



Swear

Nina Malkin

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A promise broken. A bond betrayed.

It's been six months since ghost-turned golem Sinclair Youngblood Powers confessed his love, stole Dice's heart, and disappeared from Swoon, perhaps from existence. Despite the hurt, Dice has been moving steadily toward ordinary. Dreams of Sin still plague and pleasure her sleep, and the mark of Sin's love remains on her skin, still sore. But Dice has been throwing herself into music, finding solace in song and sometimes even in the arms of her band mate, Tosh. Life seems almost...normal. The last thing Dice wants is to mess with anything remotely supernatural. But when her best friend's boyfriend goes missing, Dice has no choice but to become very much involved. She knows that his disappearance was no accident, and it somehow has everything to do with Sin. Because Dice can feel it: Sin is back. And the promises and deceptions he left in his wake have returned to haunt him.

What do you do when an oath of devotion threatens to destroy the one you love?

Swear Details

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From Reader Review Swear for online ebook

Meaghan R. (YA-aholic) says

i absolutely love this writer's style. the flow is unbelievable!!!! it definitely doesn't feel, nor read, like a 400+ page book.

i think the thing that helps the pace move swiftly are the partial alliterations. i say partial, because the author tends to do them in pairs, where by definition, an alliteration is 3 or more...

another thing i love is that the vocab is completely different from your standard YA novels. where it seems that most authors have a word list they choose from, i'm always finding rarely used words in this series. (not that they're uncommon, just that you don't see them in other YA novels) i really enjoy this.

the imagery is great; the prose excellent! i almost don't want to finish the book, so i can keep reading it forever!

i just can't get over the great word pairing throughout the book...i should probably insert examples here, but i don't have it with me...maybe when i finish!

the author also masters current YA vernacular with ease.

-only qualm comes near the beginning when Kurt lights a joint with a Zippo. i'm assuming that since Kurt is a dealer, he's quite knowledgeable with smoking pot, and anyone who's smoked pot knows that you NEVER use a Zippo! you'd rather struggle with matches than use a zippo. i mean, try it once and you'll know....that nasty taste of butane will never have you trying it again, i don't care how desperate you are!

i adore the short chapters.

i sooo didn't want this book to end!!!! i'm hopeful that there will be another Dice and Sin story to tell, but everything wrapped up so nicely and with finality i'm fearful there won't be another one.

Penny Landon says

I was actually pleasantly surprised by this book...and by that I mean it sucked, but not as bad as the first book in the series. After finishing Swoon, I said I would not continue this series, yet here I am still disappointed. I will start with the positives of this book because there are so little and it is easy to get them out of the way. It had an actual plotline (positive), but the actual plotline got lost in the mix of mindless Dice thoughts (negative). The whole point of the book is to find Crane and then by the end this subject is barely wrapped up...but there is a plotline I guess. The sex scenes in the first book that were super awkward are now understated in this book. You know that they have sex, without all of the unnecessary harlequin details. Other than that, Swear was just a mess. The dialogue of the characters was awful. It sounded exactly as if a grandmother decided to write a book in the "teenage vernacular". In other words, just hard to read without laughing at how terrible it was. The rampant drug use was also just unnecessary. Having the characters use drugs in your book does not make you "cool" or "revolutionary." Just an adult who imagines all teens must secretly smoke weed when they get bored. The complete 180 that Sin's character did was also a factor in my not liking this book. I'm all for character development, but there was no development involved. I'm curious if there will a third book in this series...they say third times the charm and maybe the author needs three times to actually produce a good book.

Joy (joyous reads) says

It's been a while since I've read *Swoon*; I seem to remember loving that book, regardless of the not-so lovely reviews it's gotten. When I picked up *Swear*, I knew I would have a hard time acclimating to the goings on post-*Swoon*. Well, hell's bells. I think I just realized why *Swoon* had such adverse reactions from other readers.

