



Dark Awakening

Patti O'Shea

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This is a novella that was originally published in 2007 as part of the Shards of Crimson anthology.

Kimi Noguchi is working as an intern for an advertising agency in Crimson City and she's discovered that she's a kijo or witch. She thinks having talent is cool, but her magic attracts the attention of a power-hungry Bak-Faru demon and she's forced to call on another demon, Nicodemus, for help.

Nic made a promise to stay away from Kimi for her own good, but now that she's summoned him, all bets are off. She's his vishtau mate, a bond held in reverence by all demons, and he's not about to let this opportunity pass him by. Nic plans to protect, woo and win his woman.

Dark Awakening Details

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Author : Patti O'Shea

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From Reader Review Dark Awakening for online ebook

W says

Intriguing story... I'd like to read more about these characters.

Kerr says

Full review can also be found on: Paein and Ms4Tune's Book Blog

I didn't realise that this was a book #7 before or during reading it. I'd say after too, except that now is technically after reading it and that's when I found out about it being #7....

This had an interesting idea and having discovered there was 7 stories of back-history I do wonder if I'd have liked it more if I'd read them all. The main issue I had was that there was a nice build and then I sort of blinked and missed the ending. Also, after all the stressing out he did about hurting her because he was a demon, the sex scene seemed almost anti-climactic (haha)

Nic was a nice character, he was Mr Goodguy even when he didn't really want to be. Kimi in comparison seemed a little whiny and annoying - perhaps to illustrate the age difference - but it was a little frustrating to read and I ended up not liking her as much. I think the only reason I ended up caring about her was because Nic did.

The outcome of the storyline was predictable, be this seems to be far more forgiving in novellas - I have no idea why this is true. I'll take things from novellas I went from full length stories. Perhaps because they have so much less space to build things properly and sometimes corners are cut and traps are fallen into. This had a nice world. There were all manner of supernatural beings present, but we only met demons and witches. And, just like with anyone else there are good and evil in both groups, which was a nice balance.

Overall a good story, perhaps better enjoyed by those already invested - and therefore understanding of - this world.

Jessie Morgan says

The premise was good, the writing mediocre, and the results not at all what I was hoping for. Patti O'Shea was all over the map with her heroine, Kimi. Kimi is a witch, but at first she doesn't know she is, except that her family tells her that she is, and she works at an agency that is filled with magic-wielding women AND she's called kijo, which is Japanese for witch...but she still doesn't know. Fine, whatever. She maintains that she doesn't know until she runs into this villainous demon, Augustin (which I just can't take seriously, not only because of the name, but because he doesn't do anything more sinister than sneer--well, so did Snidely Whiplash, and he made for a much better villain in my humble opinion), does she suddenly know how to make her magic work. At least enough to get away. She runs to an old wanna-be flame for help (God save me from heroes named Nicodemus--he'll always be the wizardly old rat from the Rats of N.I.M.H. to me) who believes she's his mate and wants her so badly that he spends 3 or so years having nothing to do with her

(God save me from the must-have 200-page misunderstanding for no reason whatsoever, too) on the premise that in another 5 or 10 years she'll be old enough (25 or 30) to safely have sex with him (which should also give him time to develop self-restraint, which in all the time he's been screwing women, he's never before realized has been an issue), but which in the meantime is going to make her think he dislikes her (God save me from the obligatory emotional does he or doesn't he like me crap...no, you know what, God save me from this book! I want the two hours I spent reading it back!).

Take a good hard look at how I've written this review, because this is how the story reads. It is jumbled and confusing, to the characters every bit as much as the readers, and apparently to the author too. For example: When Kimi runs to Nic, she tells him she uses magic to get away from Augustin (Nope, still can't take him seriously) and yet a short time later Nic is upset with Kimi because she didn't tell him she has powers. Excuse me? If the author can't keep her own storyline straight, how are we supposed to? I really expected better from a nationally bestselling author.

SheLove2Read says

One of my favorite authors but I didn't feel like this was her best work. 2.5 stars

Steph says

[per description, part of [book:Shards of Crimson/307352]; on-hand TBR]

Shirley says

Okay, so not only am I on a novella kick, but I'm also taking full advantage of the freebies on Amazon. It's a win/win! I get to get introduced to some authors I may not have noticed before with some really good, quick reads and it doesn't break my book budget.

