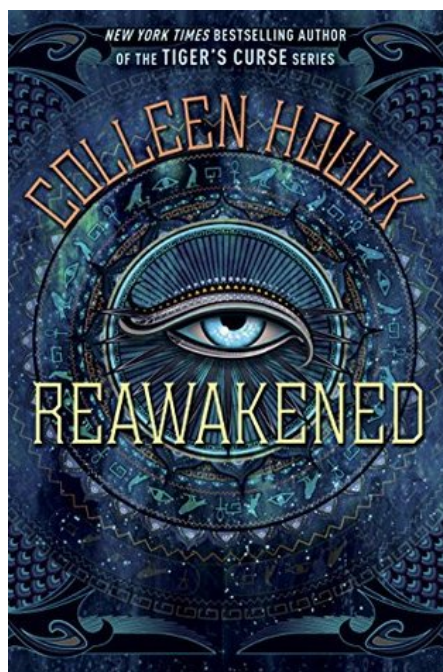




## Reawakened

*Colleen Houck*

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# Reawakened

Colleen Houck

## Reawakened Colleen Houck

*"A sparkling new novel with a fully imagined world and mythos, and crackling romance! Egyptian mythology has never been this riveting! With sharp dialog and a fun heroine, Reawakened is precisely what you would expect from the author of the incredible Tiger Saga!"--Aprilynne Pike, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author of the Wings Series.*

**The first book in a new multi-book series from New York Times bestselling author, COLLEEN HOUCK, about a teenage girl entangled in an epic Egyptian quest full of romance, adventure, and mythology! ?**

**Author Colleen Houck's first series, The Tigers Curse, was a New York Times Bestseller, a USA Today Bestseller, A Publisher's Weekly Bestseller, and A Parents' Choice Award Winner. The Tigers Curse series is also being made into a movie! Adapted by Julie Plec, creator of The Vampire Diaries, and directed by Shekhar Kapur, who directed the Academy-Award winning, Elizabeth.**

When seventeen-year-old Lilliana Young enters the Metropolitan Museum of Art one morning during spring break, the last thing she expects to find is a live Egyptian prince with godlike powers, who has been reawakened after a thousand years of mummification. ?And she *really* can't imagine being chosen to aid him in an epic quest that will lead them across the globe.? ?But fate has taken hold of Lily, and she, along with her sun prince, Amon, must travel to the Valley of the Kings, raise his brothers, and stop an evil, shape-shifting god named Seth from taking over the world. ? ?From *New York Times* bestselling author Colleen Houck comes an epic adventure about two star-crossed teens who must battle mythical forces and ancient curses on a journey with more twists and turns than the Nile itself.?

### Praise for Reawakened:

"The author weaves her story out of Egyptian lore, cinematic magic, selfless love, and . . . is clever enough to remain surprising even to the last sentence."--**Kirkus Reviews**

"Rick Riordan fans who are looking for another series will delight in this fantasy. VERDICT: An incredibly well-researched novel with an air of mystery and romance."--**SLJ**

"In this series opener, Houck (the Tiger's Curse series) introduces a fantasy teeming with Egyptian characters and mythological stories come to life. . . Houck's moving depiction of the love between Lily and Amon is memorable."--**Publisher's Weekly**

"Littered with Egyptian mythology and snappy dialogue, this romantic adventure is a good choice for graduates of Rick Riordan or fans of Houck's Tiger's Curse series."-- **Booklist**

### Praise for The Tigers Curse Series:

"A sweet romance and heart-pounding adventure . . . In short, *Tiger's Curse* is magical!"--**Becca Fitzpatrick, New York Times bestselling author of Hush, Hush ?**

The hot new romance-adventure series of 2011 . . ."--*Teen Magazine* ?

“Epic, grand adventure rolled into a sweeping love story . . .

## Reawakened Details

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Author : Colleen Houck

Format : Kindle Edition 402 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Mythology, Romance

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## From Reader Review Reawakened for online ebook

### Clair says

Okay, guys. Stop me if you've heard this story before.

A teenage girl who believes herself to be plain and yet 'not like the other girls', is whisked off on a far-flung adventure with a mysterious, "exotic" prince who has found his way to America, with whom she has a cosmic connection in the pre-destined, soulmate kind of way. This girl is the *only* person in the whole world who is able to break the curse that has been placed upon our princely love interest, who has been trapped in a hellish limbo where for centuries he has not been able to communicate nor fight his way out of his predicament. Whilst in this new location, she meets a scholarly older man who explains a lot of the mythology/historical interest sites, and is generally receptive to multiple call-and-response dialogue sections where one character asks a question, and another explains. Also, lots of attention is paid to detail on food and temple interiors and while you might feel from time to time that you're in a temple, you certainly don't feel as if you're visiting the particular country that the writer had in mind.

Yeah. I just described *Tiger's Curse*, didn't I?

The boilerplate for *Reawakened* is the exact same thing as *Tiger's Curse*. Except this time, we're swapping India for Egypt, and Lilliana, our stand-in for Kelsey actually has parents who are still alive. Not a *huge* divergence, but hey, I'll take anything I can get so long as I never have to spend another moment inside the cotton wool bud-stuffed cavity that is Kelsey Hayes' mind ever again.

To be fair, there is a decent little bit of character development, in that Lilliana decides to break loose from the stifling conformity of her stupendously rich parents' expectations and actually have fun and do something *for herself* for a change. Houck has also toned down the ridiculously overwrought sentimentality from her previous series, meaning that Lilliana is a lot more subtle about her issues, rather than hammering on about them every time there's a slight gap in the narrative and our author couldn't figure out quite what to put there, besides exposition.

The plot is this: Lilliana Young gets swept up onto this grand, magical quest during a routine visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The Egyptian wing is currently playing host to a resurrected Ancient Egyptian guy named Amon, who is an avatar/demigod/whatever of the Kemetic sun god. Except that Amon is a stranger in a strange land, his bald head and *shendyt* clashing with local fashion sensibilities, and he doesn't understand technology or English until he *literally pulls a Pocahontas-style "Listen With Your Heart"* hand-wave of a spell out of his backside in an effort to keep the story trundling along. Through some awkward, clunky set-up, Amon accidentally forges a magical bond with Lilliana, meaning that she is literally chained to him, her health deteriorates without him, and she has absolutely no choice in the matter of getting caught up in all this nonsense. Imagine that. A heroine in a Colleen Houck book with agency.

Okay, that's not entirely fair, considering that Lilliana is independent and feisty, despite cracking awful jokes (not awful as in - "*grandpa made that pun and it was so bad I had to laugh*," no - so bad as in cringing every time Lilliana decides to crack a stupid and contextually-inappropriate joke) and making pop cultural references that are about thirty years out of date. Amon dances at one point, and she describes him as a fusion between '*Elvis Presley and the Chippendales*.' Like Kelsey, Lilliana's frames of reference for foreign cultures tends to be referring to whatever is the closest equivalent in American pop culture, as opposed to learning about the culture or the native mythology. Houck's attention to detail is almost *always* focused on the wrong thing entirely. Amon makes a few classical time-traveller-in-the-future quips, like thinking a

smartphone is a magic box and calling a taxi a ‘golden chariot’, but then forgets about this aspect of his character entirely. He gets on a plane with Lilliana, no fuss, no muss, and merrily chats with the hostesses and watches mummy movies with Lilliana like... eh? Shouldn’t you be amazed or, more likely, terrified at the prospect of how we future-dwellers have the technology to fly over an ocean?

