



Fearless

Marianne Curley

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Ebony and Nathaneal were in love before they were even born.... Torn apart and kept in different worlds, will they finally reunite in this exquisite conclusion to Hidden and Broken?

Ebony was kept hidden on Earth for sixteen years, unaware that she was an angel. Unaware that her true soulmate, Nathaneal, was searching for her. Now ready to claim her rightful place with him, in a cruel twist of fate Ebony is captured and imprisoned in a version of hell.

Knowing that Nathaneal will come for her, Ebony is determined to fight against the evil that holds her prisoner. As long as she has Nathaneal's love, Ebony has nothing to fear. Can Nathaneal break through the gates of hell? Will these long-lost lovers finally reunite and fulfil their destiny?

Fearless Details

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Author : Marianne Curley

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From Reader Review Fearless for online ebook

L.L. Hunter says

Fearless was the perfect ending to an amazing series. Everything was tied up in a nice little bow and I was glad Ebony got a happy ending - with her horse! That part made me cry! I recommend the Avena series to everyone.

Nemo (The Moonlight Library) says

This review was originally posted on The Moonlight Library

Before I start, I have to apologise to Bloomsbury Australia who kindly sent me a review copy of this book. I cleaned my house and promptly lost the book for about six months, so when I found it again I decided to review Book 1 Hidden and Book 2 Broken as well.

SUMMARY

Now that Ebony is the evil Prince Luca's prisoner, Nathaniel and the other angels must do everything they can before Luca consummates the marriage and his plan for world domination is put into effect. But the impenetrable gates to Skade have been shut for one hundred years, and the consequences of forcing a breach are catastrophic.

WORLDBUILDING

I was pretty amused at this depiction of Skade – one with schools and prisons and agriculture. Luca took over a thousand or so years ago and really cleaned up the fire and brimstone aspects. I'm still trying to figure out if, in this twisted angel mythology where angels can fall in love, marry, and mate, if Luca/Lucian is meant to be a version of Lucifer. He's even got a 'beast' form.

One thing I could never understand – with the gates of Skade closed for one hundred years, where exactly were the souls meant to go for judgement? And what of everyone trapped outside who was meant to be inside? And what of the person who was supposed to take over Skade after Luca's demise? How exactly are they supposed to get in?

CHARACTERS + RELATIONSHIPS

I think I really started to feel for Ebony in this book. She'd finally accepted that she was an angel and she was separated from the one she loved and forced into this sham of a relationship with Luca, who used lies, manipulation, and even physical abuse to control her. It was really sad and really, really creepy that Ebony was only sixteen yet Luca was planning on raping and impregnating her anyway – not like her turning eighteen would have made a difference, but apparently that was the magical number where angels are allowed to start mating, or something.

Although Ebony had this awful habit to not realising when she was screaming – like in most paranormal

romances, the ‘being unaware my body is doing something’ like breathing or crying or apparently screaming is supposed to be dramatic but when used to excess it starts making a good drinking game – she actually grew as a character. I was actually looking forward to her being forcefully married to Luca and being rescued in the nick of time and that way, she would still be Queen of Skade and have responsibilities towards the damned souls but that wasn’t the direction in which the story took place. Ebony had learned to accept herself, but I still found it frustrating that this super-powerful being was little more than a tough-talking damsel in distress. She didn’t plan an escape, she didn’t save herself, she didn’t contribute to the downfall of the bad guy, and based purely on her genetics, she was rewarded with a life of perfect happiness.

I totally didn’t buy Jordan and Amber’s romance. Not only did Jordan basically think that anything with a skirt was sexy, I was still convinced Amber thought he was an idiot.

As for the other angels, well, I can’t remember who was married to whom. Everyone seemed to kind of blur into one character except for Michael and Gabriel and that’s probably because I recognise their angelic names from the Bible.

WHAT WORKED/DIDN’T WORK

One of the things that did work but unfortunately I did see coming from a long way off was the revelation of the traitor and how the traitor had helped the bad guys in the earlier books. While I was annoyed that the monastery was supposed to be impenetrable by the bad guys and lo and behold, oh no they broke through, it was actually the traitor who let them in. So that plot hole wrapped up nicely.

The other thing that bothered me SO MUCH was the horrible attitude of all of the angels (except Nathaniel) that once Luca had forcefully, against Ebony’s will, married her, and forcefully, against her will, raped her and impregnated her, that all would be lost and Nathaniel would no longer want Ebony, nor care for her, or desire her. I can’t even begin to describe how totally awful that attitude is – to victims of abusive relationships, to women who have children with one man and then remarry, to rape victims. It was such a horrible assumption and I was so glad that Nathaniel never bought into it. Although it did seem really odd that they seemed to be in this ‘race against time’ because the longer Ebony was in Skade the more likely it would be that she would end up pregnant. I mean, that was basically the motivation to rescue her, not because she was being held prisoner or against her will or being forced to live with Luca, but because she might get pregnant, and that was Phase I Don’t Even Know The Number of Luca’s evil plan to fill the world with his and Ebony’s offspring, Soul Readers who would mark possible Skade candidates for processing in the bid to take over Earth. It was like, if the angels got to Skade and heaven forbid, Ebony was pregnant, they were just going to give up and go home. Not only does it make Ebony seem like simply an object of lust and less than a person, but it put the value of her on her womb. Thankfully, Nathaniel never thought like this, but I was disgusted that the other angels did.

