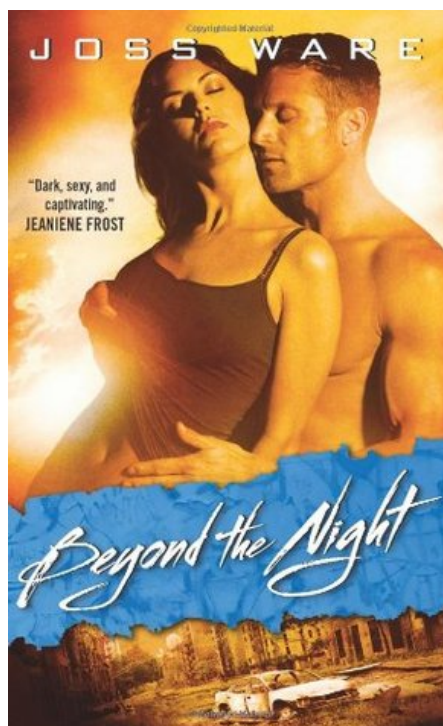




Beyond the Night

Joss Ware , Colleen Gleason

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A man with no future . . .

When Dr. Elliott Drake wakes from a mysterious fifty-year sleep, the world as he knew it is gone. Cities are now desolate, and civilization is controlled by deadly immortals. Stranger still is Elliott's extraordinary new "gift"--he has the power to heal, but it comes with fatal consequences.

A woman with a past . . .

Jade barely escaped the immortals and is now hell-bent on revenge. She trusts no one . . . until Elliott. His piercing gaze and tempting touch shatter her defenses, but the handsome doctor seems to have dangerous secrets of his own. Is it safe to trust him with her heart?

If they are to survive in this dark new world, Jade and Elliott must work together to fight the forces that take them beyond danger.

Beyond desire.

Beyond the Night Details

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Author : Joss Ware , Colleen Gleason

Format : Mass Market Paperback 357 pages

Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Horror, Zombies

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From Reader Review Beyond the Night for online ebook

Darcy says

I thought this book was really slow to start, and was basically forcing myself to read hoping it would get better. When I reached the 125 page point things had started to pick up, but I realized that I didn't care what was going on. The zombie like creatures could have gotten all of the characters and it wouldn't matter to me as this book just couldn't hold my interest.

Beth says

It was ok. Interesting set up so I may go to book 2.

t'irla ~The Bookslayer~ t'irla's Talk Book Blog says

Really different...a breath of fresh air!...Has something for every lover of PNR/UF!

Description:

Everything they knew is gone...

From the remnants of devastation, five men emerge with extraordinary new powers. They are humankind's last hope, but they cannot survive this devastated world alone.

When Dr. Elliott Drake emerges from a cave after traveling fifty years through time, the world as he knew it is gone. Cities are overgrown jungles, and what's left of civilization has been repressed by crystal-wearing immortal beings. But even more unsettling: Elliott has acquired an extraordinary ability--the power to heal.

But even that gift, in a world that lacks the technology and infrastructure of his past, is a two-edged sword for Elliott.

Jade Kapiza, who'd been imprisoned by the immortal beings, has been in hiding for years. But now she's determined to help the human race fight back against the control of her captors. She can trust no one...but when Elliott comes into her life, he pushes at her defenses and begins to tear down the walls she's built so carefully.

Yet the mysterious doctor seems to have secrets of his own. Can Jade trust Elliott with her heart, even as they risk their lives to save a band of innocents?

And can Elliott find a new place for himself--a home--in this new, ravaged world?

My Thoughts:

A Dystopian PNR? yes and a good one! This book was a breath of fresh air in a genre that can be a bit repetitive. The book started out a little slow because of world building and setting the timeframe. Once the main characters get to Envy things start to move and you start meeting the characters who will appear in the rest of the series. This book is a Romance with a HEA but also a UF with an ongoing story line that carries

you through the whole series. Joss Ware is a truly gifted novelist with a mind that thinks outside the box. I don't want to create any spoilers here but I would recommend this novel to any UF/PNR/Dystopian fans...this is a seriously inspired story that no one should miss.

5 big bright stars to this novel for the sheer difference of the plot and world. Great read Joss looking forward to seeing what else you write

Holly says

I was so excited to find a book combining so many unique elements that I love; post-apocalyptic mayhem, adventure, paranormal romance and zombies. How could it disappoint, right? Unfortunately, after a promising start, this book completely fell apart.