But yes, it turns out that Amon has seriously amazing magical powers. He can conjure up sandy whirlwinds that transport him and others to different locations, he moves sand around to create solid walls and blocks, he’s absolutely masterful at hypnosis and he can shape shift to some extent. It also doesn’t help that he’s incredibly good looking and has some kind of regal/godly presence that makes people want to do anything for him. All it takes is one or two conversations for him and Lilliana to head off to the airport and somehow get through security (through the power of hypnotism) and off towards Cairo.

Ah, yes, Cairo. A focal point of the Arab Spring in 2011. The capital city of Egypt, a country which has undergone much in the way of political turmoil for several years. The president was ousted and replaced and groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood became quite prominent in the aftermath of these protests. But, even though this story is set in modern times, Egypt just seems perfectly fine and dandy. The only places really visited are a penthouse hotel room and a stereotypical, tourist-y depiction of the Valley of the Kings. It’s the same exact thing from *Tiger’s Curse* — you only ever see Kelsey living it large in hotels and mansions, with the brief interlude trekking through the jungle and exploring a temple that remains booby-trapped despite booby-trapped temples *never having existed*. (For both historical and logical reasons, I assure you.) This basically means we have a book set in Egypt which never feels like you’re actually *there* in the country. Sure, Houck describes some sights and smells, but honestly, the scenery painted for us is yet another series of bland caricatures that do not serve to immerse you in the world of the story. I never felt like I was in Egypt — not because I didn’t see hide nor hair of the fallout of the Arab Spring, but because the author simply couldn’t be bothered to write more characters or research more deeply into what makes the country so unique and how its people grow up in the society. You can swap Lilliana and Amon’s penthouse apartment for one in Portugal or Thailand. It doesn’t matter.

Each stab at the ground of the various plot-holes that cropped up just wound up digging me further and further until I was nearly reaching the Earth’s core.

Research flubs are so, so common in the books by this author. (Anubis is not the god of death/mummification, just so you know. That’s Osiris. But Anubis shows up so much in his in that role that you’d assume his uncle had posted up an OUT TO LUNCH sign and left little Anubis in charge.) The mythology is sometimes correct, if flavourless and watered down, but in terms of real world stuff... it’s clearly taken from Google and Wikipedia. Not bad sources to start with, and yes, we are both aware that Houck is writing *fiction* and not non-fiction, but there comes a point where you can’t glean any sort of credibility out of this novel whatsoever, despite the ‘claims’ of it being well researched. It’s incredibly easy to just start skim-reading halfway through the book, and not really miss out on anything. Houck’s characters are *still* fond of taking enormous exposition dumps all over the pages in regards to mythology or the role they are playing in this particular version of the story, etc. Which is sad, because if anything, the writing should have improved by now.

Which it has. In dribs and drabs, if I’m going to be really nice for a moment. Houck is now signed to a bigger publisher, and the editing is a whole lot tighter than it was back in the days of *Tiger’s Curse*. Lilliana has moments of really good character development and Amon isn’t a pathetic spoiled brat who throws tables when he doesn’t get his own way (à la Ren from *Tiger’s Curse*). But, unfortunately, Houck’s storytelling suffers from narrative convenience to the point of seriously straining plausibility. Isn’t it awfully convenient that Amon can alter time/people’s perception’s of time/whatever, so that Lilliana will appear to have been spending a day in her bedroom in New York rather than diving down tombs in Giza? That he can hypnotise people into letting him and Lilliana live lavishly without any money whatsoever? That one can just hop in a taxi cab to JFK and grab a trans-Atlantic flight without bothering with security or passports or visas or

airport duty because yay hypnotism? There's no real obstacles or stakes for our characters, because everything can just be hand-waved away for the sake of quickly getting our characters to their destinations and doing that cool thing they're meant to do.

There's no difficulty whatsoever for Amon, no guilt over having forced Lilliana into becoming his companion on this journey, and absolutely no tension as to completing this quest of his to retrieve his canopic jars and restore his life force so he and his brothers can stop Set from rising again and wreaking havoc on the world. The quest is so seldom mentioned that the plot simply becomes a series of getting our characters from point A to B, rather than their actions having some meaning or bringing some closure to the story at large, tying up plot threads and all that good stuff that is *supposed* to happen if you actually have the ability to tell a decent story.

Houck's issues with pacing crop up *again* in this novel. To the degree where one is almost three quarters of the way through the story before there's *any* sort of plan regarding what to do with the Big Bad. The novel ends so hastily, too. The ending just goes absolutely nowhere, with boring, overwrought details about the Kemetic afterlife that could easily be gleaned from a Dorling Kindersley children's guide to mythology.

The characters are bland. At least in *Tiger's Curse*, the brothers and the small handful of other characters have distinct personalities. Amon and his brothers have nothing going for them, and it's a shame — you'd expect more from resurrected personifications of Egyptian gods, but nope. They just fulfil their narrative purpose, and then they're gone. The focus remains - myopically - on our two main leads, and since there are no stakes to their story, we have absolutely no reason to care.

There's no real reason as to why Set rising again would cause any sort of calamity in the world. When you finally meet him, over 80% into the novel, you'll find that... he's just a scary monster who says cliché scary monster things. Yawn. There's no foreshadowing, no real build-up... The novel is over five hundred pages, but could be pruned down to maybe four or three hundred, if only Houck were to take a break from writing trite romantic scenes that have little bearing on the plot and are more suited for Harlequin/Mills & Boon romance than young adult historical fantasy. I have never come across a writer who's clearly visited by the Fairy of Awesome Story Ideas (which totally exists) but has no writerly ability to pull them off.

Look. I don't want to be unkind, I really don't. But this is yet another dreadful, culturally-appropriative book which gets quite a few of its facts - both historical and mythological - so indelibly wrong, and strings along our characters on such convenient narrative pathways that there's not much of a reason to want to follow them through their adventures. If you're a die-hard fan of Ancient Egypt and Kemetic mythology, this might be best avoided. And avoid if you happen to enjoy good storytelling at all. 1/5.

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## **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

*Even though I was very picky, wore only designer clothes, and had a monthly allowance bigger than what most people my age earned in a year, I was by no means a snob.*

Firstly: this book is a stupid, racist piece of shit. Secondly, it is a grand accomplishment that I could hate a character within pages of meeting her.

Right after starting the book, I found out that our main character is rich, adored, and perfect. She gets straight As. She has parental-approved freedom to do whatever she wants. She lives in a fa-bu-lous \*snaps finger\*

Manhattan apartment that never feels like home (;\_;

*There were definite perks to living in Manhattan, and even more perks to living in a hotel—like maid service, room service at all hours, doormen, valets, access to the hotel pool, the steam room, and the gym. Still, it was hard for me to think of this residence as a home.*

She has the financial means to do whatever she wants (a fact of which she blissfully and frequently reminds us). She gets straight As. She wears designer clothes (a fact of which she, again, frequently reminds us). She has been accepted to every single university to which she has applied. She has the ability to wander around the Metropolitan Museum of Art at her own will because her parents are wealthy donors. **She is bloody fucking perfect.** Whoop-dee-fucking-doo.

Meeting the most perfectest Mary Sue in the whole fucking world. This is surely a fantastic start to any story.

