



Awakening

Kitty Thomas

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This work is dark literary erotica, not romance. If any romance genre conventions seem to be followed it is purely coincidence.

DESCRIPTION:

Nerina has lived all her life as a mermaid, fascinated by humans and land but also repulsed by sex and unable to understand love. Her curiosity gets her captured by a human male intent on awakening her lust and turning her human. But Nerina doesn't believe the legend is real and fears Kyros will kill her when he learns she can't transform.

This work is a novella of 21,500 words which will take the average reader 1 to 2 hours to read, depending on personal reading speed.

Other books by Kitty Thomas:

Full-length novels:

Comfort Food
Guilty Pleasures
Tender Mercies
The Last Girl (latest release)

Novellas:

The Auction

If you enjoy the work of Kitty Thomas please consider trying Tiffany Reisz, Annabel Joseph, and Claudia D. Christian.

Awakening Details

Date : Published August 25th 2011 by Burlesque Press

ISBN :

Author : Kitty Thomas

Format : Kindle Edition 57 pages

Genre : Adult Fiction, Erotica, BdsM, Fantasy, Paranormal, Dark, Romance

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From Reader Review Awakening for online ebook

Eda** # Dax Lahn's Golden Tigress # says

I closed my mouth around his finger and sucked the liquid off. Salty. Primal. It was like the sea. Somewhere deep in my mind, I knew he could be my new ocean.

If you have never read a Kitty Thomas novel, then this is the perfect one to start with!

It is a lot less f*cked-up and disturbing than some of her more recent work, and is the most romantic story that I've read of her, but it is as weird as always and takes you to a completely different world.

Nerina is a mermaid. She is warned about going near humans, these creatures who perform unspeakable acts of lust like monkeys. She is curious about them, but despises the act of sex and can't feel the emotion of love.

One day she is captured in a fisherman's net and meets the Master of the boat, Kyros, the handsome man that spares her life despite the offer of the other fishermen of using her as the main dish in tonight's celebration for his birthday.

He has other...better plans for Nerina. Kyros has always wanted to truly own a woman, both body, heart and soul. Now he has the perfect opportunity: It has come to his feet as the most perfect birthday gift.

But are the legends true? Can Nerina transform into a human, if Kyros can awaken the desire inside her and be his, *forever*?

"Tell me you love me, Nerina."

"I love you, Master."

Vivian says

Interesting appropriation of "The Little Mermaid" with a bdsm tilt. Very gentle, this tale is short and just the beginning--Nerina's transformation to human. Heavier and darker elements are not explored. As such I felt the story was somewhat incomplete, but I'm not a fan of short stories. The otherworld quality that I found in Thomas's "Tender Mercies" is present here--for me it distances me from the subjects even with the partial

first person POV.

D.B. says

This dark and twisted adult fairy tale unfolds like a classic myth. Mermaid Nerina is captured by a human man who wishes to tame and seduce her rather than dine on her fins (as his comrades wish to do). The power play, fear, and fascination make for a compelling read. Recommend for fans of mermaids and myths!

Kat Desi says

I surely do love Kitty Thomas' "dark fairy tales". This one was only *slightly* twisted. I mean, compared to her other novels/novellas. ;)

ALPHAreader says

Nerina, a beautiful mermaid, has been caught. Tangled in a net and exposed to the lascivious gazes of fishermen – she is at their mercy, and could end up as a delicacy on their banquet table, or subjected to their monstrous human rutting.

But then the captain arrives – a dark and beautiful man called Kyros. He has been fascinated by sea nymphs, sirens and mermaids for a long time ... and has often wondered what he would do if he ever caught one.

Now that Nerina is in his clutches, he intends to replace her fin with feet and introduce her to mankind's baser pleasures.

‘Awakening’ is the new novella from dark literary erotica author, Kitty Thomas.

I love Kitty Thomas. Everything she writes is a delightfully dark delicacy and ‘Awakening’ is more of the same.

In the past, Thomas has written to the extremes of BDSM and fetishism. From captive/torturer plots to an island community dedicated to the master/slave dynamic. By comparison, ‘Awakening’ is tame-Kitty. The 21,500-word novella is sort of Kitty-lite, and would be a great ‘beginners’ novel for those who want to dip their toes in the pool of darker erotica.

‘Awakening’ definitely leans toward the more ‘literary’ end of Thomas’s usual literary-erotica genre. The novella is based around the idea of transformation and contradiction – mermaid to human, sea to land, innocence to guiltiness. Thomas explores these concepts through the ancient mythology of mermaids, who are in themselves a contradiction. On the one hand they are sexless – fins instead of genitalia. Yet, sea nymphs and sirens have been written as lurers of men to their watery graves.

