

Full Author's Notes

From

Activated, Book 2

The Ascension Myth

Author Notes - Ell Leigh Clarke

May 17, 2017

Hey Ascenders!

First of all, thank you sooooo much for buying, downloading and reading Book 2. I'm guessing you'll have also read Book 1 as well, and for that I am immensely grateful.

You've been changing my life through your words and actions. More on that in a moment.

Yoda

I've been deeply amused to see that the Yoda references have been catching on. MA was bitching the other day about how his page has been bombed with people pulling his leg about it. He also suggested that he might learn to do Yoda-speak.

I have yet to see this.

MA still has my *unending gratitude* for the continued mentorship in the ways of the Force: for the hours discussing story plot, book covers, stats, continuous and tireless encouragement, laughing at the scenes I send over, and more recently the finer points of AI development. (To be discussed in Book 3).

Michael, thank you. You're still my Yoda.

Reviews

Wow - you folks are amazing. I was thrilled this morning to see that Awakened has got 52 reviews, giving us a 4.8 average, and 5 FULL pretty stars.

MA says this is very rare for a Book 1.

I blame the pixie-wielding HORDE of awesome though. Thank you for doing this: for reading, for reviewing, and for being so open with your praise.

Not only that, but I just wanted to say that on a personal note some of your comments both in the reviews and on the fb page have not only been deeply touching, but also emotionally validating and healing.

After reading some of the reviews about how you loved Molly and identified with her, and

how you couldn't wait to hear more...and so many words of encouragement to me as a new author... it was just... overwhelming. In a good way.

I had no idea that Molly would be so welcomed into the Kurtherian universe.

And you guys have made *me* feel so welcome too, being allowed to write in your space. I feel like I have finally found my tribe.

This kind of support, this kind of tribe that I have found with you, the fans of all things Kurtherian Universe, is LIFE CHANGING. And I'm not just talking about having a book that ~~hits~~ obliterates the best sellers list.

I'm talking about the kind of comments that make it ok to be broken, or outside a few standard deviations of "the norm". Hearing things like "Yeah. Me too. I can identify with Molly" have also been transformational for me.

Words cannot begin to express the depth of what this has meant to me.

Truly, thank you.

But about that *outright obliteration*** of the charts...**

Have you any idea what that was like to watch?

You guys smashed it.

You got AWAKENED to:

#1 in Metaphysical & Visionary

#1 in Metaphysical

#1 in Galactic Empire Science Fiction

#1 Colonization

1 in *fokking* Space Opera!!!!

Space Opera!!!!

(***Peel Ellie down from ceiling***)

I never imagined this might be possible. And certainly not for something I've written.

I was amazed when it hit the top 12 for **all** science fiction too.

In-fucking-credible!

Just goes to show the power of the KGU fans. EPIC!!

Needless to say, there were several hours when I needed peeling off the ceiling, and as I confessed on a few facebook posts, yes, I did have a little cry.

That was, until the pitch-fork touting fae started prodding and I was forced to get back to writing Book 2 – the product of which you now hold in your hands.

Reviewers

Massive gratitude bombs must go to you awesome folks for posting some incredible reviews on the ‘Zon. As you know, as indies we live or die by the reviews you post, so I’m incredibly grateful for those who took the time to say some lovely words. You’re the best!

Reviewers include:

Sharon, gjh, OldArcher, Lori, and KRGOS, Dragon Caver, flyingonempty, Rae, CEMattoxS, India51, Sherry, Kris, Rosemary, Ogidog, Amazon Customer, J Kling, Nancy, Terrence, Holly, Thavy, Lorraine, YoB, Travis, Frank, M. Brown, James, Gene, KLJ, C Necheles, Dave9969, and Nathan, Kelly, unfortunately, Adam, "Readalot", Kristin, and Dean.

"Amazon Customer" and "Kindle Customer" has made a few appearances too.

If I missed anyone, I’m so sorry. We went through the pages a few times to make sure we caught each name, but it’s possible a few have slipped through the gaps, or shown up as "Amazon Customer" and "Kindle Customer".

Special thanks

Special thanks must also go to our team of amazing JIT-ers, (posted in the credits at the beginning of the book).