So there's beautiful, wealthy, perfect-in-every-way Lily. She spends her afternoons just chilling in off-limits (to regular middle-class folks) areas of the Met. While chilling in a closed-off Egyptian exhibition, she hears a weird noise and then a weird guy emerges from the shadows, and surprise, surprise. He's an Ancient Egyptian. He's gorgeous! HE SPEAKS ENGLISH!!!!!! He has **green eyes, because that's so fucking common in Egypt.**

*Who are you? I wondered as I studied the person, who was not a man and yet not a teen. He seemed...timeless. Hooded hazel eyes, at that moment more green than brown, beneath a strong brow pinned me with a gaze that was both intelligent and almost predatory. I felt like a mouse looking up at a swooping falcon, knowing death loomed but utterly unable to look away from the beauty of it.*

And he's looking for...jars! And without the jars, he needs...her! Oh my god, she is the only one EVAR WHO CAN GIVE HIM WHAT HE NEEDS!!!!!! \*cough\*Mary Sue\*cough\*

*“You do not understand. Without my jars I must share your life force.”*

*Panicked, I spun and ran toward the curtain. But before I reached it, the lights went out and I banged my knee against the golden sarcophagus. Stumbling to catch my balance, I heard him coming toward me. “Come back, Young Lily,” he groaned. “I need you.”*

He needs her. He pursues her. He all but kidnaps her. Wait, **he does kidnap her.** But he's so....different, and Lily finds herself oddly attracted to him.

*I didn't go for dangerous guys, especially bald guys wearing skirts who I couldn't figure out. He was different from any guy I had ever met.*

This is called a **no shit, Sherlock** moment. He follows her. He **stalks** her.

*Gripping the balustrade, I closed my eyes, basking in the feeling and momentarily forgetting my surroundings until I heard an all-too-familiar voice. “The sun makes us feel strong, Young Lily. As I am bound to it, you are bound to me.”*

*Though it was definitely strange and all kinds of wrong to find him not only in the building I lived in but also on the same floor and just outside my room, I was surprised that I felt happy to see him, crazy stalker or not.*

Surely **Amon** is the model of a perfect YA love interest.

Do I need to go on?

This book is culturally insensitive. It has **The Last Samurai** syndrome in which a white person swoops in and saves a culture about which they know nothing. It doesn't display anything true about the culture (in this case, Egypt) that it purportedly portrays. The "Egyptian" characters are exoticized and more or less whitewashed to a Caucasian ideal of what a foreigner should be. The characters gorge themselves on **American** food. Egypt is restricted to an "exotic" ideal, without a single mention of the current, dangerous, and politically unstable condition that the country is currently experiencing. It is the story of a rich white girl who, more or less, plays tourist in a foreign country and sees nothing of that country beyond the boundaries of her 5-star hotel room. Do yourself a favor and don't waste your money.

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## Faye, la Patata says

One word: **WOW**.

I seriously didn't expect this to be so good. I thought I'd get an everyday run-of-the-mill mythology story featuring some unlucky ancient Egyptian schmuck, but what I got instead was **an entertaining, refreshing, action-packed adventure that left me not only at the edge of my seat but also in tears and in stitches**.

By the end of the book, I thought of one thing and one thing only: ~~where's the next book, I need an ancient Egyptian prince for a boyfriend, maybe if I get lucky I can enter some tomb and magically find a handsome mummy~~, **this is what the mummy movies should have been** (oops, I'm not committing some sort of heresy with that statement, am I?)

I've always been interested in Ancient Egypt - their culture, their values, their architecture, their society - everything. They're intriguing and there is this sense of mystery and mysticism from them that I find absolutely romantic and poetic. I've always waited for that one YA book that would feature Egyptian mythology and a reawakened Egyptian mummy (because come on, doesn't that just seem fun?), so imagine my surprise when that day came as soon as I got my hands on this book. **It delivered, guys. It fricking delivered.**

I love how mythology was used here. **It wasn't just a background for the characters but it was also something that directly affected the plot and kept it moving.** It reminded me somehow of Richelle Mead's *Age of X* series, where the world is full of humans who have stopped believing in millenium-old mythologies and their gods, not knowing that these said gods were actually real and that they all lived in a distant time and plane separated from them. The same is pretty much used here, especially when Amon (no, not Amun), has been resurrected once again, as he has been every 1000 years since he was made a servant of the gods, in order to do a ritual to ensure the dark god Seth doesn't come to the mortal world once again and wreck it unimaginable havoc. **But what's he to do when instead of waking up in his tomb in a pyramid in the middle of Egypt, he finds himself in a museum in New York without the canopic jars filled with his organs in sight?**

First of all, I adoooooore Amon. I love him so fucking much. He was so stiff and so formal and so clueless and so fricking adorable all at the same time. I loved how he was portrayed here. **I loved how he found the new world so intriguing and so scary and so curious, how he was so intent on fulfilling his mission,**



**how he saw the grander scheme of things and set aside his own wants and needs because the rest of the world had to come first.**

And did I mention how he was clueless AND adorable? And how he was just so effortlessly hilarious?!?!

Oh lawd, Amon. \*cackles with laughter\*

WHY. ARE. YOU. SO. FRIGGING. CUTE.

I can't.

Goddamnit, Amon! You're making it hard not to love you here!

**And he even has two other brothers, y'all. TWO OTHER BROTHERS WHO ARE EQUALLY CHARMING, FUNNY, AND SO, SO, SO ENDEARING.**

(PS: You can breath, guys. No love triangle over here, don't worry. Bro's code, yes? ;D)

And I have nothing but love for the heroine, american Lillian Young who accidentally stumbled upon Amon as he awakened and got herself bound to him against her will (well, when you don't see your organs and you're weak as hell and you need the strength to save the world from a crazy-ass god and you see this life form in front of you who can share her energy... weeeell...). She was such a thinking heroine who was a trooper through and through. She would pause and look at a situation calculatingly. **She never, ever became stupid or reckless or hopelessly in love. She never followed the hero because he was handsome as fuck (even though he was handsome as fuck), but because she felt that she had to help him because, well, if she didn't, it would be "bye-bye world, it was nice living here while it lasted."**

And yes, she may have been bitten by demon lizards, gotten herself almost killed by a risen dead, and gotten herself almost killed by a poison that was last seen since ancient egyptian times, but it was never because of her own recklessness. These were things that unfortunately happened to her and **she fought and endured them like the rockstar she was.**

And that romance... **that slow-and-steady romance that left me swooning and crying and laughing.** It was a perfection and a tragedy at the same time. Needless to say, my heart is still recovering from the shock and awesomness and I absolutely implore Colleen Houck to write the second book soon before it dies in anticipation.

My message to this book:

My message to you, readers:

It was amazing. You must get this.

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## **Nasty Lady MJ says**

To see review with gifs [clickhere](#).

Note: This letter would've been sent to Ms. Houck if I was a publisher. I'm not. I'm a cantankerous lawyer, who frequently wears Grumpy Cat t-shirts and has no problem telling people what assholes they are, especially after the last month I had. I especially like writing nasty letters. I think it's my forte. Most people would not like to admit this. It should be noted that this letter is directed solely at Ms. Houck's manuscript not her as a person. In today's day in age of whiney author's I think it's necessary to put said disclaimer even though I really don't give a fuck what anyone thinks about this.

Ms. Houck:

Just tell your book to go away.

I want to pretend that this manuscript didn't exist. That you don't exist, but imagine to my surprise when my assistant told me you had a back catalogue and proceeded to hand me the books.

I did what a reasonably prudent person would do after reading said book, I fired my assistant. And he was a cute assistant. So that makes me even more pissed off at you.

He looked like Dan Stevens, you made me fire Matthew Crawley.

All because of five horrible books.