With the character of Nerina, Thomas takes the traditional mermaid legend and twists it to romance and lust. The dastardly captain, Kyros, decides to force a human metamorphosis on the sea nymph Nerina and have his carnal way with her.

I knew Kyros was watching me, but I didn't care. Let the human watch the only real pleasure he could ever give me. I wondered if he would become jealous of the water, how it made me come to life and caused bliss to spread across my features. Bliss he would never be capable of with his own hands. I was sure of it.

'Awakening' is less about domination than Thomas's other works, as it has a far more romantic bent, as both Nerina and Kyros learn something about themselves with her transformation;

I sobbed into his mouth because I was afraid he was right. I feared he was awakening me from a long slumber caused by all my years living deep in the ocean, where maybe we didn't dream because it was all a dream down there. Everything from my time in the sea somehow felt unreal and fuzzy in his arms. I couldn't think with his mouth moving over mine like that. The way he held me. His possessive, proprietary kiss.

Kitty Thomas has done it again. She takes what would otherwise be an uncomfortable and squirm-inducing idea and crafts it into a beautiful tale of human dynamics and lust, exploring the many facets of want and craving. Divine.

Cecile says

For those of you that know me... and those that don't this is my little statement about short books.... I do not judge short stories on the rush of their relationships, because they are just that - short stories. So, yes the relationships always could have been drawn out more, yea it seems like they fall in love too fast and of course the story could have been made longer... but it is a short story. So with that said.... here is my review...

I have been given this book for my honest thoughts... So please let's get on with the review!

For those of you that know me, know that as hard as Ms. Thomas work is sometimes, she is one of my favorite authors. Her writing style, as difficult as it may be sometimes, brings you to a place that you would never venture alone... They are not for the faint at heart... But with this story... She gave "hard" a rest and gave us a great other world story. One that will have you rethinking about what is in the ocean...

I would normally give you a little bit of history and warning about the story that I have read, but since this book is really short... I am going to do my review with a twist. I will not tell you a whole lot about this story... Just what it did for me... Ms. Kitty made me believe in the world of merpeople... a world of which mystical things lie beneath the ocean floor. I love how she wrote the book from Nerina's point of view and she shows us her whole world. But Ms. Kitty also gave us a dark side.... A side of wishing for something you want.... Just remember... Be ware for what you wish for... for you just might get it.

This is a story in which Ms. Kitty did a great job at delivering. It is a rather short story. Like she stated above... it may take an hour... maybe two or three at the most to read. It is a quick read, but one that still touches your... inner kink! Ms. Kitty made two worlds collide. Two worlds that are so different from each other... How would one think to survive in the other world? Can one survive in a world for which they do not belong? But I will tell you... it is very interesting to see how Ms. Kitty pulled off the two different worlds!

Paulene says

I think the story is romantic! Haha It's pretty bizarre and sweet :) I love mermaids and it seems that there's only a few that interest me. Fate in its twisted way has made it possible for a mermaid for the two to meet. And even though the situation is unpleasant at first, their relationship has bloomed into something amazing! I wish there's more to the story. It kind of left me hanging. :I

Larissa says

Previously Published on my blog: [Welcome to Larissa's Bookish Life](#)

*NO Spoilers

Kitty Thomas is such a fantastic author! I have yet to be even a little disappointed in anything she has written. She just keeps dazzling me with every story she puts out.

Therefore, it is NO surprise to me that *Awakening* in the same footsteps of her previous novelas.

Awakening is definitely a tamer story by Kitty, in a away more romantic than her other works, but never compromising her style or genre while being compelling and hypnotic just the same.

I feel that if you ever wanted to read a Kitty Thomas story, this is the perfect place to start!

Danielle from ALPHA Reader says:

“(Kitty) takes what would otherwise be an uncomfortable and squirm-inducing idea and crafts it into a beautiful tale of human dynamics and lust, exploring the many facets of want and craving. Divine.” – ALPHA Reader

I could have never said it better than that and I wholeheartedly agree! What are you waiting for? Go pick up *Awakening* right now =>

carol says

This is a paranormal, cross species, erotic novel which also touches BDSM, in terms of ownership as Master/sub and at the end introduces main female character Nerina who is a transformed mermaid through loving submission, to her first sexual experiences -up to her first taste of a gentle flogging while restrained, to awaken her to the possibility of pleasure through pain stimuli. It is told sensitively as her sexual senses are awakened (title so apt), and is an erotic moment in the developing M/s relationship of Kyros and Nerina. It is also a story of loss told from her point of view, from her original state of mermaid and of her family, as she can no longer breathe in water; that moves on then to a future of his beloved possession. The way Kitty Thomas explains Nerina's gaining her legs and developing her walking skills was good and probably resonates with humans who start walking again after broken leg bones:)

