



Chosen

Samantha Britt

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Curses, Forced Servitude, Rebellion

Draekon conquered the human continent more than one thousand years ago, and their tyranny is renowned throughout the kingdom. The powerful creatures are superior to their human subjects in every way, and they don't attempt to hide it.

Lissa Allaway is a healer in Caldiri, the poorest region in the continent. When she is recruited to the capital to serve the dominant beings, she is forced to reconsider what she thinks she knows about the beasts.

Are they truly the monsters from Lissa's childhood stories?

Or was she misled about the draekon?

Lissa is determined to get answers. But with the threat of a rebellion hanging overhead, she must tread carefully or risk incurring the wrath of the handsome, *but deadly*, prince.

Discover the world of The Draekon Kingdom in **Chosen: Curse of the Draekon Book One**.

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Chosen Details

Date : Published June 21st 2018

ISBN :

Author : Samantha Britt

Format : Kindle Edition 354 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Dragons

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From Reader Review Chosen for online ebook

Jenni says

I am not sure where to start, simply because I loved everything about Chosen. It was an amazing read and I could not put it down! From the very first page it felt like an incredible epic fantasy, and I totally fell in love with it. The characters, the plot and the worldbuilding were all fantastic and I cannot recommend this book enough.

I really enjoyed following Lissa on her journey, she was an interesting character and it was interesting to watch as her assumptions were challenged and how she faced a life in which she had very little control. I found the relationship between the Draekon and the humans so interesting. The reader learns about the city and society of Draek, and the Dreakon, along with Lissa and I think this made the world building even more multidimensional. I couldn't wait for Lissa to reach Draek and to see what she made of her life there.

Chosen is really well written, and there were times, like during the Census, where the emotions literally seeped off the page. The anxiety the covered the build up, the fear and anger as the names are called out. Lissa is a wonderful guide around the world in the novel and I loved learning along side her.

There are such a wide range of characters from Lissa's childhood best fiend to the twin Draekon princes and they were all so vivid and engaging. I have to say that I really loved the Draekon Princess, it was interesting to have chronic illness featured in a fantasy. I am interested to see how this develops in the later books.

I really enjoyed Lissa's introduction in to the society of Draek. We learn about the city and it's inhabitants over the course of the book, so much wonderful information about this intriguing world and yet it was all balanced so well. Samantha Britt has created the perfect balance between information and action in Chosen. The ending of the book was so exciting and I cannot wait to read the next book when it is released.

I read Chosen over the course of two days and I really didn't want to put it down. I found myself wanted to pick the book up and read at every chance I could. I was so sad when I reached the end of the book and I cannot wait to see where the story goes in the next book Possession. If you enjoy fantasy then I would definitely recommend Chosen.

I received a ecopy of Chosen free of charge, however all opinions and words are my own.

G.K. DeRosa says

Loved this new book from the talented author, Samantha Britt! It was so much more than I expected with hot draekon princes, evil elves, and a spirited heroine. The author cleverly weaves a story filled with vivid imagery, an intricate plot line and relatable characters. This is a great start to a new series and the ending left me wanting so much more. I can't wait to read the next one!

Emily says

I received an advance copy in exchange for an honest review.

Can I just say that the blurb for this book doesn't really do it justice? When I read the blurb, I can barely make it through the whole thing because I just get so bored. I generally find that's in indication of whether or not I'll get bored during the actual book, so initially I was apprehensive. But I am so glad I got over that! Maybe not from the first page, but somewhere along the line I was sucked in. I reached the end and was like 'wait that's it?' because it didn't feel like I was reading a book; I truly felt like I was in another world.

Samantha Britt has constructed an incredibly flushed out world. It's easy to understand which makes it more enjoyable for the reader because we don't have to expend so much effort on really focusing on the world, or constantly stopping to ask ourselves 'wait, what?'. It can be a bit wordy at times, and from the beginning that made it difficult to get into, but after a while that wordiness fades away. And plot wise, it is not focused on romance. There's the overall threat of the war and stuff, and the main love element is a sibling one, which I just LOVED. Personally, I think there need to be more books that have sibling relationships as a primary relationship, instead of romantic ones. The characters themselves I was kind of indifferent towards because they all sort of come and go and none of them stick around long enough for the reader to gain any sort of connection with them (except Lissa of course, because it's from her POV). But I am hoping that the next book will give me the chance to do that. And with that ending, you can bet that I'll be eagerly anticipating the next book!