But I am not writing you to lament about that. I am writing you to tell you that your book, Reawakened is being rejected. I don't care if you are contract with the publisher's house. I am sure after reading this piece of rodent excrement that I'm pretty sure I can convince our legal department to say that you breached your contract by producing something that wasn't of publishing quality. At the very least you caused me physical pain (a headache) and that has to be worth something, though the verbal vomit I read was painful enough.

The reason why I am rejecting this manuscript is quite simple. A certified moron on a British 80's sitcom wrote better poetry than you. In fact, I am pretty sure that Baldrick could write a better book than you. At least I would actually enjoy reading a book about a turnip.

Because well, turnips are already bad where they can't be defecated on for some crass little self inserted fantasy. Because this is all this book is.

I am not stupid, Ms. Houck. I can read through the lines. Plus, with the other work of yours in front of me it was very easy to see that Liliana is yet another self insert version of you because she is essentially a rich version of Kelsey. With bad, evil, parents. That are bad because they like having money and want their daughter to major in something where she can make a viable living.

Well, at least you tried with character development this time around-I guess.

That's not a compliment just for you to know. I'm just acknowledging that you didn't go the poor little orphan route this time around. You just went the poor little rich girl route.

Not that big of a difference if you think about it.

I really don't know how you think you're fooling anyone. And after reading your Tiger Curse series I really don't know how you're fooling someone that you are writing something original.

From what I read-I stopped at 200 pages because (hey, life is too short to read dung that not even a dung beetle would roll in) it's the same fucking thing relying on the same fucking tropes and being offensive in the same fucking way.

I feel like I owe you a favor. Maybe no editor had the balls to sit down with you and tell you what the fuck is wrong with this abomination of shit. So, I am going to take out time where I could be doing something smarter-like rehiring that Matthew Crawley look alike-and tell you what you need to do before I'll accept your shit.

#### 1. Don't rely on Just Google Maps and Wikipedia When Doing Research

I know you do this. You've even mentioned this. While Wikipedia is a good place to start or do less extensive research, when you are doing a book that involves lots and lots of research you probably need to expand on your research material.

Heck, you could've even learned more from Nancy Drew: Tomb of the Lost Queen than you could from the amount of research you did.

For one thing if keeping track of time periods is so difficult for you, make a timeline. That way, at least you will sort of have an idea in which things chronologically happen. Like maybe you'll realize that the Valley of the Kings was meant when the pharaohs were in power. And maybe since your main character woke up a thousand years before he would be aware that the Egyptian pantheon is no longer worshiped by mainstream society.

But hey, details.

Though I guess some of those things aren't so much of a research thing but a lack of common sense.

You can't help that you're a complete duff.

See, I am becoming nicer in my old age (sort of).

You still made me fire Matthew Crawley though. That is just blasphemous.

#### 2. If you are going to feature a culture, don't give the Big Mac version of the country.

Seriously?

Tourists? You featured tourists. And have the characters eat pizza in a hotel room. You don't explore local cuisine, or the local modern culture and conflicts that this country is facing. Nope. It's just fancy swoon

worthy hotel with fifty thousand calorie meals and fanny pack wearing retirees.

You don't even discuss the language that the characters use. They all just speak English or gibberish.

Talk about marginalizing and offensive.

This book might as well took place at the Epcot version of Egypt that is how watered down the descriptions of it were.

3. Realize that making a character "exotic" can be offensive and racist. Especially when you don't respect his culture or do your research.

Oh my God.

No Houck. No just no. Ren was bad enough. But with Amon you bring it to new levels especially with quotes like this:

A desert lily need not turn jealous eyes toward the common violet (86)

To someone with any form of common sense, I shouldn't even have to explain why this quote is offensive. But Houck, you dear, lack common sense so I'll be-nice enough, to you.

A. It's presumptuous of Amon to even think Liliana (that's her name, despite the fact that Amon gives her an automatic nickname-seriously) is jealous.

B. Desert Lily? Seriously. I know he's from another time period, but ew.

C. Again, why is he judging women based surely on their physical looks that in itself is offensive.

It's obvious that you try to make him this way because you think you're making him old world and romantic. Well, no. Instead, he just sounds like a stupid idiot at best.

Also, while you describe the character as an Egyptian prince nothing about him says anything about his culture. He's merely "exotic" candy. Complete with eyes that aren't exactly a common color for someone who is of Amon's ethnic background.

Seriously, what is wrong with brown eyes? Both Ren and Amon genetically speaking should've had them. But nope.

You should've just gone with purple.

I mention the eye color because this is one of many ways you "white wash" the characters. This is also seen in the cases of both Ren and now Amon in the way their so called women try to Americanize them thus depleting the little culture they have.

Instead, of celebrating Egypt we merely see Amon strip out of his toga and bald head, grow a messy bed head and steal some jeans.

Uh, huh.

And guess who saves the day (or is part of it) plain old I don't know anything about Egypt, American Liliana.

4. While food porn is nice (I guess) it can become excessive and sort of gross. Especially when said guy is trying to cram at least 20,000 calories down the main characters throat.

Does this sound like a healthy meal to you:

He was now surrounded by eggs done eight different ways, hash browns and skillet potatoes, country ham, apple sausage, maple bacon, biscuits slathered with honey and melted butter, caramel-apple topped pancakes with whipped creme, creme brule French toast, malted Belgian waffles, a fruit platter, and a basket full of croissants, Danishes, and streusel-topped blueberry muffins. (63)

If you ate all of this you would die. Yet, Amon frequently tries to force food down Liliana's throat. It's annoying and offensive. It's HER own damn body, she should be able to decide when she wants to eat. Period. It's not cute. And while I think you were trying to make it seem like Amon loved Liliana's body it didn't sound that way for me. It just seemed like an a-hole who wanted to make someone miserable by making them stuff their face with way too much food.

Again, if you ate all that you would die. Just reading it made my stomach turn and it's not just because of the wheat overload. It's just way too much food. And this happens frequently throughout the story.

It is an annoying quirk and a waste of fictional food.

5. NO one likes your poetry. NO ONE.

Give it up. You are not Keats. You are not Wordsworth. You are not even Dr. Seuss. Your poems suck. I don't read them. No one does. Again, a man who's goal in life is to have a turnip of his own writes better poetry than you do.

6. Power in relationships is important. Having the guy over power the female, and take away her will to make her own decisions, while acting like she is taking control of her life is just plain insulting.

The food thing is a prime example of this. But really the entire manuscript that I read encompasses this point. We are told that Liliana can make a choice. Yet, Amon has dragged her to Egypt. Is trying to stuff food down her throat. And even gives her an unintended makeover.

Seriously, Liliana. No guy should ever touch your hair unless he is a licensed stylist/colorist.

7. Info dumps are not cool.

I know I skipped this section. If I wanted to know this stuff, I could've Googled the same thing you did.

Look Houck, I really thought this book might have something. The premises is pretty cool. But unfortunately it fails for me. It doesn't appear that you have developed as a writer at all. There are still some major issues with how you handle your research skills and how you depict cultures. In other words, this is the most offensive book I've read in 2015.

I hope this letter at least gives you some reasons why I consider your book to be worse than bad Mexican food diarrhea. I have to go now and apologize to my ex fictional assistant. I really don't want to lose him.

You can take the book though.