BONUS

This book is set in Australia, so I dreamed up some Australian casting! Check it out on the blog.

OVERALL

As far as the whole trilogy goes, I think this book was the best. I had to keep reminding myself that it was written for a teen audience in mind and imagining myself as the kind of teenage girl who likes to pretend she’s the main character in a book. Although there were a few glaring plot holes, the inconsistent writing of the previous two books seemed to have dropped off a bit. If you’ve read the previous two books, it’s definitely worth tracking down this one to get the final story.

Shaheen says

Fearless, the last instalment in the *Avena* series, concludes Ebony and Nathaneal's story admirably, and I enjoyed every moment of it immensely. I've loved this series since I read *Hidden*, and am sad to let these characters and their world go.

Ebony is abducted by Prince Luca, trapped on the wrong side of the impregnable gates that no one, not even the Dark Prince, can open for a hundred years. She shines, using every bit of strength she can muster up to survive the emotional and psychological torment that Luca heaps on her. It's heart-breaking to read about sometimes, but Ebony is one tough cookie! Throughout it all, her trust in Nathaneal and love for him doesn't falter. It's great to see how far Ebony has come, from not knowing who she is to fully embracing her angelic nature and the powers that come with it.

On the other side of the gates, Nathaneal musters up a team of angels to break Ebony out of her prison, alongside Jordan and Amber. His desperation to get the love of his life back is tangible. I liked Jordan and Amber's story more than Nathaneal's for most of the book, it was super cute seeing them come together. I also loved the secondary cast in this book, especially Mela, Elijah, Lhiam, and Shae.

In my opinion, Nathaneal became more interesting once the rescue mission actually began. In fact, the rescue mission changes the pace of the entire novel - the second half is much more satisfying than the first. Long buried secrets come to light and many mysteries are solved - Curley ties up everything neatly but realistically.

Reading the *Avena* series has been amazing, I've enjoyed my time with Ebony, Nathaneal, Jordan, and the rest of the gang. I'm eagerly awaiting Curley's next venture, I've definitely found a new favourite author!

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher for review.
You can read more of my reviews at **Speculating on SpecFic** .

Abbie says

She needs to bring out another book.

El Amethyst says

perfectly awesome end

Ashleigh says

Had me hooked on every page from start to finish. An epic ending in the *Avena* trilogy.

Patrick says

I love Marianne Curley. This book is so beautiful. What a great conclusion of another brilliant series. Best of luck with your next adventure that I will be sure to read.

Therese Mallia says

I loved Hidden and Broken but Marianne Curley saved the best book for last. I could not put Fearless down it is the best book that Marianne Curley has written so far. I highly recommend Fearless to young Adults and not so young like myself. Can't wait for your next book Marianne.

Kate says

Ebony and Nathaneal have overcome so much to be together but their happily ever after will have to wait. The Dark Prince and ruler of Skade has taken Ebony and imprisoned her in his realm. With all entries and exits to Skade sealed for a century, it seems Ebony and Thane's love story is at an end. Not willing to lose her after just finding her again, Thane is willing to do whatever it takes to have Ebony in his arms again. And Ebony isn't going to be an angelic damsel in distress - she will take on the devil himself to find her way back to Thane and the home she was taken from.

The Avena series by Marianne Curley has been a pleasure to read. Fearless, the third and final book in the trilogy, delivers all the drama and excitement of the previous two novels and so much more. Ebony has grown so much since we first met her in Hidden. She's overcome learning her heavenly history as well as her long complicated and romantic history with Thane. She isn't going to let being held captive by a dark Prince defeat her. One of the things I liked best about Ebony was her attitude. She is a fighter yet she is not infallible. The direness of her situation isn't lost on her and despite her best efforts to stay positive, Ebony is aware of the worst case scenario. New character Mela was a great addition to the story as was her connections to the overall plot.

As with the previous two books, the settings are great. Seeing Skade through Ebony's eyes was fantastic. There's enough detail to bring the place to life and I loved how vivid it was. Thane's part of the story was as captivating as Ebony's with his pain at being torn apart from her being palpable. Trying to balance his role as an Angel at the same time as planning a rescue mission weighed on him and it was nice to see his struggle and the human emotions it brought out in him. Jordan, Amber as well as a cast of angels all help bring this story to a climax. This is definitely one of those books which takes a little while to get going. The first half of this book is a little slow but the details and story is necessary for the action to really get ramped up in the second half.

Fearless is a brilliant conclusion to the series. There's drama and romance, heroes and villains, all tied together in a thrilling story. Beautifully written with vivid descriptions and interesting characters, Fearless is a must for fans of YA paranormal romance. After reading the Avena series - Marianne Curley has a fan for life in me and I can't wait to see what she writes next.