Swear happened about six months after *Swoon*. Dice is plagued with dreams of the erotic kind co-starring, none other than her ex, Sin Youngblood Powers. Everything should be cool and by cool, meaning no haunting of any kind. So long as Sin stayed wherever the hell he was and not intent on unleashing another bout of debauchery via possession, Dice was okay being haunted in her dreams. But when a boy disappeared without a trace and they'd somehow traced it back to Sin, Dice had no choice but to try and summon her ghost-turned-golem ex. Oh boy. Here we go again.

There is a distinct difference between Dice sans Sin and Dice with Sin; predominantly obvious was she seemed to turn into an insipid, sniveling, shallow girl as opposed to a girl with deep feelings and even deeper intellect. It was frustrating, considering how much I enjoyed her monologues, which, incidentally, reminded me of beatnik poetry.

His return brought another round of ego-maniacal, self-love. What I don't get is the appeal. Also, Dice and Pen (her cousin) have pretty much fought over this bone from the beginning and his return didn't seem to have reaped that much attention. Dice insisted that she's still in lurve with him but after the initial quasi-argument they had, there was a whole lot of...nothing.

You know what pissed me off the most? The fact the Sin was all, riled up because Dice was caught kissing another boy. You know what I have to say about that? SCREW YOU, SIN! May I remind you that you slept with practically the entire female population of *Swoon*, CT the last time you were in town? You have no right, boy. No right at all. Jesus, God, Dice. Girl, why are you all broken up because the jerk was mad at you for kissing another dude? Get real. Or better yet, get a backbone. Tell the loser off.

VERDICT: My over all feeling about this book? Please God. Please let's get on with the plot. If I have to read one more scene where Dice was pining for Sin and then waffling over Tosh, or Pen stuffing food in her mouth, and girls falling and fawning all over Sin, I'd swear I'd stick a hot poker in my eye. [Head desk]

Darkfallen says

So I'm sure most of you can see that I wasn't all that into the first book, *Swoon*. I wanted to be. I loved the cover. But there were parts that just made it a little hard to sink my teeth into.

Then there was *Swear*. Not only did I sink my teeth in, I took a HUGE bite and went back for seconds. Seriously this book blew the first one out of the water and I couldn't get enough. In fact I am hoping, praying to the gods at be, doing the rain dance...all in hopes that Nina Malkin will give us more. I want more Dice & Sin. I want more creepy ghosts. I want it all!

What is this book such an improvement over the first one?

I think for many reasons actually. The major one being the flow of things. It was at a steady pace that just grabbed you in and took you along. The way it was written just felt more *real* if that makes sense. Also in book one I was so lost by the odd way the characters spoke that it kept pulling me out of the story, but now? While these kids still talk a little funny, in my opinion, to that of regular teens, they dialogue was so much better! Also our pal Sin has seemed to find a balance between the 1700's speech he is used to and the modern day lingo.

Then there is the growth we see in both Dice and Sin. While Dice has grown some...Sin has grown by miles! I couldn't be more happy for the way his character develops throughout the story. I was swooning for him at every turn, and begging for more.

In all I say if you haven't started this series yet...then what are you waiting for?! Pick it up and join my in the land of swoon...

Sara (Freedom Library) says

Check out my series review here: [https://freedomlibrary.wordpress.com/...](https://freedomlibrary.wordpress.com/)

Critically

Plot – 2 out of 5 stars

I was so bored the entire time, it's super drawn out, slow, just plain weird, uncomfortably graphic, flat, there's a lot of plot holes, it deals with ghosts, goddesses and just inappropriate themes

Writing Style – 3 out of 5 stars

really long and dragged out, scattered and confusing, simple, descriptive, really strange and weird, lost the intensity, boring

Characters – 2 out of 5 stars

Yeah, this part of the book didn't improve at all from the first book. Dice was still immature, still naive. Kind of meek and quiet. She's trying to have a "normal" life after what happened in the first book which just puts her in a state of denial because her life isn't normal and that's just what she has to deal with. Her thought process was just annoying and I was bored. By her, by the story, and by the side characters. Sin was just bleh now. All the mystery and enigma of him is gone and he's just another bland character. He's rude and kind of sexist to be honest. He's still manipulative but the mystery of it and the intriguing aspect is gone and I was bored out of my mind. The romance is completely unbelievable. I didn't like it in the first book, it felt super unfounded and insta love like. So since the basis of this book is to reunite them, I wasn't at all interested. And the new side characters introduced were bland and unnecessary and it dragged the plot on too long for no real reason.