Best Regards,

MJ

Pretend Book Editor/Publisher

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## **Zero vi Britannia says**

Dear Goodreads users,

I've been studying Egyptian history/mythology since I was SIX. I remember how it started: first grade visit to the school's library. Next to the librarians desk was the nonfiction shelf. It was there that I discovered the Eyewitness book on Ancient Egypt. I was intrigued, so I checked it out, and thus began a ~~mild~~ obsession. Seriously, my parents had to forbid me from rechecking out books on Egypt. To be fair, I was six and there aren't that many books available in the kids' section. The fact that I can remember the exact moment I fell in love with Egyptian history should tell you how seriously I take it.

Now, I haven't read anything by Houck. However, I have read reviews on the Tiger Saga (seriously Saga?). One of the things that gets repeated is that Houck's research shows a lack of research. As a POC, I get very upset when white authors write stories about non-white cultures and screw it up, while POC authors get no love. The fact that said white authors feel the need to slap a bunch of stuff from other cultures together with no thought pisses me off.

And the MC is an American girl. Why not have the entire thing set in Egypt with an Egyptian MC?

For all these reasons and many more, I must decline the opportunity to read this series.

Respectfully yours,  
Zero.

PS. Seriously white authors, do your fucking research before writing POC cultures. And don't slap together a bunch of shit that doesn't belong.

PPS. No, under no circumstances will I see the new Exodus movie.

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## **Thibaut Nicodème says**

Chapter-by-chapter review/recap on my blog, the Snark Theater.

“No. You will not run away and you will not scream.”

This about sums it up. And yeah, it's out of context, whatever, cut me some slack here.

*Reawakened* is the story of a girl who finds a supernatural creature boy originating from a foreign culture, and has some adventures with said boy while they also fall in forbidden love. If it sounds like the same idea as Colleen Houck's other book *Tiger's Curse* it's because, from what I know about *Tiger's Curse* (which is to say: as much as possible without reading it), it's practically the same book with a different layer of paint. Which is not a compliment.

Okay, so *Tiger's Curse* with a terrible portrayal of Egyptian mythology. I don't think it got a single detail right without fucking up something else in the same movement. We have a city that isn't Thebes worshipping Amun-Ra in predynastic times (when Amun-Ra did not exist), actual Thebes *not* worshipping Amun-Ra, Anubis being god of the stars for some unfathomable reason, Isis drawing power from the moon (why? Who knows) and being entirely about the men in her life rather than **the most powerful member of the Egyptian pantheon, regardless of gender**, Seth being evil instead of morally corrupt but still ultimately fighting for the safety of the world, Apophis being a human, but also a crocodile god (instead of a snake?) and a servant of Seth (even though they were enemies), two different types of people brought back from the dead even though that is most definitely not a thing in Egyptian mythology, Sobek being conflated with Apophis and/or Seth, and many, many more errors I can't even recall at the moment.

Basically, whenever this book says something about Egyptian mythology, take it with a grain of salt. Actually, no: take it with enough salt to turn the Mediterranean into the Dead Sea. That might be enough.

And then you have the protagonists. Amon (pretty boy/resurrected mummy) is completely morally corrupt, and yet, because of protagonist-centered morality, we're supposed to agree with the way he mind-controls his way into *everything*, starting with forcing the protagonist to accompany him on his quest. He's creepy, and his propensity to mind control forces me to doubt all the romantic moments. Are they real, or is he manipulating Lily into feeling this way? We may never know for sure.

As for Lily, she's the protagonist...I mean viewpoint character. I mean narrator. She could be a video camera and it wouldn't make much of a difference. She has zero agency. ZERO. I am dead serious. At no point in the story does she *do* anything. She won't kiss her pretty boy herself, because he has to make the first step or something. She doesn't figure out anything by herself. Her only contribution in the final battle is as live bait. And in the final chapter, when she has to (view spoiler), she still needs to be mind-controlled into doing it.

The book does some setups in the early chapters that makes you think she'll have a character arc. It's cliché ("I'm rich and successful and have to choose between all those elite colleges who all accepted me and I don't know which one to pick!") but at least there's room for her to learn what she really loves to do, or something like that. Easy character arc, right? Well, forget about it. Actually, *nothing* we learn about Lily's life in New York has any impact once the plot gets started. Not her propensity to study/draw people, not her tendency to label people at first glance, not her tense relationship with her parents and love for her grandmother. Nothing. As soon as they're on a plane to Egypt, there's nothing to her but the pretty boy.

For this alone, this book earns this award:

And if you think I'm exaggerating...sorry to disappoint. But this is the biggest Mary Sue I've read in a long time, including Bella Swan and, yes, even Ana Steele (though *Fifty Shades* still takes the cake for glorified abuse).

The plot is a series of "go there, face minor obstacle, overcome obstacle in seconds, rinse and repeat". At no

point is there any conflict. Even when (view spoiler), the book only manages a halfhearted attempt at consequences. And how does the book end? (view spoiler) Try to beat *that* for lack of consequences.

It's just ridiculous. And horrible. But hey, at least I can say that it doesn't drag the way a *City of Heavenly Fire* does. Yay?

No, really, don't read this piece of shit. Or at least download a pirated copy.

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## ?Tash says

Review also on

If you answered **a** to all the items above, then congratulations you are Lilliana Young. If you answered **b** to all then you're me. There's no winning here folks.

Lilliana Young finds herself in a bind after she accidentally meets Amon, an Egyptian prince of yore and the sun-god incarnate. Amon seeks Lilliana's help to reawaken his brothers and complete a ceremony. They go to Egypt where shit goes down. Of course, there's the hundred pages of fish-out-of-water in the modern world schtick ala *Enchanted*

minus the charm, and fifty pages or so of swooning over Amon's abs and Irish green Egyptian eyes. I read them all and now I am dead inside.

Our main character and narrator, Lilliana Young, is beautiful, rich, well-bred, and just oh so fucking perfect. She only wears designer clothes but but but she also wants us to know she is not a snob. All she wants though is a home where her parents are there, because of course this is YA so her parents are absent bajillionaires, and a dog to go home too. Poor fucking little rich girl. It's also too bad she doesn't have real friends, because all of her friends are fake, or so she says. Hm, I wonder what that says about Lilliana Young? Nothing bad of course because she's so special, so special that she's the only girl in the world chosen to help save the sons of a foreign country she has zero connection to whatsoever. She is also the most gullible of all YA characters I've ever had the displeasure of being in the head of. She witnesses a parlor magic trick and she is immediately sold to the idea that the Egyptian mythology is real without questioning her existing faith or lack thereof. Then she goes off gallivanting to a foreign country for a week, with a stranger without letting anyone know.

There is also the case of the crazy hot guy/prince/god incarnate/mummy, aka Amon. **Have I mentioned that he's hot?** He is an Egyptian prince gawd from a thousand years ago and he totally looks like Jensen Ackles with a tan, and color-changing amber/green eyes, because that's how most Egyptians look like. He is also such a nice douche, so damned nice he apologizes to Lilliana all the time after he paralyzes her when she attempts to run away after finding out that Amon was leaching her "life force". It's like Colleen Houck wants him to come off as this good, self-sacrificing prince, but he comes off as emotionally manipulative and abusive. He is leaching off her life force to exist and he takes the fucking time to do the Chippendale in a



club. He repeatedly tells Lily that he feels bad for leaching off her but expends it randomly on his random powers. Amon can do whatever with his power, but balks when it's truly needed because again he doesn't want to hurt Lily, but it is still a pretty convenient plot device.

Amon and Lily go to Egypt together! Isn't that romantic? Though I am not sure if it's really Egypt or just California. All I get from the description is that it's hot with lots of sand. Oh silly me, there are pyramids, so no it's not California, but more like Nevada?\*shrugs\* I just can't tell because they hop from a five-star hotel to a dance club where Amon does a sexy belly dance, to the pyramids where there are just tourists, lots and lots of tourists without any sign of political insurgency that's been happening for a few years. I have to say Colleen Houck, that is some Wikipedia level research right there.