For the first 75 pages, I was riveted to this story. It was only after the band of survivors made their way to the city of Envy (a barren version of Las Vegas) that things went south for me. The story became less a zombie ass-kicking adventure, and more a retread of cliched para-romance themes. I won't get into specifics, since I don't want to spoil the 'twists' for anyone who plans on reading this, but I will just say that I rolled my eyes several times. And I have to say the last third of this book worked on my patience, and there was a LOT of skimming. To be honest, I was very happy to see this novel come to an end, which is unfortunate considering how excited I was when I began this book. :(

Auntee says

This is going to be a really hard one to review, because it's going to be hard not to give away any spoilers, and because there's *so much* going on. As it often is with first books in a series, there's a lot the author has to do to set up the story, but Joss Ware does a pretty fine job laying the groundwork for the **Awakening Heroes** series. And BTW, that is an excellent and appropriate name for the series, because the hero of this book turned out to be a real HERO in every sense of the word.

Basically the story is this: It's June 6, 2010, and three friends who met and bonded on a humanitarian trip to Haiti five years ago are exploring a cave near Sedona, Arizona. The three friends are Dr. Elliot Drake, a 30 year old ER physician from Chicago; Wyatt, a 32 yr old firefighter/paramedic from Colorado; and Englishman Quent, a rich playboy and heir to his industrialist father's fortunes, with an avid interest in antiquities and dangerous adventures. Along with their local guides Lenny and 'Fence', the three are exploring the cave when all hell breaks loose. A cataclysmic earthquake-like event happens, complete with strange smells, sounds, and sizzling shocks of energy, sending boulders tumbling, the Earth shaking and splitting, and then...darkness. When the five of them come to, it's *50 years* later, and not one of them has aged a day. And a few of them now have some extra 'powers'...

The story picks up 6 months later, and we find out a few things. Lenny, one of the guides, dies from an infection that Elliot may have inadvertently given to him with his special 'power' that could also be a curse; Quent has special abilities that sometimes leave him terrified; there was another survivor from the cave disaster--a mysterious man named Simon. Most of the world as we know it is gone, swallowed up by the oceans. There are no modern conveniences anymore--no working telephones, cars, stores, roads, electricity, etc.--the world has reverted to something you'd see in the 1800s. There are few survivors from the original

disaster (called the 'Change')--most of the inhabitants of the Earth are less than 50 years old. The world is now controlled by immortal-like, evil beings called "Strangers" whose agenda isn't totally clear, and who live on a sort of "Lost-City-of Atlantis" continent that sprung up in the *Pacific* Ocean. There are also zombie-like creatures (gargas) that come out at night, moaning "*Ruuuth...ruuuth*". And the men are trying to make their way to a settlement called 'Envy'...

When the men stumble upon a group of teenagers being attacked by the gargas, they step in to help, and then a beautiful woman (Jade) on horseback rides in and saves the day. Elliot is instantly smitten by this brave, gorgeous woman--who is she? Does she live in Envy? Can she tell them what has happened and if there's any hope for civilization? Elliot is not even sure if he wants to *live* in this unfamiliar, terrifying new world, but God must have saved him for a reason. And with Jade's help, he just might discover the reason.

Wow, this highly imaginative book was one thrill ride after another. There was a lot to tell and explain and keep track of, and I actually found myself taking notes just to keep everything straight. Lots of names and facts get tossed out right away so the reader has to be on his/her toes to determine who are the good guys, who are the bad guys, and figure out if this apocalypse was a man-made occurrence, done by aliens, or something else? I loved the whole end-of-the-world scenario--it reminded me a little of my favorite Stephen King book (*The Stand*). I loved the whole scavenge-for-clothes-and-things-you-could-use vibe. I loved when Elliot and his buddies finally made it to the walled city of 'Envy' (just wait until you discover where 'Envy' really is) and its communal way of living. I loved meeting the older man Lou Waxnicki--a computer geek from 2010 and one of the brains behind the new civilization. I loved seeing how the people of 2060 tried to adapt and live without the conveniences that we now have. Of course most of them didn't know what they were missing, so it was hardest for men like Elliot and his buddies (who all lost their families) to adapt.

The fight between the good guys and the Strangers has just begun in this book, and no way is it over yet. There's at least two more books in the series, and the author has dropped some big hints about who is behind the destruction of the earth as we know it and why. This book just covers the tip of the iceberg of this post apocalyptic world, and it left me with *lots* of questions, and I must say I can hardly wait to read the next one in the series *Embrace the Night Eternal*.