You’re my saviours, catching details that we missed when we made adjustments to plots, as well as typos and commas.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Meat vs Veggie

Ok, so now is as good a time as any to confess that the meat on the pizza debacle has some root in real life. At some point on a phone call before MA and I started writing we ended up talking about pizza.

As you do.

It came up that I was vegetarian. MA was appropriately dismissive of the entire lifestyle choice and declared pizza *has to* have meat on it.

We agreed to disagree and moved on.

It wasn't until we were hanging at a conference in Austin a few weeks ago and had to order pizza, that this became an issue. (Read: DRAMA). In the end we opted for the risky choice of half veggie, half meat, and then just hope that the boundary conditions held adequately.

But holy fuck... if you're veggie and you ever do this, be warned! No matter what they tell you, or how much they cajole, it is NOT safe. I repeat. It is NOT SAFE.

I soooo nearly ended up biting into a stray piece of pepperoni. It wasn't even funny.

Yet, something MA found immensely amusing.

On a related note, I also discovered that the man does not eat vegetables.

Not ever.

Not even a sprig of lettuce.

How he is even still alive I will never know.

I'm blaming nanocytes. Or an unearthly connection to the etheric.

Ellie x

Receive updates from Oz by registering your holo/ email address here:

ellleighclarke.com

Join us in another adventure between multiple authors (read – at least two.) Ellie started this for the snippets for this book, and this was an 'extra' we didn't use on the website. (I put the first two below this one for the 1,000 fans who didn't read the snippets ;-)- They are too good not to share again! – Mike

Neechie vs Nietzsche

So back when we decided to have a cat, or more accurately a Sphinx, in the story, we discussed its name. Naturally naming the cat was an Ellie thing.

Ellie: Let's call him Nietzsche.

MA: why?

Ellie: Because like Nietzsche talked about the ubermensch and the way that the most aware humans can become these creative entities that can break free of the bondage of this world and operate truly creatively and at will, this is what the sphinx represents, and foreshadows redacted redacted redacted... [SPOILERS]

MA: It's going to be a bitch to keep typing.

Ellie: So...

MA: what if we call him Neechie and just explain that.

Ellie: ok.

That was a Book 1 discussion.

Fast forward to reviewing the edits in Book 2 the other night.

MA: I keep changing Nietzsche to Neechie. Isn't that what we agreed?

Ellie: yeah. But I didn't think we would actually do it...

MA:

...

...

...

But it's a bitch to type.

Ellie: ok. Change it.

...

MA: and how the fuck do you remember how to spell it?

Ellie: I google it each time.

Well, and I've been trying to memorize. I have... well I *had* a theory that by the time we've written a whole series on this I'll have at least learnt how to spell Nietzsche. Guess that's out now.

** MA facepalmed **

Tues (On website)

So MA and I are on Zoom, chewing the fat and chatting about ADAM. MA was musing what might happen if ADAM ever got his own body, and he randomly asked:

MA: Would Molly ever want Oz out?

Ellie: No.

MA: Why?

Ellie: Because she loves him.

MA: Why?

Ellie: Because he's useful.

MA: That's such a Molly comment.

Ellie's head hits desk

Wed (On website)

When the comments for a section of BOOK 2 got bounced back to me, MA had inserted some random stuff about the Central Systems, and how the planets were organised around Sark.

I tried to convince him to take it out.

Ellie: It's superfluous, and it's getting in the way of the story.

MA: Yeah, but even I'm still not clear on how these damn planets are organised. The fans aren't going to know it either from what we've written.

Ellie: Ok, but it's not important for this part of the story. They know there is Estaria and the asteroid. That's the important stuff.

MA: Right but they need to know. Go ask them on fb what they think...

MA: And don't do some clever shit to twist the question to get the answer you want!

Ellie goes away to ask the question

Comes back to Slack a few hours later

Ellie: FUCK.

MA: ????

Ellie: You were right.

MA: Sorry, what was that?

Ellie: You were right, dammit. They want maps, diagrams, prologues and the whole goddamn enchilada. And you were right.