I found the story lacking cohesion, even with Houck's endless exposition. The confrontation between the forces of good and evil were clunkily done, my eyes just skimmed over them because I keep cringing at the awkwardness of it all. Plus, the whole thing about Amon and his brothers reawakening after a thousand years was quite unconvincing. It's just impossible for me to take an explanation seriously when someone talks like this

*"Not old enough that I cannot rein in lovely tormenters who bedevil me with questions and delight in afflicting me with all manners of inducements."*

and the narration is frequented with thoughts like this...

*"How could I imagine myself as the girlfriend of a real-life mummy/sun -god if I can't handle a little rot and decay?"*

and the awkward af poems/spells. No, just no.

I admit that I started the book with the lowest of expectations, but I was still surprised by the crudeness of the research and inelegance of the execution. Just lay off mythology Houck, you're offending the gods with your writing.

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## **These Violent Delights (Robin) says**

The excitement I feel for this book right now is insurmountable! \*Squeal\*

Edit!!! As of October 5th

I just am so speechless right now..

I don't know, I just feel so.. I don't know, like..

I love you Mrs. Houck after that Tiger's Saga you wrote

So now after the Tigers Saga my feels are all zapped and out of control

I love this cover and the Title, I must admit.

Find my review of this book on my blog here: <http://wherebooksleadus.blogspot.com/...>

My absolute favorite subject to learn about is Ancient Egypt, so when I heard that my favorite author was writing a series based on my favorite subject, I was ecstatic!

[image error]

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As always, Colleen does a superb job weaving fantasy and history and creating an epic, yet tragic tale of love and devotion.

This book was laugh out loud funny, nail-bitingly intense, heart-breakingly sad, and full of swoon worthy princes. What else could someone want in a book?

Amon, Ahmose, Asten, Dr. Hassan, and Lily were all wonderful characters that brought me to tears and made me laugh till it hurt. Lily transformed from Lilliana the follow-the-orders-New-Yorker-coward to Lily the brave-follow-her-heart-devotee. I loved Lily's character and felt her to be extremely likable and relatable. Dr. Hassan was an adorably funny worshiper that surprised me by the end of this book with how amazing he was.

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My heart hurt by the end of this book that I was on the brink of flooding my room with tears. But!!! The epilogue saved my heart from being forever broken! There's hope yet!!!! I am extremely anxious for book 2 right now that it hurts!!!

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## Paige (Illegal in 3 Countries) says

See more of my reviews on The YA Kitten! My copy was an ARC I picked up at BEA 2015. WORST DECISION OF ALL THREE DAYS I WANDERED THE JAVITS CENTER.

### 0 STARS INTO INFINITY

#### Diversity Rating: 0 – What Diversity?

**Racial-Ethnic:** 0 (portrayal of Egyptians is way too poor)

**QUILT BAG:** 0

**Disability:** 0

**Intersectionality:** 0

Colleen Houck is notorious for her previous series thanks to its White Savior complex and her utter lack of research/respect for Indian culture and mythology, but when a book is just sitting on a table at BEA free to pick up, your fingers will get a little twitchy no matter the author's reputation (unless their name is Kathleen Hale). BIGGEST MISTAKE SO FAR OF BEA 2015. Houck's fans will call this "just fiction," but no book is "just fiction" when it offensively misrepresents Egyptian culture, mythology, and people and readers think the bull she's spouting is accurate when it's not. Reawakened is full of holes, racial microaggressions, and just plain poor-quality storytelling.

When the first chapter hands you the legendarily-clunky method of describing a character via them looking at themselves in a mirror, nothing good is going to happen. Houck's writing style is as exposition- and cliché-heavy as I've heard. Lilliana spends her days living in upper-class luxury, taking taxis and sneering at drivers' accents because she doesn't want to use her personal driver, and being rewarded for her judgmental ways instead of it biting her in the rear end. Her dislike of girls is encouraged by a side character saying is even encouraged by a side character saying she isn't "one of those dramatic young women vying for attention" (p. 40).

She also has an unsettling habit of being right while being snobbish and describing things as exotic. A man leers at her and it's always because the man is evil. It's not paranoia or something only she sees because she's a rich girl out of her element and has no respect for others. Nope, she's just observant. People make snap judgments or get the wrong impression of someone, but not Lilliana! She's perfect. I counted at least three times she referred to something as "exotic" and I'd rather not go into that word's role in the fetishization of foreign people and things. Lilliana just isn't the right female lead for this book.

The right heroine? A homeless teen who sneaked her way into the museum so she could enjoy some art and be inside for a while. She encounters Amon the millennia-old mummy man, he binds her to him, and she accepts it because going with him and helping him stop Set from rising is a better way to live than how she's living now. I wrote that fanfic in my head the entire time while reading because Lilliana doesn't cut it as a heroine. My version would give me the benefit of never having to read "Young Lily" again—because Amon

is foreign and foreign people talk funny, it seems. “A desert lily need not turn jealous eyes toward the common violet” is just one of many lines of Amon’s dialogue that made me cringe. His similarly one-note brothers Asten the flirty one and Ahmose the bland one were similarly bad.

Houck’s lack of research into what she’s writing about is appalling. Let’s count the ways:

**\*\*Amon says “the time of the pharaohs was after my own” (p. 33) and yet the city he was to be king of—Itjtawy—was itself founded by Pharaoh Amenemhat I sometime in 1970s BC. He wasn’t an early pharaoh either; he was part of the Twelfth Dynasty, so eleven dynasties of pharaohs and their families reigned before him.**

**\*\*Again, if he came from the time before pharaohs, he likely didn’t interact with the Greeks and Romans because they came in much later. Despite this, he uses the corrupted Greek/Roman names for the Greek gods instead of the Egyptian names he would have grown up knowing. Seth should be Set, Osiris should be Wesir (yeah, REALLY), Isis Aset, etc. (source)**

**\*\*Myths to do with why Set was so determined to put Osiris out of commission are all wrong. Reawakened posits through Amon’s expository storytelling that Set coveted Isis and wanted Orisis out of the way; in the actual myth, it’s a combination of jealousy and his wife Nephthys seducing Osiris to get pregnant with Anubis. Legends vary as to if she did it as herself or while disguised as her sister Isis. Either way, Nephthys is a nonentity when she has an important part in the relevant myths.**

**\*\*The way quicksand works here is the movie way, not the actual way. In movies, it quickly swallows you up no matter what you do. In reality, staying still and slow movements will get you out easily, but you can even walk over quicksand like it’s little more than wet beach sand if you’re quick enough.**

Houck seems to have no sense of where her story is in history and instead mangles history to meet her needs. What results is a bastardization of Egyptian myths into cheap CW-like dramatics and blatant historical inaccuracies. This would bother me less if I hadn’t already found readers who thought Houck’s version was the truth.

When Houck plays with someone else’s culture, history, and mythology the way she does here, playing the “it’s just fiction” card doesn’t work. People are reading this book and thinking her utterly inaccurate, racist version of Egypt is the real one and that’s not okay. Writing about another culture means doing research and making sure everything is as accurate as possible so as to represent them properly. This doesn’t seem to be a concern for Houck based on Reawakened and what’s been said about her previous series.