Emotionally

(view spoiler)

Katya says

WARNING: The following review contains profanity and spoilers. Thou hath been warned.

What the FUCK did I just read?

No, wait, I do know what I just read. It's called wish fulfilment fantasy, and there is a huge heap of it right here. I never thought that Halo and Hades would share the one-star shelf this year, but apparently, I was wrong.

Let's start with the good stuff. There is a plot.

Now that this is out of the way...

someone interrupts, whispers What? What do you mean I should give a summary? It's right... oh, nevermind.

So, six months after Dice lost her virginity to Sin, her ghost-turned-golem-tuned-lover, and his subsequent disappearance, life is moving on. Dice has entered a band and is starting to have something with Tosh, the disposable love interest. But all is not well, as Crane, Marsh's boyfriend, disappears mysteriously. Mysteriously because the dude had decided to pop the question (No, not "Honey, are you okay with my Hugh Jackman man crush?", the OTHER question), and there is simply no way that a guy fresh out of high school would get cold feet over THAT.

Anyway, Dice and gang decide that this is Sin's doing, and so she and Tosh get chummy one night in order to bring him back. Which... they do. No need to bake clay this time, I see. Or choose big enough seeds for his... ah... defining features. Unfortunately, Sin was not responsible for Crane's disappearance, and he's also not very happy to find Dice moving on with her life. After some misadventures, they are led to Antonia, a contemporary of Sin, who died in a fire some six months before him. Sin claims that he did not sleep with her (even though in the previous book he was rather proud of his satirical past), because she was apparently a 'numbskull' who didn't talk too much.

Well, after some frolicking around in an alternate dimension, they come across Antonia, now a ghost, who tells them via a letter that she wants Sin to fulfill his promise to make her his bride, and that she would return Crane as soon as they 'depart to yonder bridal bed'. Sin, of course, claims that nothing of this is true, but what can you do, they have to get Crane back, so in all of his wisdom he brings Antonia to the world of the living, where she, now capable of speech, proceeds to drive everyone nuts.

I gave a pretty long summary there, but I needed to, since there are essential problems with the plot which are, obviously, not described in the Goodreads page. The most glaring one of them being the leaps of logic and plotholes. Hope you have your butt-cushions and safety helmets on, guys, cause this is one bumpy ride.

Continuing from there, we have the plot, which as Kira commented already, looks like it was copied straight out of New Moon. Luckily, Dice has a touch more friends than Bella, because Tosh needs to be disposed of

in a gentle matter. Unluckily, though, female relationships in this book aren't all that better than those in Twilight.

I told you guys about Antonia, who at the time of her life was mentally impaired, or mute, or maybe both, I really didn't pay attention (sorry, but that's how it is with plotheles - don't think too hard and they won't break your brain). At any rate, she is on the receiving end of Sin's mockery/pity, as he seems to think that by insulting her as much as possible he would appear like some sort of noble knight. Dice seems more inclined to give Antonia the benefit for the doubt (rightfully), until Antonia steps in to steal her man, and that turns Dice into a total bitch.

This is the main problem I have with this book, the "**Women are evil**" message it seems to broadcast, front and centre. It's always women who do the evil - first it's Antonia, and then it's her maid, slutty Mae Molly, who not only devirginized Sin but also triggers a resolution so stupid I can't even discuss it. Even Dice, who I admit is a pretty gutsy heroine, is made to feel guilty for kissing Tosh, and has to walk on eggshells all the time lest Sin throws a hissy fit.

What's even more sickening is how willing Dice is to make excuses for Sin, to accept him as some kind of martyr (and doesn't he wax eloquent on that one). In fact, here's a direct quote from the book:

I want to tell him that he's being unfair, but if roles were reversed, could I honestly say my reaction wouldn't be the same? True, I forgave him many offences - including deflowering my cousin. But I hadn't witnessed them in flagrante delicto, plus she was merely a means to an end, and he was a different person back then... if 'person' isn't exactly the right word.

