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BECOME (Desolation #1) (Desolation Series)



Synopsis

There is nothing the devil's daughter wants more than to stay in Hell where it's cold and lonely and totally predictable. Sixteen-year-old Desolation Black is an expert at keeping her emotions locked down tight. The last thing she wants is to return to Earth where there's a girl she's compelled to save and a boy whose touch ignites a terrifying spark of goodness deep inside of her. The Norse gods all have a stake in the choices Desi makes. Will she follow in her father's footsteps? Or will she choose to become something entirely new? "A phenomenal story of a girl who should, by all accounts, be a bad girl, but wants so desperately to be good. The story of Desolation Black and her trials as a normal teen, while trying to please her father (AKA: Satan) not only kept me on the edge of my seat, but left me questioning how I see the world. If a girl with such darkness in her life, can find a way to do good, then there's hope for the rest of us. Even if you're not a fan of dark paranormal novels, you'll love this one. It's not like all the others. Not even close." C.K. Bryant (BOUND) "With beautiful, lyrical writing, this is one story fans of paranormal romance will not want to miss! And the twist at the end has me craving book two!" ~ Susan Kaye Quinn (OPEN MINDS) **2013 Hollywood Book Festival Honorable Mention 2012 League of Utah Writers (Silver Quill) 2012 League of Utah Writers (Best eBook)

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Customer Reviews

Book Review- Become by Ali CrossDesolation is the daughter of Loki or Lucifer, as he likes to be known. She has been raised in Hell. Being the princess of Hell there are expectations but she has learned to hide the warmth she carries deep inside. She keeps to herself and trains with Akaros. He is encouraging her to Become. She has refused to give into her shadow self so far. Her father is sending her to Earth again. She feels like she is being punished and is unsure what she has done. She dreads the remembering she must do. The guilt she feels about Aaron. The only good thing is seeing Lucy, her true friend who loves her. She is a light in Desi's darkness. She also meets Miri who also becomes a light. She steps in and continues in Lucy's shoes. Desi's guilt weighs her down and she feels she can't deserve what they are trying to give her. When she becomes, everything she believed is wrong. She is drawn into the war in which she didn't remember while living in Hell. She has to make tough choices and great sacrifices to battle for Earth against her father. This story is incredibly dark. You feel for Desi from the beginning. The author makes it clear that she is different and doesn't really belong there. She is very damaged over her visit to Earth eight months ago and what occurred with Aaron. It was hard to read this story. It was very depressing. I thought the story was unique with a good vs evil theme. Desolation is exactly what her name construes. As I read the story I hoped she would come out on the right side of light and Asgard. I didn't like how things ended. She lost a lot and I hope it rectifies itself in the next book. The ending chapters really brought the story down for me. I give it a 3 out of 5.

Gosh, "Become" is such a hard book to describe. It was a book I loved to hate. Allow me to explain. It gripped me from the first page. I read it in a day, I was very captivated by it, and really wanted to see what happened. In that sense, I loved it. Much of the book takes place in Desi's head. On one hand, I have to say that Desi's voice was strong, and well developed. On the other hand, her head is a wild place to be. She is very repetitive, thinks the same things a lot - "I was the devil's daughter..." Yup got it. Don't need to hear it thought over and over. She frequently feels the need to justify her behavior and thoughts and feelings by reminding us just who she is. And that was where

my hate came in. By halfway in, I knew the character pretty well, I didn't need all the constant extra explaining. The pace was fantastic. It moved fast and never got dull or boring. The editing was clean. A few small formatting issues - extra spaces. But absolutely nothing that interfered with readability. This book, all in all, is an example of a self published title well done. The cover is breathtaking, and the interior design is done very well too. But then we come to the end. I don't mind cliffhangers - to some extent. This one though, left me feeling very unsatisfied. I fully expect the first book in a series to leave me with questions and wanting more. This though, left me feeling like "what was the point?" From one standpoint, I can see that the conclusion was more in her emotional journey, and that part was at least a bit satisfying. I really believe that a cliffhanger, done well, should at least leave a character and by proxy the reader, on a high note. - This book failed to deliver that. If it weren't for the ending, I would have likely given 4 stars, even if the repeated thoughts did get a bit annoying, so you may like this book better than I did if cliffhangers don't bother you. I haven't made up my mind yet if I will get the sequel. It's my understanding that as of right now, the 3rd book isn't out yet, and I suspect the second book will be just as much of a cliffhanger from the reviews I have read on it. I will probably wait until the author concludes the series, and then consider finishing it.

I gave it four stars because it's not quite the most riveting book I ever read in my life. It does come close however. Desolation is the daughter of Loki, who now calls himself Lucifer. She is also a reborn Guardian (i.e. 'angel,') whose mother was a Valkyrie who slept with Loki in order to conceive of the child who could stand against him. Throughout the book, 'Desi' has flashbacks and recurring memories of the life she willingly gave up in Asgard, and why she chose to be born as the devil's daughter. There a couple of places where my mind went, 'huh?' - like the fact that she's supposed to be a new student at a Catholic High School, and nobody comments on, or reacts in any way to the fact that her name is 'Desolation.' Also near the end - when she 'dies' and has a chance to go to Valhalla, but chooses to give it up to go back to earth (Midgard) and continue the fight - her reason for going back is mainly to save her friend Miri. What confused me here is that neither she, nor Odin, nor any of the entities that arrive to meet her on the Bifrost bridge, seems to care that the main reason she should go back is because she is supposedly the game-changer that will prevent her father from claiming earth and all of its inhabitants for Hell. Yes, I can see her being especially motivated by her relationship with Miri, but other thoughts should have been in the forefront as well. Overall, not perfect, but well worth reading.

I love the Mythology and Christianity and how they are expertly interwoven and clarified in this

enthraling story. The characters made me love them, and root for them, and even when life called Desolation still summoned me to continue her path with her. To fight with her, to love, with her. I will gladly continue helping her face her demons in this fantastic series!

My review is based on the Audiobook. I really enjoyed Become: Desolation #1. The story had great pacing keeping me engaged at all times. The characters are well developed, likeable and relatable. Kelli Shane did a superb job at narration with easily distinguishable character voices. I am looking forward to more in this series!!

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