



# Altered

*Laura Burks*

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## **Altered** Laura Burks

All eighteen-year-old Jenna wants to do is have a slow paced and predictable summer in the small town of New Roads with her grandfather. But on Friday the thirteenth, the unpredictable occurs when she mysteriously hears a voice leading her to a buried book. Jenna is unaware that a secret curse lies within and she's just unleashed its hold. As writings appear in the book strangely matching her vivid dreams, Jenna's curious nature takes over pulling her deeper into the mystery and the connection to her family. What she didn't expect to find was a forbidden love and a choice to save a life. Will Jenna's choice remain a secret? Or did the secret choose her?

## **Altered Details**

Date : Published September 1st 2011 by Wings ePress

ISBN : 9781613099735

Author : Laura Burks

Format : Paperback 330 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Witches

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# From Reader Review Altered for online ebook

## Allbooks Review International says

### Altered--A Teenage Girl's Must-Have

Laura Burks' first novel *Altered* is a captivating bundle of mystery, suspense, and forbidden love. I would definitely recommend this book for young teenage girls, typically from ages 14-16 (especially if they also enjoy the book series *Twilight*).

The intricate story begins very interestingly. Jenna Larson, the protagonist of the novel, hears a mysterious voice whisper her name. Right from the beginning, the book has already captured your interest. Readers will wonder, what voice? Who called? From then on, the plot only gets more and more boggling. After hearing the unexpected name call, Jenna gets curious and attempts to find who whispered her name. She proceeds into the forest, discovers an abandoned cabin, and finds a worn, strange book under the floorboards.

When I reached that point of the book, I was a little miffed. I found it unrealistic how Jenna tried so hard to find who whispered her name. It seemed like Burks was just trying to find some reason to get Jenna into finding the empty cabin. Also, in my opinion, the discovery of the old book was almost cliché in a way. I thought I knew immediately what the story would be about. The book would have magical powers...have things written in it by itself...be some evil object belonging to some evil person...I figured the rest of the plot would be a knock-off to J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

Surprisingly, *Altered* took a whole different turn away from the odd book and more into romance and danger. Jenna soon encounters a beautiful adolescent man named Jess Parkin and of course, love begins to cook between them. However, complications occur and this is when the disturbing, suspenseful parts of the book fall in.

This novel is told in first person. That allows the readers to really understand and feel Jenna's emotions. The readers can relate to her feelings as well. All teenage girls have felt their heart jump and their bellies go nuts with butterflies whenever they're talking to someone they like. If the story was told in third person, I think the book wouldn't have been as spellbinding and relatable.

*Altered* always keeps you reading. You have no choice but to read, it's too riveting. You're forced to keep guessing, and when you think you know what happens next, the author always manages to surprise you. It's one of those novels that once you start reading, you can't stop.

Laura Burks began writing at a young age, mostly in a diary. Later, she started to write as a creator of a monthly business newsletter. Her love for writing grew immensely from then on. She started *Altered* (which is her first book) in March 2009. During this time, she spent a lot of time editing and browsing Internet publishing option until Wings ePress offered to print and publish her book. Besides being a writer, Burks is also a wife, mother, and a teacher of "Get Real About Violence" and a Youth Legislature program. She is also a member of Romance Writers of America and HeartLa. Reviewer: Iris Park, Allbooks Review Int. [www.allbooksreviewint.com](http://www.allbooksreviewint.com)

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## Michelle says

*Altered*, surprisingly, is Laura Burks debut novel. If this is her first offering, I can't wait to see what she gives us in the future!

When Jenna goes to visit her Grandfather for the summer she doesn't expect to be drawn into a world of lies, cheating & betrayal, yet that's exactly what happens when she discovers a hidden book and then meets the mysterious Jess. Just what is he hiding and how is she connected to it? The book gives her more questions than answers and Jenna struggles when deciding who to turn to for answers.

Laura Burks has a knack for developing tension, I actually found myself shouting at Jenna not to be so stupid at times, although she did seem to grow up a little throughout the book. The plot was drawn out quite a bit - enough to keep you reading, not to much so as you lost interest. It was an enjoyable book but I'm not sure if I entirely trust Jess, I have a feeling there is a lot more to his story than we discovered in this book. Laura has set it up perfectly for a sequel, it'll be interesting to see what happens next!