Just to clarify: Sin is giving her hell for kissing another guy. Sin, who six months prior fucked his way through Swoon. I mean, of course, why wouldn't she forgive him? It's not like he meant to mind-rape Pen, then show up one day to take her virginity, and then never look at her again, turn her into a nympho and destroy her life. He was different.

What Dice is trying to say is: "It's fine as long as he didn't do it to me. And he didn't do it for me because he luvves me, and because I am the one who changed his life."

Wish fulfilment indeed. Here's a tip for you, Dice, in order for you to forgive someone, they have to be sorry first. And Sin isn't sorry, for any of the shit he caused. Just for that I wanted to punch something.

Continuing from the last book, we also get quite a few mentions of casual drug abuse that are never addressed. Yeah, cause who needs that? Kids get plenty of it at school, and Ruby is more than enough of a cautionary tale. Too bad none of the characters in Swear seem to have learned from her. Just great.

What else should I say? Should I really go back and examine each plothele, one by one, like some sort of literary archeologist? No, thanks. For a long time I wondered if this book deserved the one star treatment, since unlike Hades, it doesn't bash gay people and non-white people, but you know what, there is a difference between having a gay character and putting one there for shits and giggles. Now, friends, strap me into my unicorn-cupcake straight-jacket and hand me in some rehab reads, because I'm done. Done. DONE.

Note: I got a copy of this book via Simon and Schuster's Galley Grab program.

Marissa Wheeler says

All I gotta say is one word: Sin. <3

The minute Barnes & Noble puts this book onto the shelves I 'swear'... ahh! I don't even know. I was so depressed when Swoon ended and Sin disappeared, and now he might be back! I emailed Nina Malkin and she said that the book should be coming out this summer :) I'm too happy!

Books to the Sky says

Check out more reviews at www.bookstothsky.com :)

Technically this should be a two star book. I only gave it three stars because the book cover is so damn beautiful.

Nina Malkin's writing is, interesting. It's definitely different and while I can't quite pinpoint what it is exactly that makes it different, I did enjoy the writing style...for a while.

I felt like Swear had a great purpose and then somewhere got lost in all the words. So many words...472 pages of words. Lots of vocabulary that didn't really add to the book, in my opinion.

What I struggled with most was just the length of the book. And I'm an avid reader and can read a 300 page book in a few hours. But reading Swear felt like it took ages.

And really? The author put at least 5 pages of just song lyrics in the book of what Dice was singing. Did I need to read all of those?

Then I think the biggest page waster was reading two pages (yes two) of Dice listening to her cat meow and imagining the words that would be coming out of Rubycat's mouth. Really?

By the time I got near the end of the book, I didn't even care what happened to the characters. I personally think Dice is stupid for wanting to be with Sin after all the things he's done to her friends and family.

Again, the cover of the book is beautiful. I'll probably touch it in the bookstore. But that's about it.

charmayne says

Nina Malkin's writing style is...unique. It takes some time getting used to, and in all honesty it really isn't my thing.

This book wasn't anything amazing. Yeah, there was a plot (hurrah) but it wasn't a plot that goes BAM. There was a complication that really, nobody seems to genuinely worry about, a bit of angst, lots of eccentric here-there 1920s narration and fun, and then a solution to the complication that's so absurd in its simplicity that it really doesn't make sense when you stop to think about it.

Really, you find a mysterious psychic girl who all but shoves the answer to your problem down your throat? Then after receiving enlightenment and some cool magic powers, you decide to give it all up to faith and love to fix your problem?

And then there's that issue I had with the dynamics of Sin and Dice's early relationship. How is Dice the bad person for kissing someone else after Sin's disappeared for six months? With Sin's history of flirting around and basically screwing the whole town, how come DICE is made to feel guilty? That's some serious backward thinking. I didn't feel good at all reading that part, it just felt really wrong.

This book was just...unimpressive. If there's another book out I don't think I'll be reading it.

