



Midnight Soul

Kristen Ashley

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Against his will, Noctorno Hawthorne, an undercover vice cop, finds himself embroiled in magic, mayhem and parallel universes. Too late, he meets an amazing woman only to find she's destined for his identical twin in another world.

And things aren't going real great there.

Noc is recruited to help save that world.

What he doesn't know is his destined love resides there.

Franka Drakkar wears a mask. A mask she never takes off to protect herself in a world of malice, intrigue and danger.

When Franka meets Noc and he discovers her secrets, convinced she carries a midnight soul, having shielded herself from forming bonds with anyone, she struggles with accepting his tenderness and care.

When Noc meets Franka, over wine and whiskey, her masks slips and Noc knows it's her—only her—and he has to find a way to get her to come home with him.

And then make her want to stay.

Midnight Soul Details

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Author : Kristen Ashley

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From Reader Review Midnight Soul for online ebook

SamJ ★Needs a HEA★ says

[No (hide spoiler)]

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

I wasn't going to read this...but I heard that Lahn's twin shows up...

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

After 5-staring the first 3 books in this series and then not loving *Broken Dove*, I'm on the fence with this one...

But I'll probably still read it.

? Jaela ? Killer ? QUEEN says

Disappointed! It was the last book, I was expecting a "grand finale". Not this! I think KA is getting lazy lately. Her last books aren't like the first ones. "The Magic" is missing. I'm so sad about that. :(

Ok. The book.

Spoilers ahead

First half was dragging. Second one was better. Sexy time makes everything better and I have to admit, KA really writes beautiful love and sex scenes. But it wasn't enough. The characters were boring. The plot was missing. No twists, no nothing. Only drama, drama, drama! Two years and we get this?! I feel so cheated!

I would have liked Franka, if KA wouldn't have changed her character. She was a villain. A villain can be likeable. Many authors can write amazing books about their villains and i have rated them better (Lothaire from Immortals after Dark- Kresley Cole).

Why did you have to transform her into entirety another woman? She wasn't the same Franka. I didn't like how her story developed. I really wanted to see a happy ending more than Franka choosing her new shoes. But the ending was so rushed! Really KA? This book was the Finale! We deserved something more.

I didn't even like Noc. I couldn't feel the chemistry between them. Ok, love scenes were great, but I failed to see the feelings. Franka claimed to be experienced and know everything but in the bed she behaved so "virginal". I didn't see her charms. She was so annoying. Behaving like an ignorant and all, she did get in my nerves. The worst couple in the fantasyland series.

The only ones that saved the book were Dax and Circe, of this world and the other one. They were amazing! Flawless! I would have loved to read more about them. *Their chemistry* was off the charts.

I don't know if I'll read again a KA book. I'm not finding her books extraordinary anymore. I'll be sceptical and I'll wait for my GR friends' reviews, before reading another work of her.

20/05/2016

Dammit, it's Franka. I don't know how to feel about this :/, but I loved Noc. Cover is nice, though.

WhOOAA! We have a title! **Finally!** I feel like I've been waiting since forever for this book!
#1 on my **to-read shelf**.

Aisling Zena says

3.5 stars

I love being right. I really do. In this case I wouldn't have minded being wrong. Though it wasn't as bad as I feared.

Unfortunately I didn't really become invested in this couple. It was a good, enjoyable read but nothing to marvel at. And the lack of excitement for them persisted throughout the book. I knew KA would redeem Franka and as I said below I actually really liked her more acerbic nature. Franka turned into homemaker and her sharp tongue was curved for the most part after her redemption and getting together with Noc. At least she didn't call him "honey".

I was rooting way more for the secondary couple (view spoiler) and I really wanted their POV. Actually I

would prefer to read a whole book (600+ pages) about them rather than Franka&Noc. Again unfortunately we didn't get even a smidge of their POV or how exactly they got together which again I would have **loved** to read.

As usual for KA we had a lovely epilogue but it still left me with some questions mostly regarding Valentine and her HEA. All in all it was a step up from her last two books but not close enough to the glory of her earlier works.