Highly recommended if you enjoy Young Adult fiction, may appeal to those who enjoyed The Secret Circle.

Read for Book Monster Reviews

<http://bookmonsterreviews.blogspot.com/>

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### **Virginia says**

This is the story of Jenna, a girl from Orlando who visits her grandfather for the summer in Louisiana. One day she hears her name being called but no one is around. This starts her on an adventure/journey that involves love, lies, curses and secrets. Jenna discovers a hidden book with blank pages and meets Jess. Jess is the most handsome boy she has ever seen but he is also very vague and mysterious. She opens the book in the hopes of finding answers but is left with more questions as words start to appear. How Jess is involved with the book becomes apparent. Jess and Jenna become closer but at the same time the secrets between them make their feelings for each other conflicted. As you read, you wonder if Jess and Jenna will find love and have a happy ending.

I loved the way the characters are portrayed. Jenna is a sweet, caring girl who is willing to give herself to help others. She has a great relationship with her grandfather. Jess is handsome and mysterious yet gentle. He was addicting to Jenna and I found him to be the same way. I kept looking forward to the parts he was in.

This is Laura's first book and I would love to see more from her. I loved it and could not put it down. The story held your interest and was easy to read. It contains a lot of action, romance and adventure. A sequel to this would be great too- I would love to see what the future holds for Jess and Jenna. A definite must read!!

<http://youngadultbookaddict.blogspot....>

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### **Sherry Ellis says**

Eighteen-year-old Jenna is spending the summer with her grandfather at his home in Louisiana. When she

arrives, she has no idea of what kind of crazy things are about to happen. It all begins when she hears her name called by a voice in the woods. Curiosity leads her to a deserted cabin where she discovers an old book that had been buried under the floorboards. Soon she finds herself involved with a group of cursed criminals. She must alter the curse in order to save both her grandfather and Jess, the man who holds her heart.

*Altered* is a compelling novel that grabs the reader from the very beginning. The voice from the woods happens in paragraph two. Of course the reader wants to know who is calling Jenna. Then the reader wants to know about the mysterious book from the cabin. Then, when handsome Jess enters the picture, the reader wants to know what's going to happen between Jenna and Jess.

The story is told by Jenna in a first-person point of view. This allows the reader to really feel Jenna's fears, concerns, and desires. The rich, descriptive writing allows readers to clearly visualize the setting and events of the story. *Altered* is a wonderfully written combination of romance and the paranormal. Readers age fourteen and older who enjoy these genres will really enjoy this book.

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### **Juliette Townsend says**

This novel is a really unique take on young adult romance. It's paranormal, but it's done in a really refreshing way. Read the rest of this review here: <http://paperbacksandfrosting.com>

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### **Maegan Morin says**

In her debut novel Laura Burks tells the story of Jenna who wants nothing more than to spend a quiet relaxing summer with her grandfather in the small town of New Roads Louisiana. Until one day while out on a walk Jenna finds herself drawn to an old cabin on her grandfather's property. There she discovers an old blank book that she thinks nothing of until after dreaming one foggy night she discovers writing on the pages that wasn't there before leaving her to wonder what's going on and what exactly she's gotten herself into.

Wow! I loved this book! The plot was so original and engaging. I found myself being so immersed into the book and it was really hard to put down. Jenna is very easy to relate to, the typical teenager who blends in and was just average. You really watch her grow through the book and you get to see her become a strong woman who finds the strength she needs to do the right thing. I also enjoyed the back stories of Jess and Annie and how everything intertwined with Jenna and her grandfather's own history.

This book can easily be read by anyone 14+. There was a love story but it had a very G rating. It was the clean and cute young love story that every girl wants and thus its appeal.

I give this book 5 ravens. It was excellent and though it was a debut novel you would never know. Laura Burk did a great job with this novel and I really want to read more from her.

Read more: <http://www.greatmindsthinkaloud.probo...>

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## **Gabby (What's Beyond Forks?) says**

Full Review at: [What's Beyond Forks?](#)

"Hearing her name started it all..."