And all of this is just what I notice as a very privileged white girl who knows very little about Egyptian history, culture, and mythology. I don’t doubt I missed many racial microaggressions or moments of bad/absent research because there’s only so much I can see from my own point of view. (That and I gave up trying to do the research to prove things right or wrong after about 200 pages. One’s brain can only take so much.) If someone well-versed in all the above matters read this book, I’m certain they would tear it and Houck apart.

Do not buy this book. Don’t read it. Don’t pick it up at the library. Don’t pirate it. Don’t borrow it off a friend who did one of the former. Just don’t get near Reawakened. We don’t need diverse books; we need good diverse books, and this book is far from being a good diverse book. It’s a slap in the face to all of Egypt and all Egyptian people.

## Arooj says

So, this was one of those books that I was dying to read. I waited so long, patiently, and I have finally read it.

Honestly? Like, really honestly? I enjoyed it. But it just wasn't...enough. I wanted something more from the story. This book wasn't perfect, but I don't think it was bad either.

Basically, this was *very* similar to the Tiger's Curse series. Writing down all the similarities would take me a while, which I don't really want to do, but just imagine Tiger's Curse and replace the tigers for mummies and the setting for Egypt. Yeah.

The adventure, while I enjoyed it, was kind of lacking. You know the 1999 movie, *The Mummy*? Dumb question, most of you probably do. I fucking LOVE that movie. I've watched it probably around 20 times. That was one of the reasons why I was so excited to read this book. But the adventure just wasn't enough for me.

The romance moved way too fast, which I was expecting. The "love" word was thrown out there way too early. I think the whole story occurred in...a week? Or two? I'm not sure.

The characters. Phew. Okay. Lilliana, or protagonist? While I didn't love her, I also didn't hate her. My feelings are pretty mutual on her. What I disliked the most, though, was how the author tried so hard to make us think that despite being rich, Lilliana was not a typical rich teen. It didn't exactly work. In the beginning, Lilliana says that even though she wears only designers clothes she was not a snob. That sounded snobbish to me. Why *only* wear designer clothes if you're not a snob? Not that there's anything wrong with it, but it sounds contradicting. Oh, and there's another thing that really annoyed me, when she made a move towards Amon and was shut down. She gets mad and thinks that maybe she's not attractive enough, gets mad, etc. Amon had another reason why, but the main reason that should've come into her head is that HE'S NOT HUMAN. For him, a relationship with a mortal would be crazy, as well as impossible. Amon's main priority is his mission, not falling in love with a human girl. Honestly, with her life in danger, she shouldn't even be thinking about romance, no matter how attractive the guy is. I'd be more worried about my life. For someone claiming to be so smart, she was actually pretty dumb sometimes.

Actually, many times Lilliana sounded just like Kelsey from the Tiger's Curse. I didn't like her at first either and eventually grew to like her, so maybe the same will happen with Lilliana? I'll see.

Amon. He didn't seem convincing to me. His actions and words didn't always sound like something a thousand year old mummy would say or do. Like, why did he fall for Lilliana? Just because he "never met anyone like her"? I doubt it.

And then there were some things that didn't make sense, for example how come the creatures they came across spoke English. Amon and his brothers could speak English because of a spell, but what about the rest? I thought maybe the spell included Kelsey being able to understand Egyptian, but then she mentioned hearing Amon speak Egyptian and I learned I was wrong. I really wish that part was more thought out.

But despite all that, like I said earlier, I did enjoy this book. And I know Colleen Houck's books are not liked by all, mostly because the content in her books are not always accurate. But I don't read her books for education, I read them just for fun. When reading her books, you should keep in mind that not everything mentioned about history, religion, etc. is true. Even I've found many faults and I do think there are many things that should be more properly researched. But since I'm reading it for fun, I'm not too strict about it. Her books are my guilty pleasure, I guess. So if you absolutely hated the Tiger's Curse series, I don't recommend reading this book. But if you loved the Tiger's Curse series, or are just looking for something

different, then give this a try. To each, their own. I personally am pretty excited for the next book.

3.5/5

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### Tristen says

How can people rate books when there isn't even a name and you haven't read it. She could be your favorite writer in the world and still manage to write a book that you don't like. It's beyond me how a book that's not even around has a 4.23 rating already.

The name comment has finally become irrelevant two years later.

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### RegencyEmma says

2.5 stars. I have been waiting for this book for what feels like forever. Now after reading it I feel so let down. It just didn't live up to my expectations, at all. I was looking forward to the Egyptian culture and mythology and I found none, it was all very...bland. \*sigh\*

I definitely like the Tiger series better!

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I WANT THIS BOOK NOW! NOW! NOW!

I'm so excited!

\*Hyper happy dance\*

August 2015?! Seriously, that's too long to wait! I WANT IT NOW!

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### Mizuki says

#### **WARNING: ANGRY RANT BELOW, DON'T LIKE DON'T READ**

*Edited@29/04/2017:*

*Here are a few things I've always been trying to say to all those trolls and angry fans:*

*(1) If you don't like rants, then just don't read them, no one has pointed a gun at you and forced you to read and comment on this rant of mine.*

*(2) If you don't like negative reviews/pre-reviews, then go to read four stars or five stars reviews, those will suit your taste better.*

(3) Don't tell me stupidity and ignorance and shitting on other people's culture and history are common, they are common doesn't mean I have to shut up about it.

(4) Stop yelling 'IT'S FICTION' at me, the fact that it's fictional doesn't change the fact Colleen Houck's writing is awful, her research is poor and she doesn't give a rat ass about other people's cultures and traditions.

Actual rant starts here:

So I was informed that there'll be another book series by Colleen Houck:

*Colleen Houck's newest YA novel in which a visit to an Egyptian exhibit brings teen Lilliana Young face to face with a recently awakened mummy-turned-handsome-sun-god as she gets caught up in an adventure with more twists and turns than the Nile itself, to Krista Vitola at Delacorte Press, in a two-book deal,*

FREAKING HELL AMERICAN GIRL MEETS HANDSOME SUPERNATURAL GUY FROM SOME OTHER FOREIGN CULTURE! LET ME GUESS! A PHOTOCOPY OF TIGER'S CURSE, RIGHT!?

SO AFTER SCREWING UP HINDU MYTH, CHINESE MYTH AND SO ON, YOU'RE GOING TO MESS UP EGYPTIAN MYTH NOW, HUH?

Colleen Houck, you makes me sick to my stomach!

All of a sudden, re-reading Anne Rice's The Mummy isn't so bad an idea!

*Edited @01/11/2015:*

I just found this priceless photo from Thibaut Nicodème's review:

*Edited @21st July 2013*

Okay, I noticed they have said nothing about Lilliana Young being an American girl. It's just getting better and better, Houck most likely is going to mess up as well if she tried to write an European girl or any non-white girl as a main character.

*Edited @02/08/2014*

To add insult to injury, I had recently found out how Houck did her 'research' and my question of whether this woman has ever bothered to travel to India for her Tiger series books is answered here:

(LINK: <http://s64.photobucket.com/user/Tekla...>)

*Edited@11/08/2015:* Here's a negative review from a 'very white girl' who is pissed by how disrespectful Houck's book is toward foreign cultures. Ah, it's readers like her who restore my hope toward humanity:

*When Houck plays with someone else's culture, history, and mythology the way she does here,*

*playing the “it’s just fiction” card doesn’t work. People are reading this book and thinking her utterly inaccurate, racist version of Egypt is the real one and that’s not okay. Writing about another culture means doing research and making sure everything is as accurate as possible so as to represent them properly. This doesn’t seem to be a concern for Houck based on Reawakened and what’s been said about her previous series.*

*And all of this is just what I notice as a very privileged white girl who knows very little about Egyptian history, culture, and mythology.*

*Edited@15/08/2015:*

Now Vanessa's review confirms that Houck merely photocopied *Tiger's Curse*, changed the Indian wrapping with an Egyptian one and then expects us to believe she wrote a new story. How predictable.