Prior to reading

May 2016

WARNING unpopular opinion ahead

Am I the only one not really looking forward to this?

I mean Franka? Really? For Noc?! She was great as a dubiously immoral, selfish cow and I know KA will find a way to twist it all and make her prickly personality make sense through some past traumatic events or some such. The thing is, I liked hating Franka! She was honest and bitchy and hoity-toity and frankly kinda fun. Now she's gonna be a grieving persona that will shed her grief and bitchiness and be all sparkly, gutsy and homemaker for Noc...

I will read this just so KA can prove me wrong. Though, I don't think so.

I just wanted someone else for Noc. Anyone else.

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

**** 2-2.5 STARS ****

“You don't think you're perfect but you are, Frannie. Every inch.”

REASONS THIS BOOK JUST DID NOT WORK FOR ME:

1) I apparently had really high hopes for Noc, but he had absolutely NOTHING special. He was just another

KA type alpha male.

2) The sudden difference in character of Frannie was shockingly unrealistic. I didn't buy her reasons for the way she was for the past 4 books.

3) The dull storyline. I came really close to DNFing for 4 times, because forcing yourself to read a 600-page-long book is incredibly challenging guys. OMG.

OVERALL: So disappointed. This incredible journey shouldn't have ended in such an underwhelming way. How the hell did this happen?

Lyndy Ann ? says

*****3.5 Midnight stars*****

We met Franka Drakkar in previous books of the Fantasyland series she was a hateful woman who we all love to hate but when it comes to Franka the phrase “Don’t judge a book by it cover” comes to mind.

As we discover early on in Midnight Soul why Franka is the way she is, she is hiding behind a mask not letting anyone get too close to her but when the truth is discovered everyone even Frey is there to take her back to take care and protect her and her brother from the evil in their lives.

Noc Hawthorne came to Lunwyn the parallel universe to help battle the dark magic. After the battle he is planning on staying for a few months exploring before going home to his own world and starting a new life in New Orleans.

After Noc finds Franka and saves her he is determined to get to know the REAL Franka Drakkar they start spending time together getting to know each other only as friends as Franka is still mourning the loss of her lover.

With time Franka tears down the walls she surrounded herself with and begins to mix with everyone making amends for her previous ways. She makes plans for her and Josette her aid for their own adventure in the future but when Kristian discovers this he forbids it allowing her only to travel to the other world with Noc so she can have her new life and adventure.

After months apart Franka spending it with her brother and his family, Noc on his adventure with Frey and Finnie. Franka and Josette are transported to NOLA with help from Valentine, Franka arrives literally in Noc’s arms and from there their relationship soon HOTS up.

**This was an enjoyable read my highlights were
getting to know the real Franka and spending time with Franka and Noc
how Frannie and Jo take to their new environment
I loved catching up with all the previous couples from this series
Valentine and their meddling to get the other Circe and other Dax Lahn together
and of course the epilogue is classic KA.**

The only thing missing for me with Midnight Soul is it did not have the exciting edge of your seat adventure element to the story like the previous books, this is just about Franka and Noc.

I only read this series this year and I loved them all and now I am sad that yet another series has come to an end.

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥♥ says

4-4,5 STARS

It's been a long time since I've read a book by Kristen Ashley and I missed her writing so much! This series is one of my favorites and I can tell you that I adored this one!

Noc was a fantastic hero! Sweet, protective, friendly and sexy. And Franka, well I wasn't sure if I liked her but it happened and pretty fast! Noc and Franka together had an amazing relationship, first as friends creating an amazing build up!

If you haven't read this series yet you are missing all the magic! Start it now, after all it's Kristen Ashley you'll never be dissatisfied by her! Kristen Ashley delivers a sweet, romantic and beautiful story!

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Can. Not. Wait!!!!!!

Against his will, Nocturno Hawthorne of our world, an undercover vice cop, finds himself embroiled in magic, mayhem and alternate universes. Too late, in Fantastical, he meets the Cora Goode of his world only to find she's destined for his twin in the alternate universe. What he doesn't know is, his destined love resides in another dimension. And when he meets her, he's not only stunned, he's faced with introducing her to a new reality and coaxing her to want to stay.

