



Of The Abyss

Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

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After decades of strife, peace has finally been achieved in Kavet—but at a dark cost. Sorcery is outlawed, and anyone convicted of consorting with the beings of the other realms—the Abyssi and the Numini—is put to death. The only people who can even discuss such topics legally are the scholars of the Order of the Napthol, who give counsel when questions regarding the supernatural planes arise.

Hansa Viridian, a captain in the elite guard unit tasked with protecting Kavet from sorcery, has always led a respectable life. But when he is implicated in a sorcerer's crimes, the only way to avoid execution is to turn to the Abyss for help—specifically, to a half-AbSSI man he's sworn he hates, but whose physical attraction he cannot deny.

Hansa is only the first victim in a plot that eventually drags him, a sorcerer named Xaz, and a Sister of the Napthol named Cadmia into the depths of the Abyss, where their only hope of escape is to complete an infernal task that might cost them their lives.

Of The Abyss Details

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Author : Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

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From Reader Review Of The Abyss for online ebook

William Bentrim says

Of the Abyss by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

Mancers communicate with either beings of the light or dark. Kavet is the capital of Quinacridone. A special forces group called the 126 are charged with keeping the city free of Mancers. A mixed bag of citizens are entangled in a plot between Numen "royalty" and Abyss "royalty".

The mixed bag is just that. People from multiple ways of life are thrust into the underworld of the Abyss to fulfill what they think are their goals. SPOILER ALERT, they may not be their goals and Mancers may be sorcerers.

The story is a bit convoluted. There seems to be an intent to provide adult themes with mixed sexual encounters. The encounters are alluded to and certainly not detailed. I'm not sure why they were even deemed necessary.

The mixed bag becomes a team of sorts and accomplishes what they think they were meant to do.

Web Link

Stephanie says

Very interesting. This is most definitely a different world than her young adult novels, and most certainly an adult novel, but not from explicit content. While there's a lot of learn of the setting and such while also trying to follow the plot, it was intriguing. I'm very curious to find out what happens.

K says

First off, this was a great first installment in a planned series, as well as being a great first adult novel for Amelia Atwater-Rhodes. I loved it. I won't be providing a summary, I believe in your ability to read the one provided by the publisher for yourselves, so let's jump straight into my review.

The cover: spot on. First, I'm glad they didn't try to stick a photo or illustration of any of the characters on the cover. There's an ensemble cast of characters that are all equally important to the story so singling out one would have been wrong in this instance. Also, it could have went a very cheesy, tacky route that would have been unfortunate. Red, the color of blood, is a very significant color for this book and so it makes sense for it to be the primary color on the cover. The imagery is also appropriate, as a decent chunk of the story takes place in a wasteland-ish environment. The typography and layout is balanced and arranged well. My only grumble would be about the little shine/reflection spots around the title, they're kind of ugh. But overall I feel like this cover is much better than several of the ones for her YA novels, particularly the redesigns for the original 4 Den of Shadows books, and portrays the right kind of feeling for a dark fantasy novel.

The pace felt right to me. It was a little slow getting started, as expected when setting up a new world and introducing characters, but she didn't spend a terribly long amount of time on it or throw any info dumps at me which I greatly appreciated. Instead, more information and "rules" are revealed along the way and we learn as the characters learn. I wouldn't say that this book is exciting in the sense that it's action packed or anything like that, rather you're driven forward wanting answers. There are things happening in the background that are just hinted at or partially revealed that create a larger story arc in which this first book is clearly just the beginning of.

I felt like the characters were well developed. We are told the story through at least 3 or 4 different perspectives. There are 5 main characters that form the group that we follow and each character has a completely different background, which informs their viewpoint and attitude towards everything that's happening and creates the opportunity for some really good character development by the end of the book. I also feel like a couple of the secondary characters will likely become more prominent in later books, as their relevance to the larger story was introduced but not elaborated upon.