*Edited@21/08/2015*

Another reviewer expresses her displeasure here.

Here's the part I agree with most:

*5. NO one likes your poetry. NO ONE.*

*Give it up. You are not Keats. You are not Wordsworth. You are not even Dr. Seuss. Your poems suck. I don't read them. No one does. Again, a man who's goal in life is to have a turnip of his own writes better poetry than you do.*

Also, an epic rant from the legendary Khanh, what more can I ask for!? Link:  
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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## **Alyssa says**

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*

Reawakened by Colleen Houck  
Book One of The Reawakened series  
Publisher: Delacorte Press  
Publication Date: August 11, 2015  
Rating: 4 stars  
Source: ARC sent by the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads):

When seventeen-year-old Lilliana Young enters the Metropolitan Museum of Art one morning during spring break, the last thing she expects to find is a live Egyptian prince with godlike powers, who has been reawakened after a thousand years of mummification.



And she really can't imagine being chosen to aid him in an epic quest that will lead them across the globe to find his brothers and complete a grand ceremony that will save mankind.

But fate has taken hold of Lily, and she, along with her sun prince, Amon, must travel to the Valley of the Kings, raise his brothers, and stop an evil, shape-shifting god named Seth from taking over the world.

From New York Times bestselling author Colleen Houck comes an epic adventure about two star-crossed teens who must battle mythical forces and ancient curses on a journey with more twists and turns than the Nile itself.

What I Liked:

I was NOT expecting to like this book, to be honest. I mean, I wanted to love it, as with all books I request and start reading, but I had an awful time with Houck's Tiger's Curse series. I hated the books I read of that series (never finished it) - I couldn't stand the protagonist, the love triangle, the um, interesting take on Indian people and culture. In any case, I was wary of this one, but I am a sucker for Egyptian mythology and culture! And I'm so glad I gave this book a chance, because I really liked it, and want more!

Lily is a rich girl living in New York with her uptight, strict parents who control every aspect of her life, even if she has a ton of money. When she seeks refuge in the Met, she accidentally stumbles upon something strange - a mummy come to life! He binds to her life force, and she is all but forced to come with him to free his two brothers from the same predicament, in order to stop an evil Egyptian deity who is trying to destroy the world. Lily and Amon, the sun prince, will travel to Egypt in order to free his brothers and save the world.

I liked Lily pretty much from the start. I can't remember much about Kelsey, the protagonist of The Tiger's Curse series, but I think Lily is a much more likable girl. I thought she would come off as rich, snotty, pretentious, entitled, but I found that while I've never been in her position (in terms of money), I understand her. She's applying to college and is allowed to go only to where her parents want her to go. She agrees to help Amon without much pressure, though it is a weird situation to be in, with some random stranger claiming he's a demigod and needs to go to Egypt to free other mummies. n

I loved Amon. He is a sweet guy, caring and kind, who listens and hates taking from Lily. Because he is bound to her, from when he first woke up and drew her energy to sustain himself, he is able to take her energy and read into her at will. But he does not like taking from her, or knowing her personal feelings or thoughts. He is very unfamiliar with this millennium, so he has different customs and values. I could get used to a guy like him, really easily!

The world-building is so great! I absolutely adore Egyptian mythology and whatnot, and Houck really did her research and used her imagination to create a very unique story. There are many Egyptian mythological stories in this book, well-written and quite intriguing. Houck really captures Egypt (in my inexperienced opinion - I've never been to anywhere in Egypt). Even if everything was completely bogus and Houck made it all up - that's quite an imagination! She takes us through tombs, deserts, quicksand, pyramids!

And the plot of this book is very intriguing, fairly fast-paced, but not overwhelmingly so. We start in New York, and then end up in Egypt fairly quickly into the story. Lily and Amon travel to different parts of Egyptian, and I love their adventure! Even if it was dangerous and scary at times. There was also plenty of humor and heartwarming moments!

Hmm, speaking of heartwarming... there is romance in this novel. But it isn't quite romance. Lily and Amon fall completely in love with each other, yet there are no declarations of love or physical interactions of any sort until the very last few pages. But guys. The chemistry? The development of the relationship? The

wondering-if-he-is-looking-at-me-like-that, etc.? Spot on. Houck does an AMAZING job of writing a romance that isn't physical or even expressed. The pair don't directly acknowledge what they have, though Lily pushes Amon. Amon has his reasons for not wanting Lily to want to be with him. You'd have to read this one to understand! I think I'm satisfied with the romance, I couldn't see it happening any other way. Also, the ending of this book has me curious about what direction the author is taking, with the romance. NO love triangle! Or insta-love.

Anyway! I am quite happy to say that I really enjoyed this book. It is nice to be proven wrong, but I had a feeling that I would enjoy the book, even though was also quite wary. But clearly it worked out for me!

What I Did Not Like:

Hmm, I'm not sure if there was anything specific? If this were a standalone, I might have been a bit peeved. But there is at least one more book, so I am satisfied with the ending. For now.

Would I Recommend It:

I would recommend this one! It's set in modern-day times, but has a strong Egyptian mythology/fantasy backing. Swoony hero, likable heroine, and engaging story? Win! I bet if you liked Kiersten White's *The Chaos of Stars*, you'd enjoy this one!

Rating:

4 stars. Maybe 4.5 stars. I really enjoyed this book - again, much to my surprise! I'm so glad I did. I can't wait to read the sequel! Crossing my fingers that this series works better for me!

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## Darth J says

Open the nearly iridescent cover of Houck's latest and you'll find her *Twilight* esque take on Egyptian mythology.

Lily is your average cardboard cutout of a character that is meant for young female audiences to project themselves onto. She doesn't have much to her other than having rich parents, frenemies, and overexplaining her every thought in so much detail as if to say, "I'm not a TSTL Mary Sue; I overanalyze *everything* so you think I'm smart when really just mediocre and boring."

Just as in the *Tiger's Curse* series, Houck seems to be setting up a weird love competition between the brothers and Lily (though they aren't *really* brothers and I also suspect that Asten isn't 100% straight since Houck lays some hints otherwise). I have to say I'm really tired of this trope of the supernatural men fighting over the average girl. It's been done to death and is terribly cliché. I know this is a YA book that seems to be geared more towards girls but y'all need to stop falling for this pandering. Also, Amon gives Lily a makeover by giving her blond streaks??

I will have to say that it's not cool that when Amon first meets Lily he casts a spell on her to connect them. It's a parasitic bond in which he draws on her energy and it's done without her consent. He robs her of her agency and (of course) she starts to fall in love with him. Like way too many other depictions of an

unhealthy relationship, the audience is just supposed to accept this because the male is attractive.

The tombs are also subject to borrowing heavily from other material. Whether it be from the *Indiana Jones* or the newer *Mummy* movies, I feel like I'd already experienced a lot of the traps and mummy magic before so there was very little that was original here. I even remember some things being lifted from Anne Rice's *The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned* and some *Goosebumps* books.

Also, what was up with comparing everything to Godzilla? Either something was as large as Godzilla or reptilian like it. Did the author watch the remake while writing this book and decide to pepper it with Godzilla references? A good editor would have stopped a writer after one mention.

It wasn't perfect.

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