Jennifer says

I received a copy of this book from the author, Samantha Britt, in exchange for an honest review. Thank you, Samantha, for another opportunity to read one of your books. I'm always excited to see where your imagination will take me.

4/5 Stars

Chosen is the first book in a new fantasy series called "Curse of the Draekon". We are introduced to our protagonist, Amelissa Allaway (Lissa), and begin with the life she has made for herself & her siblings in the poor region of Caldiri. Their continent was conquered 1000yrs ago by the shape-shifting Draekon race & Chosen centers around the impact they have on Lissa's life.

Readers are immediately reminded of the Hunger Games as we learn more about the human subjugation by the powerful Draekon race: Each year a Census is held & several young adults are chosen & forced to move to the capital city of Draek, where they are made to serve the Draekon. Lissa's valuable profession as a healer is not enough to protect her from being chosen & she finds her world completely upside down in a matter of hours. She quickly realizes how sheltered her life in Caldiri was as she is exposed to new forms of social, economical, racial & political standards.

The heritage of the Allaway siblings is unknown; their parents abandoned them when they were young. They each have fair skin & blonde hair, which is a rare trait on a continent full of dark locks. Lissa's appearance draws a lot of attention, especially in Draek. She garners notice from the royal family, who provide the story with mystery & the possibility of romance. Lissa even catches the eye of the resident elf, also blonde, which opens up the question of her background all over again.

I enjoyed Chosen. It was an easy young adult read with intriguing story lines to captivate & pull me along. I

always find fantasy stories full of different creatures entertaining - from Draekon to goblins to elves, this story does not disappoint. The setting & character development of the story were also great - I found myself immersed in the story & it's world. Several unanswered questions & subtle foreshadowing help entice the story & help enrich the continuation of the series: Where is Lissa really from? Why did her parents abandon them? Why does Prince Brion want to protect her? How does Prince Finn feel? What will happen when King Roderick returns? How will the war with the elves progress? Will the curse ever be lifted? How will the Rebellion respond to Prince Brion's bargain? What will Lin do? Lissa was a likable & relatable character. Her strong will & intelligence are admirable. My favorite story line of her's quickly became the teasing possibility of romance, especially without knowing who or which direction she will go.

I very much look forward to reading Possession this fall.

(Ps, love the cover!)

Amanda says

Thank you to the author for providing a free copy for review.

Ok lets see if I can form some coherent thoughts! Seriously this book is just so good! I couldn't put it down. The continent has been taken over by the Draekons, a race of beings who can transform into what I picture being dragons or at least similar to them. In Caldiri the humans are told of the Draekons evil and abusive behavior. Every year they have a Census where humans are selected to go to the capital of Draek where they are servants to the Draekons. In Caldiri we meet Lissa and her siblings, who like the rest of the area live in poverty and work like crazy to stay alive. Without spoiling anything, things get pretty crazy from there on out.

The characters are well developed and the plot is just great. I was hooked from page one. Lissa has probably the most growth that we see as we follow her through the book. While I occasionally found her self-doubt and wariness of everyone to be slightly irritating at times it made sense within the story, so I don't really see that as an issue. This book has a lot of court politics and twists. The Draekon are all unnaturally attractive and as such appreciate that in humans, so basically everyone is gorgeous in this book. The princes are interesting characters and I can't wait to learn more about them in future books. I highly recommend this book, and that end twist has me needing the next book like right now!

Marufa says

Do not let the five-star reviews and high rating fool you...this book is just another YA fad-dump.

Tons of writing errors (how did your editors not see 'backwoods/backwards' error?)- including technical errors/typos (I read the Kindle edition), modern jargon, and overall another eye-roll plot where the MC tries to hold back from falling for her enemies. And what's with that hideous cover??? Why does it remind me of "Fairest" by Marissa Meyer???