Julianne says

So basically everything I loved from Swoon was very absent through most of this book. There was some lore behind how Sin was able to get his body in Swoon but Antonia just sort of appears in Swear. And now Dice is in a band. Ok i can get with that. She always liked singing. But she isnt doing much else other than singing in a band and apparently volunteering at a library that was mentioned literally once. There wasnt a whole lot going on through most of the book and i honestly had to force myself to finish it. The big final scene isnt even that big. Maybe three pages? That tries to wrap up Antonias weird obsession with Sin, Crane coming back, and Dices move back to NYC. A lot of nothing happens in the book. They play music and do some drugs and then there are ghosts, kinda.

Ashley says

When I first read Swoon, the book that precedes Swear, Nina Malkin hadn't planned on writing a sequel. So when Swear was announced, I was eager and excited, and did a lot of fan girlish squeeing. :D I have to say that Swear definitely lived up to my expectations.

For the a good portion of the beginning, Sin isn't there physically, but his presence in Dice's life--and her dreams--is unmistakable. But Dice is also getting close to a boy named Tosh, a member of the band Bruise Blue that Dice is the lead singer in. When Tosh and Dice get too close, the jealousy causes Sin to manifest, and, as ever, he brings chaos in his wake.

This was as good sequel to Swoon, although I liked Swoon better. I felt like the plot took a while to pick up, and the ending was a little anti-climactic. I enjoyed reading it, but one of my biggest peeves with Swear is that the paranormal elements seem kinda random. In Swoon, we know Dice is psychic. But in Swear, her powers become something more witchy, and then later on, the Roman gods just pop in out of nowhere. I wish there was a more definite mythology to it.

Sin is still a total sex god. Even though he's a douche sometimes, he's just way too irresistible. And in Swear, he's actually making an effort to be a good man, and to have a relationship with Dice. But that all gets complicated when an old acquaintance of Sin's comes back into the picture, and is determined to have him.

I still love Nina Malkin's writing style. I know some people aren't too fond of it, but I love her vivid and almost poetic way of writing. It gives the story a different edge to it.

If you're a die-hard fan of Swoon, then definitely pick up Swear. There's more Sin goodness to sigh contentedly over. But if you weren't too fond of Swoon, then you might not like Swear. Maybe give it a shot. 4 out of 5 stars.

Nicole says

Oh god, there's a sequel to Swoon? I didn't think that was possible with the way it ended, but I guess I'll give it a try. I just hope it's not as weird as the first.

Rachael says

It's been six months since everything happened, six months since Sinclair Youngblood Powers disappeared. Dice misses Sin more than anything, but she's afraid that he might actually be gone forever—from existence. Still, she tries to have a normal life, playing music with her friends and trying to connect with new ones, especially Tosh, her attractive new band mate. But just when everything seems back to the plain and ordinary, strange things start happening again. Little snatches of melody, plants that seem to come alive, weird weather, and the disappearance of her best friend's boyfriend all point in one direction for Dice: to Sin. He's back. Dice is sure of it, but she's also sure that I can only mean trouble.

Reading Swoon by Nina Malkin a couple years ago was an interesting experience for me, to say the least, and I can't tell you what made me pick up its sequel, Swear. I guess I was just curious to see where Malkin would take the story. What readers get in Swear is a lot more bizarre than everything that happens in Swoon. The plot just kept getting weirder and weirder and continuously made me wonder what the point was. Additionally, I've always felt a little distanced from Dice's story because of Malkin's writing. I've come to realize that I really don't like her writing all that much; in Swear, the descriptions were sometimes a little vulgar, the humor was forced for me as the reader, and there seemed to be an overemphasis on the extremes of teen behavior, such as doing drugs and holding séances. Despite all of the problems that I had with this book, I still found the story incredibly sexy. The one thing that Malkin does very well is develop Dice's relationship with Sin, and I did enjoy reading along as they worked out their personal issues. Overall, reading Swear was perhaps not the best investment of my time, but, as I said before, it was certainly an interesting experience.

