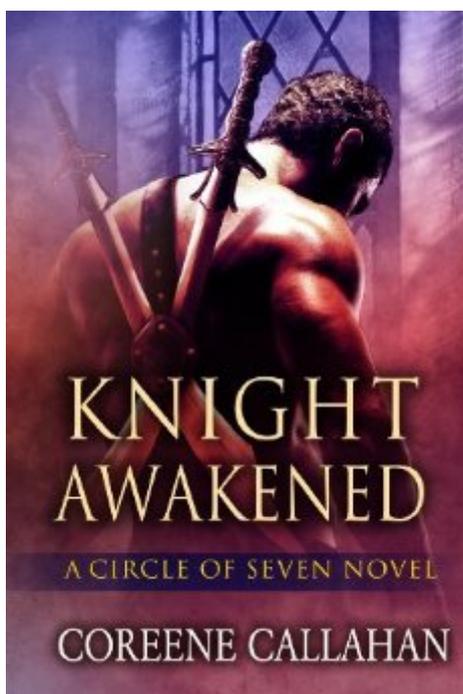


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Knight Awakened (Circle Of Seven Book 1)



Synopsis

In AD 1331, warlord Vladimir Barbu seizes control of Transylvania. But in spite of his bloody triumph, his claim to the throne remains out of reach. The king of Hungary opposes his rule, the Transylvanian people despise his brutal ways, and the high priestess needed to crown him has vanished without a trace. But Barbu hasn't come this far only to be thwarted by a woman. He unleashes his best hunters to track her down and bring her to him "dead or alive. For Xavian Ramir, killing is the only life he has ever known. Torn from his family when he was a child, he was trained from an early age to be an elite assassin. But now he longs for something more, vowing to start anew after one last job. The bounty on his target's head is enough to set him up for good "if he can resist the long-dead conscience that stirs to life when he meets his beautiful mark. Afina Lazar never wanted to become high priestess, but the brutal murders of her beloved mother and sister leave her no choice. Now she is running for her life, desperate to protect the magical amulet entrusted to her care. But when Barbu's assassin comes for her, she realizes her only chance of stopping the warlord's rise to power is to convince this enigmatic "and handsome" hunter that she is more valuable alive than dead. Dramatic and fast-paced, Knight Awakened is a stirring love story between two people searching for a second chance in a magical world of assassins, warlords, unearthly beasts, and nonstop adventure.

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Customer Reviews

Let's face facts here. Romance novels are either full of romance and love or sex, but this one walks a fine line between the sex and... well, not romance. Our heroine, Afina finds herself hiding out from the standard evil overlord, Vladimir Barbu who is, well, I'm not sure who he is, while she raises her sister's daughter. He wants to be the king or something, and then there's the evil something or other who trains assassins who are usually kidnapped boys. And Barbu wants Afina- at first I assume dead, hence sending out the assassins, but then he wants her to be his bride, maybe? Because she has magical powers although she apparently doesn't know she has them, or what releases them. It's a romance/sex novel, guess what releases them. And then there's Xavian, one of said assassins, do you bet he kills Afina or falls madly in lust? Hmm? There is also secret family, an extra character or twelve who seem fairly wasted and enough fight scenes to satisfy the bloodthirsty. Meanwhile, I was busy trying to imagine traveling on horseback for days with a toddler. Sounds like the vacation from hell. Guess it's a lucky thing that one of the killer assassins likes to moonlight as an au pair, so the child virtually disappears from the second half of the book. But it's a fine book if you can read the phrase- 'traitor in my trewes', over and over and not snicker, and if you think a man who can only think of sex when he sees his beloved as romantic. Personally, I got to the point that I wanted to spray him with a water hose to calm him down.

Well, I picked this up based on its recommendation that my previous reading choices are heavily in Fantasy with wizards and alternate universes, etc. This book also had the audacity to tout itself to fans of George R.R. Martin's "Song of Ice & Fire" series. Those are the readers who need to stay the furthest away from Coreene Callahan's books for reasons that will be glaringly obvious from the first few pages based entirely on her writing style. Secondly, this is primarily a romance/bodice ripper in the truest sense of the term. A lot of clothes were sacrificed in this book for the sake of pulsating passion and/or attempted rape. Indeed the hero, Xavian "stiffens" right from the beginning when he first lays eyes on Afina and rides that high level of arousal all the way to the "awshucks" happy ending. My gripes with this story, really has nothing to do with the story itself. The author faithfully follows the formula for writing a successful romance novel as faithfully as the Writing a Romance Novel For Dummies guidelines provide. i.e. the hero with a troubled psyche afraid to be close to anyone, a trembling heroine with overwhelming and confusing awakened desires who eventually

loses control after she is "rescued" multiple times. And a bad guy with every possible bad whim on his mind. Quite frankly, this is what sells and this is what we want to read to take our minds off of our real lives. No my gripes were with the writing. The story takes place in Transylvania in 1331 AD to be precise and yet every single character, no matter their rank in life spoke as tho' they were in Regency England.

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