adams says**

Renhala, by debut author Amy Joy Lutchen, is an inventive and imaginative fantasy that spans two universes: our own, and an alternative realm known as Renhala. The narrative begins with Kailey, who is recovering from a horrible, bizarre assault which has left her broken. But things take a turn for the weird when she meets a mysterious stranger at a party who reveals to her that she possesses strange powers, somehow connected to the alternative universe known as Renhala. Kailey learns that she is a karmalean, and that she might be the only hope to save both worlds.

The novel is populated by a variety of fantastic characters, from her flirtatious best friend Amber to Bu, an eight-foot, green monster with poor hygiene yet who somehow manages to be adorable. There are killer bunnies, a dragon, and a love triangle. With great world-building, the author weaves an original fantasy tale set in a vividly-imagined alternative realm. This is definitely worth a read for anyone looking for their next fantasy adventure.