Reading that first line on the book summary started it all for me too. I love when I can gush about a book! From the first moment Jenna sees Jess to the very end, the book has you anxious for what is coming next. There are so many occurrences that make up this story, I don't want to spoil the reading adventure by giving away too much. So, I won't. The author has a magical way of engaging you in her story. The superb writing makes it effortless to visualize every moment as it unfolds. This is not your typical paranormal romance. There are no vampires or werewolves. *Altered* brings you something entirely original and intriguing. Add the curse to an already mysterious and spooky Louisiana setting and you have a story that is impossible to put down. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a sequel to this one. I'm not ready for the story to end.

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## **Carla-Book Monster Reviews says**

My Review (by BMR's guest reviewer - Michelle M)

*Altered*, surprisingly, is Laura Burks debut novel. If this is her first offering, I can't wait to see what she gives us in the future!

When Jenna goes to visit her Grandfather for the summer she doesn't expect to be drawn into a world of lies, cheating & betrayal, yet that's exactly what happens when she discovers a hidden book and then meets the mysterious Jess. Just what is he hiding and how is she connected to it? The book gives her more questions than answers and Jenna struggles when deciding who to turn to for answers.

Laura Burk has a knack for developing tension, I actually found myself shouting at Jenna not to be so stupid at times, although she did seem to grow up a little throughout the book. The plot was drawn out quite a bit - enough to keep you reading, not to much so as you lost interest. It was an enjoyable book but I'm not sure if I entirely trust Jess, I have a feeling there is a lot more to his story than we discovered in this book. Laura has set it up perfectly for a sequel, it'll be interesting to see what happens next!

Highly recommended if you enjoy Young Adult fiction, may appeal to those who enjoyed *The Secret Circle*.

I award *Altered* 4 Stars.

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## **Nicole says**

This was a very good mysterious book.

In *Altered* you get a Louisiana Bayou adventure. Jenna Larson is an 18 year old on summer vacation before her senior year in a small town in the mysterious humid Bayou in the deep south. Visiting her "Pops" for the entire summer is just what she had in mind and a trip she makes every summer, a nice lazy summer soaking

up the suns glorious rays...

While sunning herself she thinks she hears her voice being called into the woods, so she does what any sane girl her age would do... follows it into the woods silly! Ok I know you wouldn't do that and neither would I. However Jenna is the curious sort and this is her story so we let her. She finds a dilapidated cabin and incidentally finds a cursed book (hence why I would have never had went in the woods).

Homey right?

I digress! Anywho... she starts having odd dreams that night and weird things happening with said cursed book... To be fair there is a rose on the cover as well but you try finding that picture, besides I like the snake, very creepy.

The next day Jenna heads into town to the local hang out with two old friends and while catching up and eating pizza she spots a boy across the restaurant. She catches his eye as well and soon he attempts the cutest opening line. Enter Jess Parkin our very mysterious 19 year old bad boy with bright blue eyes...

Yep you know I am a sucker for the dark hair, blue eyes, bad boy type! I won't get into too much more because I don't want to spoil anything but Jess is a mystery to Jenna and is instantly drawn to those baby blues (can't blame a girl for that). While falling into a forbidden love Jenna has a supernatural mystery and a cursed book on her hands, not to mention some family secrets.

I struggled very much with my rating for this one because I did enjoy the story so much but there were a few issues I had with the book. Mainly the ending, don't worry I won't spoil it but I will just say that a couple of the events were not believable to me and the ending feels very abrupt.

With all that being said I do recommend it.

This is a great book to share and read with a teenager in your life!

Rating – 3.5 Stars

Recommended for – Teens and Adults

Go to my blog and Follow me and my silly weirdness! DO IT!!!  
shareAread

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## **Michael says**

If you enjoy paranormal tales, especially those set in the Bayou state and all that may conjure up in your mind, this is a novel for you. The book is targeted to young adults, but as an old adult, I was captivated early on with the characters, mystery, and suspense in this multi-layered story. I recommend this novel. It's an original, well-written story that is truly a page-turner.

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## **Laura Burks says**

ALTERED is also available on these sites:

B&N: (NOOK)

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books...>

FICTIONWISE: (NOOK, etc.) <http://www.fictionwise.com/ebooks/b12...> .

PRINT AND ALL EPUB FORMATS: (pdf for NOOK & KOBO)(mobipocket for KINDLE) Discounted price for print on this site!