If you're already a Kristen Ashley addict, or interested in checking out her books, be sure to stop by our Kristen Ashley Addict's Support Group here on Goodreads!

Jennifer Kyle says

DNF @ 53%

This book is written by my favorite author and this is one of my favorite series by her so I'm feeling awful about my failure to get through it. So it's either the story is a major snoozefest or I've lost my KA mojo because this was so darn boring for me.

I'm tapping out at 53 % from utter boredom (which is probably over two hundred pages in my defense). Perhaps if the hero Noc wasn't so darn unoriginal and the story 'this is pizza' lacked luster to keep me reading on like a chore instead of enjoyment.

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

But there was a reason I carried a midnight soul, for the evil contained in both my parents set their souls to cinders years ago. It was not a wonder I'd inherited the blackness.

What a bittersweet book this was for me to read. Midnight Soul marks the conclusion of one of my favorite Kristen Ashley series. After all, it's the series that brought me The Golden Dynasty, only my top favorite KA book of ALL time.

This is not a series I recommend reading out of order. You need the entire backstory and it's one that develops with each story arc and later carries over into the next. Yes, there's a new couple in each book, but it just wouldn't be the same experience to read them as standalones.

I have to admit I was nervous reading a book with Franka as the heroine. Considering the woman has sharpened her claws on plenty of previous heroines, I had to wonder how KA could redeem someone like her. While she wasn't quite a villain, she wasn't exactly a nice person and she certainly wasn't someone you'd root for in the previous books either. After the culmination of events at the end of Broken Dove, I also wondered where the story had left to go. The ultimate baddies had been beat. Everything was right in the world and most questions answered.

If you're expecting a book much like the rest of the Fantasyland series, don't. This was as different as it gets

and that's not necessarily a bad thing. I certainly enjoyed the flip side of the switch here. I don't want to give you too many details and ruin it for you, but let's just say I appreciated the slight reversal Kristen took with the last book in the series. It was most fitting.

I loved the mix of the heroine being the one from the 'other' world and the hero being the modern one as well. It was different and refreshing. Plus, let's be real, I loved me some Noc. There's also a secondary romance that happens on a mix of in and off the pages here that I would have absolutely loved more page time for. I was hoping to get more of them towards the end, but alas they were mostly just loosely mentioned.

So why not a higher rating? Well, I just didn't get the oomph here that I've come to rely on this series. There's not much in the way of things happenings. After the resolution in the first 20%, the rest reads like the typical second half of a KA book. The relationship development, the hero and heroine getting to know each other. It was a lot of pages of their day to day lives, and while it wasn't quite boring, it wasn't exciting either. I kept waiting for the typical conflict at the end, but there wasn't much in that respect either. To me, it read like one long epilogue. There wasn't much conflict past the revelation in the first 20% and that may work for some or not.

I loved the way the author redeemed Franka and made her into a heroine to root for pretty much right away. You get the true heart of her and you understand the why's of what she did in the past. No, this wasn't the action packed thrill ride that some of the other books in the series were, but it was by no means a bad thing...just different. The epilogue at the end is nothing short of what I've come to expect from Kristen and definitely managed to bring a tear to my eye. So while this may not have been my favorite book in the series, it was still a fitting ending to what had come to be one of my favorite series and one I strongly recommend to any lovers of fantasy romance.

ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review

Find me on:

Stacey is Sassy says

I'm sad to be experiencing Fantasyland for the last time.

Well, this is the end. I'm sure I'll be going back to visit every now and again but this will be the last time that *Fantasyland* will be new and exciting for me. There's a tear in my eye, but joy in my heart that the journey these characters haven taken prove that *Love is everything*.