The part I find difficult and annoying and the reason I've a lower star rating for this story is the mismatch of

her character's knowledge. The reader is asked to suspend disbelief and believe in a mermaid that has never left the sea and only espied humans when on the shore...fine but that leaves the serious errors of how does Nerina know it's a kitchen, bed, pot plant, or when traversing the castle for the first time alone how did she know she was in the ballroom or library! These spoilt it somewhat for me especially as my expectations were high. Another case of where was the editor....not seeing these errors in the storyline is failing in their work? I have the collection of Kitty Thomas' stories and still look forward to reading her other work but hope they are better than this. Hence only 3 stars

Melissa says

It was an ok story but I think I would have liked it more if it wasn't about a mermaid. It just didn't work for me. This is coming from someone who reads almost entirely UF and PNR so I am not saying that I thought it was strange because it was a mermaid.

Anya says

So this is *The Little Mermaid: S&M version* basically. I have been reading a lot of Kitty Thomas lately and this lady has a penchant for dark themes which grace all of her novels (bondage, slavery, non/dub-con-you get the idea). This was one of her tamer novels.

One thing I like about her books is that despite dealing with such controversial subjects, they still somehow steer clear of being crass. I mean, yeah, such novels are supposed to titillate the reader (and she delivers on that front), but it's not disgusting, you know? (Unlike the abomination that was *The Claiming of Sleeping Beauty*. Seriously, smh)

Adriane (???) says

I always want to read mermaid stories, so I tried this out. I thought that because it was too short I won't feel any emotion or attachment to the story but then I did. Even how short it is you will still get to love "Nerina the mermaid", her innocence, her fascinating description of the things around her and her obedience, the way she follows her master as long as that he won't dine her mermaid fin and won't be delicacy at his table. She always says what her master wants her to say without meaning it so In the last part of the book I am happy that she already means what she said. I hope it was longer with a dual POV. The blurb of this book says it's dark! well for me I find it sweet and romantic :)

Monique says

Originally reviewd at AsianCocoa's Secret Garden

4.5 Stars

Awakening was an interesting, dark love story between a human named Kyros and a mermaid named,

Nerina. Intriguing, right? Legend says that if you catch a mermaid and can seduce her and awaken her lust she will be transformed into a human. Merfolk don't have sex for pleasure or reproduction. The females lay their eggs and then the males fertilize them. They live together in large schools, like fish, and don't show each other affection through kissing or touching. Nerina has seen humans and monkeys having sex and the thought of it does not appeal to her at all.

Nerina never believed the legend that a mermaid could be turned human. She always dismissed the story as a scare tactic to keep mermaids from swimming too close to the shore. But the adventurous sea nymph would soon find herself swept up into a fisherman's net and kept against her will.

Rather than have her killed so that they could eat her mermaid fin, Kyros decides to keep her for himself. She fights the transformation in the beginning and tries to ignore the burgeoning feelings that Kyros incites in her. But slowly her lustful feelings take over and soon she can't imagine life without Kyros' touch and affection. The thought of going back to the sea starts to hold less and less appeal. Although she knows she will miss her family she begins to crave the touch of her Master.

This wonderful Kitty Thomas book wouldn't have been complete without a dungeon scene which of course was one of my favorites. Nerina was deathly afraid of it and confused by all the contraptions and strips of leather on the walls. But Master Kyros once again patiently showed her how pleasurable pain can be.

"Nerina, there are many different types of pleasure. Some types look like pain to the untrained eye. I'll show you."

~

I managed to calm myself and the next time the flogger came down, my body was relaxed, loose. I gasped at the sensation skimming across my skin. Inexplicably I felt safe and warm and loved.

~

As we both came down from the peak, he let himself fall forward over my back, his sweat-slicked skin resting against mine, his fingers threading through mine.

"Tell me you love me, Nerina."

"I love you, Master."

~ *Kyros and Nerina*

Kitty Thomas created a really incredible love story. Nerina's fear, disbelief and conflicted feelings were skillfully conveyed. Her journey from a naive mermaid to a lustful woman was full of love and passion. Kyros was affectionately patient and firm with Nerina as he truly believed that he could make her human. I love a merciful Dom and Kyros fit the bill perfectly. Nerina was an innocent mermaid that Kyros was able to awaken and mold into his perfect submissive woman. I thought the pacing was perfect as the novella never seemed hurried. And I didn't feel it was lacking in content or detail. Awakening was a beautifully written erotic mermaid fairy tale and gets 4.5 dragons.