If there's one thing I felt was short changed a wee bit in this story, it was the romance. I understand how the romance could get lost in the shuffle in the first book, since there's so much to set up and explain for the whole series. I was just hoping to see a little bit more, because when Jade and Elliot *finally* got together (after 250 pages!), they sizzled. Of course Jade had some control issues due to a terrifying couple of years in her past, so she wasn't immediately ready for the attraction she felt for Elliot, or his sometimes possessive streak, but when they worked things out...whew! Elliot was one *fine* man--sexy, heroic, courageous...and was very deserving of a HEA (as was Jade), and I was satisfied with his character's journey. And Jade and Elliot's romance wasn't the only one brewing in this book--Quent had a very *hot* encounter with his future lady, and this one almost upstaged Elliot/Jade. We'll have to see if this encounter turns into something more in his book (*Abandon the Night*).

So, for readers (both male and female) looking for a new, exciting, imaginative series with a touch of the paranormal, lots of action, little bits of horror (those gargas are scary!), and (hopefully way more) romance, you can't go wrong with the **Awakening Heroes** series. There's lots of questions left unanswered in this one, and I can't wait to uncover the answers. For me, I think this book might be even better with a second read, but as it stands now I'd have to rate it a very solid 4 stars.

Shannon says

4.5 Stars!

I'm a big fan of Colleen Gleason and when I found out she was writing a new series under a new name, a post-apocalyptic zombie romance no less, I knew I had to read it as soon as it came out. I loved this book and I can't wait for the sequel, but there were a few things that bothered me and kept me from giving it the full five stars.

A small group of men went hiking in Arizona and entered a cave, only to be caught in some sort of earthquake. When they emerged, the whole world had changed. Civilization as they knew it was gone and the world had become overgrown by nature. They come to find out that they had been asleep for 50 years, not aging, and everyone they knew was dead and gone. And at night, strange zombie-like creatures come out at night, moaning for *Ruuutthh...*

This story revolves around the relationship of Dr. Elliot Drake, one of the men from the past, and Jade, a girl from the current world. The story is about them at its core, but there's so much more going on. The way the plot reveals itself bit by bit is fascinating and I was eating it up. Right off the bat you want to know why the world is the way it is, who Jade really is, why did the group of men survive and how did they not age? It's all pretty crazy at first but not to the point where it's overwhelming.

The zombie-like creatures, the gangas, are scary and menacing and I was reminded of the video game Resident Evil while I was reading the fight scenes with them. I think this book would make a great video game, actually! There's romance, action, horror, science fiction, and suspense all rolled into this one book. I loved just about every minute of it.

There were a few things that bothered me though. Having sex while a body is sitting in a bath tub in the next room over is not sexy. That really turned me off. Also, I'm kind of worried about who and what the villains are, I'm afraid it might end up being a little cheesy. When I first read about where their origins were from I cringed. But, that mystery wasn't wrapped up in this book so I'll have to wait for the next to see if I get some more answers.

That aside, I enjoyed it a lot. I think it's crazy how Ware managed to meld so many different genres into one book, but I love her for it!

Angela says

29 September 2014:

Beyond the Night: \$1.99 on Kindle

Embrace the Night: \$1.99 on Kindle

Abandon the Night: \$1.99 on Kindle

Night Betrayed: \$1.99 on Kindle

Night Forbidden: \$1.99 on Kindle

Night Resurrected: \$1.99 on Kindle

That's the whole series discounted to a \$1.99 EACH!

Stacie (Shy Book Nerd) says

Actual rating 4.5

Wow, I haven't enjoyed a book like this in a long time! It was packed with action and a romance that had me swooning for days. I normally don't read post-apocalyptic/dystopian books, but since it was free and I was curious, I gave it a shot. I'm so glad I did because I could not stop reading it! It gave a different theory on how the "world" got destroyed and I liked that. I also loved Elliot and Jade together. They were perfect together, helping each other out, and their flirting was spot on. I can't wait to read about Simon next.

? Kimberly says

Five reasons to grab your earbuds and listen to *Beyond the Night*

In 2010 most of the world's inhabitant died. Not by a virus or natural disaster nor was it a war. An unknown group referred to as the "Strangers" appeared shortly after in small numbers and began taking over. These strangers are immortals wearing odd crystals. Strange zombie-like creatures known as Gangas roam the planet. These oversized monsters, appear at night and have razor sharp claws. They all moan the same message.

Our story begins fifty years later when Dr. Elliott Drake emerges from a cave with friends to discover they have traveled in time and the world as they know it is gone. As an added twist Drake discovers he can heal with his touch. What unfolds is a dystopian, apocalyptic, zombie, paranormal romance mix up.

Beyond the Night offers suspense, horror, a little bit of mystery and even some heat. The danger will keep you on edge. As we get to know all the players I was never quite sure of everyone's intentions. Most of our time is spent in the human settlement town known as Envy. We get everything from political plays to boarder patrol as this group protects their own. The town is well established and even boasts a bar with nightly entertainment.