<http://www.wings-press.com/Bookstore/...>

AMAZON (PRINT/KINDLE)

<http://www.amazon.com/Altered-Laura-B...>

This is my novel, so I can't rate it. But feel free to leave a rating or ask any questions. Also, you can visit my website at <http://www.lauraburks.com>. Thanks and I hope you enjoy ALTERED!

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## **Soumi says**

Altered is an extremely alluring, dark and hunting novel that you capture your interest from the very first page and keep you guessing to the last page. A brilliant debut of author Laura Burks, Altered caught my eyes with its interesting premise and captivating story telling.

All Jenna wanted to have peaceful summer vacation with her grandfather in a small town. When Jenna heard a voice whispering her name, she got curious and in search for the voice she went to deep forest where she finds a mysterious ancient book with blank pages. As the words started to appear, bringing a curse endangering the whole town. Will Jenna be able to alter the curse and save those she loves most?

The book is full of twists and uncertainty, I nearly ate my brain to find out what's gonna happen as I proceed through pages. The author is definitely capable to cast a spell on readers by her amazing writing style and I totally fall into it.

Altered has a forbidden love interest, Jess. I enjoyed their budding romance. It was cute and slow burning, although I didn't mind a little touch of insta-love. As danger grows, their budding love developed more.



Also, Jenna's relationship and fondness with her grandpa touched my heart. It's rare to find actually family relationship in YA books, as they are more focused on romance and author Laura Burks did it very well.

As I have mentioned before, the book is dark and chilling, the suspense grows until the very end and then bang. I loved *Altered* and it was an engaging read for me. I was truly surprised by the contents and I enjoyed the book. Highly recommended to paranormal lovers.

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### **Zee says**

*Altered* is an amazing story, one which kept me guessing all the way through. I loved that this was not your typical paranormal title. The paranormal aspect of this novel was more subtle, more disturbing. Let's talk about Louisiana and a curse from a deal gone wrong. This title makes you think twice before shortchanging someone you have made a deal with. *Altered* makes you think again before deciding to have your cake and eat it too.

I enjoyed reading about the budding romance between Jenna and Jess. It was slow, sensual, and deliberate. Jenna and Jess would let each other know where their heart was. There were no games. No drama. It was honesty in it's purest form. To just be with each other was enough. Every hand held, every gaze in each other's eyes, every secret shared was monumental. They lived in the moment with each other. I was often taken back to the days when my young heart was filled with that much innocence, when I experienced my first throws of love. The romance in *Altered* will make your heart leap more than once in fond remembrance.

Burks kept surprising me at every turn of the page. I would have it in my head where I thought the story would go next, and it never did. I was glued to this book. Quite literally. Every second I had, I whipped out one of my devices - HTC smartphone, iPod Touch, Kindle, HP Touchpad - to finish a chapter or read one more sentence. *Altered* is just that good of a novel! Laura Burks writing style is flawless. I don't remember seeing a typo nor did I have to reread a paragraph to understand what was going on. She kept her plot tucked away nicely, waiting on the right moment to reveal information to the reader, and as a result, everything fell smoothly into place.

Laura Burks is a seriously talented author and very creative to boot. *Altered*, her debut novel, is a hit and a personal favorite. I can't wait to read more novels from Laura! :)

<http://firepages.blogspot.com/2011/09...>

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### **Beth Bares says**

I can't believe this is a first time writer. *Altered* is one of the most unique, fresh and CLEAN paranormal romance books I have read in a long time. I hope she considers writing a sequel. I want to see Jena and Jess move to a new chapter in life. As an avid reader, I have no doubt this debut author is going places! Thanks for giving us a wonderful book. I'm a true fan!

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## **Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says**

Quick review:

**Cover:** Kind of interesting

**Rating:** PG

**Thumbs Up:** 3.5

**Overall:** Certainly something different.

**Characters:** Okay

**Plot:** A story I wouldn't have expected.

**Page Turner:** Kind of

**Series Cont.?** Sure

**Recommend:** Maybe

**Book Boyfriend:** Jess

### **SUMMARY** (50 words or less)

This story was certainly different. I don't think I've read a plotline quite like it. Very imaginative, but at times the story direction is a little too convenient. But still, the story is very sweet and of good overall moral character. I liked it. Looking forward to the next one.

To see my full review and yummy pic, check out my blog post below.

COMING SOON

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