I found the story itself very interesting, mostly because of the way it was told. The culture of the city it takes place in presents one set of facts--the mancers are dangerous and to be executed immediately, the Abyssi are evil, savage entities, and the Numen are good and basically "angelic". This book is told from both sides of the coin though--by a mancer, a half-abyssi, a guard taught to fight and capture mancers, a prince if he Abyssi, and a woman who is connected to the numen and listens to the confessions of captured mancers before they're executed. When these different people come together, things are no longer so black and white and when assumptions are proven to not necessarily be true, things become much more interesting.

The ending was great--the main arc of this book was wrapped up nicely and we were left with a twist at the end to whet our appetites for the next one.

Ari says

I can't give this book a proper review because of how completely distracting *every single character and place name in this book was*-- most major characters are named for pigments, and even the ones that weren't immediately obvious would have me flipping back five or fifteen pages to their introductions and muttering "Mars black, god," or "Naples yellow, fuck you," and maybe worst of all the character named Alizarin is described as having blue fur

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other than that it was alright, nothing especially grabbed me like the names did but I finished the whole book, so.

Liz (Quirky Cat) says

Review to follow.

Finnessa says

Couldn't get past the first few pages.

Payal says

Great story of angels and demons interlaced with magic. While the author started as YA, this book doesn't seem to be for the YA audience. While I hated the MC's name (Xaz) sounded like a medicine you'd take for an infection, she was a good and strong character. I loved Umber as well as Naples. I didn't care for Cadmia - she seemed a bit annoying. But I liked that the author dealt with a lot of social issues (homophobia, religious zealots, blind faith, etc.) I can't wait to read the next book when it comes out.

Jessica ☀️ ➡️ Silverbow ➡️ ☀️ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Hoooooooly crap, guys . . . Atwater-Rhodes has finally written an adult novel.

Liz (Quirky Cat) says

I used to read Amelia Atwater-Rhodes' work all the time when I was younger, but haven't had the chance to catch up in recent years. I finally decided to make a change to that, and I'm glad that I selected this new series to be the one that gets me back into her worlds. The Mancer series shows that Atwater-Rhodes style and ability has grown with time, along with her subject matter. It is not a young adult fantasy novel, like her past works; instead it pushes onward into the fantasy world.

(view spoiler)

For more reviews, check out Quirky Cat's Fat Stacks

Maya says

Rapey.

Amber says

Amazing! Couldn't put it down

This book has everything you could want. Interesting characters, a intriguing new world, and a plot that you want to sink your teeth into. Could not recommend enough!

Coril says

I used to read this author when I was a teenager, and then fell out of touch with them for nearly a decade. When I again looked them up, this was one of the first 'new' books by them I read, and I was immediately awestruck and in love with their writing all over again. Dynamic, fast-paced, but not over-whelming, with all of the intricacy and detail I had come to expect from them, even more powerfully written than their previous books.

I absolutely love this book, and this series.

Rachelle Janke says

I picked this book up as part of the blind date with a book event at my library. At first I didn't think I was going to like it, but was pleasantly surprised when it drew me in. My only problem was that at times the conversation between characters was hard to follow or it felt that a character was forgotten and then suddenly remembered. For example when they are going down the stairs and they come to a spot where they have to fall to a landing. She describes everyone's descent except Xaz, who is not mentioned until they needed to discuss how much farther they had to go. That just seemed a little wierd to me. I really liked the characters and how they developed throughout the story. Least favorite was probably Hansa, but I still like how she handled his character development. I have a lot of unanswered questions, my biggest one is in regards to Pearl. Why did the Numini want her? Why was Umber wanting to rescue her even if Cadmia's silence could be secured? He hinted at her being special and her eyes are two different colors. I feel like the main characters just forgot about her and don't include her as a piece in their puzzle.

Michelle Hauck says

While this story had an imaginative magic system and an interesting take on demons, plus rich characters, I couldn't feel comfortable with the repeated scenes of characters suffering unwanted sexual invitations and affections. There were a series of scenes with characters being sexually harassed by their demons of the same or opposite sex with the lesson being they come to like this harassment. Just not for me.

Beth says

Vampirebookclub.net Review to come - will update after!