Fans of Swoon by Nina Malkin will likely want to pick up its sequel, Swear, as will readers who also enjoyed Ruined by Paula Morris and Shade by Jeri Smith-Ready.

reposted from <http://thebookmuncher.blogspot.com>

Alyssa Wallace says

I highly anticipated Swear because, I am so in love with Swoon. Sadly this book did not meet my standards. I wanted so much to love it. And it's not that Swear was bad I just felt like it was missing something. Something Swoon had that made it unbelievable. I also feel like this book was a bit more censored than Swoon was. I enjoyed the way Swoon was written so much. It made it stand apart from so many other YA books that only have "kissing." But still overall I love the story of Dice and Sin.

P.E. says

Mini-review, just for Goodreads. This was written on my phone so U apologize for any mistakes.

I seem to be rating books pretty low these days, at least compared to even six months ago. That's because my standards have changed. A 3 star book must be a book that I liked. A two star book is a book that I didn't like, but also didn't hate.

My thoughts on Swear can be summed up in one sentence: it just wasn't right for me.

The writing I couldn't get into at all. I often reread several scenes in the beginning because I thought I missed something. By the end I gave up. The writing style isn't to my tastes. It distracted me from the scenes so that the book had terrible flow, plus I just couldn't believe it. The language was super casual at times, resembling what I'd hear at school, and then all of a sudden these big words would be put in, completely confusing me. How does someone near my age talk like that? I've been told to have a good vocabulary just because I said "the deceased" instead of "the dead dude." I appreciate a good vocabulary (seriously, I memorize some words just cause they sound cool) but due to previous experiences, I wasn't buying Dice's.

That was another issue. Not buying into the plot. The end ended up perfect. After all this time spent bemoaning the villain, and how she's so strong it's impossible to stop her we get that as an ending? I'm not satisfied. I feel like there is actual substance in the story line and it might be quite interesting if I bothered to dig deep and stuff. But I'm a lazy reader who just finished exam week. Entertainment is all I really want.

On to the characters... I'll just talk about Sin and Dice, starting with Sin.

(Completely random, but I did my math exam a few days ago and couldn't stop reading "Sin" as Sine. Which isn't a very delicious name.)

I remember liking Sin at some point in Swoon. I remember wishing for Sin to show up to being some flavour to Swear. I don't remember being so bored with him. He was so contrary and... well, Dice always says how he always gives in to impulse. But then we see stuff like he resists the urge to slap/run away from someone. And you always saw him being so good, so why the heck does she call him a demon? He flirts with everyone and Dice doesn't care at all. Except he cares when she flirts. I didn't buy into the love either. Or the fact that he's so charismatic. It's practically shoved down the reader's throat all the ways Sin is amazing, but there doesn't seem to be enough evidence to prove that. He didn't attract me so I missed out on the whole disparity in the situation.

Dice herself isn't the kind of character I like. She's sassy, but I can't stand her attitude sometimes. Like the fact that she often makes jokes about the native "Swoonies" and feels better for being different that way. Stuff like that always manages to annoy the heck out of me, even if it happens only once or twice. Being is awesome, but you should own it. Not feel in any way superior to everyone else because you're so different and special. Rant aside, I realize what an annoying nitpicky reader I was while reading Swear, so I'll wrap up this paragraph and say I never connected with Dice, nor did I particularly like her.

If I didn't like so much stuff, why was this book not a DNF? I'm not entirely sure. I constantly thought about putting it down when I realized it would never appeal to me. But then I'd look at the stunning cover, or I'd be interested in some examples of Sin's charms. Something would make me continue. I think if this is your kind of book, you'll love it. Really, if you really liked Swoon, be sure to read Swear. If you were a meh on Swoon like me, you might also feel blah about Swear so I'm not sure I recommend reading it.

There's nothing I hated about the book, but I also didn't think it was executed very well either. All in all, my lesson learned is to put a paper bag over the cover of the book I'm reading so it doesn't influence me to read something I'm not interested in. And that I probably won't read the sequel because this was not my kind of read. 2 stars.

**

(That was the longest mini review I've ever done. I guess I have a lot to say about books that don't appeal to me :p)