Geez, what an emotional goose I sound...but I have an excuse. I've got a cold. I was supposed to be having a *Friday Night KA Party Night* and I had the wine and nibbles all sorted. Then my nose started running and after half a glass of wine, I knew that the party wasn't going to work out as I planned. Which, I found in hindsight, was a blessing in disguise. See, I started reading *Midnight Soul* and I was COMPLETELY LOST! I mean...who??? What??? HUH??? I couldn't remember who all the players were, what they were all doing

and why they were all doing it. Ummm... I'm pretty sure the dude with the sated look on his face from getting it on is supposed to be the hero of this book? I didn't want to see him looking invigorated and satisfied by a woman other than the heroine. What has KA done? Where is she going with this? How will I cope? Well, the answer becomes clearer later on, but it still stuck in my craw a bit, to be honest.

So, Friday night ended up being a research night. I went back and read the last couple of chapters of *Broken Dove* and then did a search on Franka's name. What was surprising for me was that I didn't hate her as much after re-reading about her. Yes, Franka was nasty, but we all know that nobody is perfect and even I can be a bit awful before my first cup of coffee. My words are not like daggers as Franka's are, but I'm sure that my 9-year-old thinks I'm being nasty when I say at 6:30 in the morning that I don't CARE about last night's footy scores.

So, I woke up Saturday morning ready to get cracking on *Midnight Soul*. I decided to reserve my judgement and just take the ride. Half an hour later and I'm a blubbering mess. Poor Franka, I did not see that coming. It was hideous and disgraceful and I wanted to reach into my kindle and knock some heads together. Luckily, I didn't need to do that because Noc, Frey and a few of the guards sorted it all out. Now, this is where things start to get a little interesting. Everyone is looking at Franka a wee bit differently. They're questioning everything they've seen and heard from her. Are the sympathy and new found humour in her cutting remarks right? Should we forgive her her foul deeds because of what we now know about her torturous upbringing from the age of 5?

I think the life Franka has lead up to now excuses some of her decisions but definitely not all. Did Frey, Finnie, Cora and the rest forgive her too quickly? Yes, but you could tell it was still with a little trepidation. I think her part in saving the world and the wives of Frey, Lahn, Tor and Apollo probably helped.

It was interesting to see Noc being her shield from attack and also the person who helped her the most. I could see that he had his heart in the right place, but I struggled to forget the first page of the book. Is this just his way of helping her and becoming her friend or does he really want to be her man?

Noc, you're going to have to convince me you're the hero of this story.

There were parts I loved and parts I did not love in *Midnight Soul* but all of it was told in Kristen Ashley's usual style so I enjoyed it all the same. Yes, maybe it was a little long and maybe it wasn't like the rest of the *Fantasyland* series, but it was the story that *Kristen Ashley* wrote. I get that this was different because instead of one of us going to a new world to experience new things and adventures, it was the flipside. But, see we live on the flip side, so to us, it's not an adventure or new experiences. I tried to look at it from Franka's eyes and I managed to have some good laughs, while also seeing that we may have done some major damage to our beautiful world. So, *Midnight Soul* did not disappoint me or let me down, it just made me look at things in a different way.

Now, here is my honesty...I wish Kristen Ashley had switched the storylines around. I myself would have loved to have read a full story of Mr Dax Lahn...*The Savage* meeting and falling in love with Circe in our world, and Franka and Noc being the additional storyline. BUT...I got over it and managed to set aside a couple of minutes (a good half hour) to go searching for Jason Momoa in a suit pictures because he's my Lahn. I wanted to know more of Mr Dax Lahn, the shrewd, sly, razor-sharp and ruthless attorney. I wanted to see the big man and how he talked the very scared Circe into trusting him. I got a bit...I just wanted...no...needed...more. But that... is my cross to be bear. :)

I really enjoyed *Midnight Soul* but I'm sad to see this wonderful series come to an end. As per usual, I have

probably gone overboard with my ramblings, but I struggle to read a KA and not have overwhelming thoughts and feelings at the end. I still get the high from finding a *Kristen Ashley* book pop up on my kindle and I'm pretty sure that will keep happening for as long as she keeps writing.