The story isn't perfect, but I was curious about the world and its secrets. I struggled with Drake's emerging Alpha tendencies, and the relationship he had with Jade Kapiza. These aspects pulled me from the other threads that I found fascinating. Jade was a bit of a mystery and a total badass. She is a loner hiding from something but joins up with Drake and a relationship develops. Both characters have secrets, and I will be curious to discover them.

Ware laid the groundwork for the Envy Chronicles revealing enough to hook me and lay the foundation for questions that need to be answered. The ending wrapped up nicely while leaving the door open for the next book in the series.

This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Jacque says

YES! Finally a new series I can sink my teeth into. It's feels like it's been a while since I've gotten hold of a really good series. I knew 1/3 of the way in I was going to read the entire Envy Chronicles. Beyond the Night is exactly what I needed to get over the ho hum 'too much romance not enough action' slump I have found myself in.

There are usually three things I want in a story to make me happy. A good plot, good characters, and action/suspense that keeps me guessing. Beyond the Night has all three. I'm not going into details because frankly, there are a lot of layers that need to be discovered as they happen. And that is what I loved about it. All those layers! As the first book in the series, yes there needs to be a lot of ground work detailing which for some folks may be tedious and boring. Me, I live for it. I like all the background build up, the attention to detail but still there is a lot to discover as the series unfolds. To top it off there's a whole lot of action and suspense that keeps the story moving fast and me happy and guessing.

There's quite a few characters to get to know. Mainly they revolve around five guys from the past. This story is Elliott's. His and Jade's that is. Two strong characters that I instantly liked. Jade was great and yet a little quirky with her always needing to be in control but it was Elliott that really held my fascination. His 'gift', oh boy. Ironic considering he is/was a doctor. How he learns to deal with it was yikesy and exciting to me although there is a moment with a crystal that had me head scratching. The heat between them was at the right temperature without pushing this post-apocalyptic romance into the tacky trashy realm. There's also a whole slew of secondary character. Thankfully all the other characters are not just drive-by fillers instead they add substance to the storyline that had me begging to know they story as well.

I friend has suggested this series was right up my alley and that I would enjoy it. Yup, loved it. Already started telling my book buds this one is a keeper and they need to read it. Beyond the Night by Joss Ware is the perfect read for anyone looking to try out a post-apocalyptic/dystopian romance. Counting the days until I can start the next book.

I received this book from the JeepDiva for the express purposes of an honest review. The opinions and rating of this review are solely mine and in no way was I compensated.

Stars - 5, Flames - 3

Jo says

I really liked the plot of the book. It was interesting and captivating, with the crystals, the ragnas, and the strange powers Elliott and he four men that was with him in the cave suddenly has. And I really want to know more about how and why the destruction of the world happened. Especially as it seems it was man-made.

Unfortunately the romance wasn't as good as I was hoping for. Mostly probably because of my issues with Jade.

Jade just didn't work for me. I liked that she was strong and controlling, but I didn't like the fact that she used her looks and her body to get what she wanted. Especially not with her past, which was quite heartbreaking.

I did like Elliott, and the guys that survived with him.

The world was definitely the best part about this book, and I will be continuing with the series, because I want to know what happens with the other guys, and hopefully we will find out why the destruction of the world happened.

Angie says

Particulièrement mauvais!

Il passe 50 ans dans une sorte de stase, mais à son réveil, il n'a qu'une seule pensée: "zut, 50 ans que je n'ai pas utilisé mon spaghetti, ça fait long je n'en peux plus!". Donc forcément, la 1ère femme qui passe et montre un peu de peau l'excite comme un fou. Malheureusement, cela tombe sur Jade (bien qu'il la prenne pour la putain de Babylon, oui il est un romantique), et entre eux il y a une tension sexuelle omniprésente et lourde au possible. Cela n'en finit pas jusqu'à ce qu'il réussisse enfin à conclure, et la tu te dis ouf, enfin débarrassé, parce que tu n'en peux plus de l'entendre rabâcher l'état dans lequel la pauvre fille le met

M'enfin, l'auteure a tout de même essayé d'implanter un décor post apocalyptique assez bien présenté (je voyais les scènes de désolation et les monstres comme si j'y étais; merci "je suis une légende" ^^), mais cela ne sauve pas l'histoire, qui reste creuse, molle et pas trop prenante.

Mollie says

So thankful to Kristie(J) and Nath for bringing this series to my attention. I've been getting into the post-apocalyptic/dystopian genre for awhile now. However, most of what I've read has been of the YA variety, aside from a few adult titles, like The Road by Cormac McCarthy. So I was uberexcited to hear that this series combined both post-apocalyptic AND romance.