The only reason I forced myself to continue reading this book was the eerie similarity to a book called

"Dragon Paladin" by Tara Jadestone (in search of plagiarism).

****SPOILER ALERT****

Both books have:

- overprotective older brothers
- MC from some village/simple life
- MC who sides with dragon-people/rulers
- rebellion against the dragon-like people
- older brothers who join the rebellion
- dragon-shifting people came from another planet a thousand years ago
- MC is some sort of love triangle (although in Dragon Paladin the dragons fall for the MC)

Note: "Dragon Paladin" is an action-fantasy with militaristic/political themes and was written in 2013 (though unpublished) on Wattpad. "Chosen" was published earlier this year (2018). Whether or not this is a coincidence, only these authors will know (it's possible that this novel's author read "Dragon Paladin," but decided to do her own "Hunger Games" -esque twist on it with dragons and fairies. But still, the similarities! In any case, I do not recommend "Chosen," but I highly recommend "Dragon Paladin." Read it now on Wattpad before it's published!

A_MOTUS says

Entertaining, full of secrets and plots.

At first, I was afraid I was going to read another Hunger Games story mixed with a pinch of Eragon. Thankfully even if there were many references it was still different. Indeed, the Census ceremony does not have the same purpose as the mortal games but still it was disturbing to see a family of three with an independent strong woman and her over-protected younger sister, the very good and muscular friend who support his own family and the results of the ceremony. That first part was not so new. Nor was the perfectly beautiful city and the rebellion. And I'm sure I'm not the only one who also had sense of déjà-vu when reading about Remi.

Well, I'll stop there for the comparison.

The background of injustice and how ruling people are imposing choices to the rest of the population is an important aspect of how the characters are evolving along the book. Because in Chosen, Draekons are the rulers with a royal family that seems more complicated than stories. Despite what the heroine was told during all her life, the recruit life is not that bad, it is actually quite the opposite. But the comfort and the opulence were still not a choice given to her and her companions who are cut from their families and friends. I loved the plotting atmosphere. Behind the curtains people are working to use Amelissa to their own interests and soon she becomes the center of interest of many powerful entities. Some might like her as a friend or just see her as an annoyance. But pages after pages we wonder how many knows something about the healer that even she does not know. And how long have they worked in the shadows to monitor her. At the end of this first book there are many more questions and secrets to uncover.

Amelissa will have to adapt to her new life when beauty and knowledge are double-edged weapons.

meghann says

Do you ever finish a book and immediately want to read it again? That's where I'm at with this one. I could

not put it down and read it all in one night. It went by way too quickly, and I found myself getting increasingly stressed out as I neared the end because I did not want to finish it. The amazing news is that books two and three will both be released this year as well. Though September seems so far off right now when I NEED to know what happens next. That ending. I cannot wait to see what happens to Lissa after that revelation and how it will affect all of her relationships. I am here for the drama.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary ARC of this book.

Joy says

New epic fantasy that is absolutely spellbinding!

Setting:

A starving people, harvested every year of best of their 16-22 year old young people, struggles to cope with their nearly destitute land. They live in fear of the Draekons and half-Draekons ruling over them and who keep them in their impoverished state. Yet, worse than their current plight, are the stories of what happens to those “harvested” and taken away, never heard from again.

Into this pitiful setting, 3 youngsters are left by their parents who then disappear. Even the oldest, a boy, has no idea WHY they are left, WHERE their parents have gone or if they will ever return. As the youngest girl, Alorie reaches 16, the age at which she is to be registered for “the choosing”, Amelissa and their brother Lin try to find some way to protect her. Despite elaborate deceptions, Alorie is discovered. As a punishment, BOTH girls are chosen-something unheard of, for 2 of the same family taken at the same time. As Lin is carried off to prison for objecting so violently to his sisters’ both being chosen, he yells his promise to come get them.