To buy *Midnight Soul* from Amazon - <http://amzn.to/2byUDpp>

I'm an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -

Candace says

The fifth, and final (?), book in the 'Fantasyland' series, 'Midnight Soul' tells the story of Franka Drakkar and Noctorno "Noc" Hawthorne. Like earlier books in the series, this book features two characters that are from parallel worlds. There is plenty of magic and fantastical elements throughout. Yet, despite all of that, I found this to be just an "okay" read.

While Kristen Ashley worked hard to redeem Franka Drakkar in this book, for me the damage was done. I pitied her, but I never really grew to like her. As a result, I never really felt fully invested in her story.

Similarly, "Noc" was not a character that I ever really felt a strong connection with. After all, wasn't he supposedly in love with Cora just a couple of books back? He was a nice guy, but to me, he came off as kind of desperate and lonely. Franka seemed to be the only option because all the "better" heroines had already been spoken for.

Even though I never felt bonded to these characters, I did appreciate having Franka's history revealed. My heart went out to her and it explained a lot about her nasty behavior. She wasn't a character that was easy to love, but at least I felt like I understood why she worked so hard to push people away.

This book also stood out from the others in that Franka goes to Noc's world and not the other way around. I guess it is consistent in the sense that the woman always seems to follow the man to his world, but Noc was the first hero from this world. As a result, this book had a different "feel" to it.

While this book is supposed to be the last in the series, I wonder if that is "firm". There were several teases and loose ends left over. Mainly, this book seemed to pave the way for another book centered on the other Circe and Dax.

If this is truly the last book, then I'm a little bummed. There's a story that I'd love to read. If another book isn't coming, it seems kind of cruel to tease us readers like that. Maybe we'll get a novella or something at least.

Overall, this was a middle of the road type of story. I liked it, but nothing about it was particularly compelling. I listened to all of the audiobooks for this series back to back, so it could be that I was just on 'Fantasyland' overload by the time I got to 'Midnight Soul'. Whatever the reason, this one ended up being my least favorite of all the books in the series. It was okay, but nothing that I couldn't live without.

Check out more of my reviews at www.bookaddicthaven.com

Mada says

OMG. Noctorno Hawthorne. I loved him in Fantastical and Broken Dove. Can't wait for his book.

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

NOW LIVE!!! <http://amzn.to/2aUNuf7>

3.5-4 stars

"You don't think you're perfect but you are, Frannie. Every inch."

Midnight Soul, the final book in the Fantasyland series, is the story of Franka and Noctorno Hawthorne. Noc, the parallel universe (our universe) of the Tor from book 3, has traveled from our modern world into the Fantasyland one. Franka has a dark past, known for being conniving she recently had been guilty of treason in an effort to save her lover. After helping out in the events at the end of book 4, Franka has redeemed herself of her crimes but not of her reputation. Noc sees through her hard facade for the woman she is beneath and the two begin a wonderful friendship.

Franka holds a secret past no one could have ever imagined, and once it comes to light her options have changed. Noc wants Franka to come with him to his world and Franka wishes for a new adventure. It's just a matter of her overcoming her grief and of Noc convincing her to stay...

Misunderstood heroines are my favorite kind of heroines. Franka is a character who in the past had been introduced as a villain and has been unkind to other characters. I love that we got her side of the story, how she showed others what she wanted them to see and not who she really was. I loved that Noc saw through her act for who she was, even when no one else did. From the beginning he was a great hero, and the best part? He didn't act like a dick in this book. Yippee!!

This book was definitely different from the other books in the series (which I recommend reading in order). It was almost a reversal with Franka discovering what we consider our world instead of being placed in the fantasy world as the previous 4 books are. I really loved the redemption of Franka, but I felt like Noc and Franka lost the focus of the story once that was over. Much of the story was about the other Circe and Dax, and even Valentine. I would have loved this book more if the focus has remained on the main couple and their love story rather than their involvement in the lives of others.

Fantasyland is hands down my favorite series by Kristen Ashley, I've never read anything like it. If you haven't read this series, you need to!!!

"I love you."

"Thank fuck."

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

Bev says

[Noc & Circe getting it on scene (hide spoiler)]