Part Resident Evil, part I Am Legend, throw in a little Atlantis conspiracy theory and add romance and you've got yourself the beginning of a fabulous new series! I really enjoyed this book, not necessarily for the romance but mostly for Ware's world building. As readers we're being introduced to this new version of our world after a catastrophic geological phenomena that remains a mystery. I'm really anxious to learn more about what, or who, caused this catastrophe that basically wiped out the planet. This bit of mystery and intrigue extends to both the Rip Van Winkle clan (Why were they zonked out for 50 years? Why do they have new-found powers?) and to the Strangers (Who are they? Are they responsible for the apocalypse? What do they have planned next?) So many questions! I can't wait to find out the answers in the following books!

I rarely find the first book in a series to be my favorite (the exception being Outlander by Diana Gabaldon), especially in sci-fi/fantasy/UF mostly because the first book is usually setting up the entire world for the reader. I usually find the romance to be a little lacking in the first of a series. This was the case with Beyond the Night. Don't get me wrong I enjoyed the romance between Jade and Elliot but one of the reasons I love reading a series is because authors often give characters a story arc that span several books. Some readers don't like this. I love it. I feel like I'm invested in these characters and usually enjoy their stories the most. Unfortunately, I lacked this connection with Elliot and Jade. The sexy bits are hot but I'm more interested in find the answers to the above mentioned questions and learning more about Elliot's companions.

All in all this book lived up to my expectations. I'm so glad there's a post-apocalyptic romance series! I can't

wait to pick up the next book!

The Envy Chronicles in order:

1. Beyond the Night
 2. Embrace the Night Eternal
 3. Abandon the Night
-

P.A. Lupton says

I liked this book WAY more than I was expecting. Don't get me wrong, it was recommended by someone I trust so I knew I'd like it, I just didn't expect to love it as much as I did. Why? First, because I have never read any Dystopian novels (well, not since the Chrysalids in High School) and the description just didn't appeal to me. That sounds terrible, but I'm being honest. I would have never read this book based on the blurb. I only read it because it was a good friend I trust who recommended it—thank you, T'irla. Second, because of the nature of the story I expected a lot of world building—and sometimes a lot of world building equals boring. I fully expected to have to “get through” book one in order to start enjoying the story by book two. Well, that was not the case in Beyond the Night.

Joss Ware has a talent, that's for sure. She doesn't just dump a ton of information on the reader in the beginning to introduce her world. She also doesn't leave you hanging for information either. She has found the perfect balance of telling her story and building the picture she wants us to see, without boring the reader to death. Fantastic job Ms. Ware!

The characters were all so unique and interesting; different personalities and different backgrounds all coming together in a new world and working together to rebuild. And I absolutely loved that our hero and heroine find love under the circumstances. I literally felt butterflies in my belly in parts—and considering what was going on around them: amazing. There was also a lot of good tension. Romantic tension, suspenseful oh-my-god-are-they-going-to-get-out-of-this-alive-tension, and let's not forget sexual tension.

Overall, I really recommend this book to everyone. I don't think you have to like paranormal or dystopian to enjoy this book. It's got a fantastic story line, good characters, a lot of suspense, and romance. What's not to like? I can't wait to get to book two.

Ellen Christian says

Ok you caught me. There's no better way to relax at the end of the day than with a good romance book. If you combine romance with science fiction, it's even better! Beyond the Night is a paranormal romance that takes place in Earth's future. A group of men are spelunking in a cave in Arizona when they feel an earthquake hit. When they wake up, the world has changed. Cities are in ruin. It's clear to them that something catastrophic has happened. There are dangerous monsters that resemble zombies running around attacking people and there's a race of mysterious, evil immortals threatening the few humans that are left in this world.

Not only has some apocalyptic event happened to them while they were asleep, but they appear to have woken

up 50 years later and have not aged a single day in all that time. They are each endowed with a different special power too! The men meet up with the inhabitants of Envy (what used to be Las Vegas) and sparks fly when Elliot meets Jade, a strong beautiful woman dedicated to defeating the evil in Envy. They have to find out how to survive in this new world where everything is different and dangerous.

With the increased interest in end of the world and 2012 stories, this book really hits the spot. It's a refreshing change from the Vampire/Werewolf paranormal romances that seem to be all the rage right now in the romance world. The romance scenes are hot and heavy and the action is non stop as the characters fend off danger and learn their way around their new home.

This is Joss Ware's first novel in the new paranormal romance series, The Envy Chronicles, that was published in January 2010. The other two titles in this series include Embrace the Night and Abandon the Night.