Dark Awakening is part of Patti O'Shea's Crimson City Series. Since I haven't read any of the other books in the series, I can't comment on whether or not readers would get more out of this short read if they had read the other books first. I can tell you though that I didn't get lost and never felt like anything was missing while I was reading Dark Awakening. That doesn't mean that I don't want to go back and check out what I've missed. ;)

Kimi and Nic had a lot of chemistry to say the least. I liked Kimi's personality and the fact that she had no idea how much power she really possessed. I also liked Nic's determination to keep Kimi safe. I liked O'Shea's take on the demon/witch aspect and where she took the story.

Even though this was a novella, there was an awful lot of action and heat packed into it. It was definitely a read that kept my interest and was very easy to finish in one sitting. There was just enough there to be satisfying and still leave you wanting more so you are intrigued enough to pick up the next one. Very sneaking of these authors, don't you think? And yes, it worked. I will be checking out more titles in this series – very sneaky indeed.

Mara says

I've read this novella a few hours ago. I can't remember much of it. :(It's a short romance set in a world probably explained somewhere else.

I can't say I cared about the characters.

ms bookjunkie says

It was okay, but I felt like I was missing part of the story and/or world building.

Marj says

3.5* excellent short story.

Arthetta Rodgers says

Very interesting story. Kind of erotic which I like and the storyline was really good.

Melissa says

Dark Awakening

By Patti O'Shea

Kimi Noguchi is a young Japanese woman who just found out that she was also a majo, a witch. She is interning at a Los Angeles advertising firm. The first thing that struck her when she started was that it was all woman; then she found out that they were all majo, and that she was one too. Now she is in training. Getting very board with the fact that all she is learning is ethics, rules, and consequences, but no actual magic usage yet. On top of all this, the man of her dreams, a demon named Nicodemus, didn't seem to want anything to do with her. A Dark One, a Bak-Faru, comes after her. With her cousin on her honeymoon halfway around the world she has no hope but to call on Nicodemus.

Nic, or Nicodemus, is desperately in love with Kimi, knows she is his vishtau-mate, but his half-sister – Kimi's cousin – has warned him off Kimi until she is older. Kimi after all, is just human as far as the two of them know, and Nic doesn't have a lot of experience being careful with fragile human woman. Knowing that Kimi is his vishtau-mate, and the fact that Kimi is actively seeking his company, makes it hard on Nic's control as their bond is trying to form, so he is trying to avoid her. When he is in San Francisco one night finishing up a drink trying not to think of Kimi, he suddenly finds himself in her front room, having been summoned. He finds out she is being attacked by the Bak-Faru, so puts himself in front of her.

Kimi learns a lot about love, men, the varying types of demons and the vishtau-mating during this book. It is

a fun ride we take with these two through Crimson City. I really enjoyed Ms. O'Shea's writing style and the way she weaves humor in with the tense situations. I look forward to reading more by this wonderful author. I give the book five stars. If you like witches, demons, and other assorted beings of the night, this book is a great addition to your library.

Michelle says

I haven't read any of this series but I have been wanting to try it so I thought I'd give this novella a try to see if I liked the writing style. I did enjoy it but I know I would like it more if I had read them in order.

Dren says

Quick & Dirty Review

Nice read. Fast paced story. This is my first entry into this series and this book interests me enough that I want to read the first novel in the series.

If you're looking for a something quick and interesting, pick this one up.

Lyndsey says

Although this was a very short read, it was well written with a great plot. I would've loved to have a longer story just to flesh out more of the relationship, especially at the end. Overall, though, very good short story on a newer take on demons. Recommended for a fast read.

Cat says

Ah, what a well told short story! I didn't feel like I was missing information or that I needed to hear more (although I would like to ;)!).

The characters are interesting enough and the plot is decent. The climax is a bit too short (happens very suddenly) but it is a novella. The only downfall that I can see is Kimi's mention of her virginity on more than one occasion, yet neither Kimi nor Nic mention it again. Oh well...

Good, quick read with lots of sexy tension.