Once they arrive in the capital, they do not believe the kindness and generosity displayed to them. They are bathed, given clothing better than they had ever seen, and fed an unbelievably delightful diet-better than they had ever before eaten. It seems ‘too good to be true’-and all the captives are wary-awaiting something terrible to happen to them. If all IS as it seems, why had their overlord, Lord Stanley, not told the people the truth and reduced the fear and anxiety the choosing causes for all?

Thus, the READER as well as Amelissa, Alorie and the other new recruits try to parce out what is true or false, and what the future holds for them as the simple distinction between good and bad is far more muddled than it had seemed initially. Amelissa displays courage as well as knowledge of the healing arts during an attack on the capital, leading to recognition of these 2 qualities by one of the 2 princes. His twin, however, scares her and seems to somehow object to the prominence Amelissa is suddenly given.

As this book ended, I was thoroughly engrossed in the story, sorry I will have to wait for the next book to be printed. By far, this is one of the better epic fantasies I have read in a while. Good characterization and world building, with a surprising twist about the true nature of the prince Draekons and their society that I totally had not anticipated. Their father, yet to be met, may well fully deserve the evil reputation that has been attributed to the Draekons. I eagerly await the next book.

Of note: this is a clean story, no cursing or sexual encounters that would offend. Even younger readers will enjoy this book.

Emily Pennington says

Lissa Allaway, a Caldiri healer, paused for a moment to enjoy the quiet of the early morning and the beginning warmth of the sun's rays. But looking up, she spotted the dark massive form of a Draekon scout flying toward her and froze in fear, trying to not be noticed. Fortunately it flew over and she hurried the rest of the way to her destination. Inside her best friend's cottage, she called to him and moved toward his sister's room. Jane was her patient and she could see she was in extreme pain from a dislocated shoulder. She reset it and offered her sister's help so Jane could completely rest.

On the walk to Jem's with Lorie, her sister, Lissa again spotted a Royal scout flying in the distance – very unusual. Walking on, Lissa bumped into Lord Stanley's son, Hyde, the half-Draekon who always seemed to be watching her. He caught her before she fell. She used the opportunity to ask if his father, Lord Stanley, the Draekon ruler of their village, might allow her sister to become her paid apprentice healer. But he told her Lorie could not be paid because it would appear like favoritism to her family. But he made her promise to come to him with any future need she had. She was uncomfortable making such a promise.

Then the annual Census arrived, where villagers were selected to be servants to the Draekon. Those people never returned to Caldiri. No one wanted to enter the cruel Draekon kingdom. Lissa and her brother, Lin, were afraid Lorie might be selected. Hyde had told her that having a paid job would not protect her; then he wrote a letter for them to keep her hidden during Census week and to burn the letter. She was afraid of the consequences, but did as he instructed.

Attendance at the banquet at Lord Stanley's lavish home, where selection was made, kept them busily moving away as Census agents neared them. Then Agent Leith approached Lissa who exited to the dark garden; he followed her. She was terrified of his attention and his questions. But there was something different about him. He eventually turned away and went back inside.

The Day of Choosing had arrived when those chosen would be taken away to serve the Draekon and become their property. When the list of names was read, Lissa was the first woman called. Jem and Lin were horrified, but refusal was not permitted. Many were grieving. Two men had to hold Lin down in his pain. And then the Agent read the next name – Lin and Lissa's young sister, Lorie! Even though she had been hidden and kept from the selection banquet, they had found out! Now what would happen to them? Would they be punished by death that this deceit would normally require? Or was something worse waiting for them in the capital city of Draek?

This book has the powerful effect of enfolding the reader within a believable world. The details allow the reader to vividly imagine not only the impoverished physical surroundings, but the emotions exhibited by each character. This will naturally pull the reader in to experience the events, both good and bad, as if actually there! Lissa is a strong character, caring, family-oriented, very likable and very open-minded. When old stories about the Draekon don't make sense, she is willing to form her own opinion. This first book promises a great series that I look forward to reading! It is well written and keeps up constant suspense as the story unfolds. This is a wonderful book – don't miss reading it and experiencing this amazing journey.