MA: :)

****Ellie gets to work again****

Author Notes - Michael Anderle

May 17th, 2017

First, as always, thank you for not only reading this book, but coming back here and reading these notes, as well!

THANK YOU for changing lives. Specifically, in this case, a new author. We didn't know (and BOY did we try to guess) whether or not Molly was going to resonate with the Kurtherian Gambit group. Yes, we took some serious chances with this character and this series.

It is the first one to release in the Age of Expansion area. It is by a first time author. It has a VERY broken main character who isn't a bad ass Vampire who doesn't take any shit from anyone.

It's just Molly. A character that is so damned intelligent, she is off the scales, but emotionally and ethically, she is damaged in heart and soul.

Math? That shit is easy. How to truly connect with another human being?

It might as well be mythology as far as Molly is concerned.

We purposefully added (ok, let's be candid "I" purposefully suggested and we both agreed) the bit about her using pheromones to try and seduce the guy. We received (and by 'we', Ellie) some pushback on that piece in the story and the reason is I wanted to introduce an example of how she would use natural science and chemistry to give herself an edge.

Mind you, this wasn't 'roofie' type edge (no thank you, that shit is evil) but I didn't personally think of it as much more than a really sexy perfume (and yes, some perfumes should be listed as aphrodisiacs at some level. For those of us who like them.)

Now, we have book two, where we see her acting and reacting with her team, and yet, she still isn't all there. Some of the scenes where she just isn't bothered about someone getting to them because she is off planet helped ease my worry (because, as a reader, I was worried for her) but then I realized 'this woman is so damned logical, she's going to miss something relational.'

And she did, way to go not speaking to Joel about Sean.

Finally, let's talk about that last scene. The scene that gave me goosebumps. In the beginning, we of course knew that this was a base of stashed stuff from the Etheric Empire.

There is an ongoing effort by Lance to stay prepared. At this point, Bethany Anne isn't in the Etheric Federation being the Empress, she is off with a group searching the stars for a missing group of Kurtherians who can't be up to any good.

Molly, in her effort to belong as a young kid, started reading about the human Empress who seemed to get stuff done and damn the consequences. Unfortunately for the young girl, her efforts DID come with consequences. Now, we find out that Molly was never truly sure about her idol.

Not until she see's the ships with the absolute proof that her idol was just as bad-ass, if not more, than the stories she read when she was growing up.

That scene, that last paragraph, made me want to stand up and cheer.

Well done, Ms. Clarke. Well done indeed.

** Author's Note – Stardate - 10 minutes after I finished the last fucking Author Notes this shit happens **

Ellie reads JIT Team note: *Sorry, the logo is a female skull with fangs.*

Ellie: Is this right? Can we leave it as it is?

Mike: They are correct. I read it as the skull.

Ellie: But no, it is a full human figure. You know, like they would paint on the front of airplanes in WWII.

Mike: Sorry, that isn't possible

<< Ellie has a meltdown about this, that and the other and how this is due to placement of the craft in the hanger (I'm sure there is some 3-D space time bullshit and physics in her comments, but I digress) and how the team has to see it from the location above in the hanger. Mind you, I'm thinking "It's a hanger in our story, change the fucking hanger!" But NOOOOOooooOOOoooo.... I have to continue hearing Ellie rant about something that I'm obviously not clueing in on.>>

Mike: Go to Amazon, search for My Ride is a Bitch and open the look inside... Have you got it? No? I'll wait.

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Got it? Good ...What? Yes, the white mark under the guns (I've no clue how clear her screen is)... Yes, that's the logo. Young lady, you realize this is talked about in a shit-ton of places across one and a half MILLION words and sixteen fucking books, right?

Ellie: Oh, ok then.

Mike: (Now completely fucking confused) – Right what? You're ok with it now?

Ellie: Yes.

Mike: (Asking because I'm a dumbass) – Why? (More dumbass to continue – *I admit why I'm asking*) – I would like to know so NEXT Time this comes up, I know how to deal with it.

Ellie: I just needed to know that it was already set in stone.

Mike just blinks two or three times, trying to assimilate this response.

... Mike goes off to find dinner and leave his confusion back with the laptop.