This is a very short story, but it's nicely written and heavy on the erotic elements. It's about a mermaid, Nerina who's taken captive by a human man, Kyros. Legend has it that if a man can arouse a mermaid sufficiently, she will transform for him--growing legs in place of her tail. Kyros is convinced that the legend is true and determined to make Nerina transform for him so that he can keep her as his own.

Positive Comments:

I'm fond of mermaids and other fantasy sea creatures. The use of them in this story is simple, but compelling. Thomas manages to describe a little bit about mermaid culture and way of life, and we get a small glimpse into how important those things are to our heroine. They also serve as a sharp contrast to the new life and way of thinking she encounters after she's captured.

I liked the idea of using arousal as a method for transformation. As far as erotic plot devices go, I thought this one was quite successful--it's unique and makes for beautiful imagery.

The author at least starts to explore the master/slave relationship and skims the surface behind the psychology of that on both sides. It certainly isn't a complete exploration, but it's as much as I can expect in such a short story.

Negative Comments:

This is definitely erotica--pretty, interesting erotica--but it isn't romantic. By this I mean, the connection between Nerina and Kyros never strays outside of owner/possession territory. Kyros is possessive of Nerina and happy to have her--as one might be with a really nice car. Nerina is dependent on Kyros to survive, and she happens to not hate his erotic attentions. The book doesn't have the page space to deal with anything deeper, and that's a shame.

In both the relationship and the mythology, this felt like the prologue to a really good book. I hate to put "too short" as a criticism--that seems unfair. Instead I'll say that it was a bit too ambitious for its length. A lot more could be done with this world and these characters.

Rating:

This is a well written and very interesting tale. If you like erotica and don't mind the master/slave theme, I'd suggest this book. 4 stars

Among The Muses says

Once again, Kitty Thomas provides a story that sucks you in from the beginning and is relentless in providing a gripping tale that leaves you analyzing the characters and completely captivated by character dynamics and an unique plot line.

The mermaid species does not view intimate and sexual interactions like that of the human race. In fact, they don't even have sex. However, tales have been passed down throughout the generations of curious mermaids being seduced by humans which caused them to loose their fins and gain legs, leaving them without hope of ever being able to return home again. Nernia is determined not to become one of them. But when she ventures to close to shore, she's caught in a net and becomes the captive of Master Kyros. Immediately

Nernia realizes how easily the tales can be true, for Kyros awakens something in her she's never felt before, nor realized she was capable of. The only problem is the extent to which Nernia is willing to submit and at what cost.

Just as the statement in the blurb states, this is one of Kitty's more "tamer" short story creations, perfect for someone who doesn't want a heavy Master/slave read, but still wants the concepts and "feeling" of one there. Awakening is also the most romantic of Kitty's stories; there's almost a lighter feel to the literary atmosphere. And it's simply fantastic!!

Nernia finds herself -- a self she was unaware she truly was -- under the masterful, semi-gentle, seduction of Kyros as he awakens Nernia's desires. Kyros is a great Master, attentive to Nernia's needs and fears, assisting her through the changes she feels emotionally, and coming to terms with her body's new found changes and desires. But, don't forget, this is still a kidnapping story, so both conflicts arise surrounding that fact and Kyros is still a Master.

With an unique plot line that includes the light paranormal and fantastical elements, Kitty proves that she's fantastic at creating a different kind of tale that will completely captivate readers. It's a quick and easy read, effortlessly flowing with a great writing style and distinctive characters and plot line.

One of the aspects that I love about Kitty's work is that she is able to deliver such solid characters and story line in a short amount of time -- and still make me feel as though I'm not missing anything when the story comes to a close. Do I still wish the story could continue on? Absolutely!! But I'm greedy like that! :) Her characters are dynamic and dimensional, and their feelings, motivations, and desires are always a primary focus, which I absolutely love!

And, of course, what would a Kitty Thomas story be without the fabulous psychological aspects she includes. While not as complex as in her other stories, I'm sure you'll spend moments here-and-there wondering at different metaphoric analogies and diving into the psyche of the characters. This is primarily due to the strength of the development of Kitty's characters.

I always look forward to reading Kitty's work and am never disappointed by each new creation she gifts readers!! This is a fantastic book for readers who enjoy literary erotica and want a lighter Master/slave read infused with creative and fabulous paranormal/fantastical elements. Not to mention, just as with all of Kitty's stories, it's wonderfully creative and written very well.