Alex (Briennai) says

Lissa is a healer in Caldiri, and she raises her little sister Lori with her older brother Lin. Every year, the Draekon come to the human regions and ask for humans to come and serve in the capital. The people in Caldiri don't even know what happens to the humans there, they only know that their children, neighbors, or friends are taken only to never be heard or seen from again. Lissa's older brother scarred his face for life to try and avoid the draft, but Lissa still has a few years to get through, and Lori has become of age to be Chosen. When both Lori and Lissa are taken, even when only one sibling is supposed to be Chosen per year, Lin vows to do anything to retrieve them.

When Lissa arrives in the Capital, she is scared to death when thinking about all the torture her and her sister are bound to endure for the rest of their lives. Things in the Capital are far different than what she was told, and she begins to wonder whether the things she was told in her childhood were true or not.

I read Enlightened by Samantha Britt, but I think that I will end up liking this series even more than the Immortal Chronicles. She always creates such unique universes. In this universe, The Draekons came from another continent to conquer the humans' continent. They need the humans in order to reproduce, and they use the humans to help them in every aspect of their lives. The humans allow the Draekons to have control because the Draekons have longer lifespans, better healing ability, and are generally stronger than the weak humans. The only reason why the Draekons really need humans is that without them they can't reproduce. This world is described beautifully throughout the book and has a long history. This book doesn't even touch on the entire world, only the parts that Lissa was able to see. I feel that it will get even more intricate in the next installment of the series.

The plot actually didn't move that quickly, which I enjoyed. It was hard to keep track of how much time had spent, but it did feel like I was realistically walking with Lissa through her days. I also liked how this allowed her to be human, rather than being some super healer who is able to heal thousands of people without any rest. It allowed me to truly connect with her.

At first, I thought that Lori was a spoiled brat. She was not grateful for anything that her siblings did for her, and she was already 16 years old. I was happy to see her do a little bit of growing up once they got to the Capital. It was a beautiful thing to see a true sister bond in literature, something that is often underestimated.

I have to say, I am not sure where this series is planning to go with romance. It seems like literally everyone is in love with Lissa. She has like three royals, one boy at home, and I think someone else but at this point, I can't remember. It's really just too much, and I hope in the next book one or two guys will be eliminated. I don't even know how she will deal with this love....Pentagon?

I didn't notice any editing errors in this novel.

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a new adult fantasy series to get into this summer!

I received an advance copy of this book and this is my voluntary review.

Joyffree says

? Dragons and ? Fairies and ? Ogres "Oh my"

An absolutely fantastic journey!

This is one of those authors who seems to have the magic touch - you know, the one that spins fantasy and reality into a tale that is so believable you forget that you are reading a story?

I do not know how many times I caught myself sitting up and gripping the edge of the couch - anxious and

hoping - or screaming at the characters for their obviously two-sided uncaring attitude (yeah so not telling you, nice try though) or drying the quiet tears that tracked down my cheek.

This is told from Lissa's point of view - at first, I had a bit of trouble with it just being her tale (pov) - It may have been that the twists and surprises were truly just that - since I was seeing through her eyes only - and let me say there are a lot of twists and "OMG" moments throughout this story

I do not want to give away any spoilers - I went into this semi-blind - so it was twice as fascinating to see the truth unfold and be truly surprised when we turned the corner on a plot twist or a character was not quite what or whom we thought

Speaking of, the characters are phenomenal - they are vivid and full of life

I am done ranting, in closing -If you love a strong paranormal tale with lots of action, plenty of hidden plots and twists - then this is definitely a must read

I am off to finish the journey with book two - I hope it is out already

* It is not often I give five stars on GR but this was such an intense and well-crafted story. Nothing is perfect mind you - but if you enjoy paranormal and mystery with a touch of intrigue then this is a must read

Georgia says

Little slow at the beginning but it picks up.

