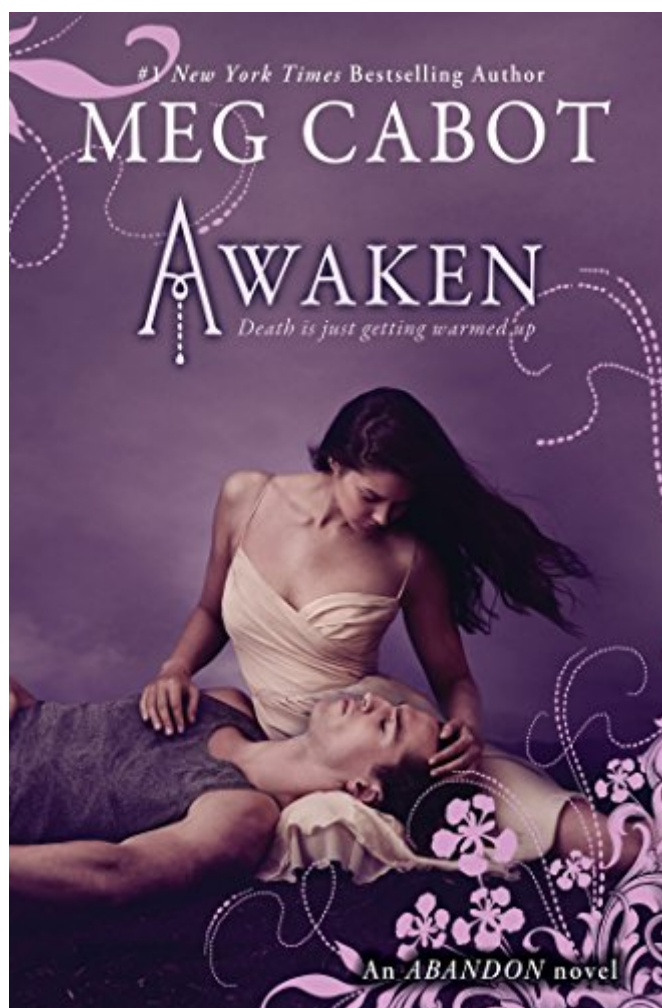


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Abandon #3: Awaken



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Meg Cabot, the dark reimagining of the Persephone myth comes to a thrilling conclusion. Death has her in his clutches. She doesn't want him to let go. Seventeen-year-old Pierce Oliviera knew by accepting the love of John Hayden, she'd be forced to live forever in the one place she's always dreaded most: the Underworld. The sacrifice seemed worth it, though, because it meant she could be with the boy she loves. But now her happiness -- and safety -- are threatened, all because the Furies have discovered that John has broken one of their strictest rules: He revived a human soul. If the balance between life and death isn't fixed, both the Underworld and Pierce's home back on earth will be wiped away. But there's only one way to restore order. Someone has to die.

Book Information

File Size: 2331 KB

Print Length: 357 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0545040655

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.; Reprint edition (July 2, 2013)

Publication Date: July 2, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00B9FX4GM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #96,014 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #45

in [Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Greek & Roman](#) #48 in [Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman](#) #77 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman](#)

Customer Reviews

I liked Abandon. It was a modern day re-telling of the myth of Hades and Persephone. It wasn't as exciting as I would have liked but the story was good and the characters likable. I don't think I will be

reading the rest of this series. This book is geared towards a young audience and I'm sure some will find it entertaining. I give *Abandon* 3 stars for its modern day re-telling. I would recommend this book to readers of YA.

I love reading about the local flavor of Key West/Bone Cay: the dynasties of prominent families, the shipwrecks, the shipwrecked sailors, the wreckers, the crypts keeper and the modern day kids with cellphones, all partying at Coffin Fest. I hope Pierce's mom and dad can find love together after their break (he I especially feel desperate to heal -- all that yelling and loneliness and business dinners in restaurants each night -- he has lived in his own underworld of misery). I admire this author's ability to weave the back stories of many characters -- both past and present -- in a way that moves the plot forward. I love that a 150-year-old character, John Hayden, keeps learning more about himself and new abilities he has, now that he has taken a queen. I love the way Pierce is coming out of her medication haze and taking charge of her destiny. Floating a lot of love down Meg Cabot's way! Gracias, senora! Look forward to the trilogy finale next month.

Contemporary, mythology, Young Adult, Florida
Pierce knows what it is like to die especially since she has already done it before. She has tried to return to the life that she was living before her accident but she can't help but feel both a part of this world and yet apart from it. Though she is never alone because someone is always watching her. Pierce has moved to a new town and hopes that things will be different. Though even in this new place he has found her. She knows he isn't a Guardian angel because his dark world is nowhere near heaven but she can't stay away from him. He always appears when she needs it most even though she never quite expects it. Pierce is afraid that if she falls for him anymore she will end up in the place she fears the most, the Underworld. This takes the myth of Persephone and completely reimagines it to place it in a contemporary setting and still makes it all its own story. It does a good job of explaining the back story for Pierce while still staying in the present and what she is currently dealing with. It has some great twists and turns and with every answer that is unveiled the more that is understood. The characters are well written and relatable. Reading how Pierce slowly figures out just what is happening to her and what did happen to her takes the reader on a very interesting journey. It will also have readers wanting to read the next book just to see what else will happen in this story and just where Pierce will ultimately end up.

Like *Abandon*, *Underworld* wasn't quite what I expected. It's still not the Persephone and Hades

myth I was expecting, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Underworld definitely has more of the myth elements, and the new characters that are introduced are fantastic, but I'm still wishing there was a little more myth influence. John has taken Pierce away from the physical world and placed her in the safer Underworld. Here, at least, he can work to protect her from the Furies. In this, Underworld is like the Hades and Persephone myth. Pierce understands why John has done this, but that doesn't mean she likes it. She's a little in over her head with her new life and has trouble adjusting to the idea of leaving her old life behind. When she sees that her cousin Alex might be in trouble, all she wants to do is help him, not understanding the possible consequences. A few of my favorite parts of this novel were the cast of characters introduced in the Underworld. The shipmates John relies on to do his job are all interesting, funny characters and they provide a light note, especially little Henry. I wouldn't mind reading a book about the adventures this little group had gotten into. They were dynamic and really added something to the novel. The relationship between John and Pierce still feels a little off to me. Maybe it's because there hasn't been much focus on it, but things feel rushed and stiff. I don't see this love they proclaim to have for each other. A deep caring, I see. Love I don't. It makes it difficult for me to understand the reasoning behind some of their choices. There's still a lot of miscommunication and misunderstanding between them and even though I enjoy the sweet moments, I can't believe it's love. It just doesn't feel that way. I'm holding out hope that Awaken has the relationship development I'm looking for. I find myself confused by the major plot of Underworld as well. I'm not sure the part Alex and his misadventures will play in the overall storyline, but I do see pieces of a puzzle falling into place. That didn't stop me from being confused as to the Alex plot, though. It makes the novel feel as though it has split personality. Everything either has to do with the Underworld or with Alex, but not really both. I wish there was a better blend between the two. Underworld was closer to the Persephone and Hades myth I keep hoping for, but there are still things holding it back. The relationship between John and Pierce doesn't feel authentic yet and there's a little bit of a problem with the flow of the novel, in my opinion. Those issues don't stop it from being an enjoyable novel to read, though. I'm looking forward to finishing the series with Awaken and seeing how John and Pierce work together to figure out their lives in the Underworld.

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