This book was recommended to me an author acquaintance of mine. The blurb hooked me and I was excited to read it. The book itself has a Hunger Games meets The Selection by Kiera Cass to it with maybe a hint of Beauty and the Beast, but that could be just me. Though the first third of the book was wonderfully detailed, it was a bit slow. It picks up more in the second third and by the last third, you can't put it down. Basically the main character, Lissa, resides in the most sheltered part of the country called Caldiri. Her and her siblings are easily known by their blonde hair and she's most known for her healing capabilities. When her and her sister, Lorie, get chosen as part of the Census to go to the capital, Draeke, it seems like all is lost. Once they get there, they realize most of what they know about the Draekon is wrong. As Lissa moves up in the Draekon society, not by her choice, she begins to learn more about the world they live in. Such as the Draekon's enemies, the Elves, who bear the same blonde hair as her. By the end of the book, you'll be wondering who the real enemies are. If this is a little Beauty-and-the-Beast-ish, then I'm totally rooting for Lissa and Brion. I can't wait until the next one.

Bianca Yumul says

Got this ARC from the author at no cost and as soon as this one is available in the bookstore, I will make sure to have my own copy. As a first book, it isn't strange that there would be a lot of explanation and introductions. What I hate at other books is that these can get a little overboard that the story itself is not progressing. But this book is different. It made me enjoy reading every single page. I tend to always notice author's manner of writing. And the way the author has written it is in such a way that the readers will not only appreciate the creative use of vocabularies (it is hard to be redundant after all) but make you really feel that you're personally involved with the story.

Spoiler alert - there are some bits and pieces

The story reminds me greatly of Pride and Prejudice; not because of they have the same story line but on how people have a huge pride and prejudice to others. Thank God the heroine is not one of those idiotic

heroines who cannot rely on their own strength. I just hate such characters. Amelissa is a wonderfully refreshing character: calm, collected, smart and does not swoon or fall right away to any handsome guy she encounters (which is really refreshing!) She is can also be calculating, always looking past the handsome face to see whatever the guy could e thinking.

And the author is really great in making the readers guess, most especially on who will become Lissa's love interest-which I believed is revealed at the latter part but it's only a speculation ;)

There are some inconsistencies here and there - like when Lissa got wounded by the goblin and all of a sudden it is forgotten - but all in all it is quite a good book. The ending is such a cliffhanger and I'd have to wait till September. I cannot wait for the second book to come!

Katherine Bogle says

Oh my god give me book 2 NOW!!!

This book was seriously good! From the world building to the characters and descriptions, everything was laid out perfectly in my eyes!

Going into this book I wasn't sure what to expect. From the description and cover, it both sounded and looked freaking awesome, but as I'd never read anything by Britt before, I was a little apprehensive going in (mostly because I've read a few meh books I stopped reading part way through as of late). So when I got into Chosen, I was very pleasantly surprised!

The world is laid out in separate kingdoms with Draek at the centre. It is the capitol where the dragon overlords live and enslave humans to do their bidding - or so we believe. We get an amazing picture of the Lissa's world right from the get go, and that world only expands as Lissa and her sister Lorie are taken from their home to be enslaved by dragons. Only, Draekon kind are not quite what Lissa and Lorie were led to believe.

Surprises, twists and turns, this book had it all, including fabulously defined and developed characters, which too me is one, if not THE most important part of a novel. And did Chosen ever have it in spades!! Not only do we have our main character Lissa, but we have her siblings, her best friend Jem, Lord Stanley and his son Hyde, and then we move past Caldiri to Draek and meet a whole new cast. This is done in such a way that none of it is ever overwhelming, and you always know exactly who each person is.

As a huge fan of action, it honestly surprised me a little how much I enjoyed this book. There isn't a lot of action (of course there is SOME, but not as much as I usually read), but honestly I didn't even realize until the end of the book. Chosen is very character focused, and really makes you think as everything Lissa was made to believe is challenged so completely.

And when a rebellion gets involved... whoa nelly... I'm sold!

Now if you'll excuse me, I need to go hibernate until September when book 2 is available. I don't know how I'll survive until then!

Chosen is a 5 star read, perfect for any YA fantasy fan, and of course even adult fantasy fans who enjoy a good adventure story.