Marianne Curley says

Hi everyone, I'm the author of The Avena Series - Hidden, Broken and Fearless, and I hope you don't mind that I've given Fearless a five-star rating. I am very proud of Fearless and I believe of the seven books I have written, it is my best book so far. I hope that once you have a chance to read it too, you will feel the same.

I also love the cover art and I thank the Bloomsbury Publishing design team for that. Saving the colourful version of Ebony for the finale was a great idea. Here is Ebony at last, fully evolved with her red hair and her inner strength shining through the direct look of her unique violet eyes. And it's just lovely that the same girl is on all three covers of Hidden, Broken and Fearless.

Ebony needs all her inner and physical strength for Fearless. I throw a myriad of struggles at her, and also at her soul-mate Nathaneal, and Jordan and Amber, with gut-wrenching, heart-breaking results, and an ending that will hopefully linger in our minds after the last page is turned.

Writing The Avena Series has been an amazing experience and I thank everyone who has let me know their thoughts on Hidden and Broken. And I look forward to reading your reviews on Fearless.

Chris says

Best Ending Ever!!!

The love story between Ebony and Nathaneal is beyond anything I have read before. Two amazing characters who go through heaven and hell to be together, and who not only love each other but love their families too, and their loyalties to their friends makes this book shine. Characters like Solomon, Michael, Uriel, Gabriel, Jezelle and Shae are still in my thoughts. But the humans are too. From the flawed Jordan, who I now understand his obsession with Ebony, to best friend Amber, a friend everyone should have in their lives. Their sub-plot romance added to the depth of this book.

With nothing left hanging, Fearless was a thoroughly satisfying ending to a thrilling fantasy series.

I am going to have to re-read this series from the beginning of Hidden through Broken and then Fearless now that I can read them without having to wait a year in between.

Malvika Jaswal says

This is a fun plot with angels, fallen angels and even a cameo by God, and, I must say, even a cynic like me thought the story managed to weave it all together pretty well. As always I had favourite characters and not so favourite ones, but that only adds to the the pleasure of reading the story much like watching a reality show with the good characters as well as the irritating one keeping you coming back for more.

So, the story revolves around Ebony and Nathaneal, who were born to love each other, literally. However, they were separated by angles with other plans for them and Ebony took birth on earth and lived there for quite some time before Nathaneal found her again. At the beginning of this book, Ebony has just been captured by the evil Luca who plans to make her his queen and who actually engineered the hiding on earth scheme in the first place. While Nat and his fellow angels try everything in their power to free Ebony, they

realize that they must make some pretty big sacrifices for achieving that - code of angels wise.

It actually seemed very likely at one point that Ebony would succumb to Luca in a very tried and tested M&B style if she did not escape fast enough, which was thankfully achieved by some very determined and brave people in record time. Luca seemed incredibly persuasive and Ebony incredibly ill-equipped to deal with it. Nat's struggles with his conscience when weighed against his love for Ebony seemed entirely justified, but those of Ebony's teenage friend, Jordan, seemed unbearably tedious and juvenile. But then he is after all been portrayed as a teenager so that should be forgivable behaviour.

The author portrays angels as more like normal human beings but with a better grasp on their emotions and pretty catastrophic consequences when they loose it. From all we have usually read or seen of angels in fantasy writing they are either stone cold do-gooders or have completely gone over to the dark side, with occasional lapses into mundane things like a troubled conscience and even pity. This made a nice change from all else angel behaviour we have previously been made privy to.

Yes, it a sweet book where love triumphs over all, with some truly heartbreaking scenes like the one with Jordan's mum and a lovely read for those Sunday afternoons.

Faith says

This one was definitely better than the second book but the exciting stuff only begun 3/4 into the novel.

Throughout the majority of the novel, Ebony is captured by Prince Luca in Skade. And honestly, she was pretty comfy for a prisoner.

She talks a lot about hating Luca and wanting escape and return into Nathaneal's arms. But she does little to achieve it. Yes, there were reasons for that but in my eyes, there were many opportunities for her to find ways to escape and plan some sort of bad-ass stuff.

At the same time, we also read more of Nathaneal's POV. He has always been a pretty bland love-interest for me. Sure, he's hot beyond measure but he, himself isn't that much interesting. He dedicates a lot to his love for Ebony but for once I wanted him to do something for himself; for him to become an independent character who was sure in himself. Each character in this novel lacked this. Too much of what made them them was too much of their reliance on the people around them.

About 3/4 into the book, things finally gets interesting and the droll pace begins to pick up. **YAY.**

Nathaneal and his gang of ultra-strong and out-of-this-world angels begin their rescue mission. And from here on, exciting and heart-stuttering action occurs and some swoony-worthy happy times.

In conclusion, a very satisfying and happy ending to a very conventional paranormal romance.

Jessica says

4.5 stars. Fantastic ending for the Avena trilogy! This last book truly convinced me of the love story that existed throughout the first two novels, (and even almost made me sympathize for Luca) and it made for a heart pumping finale that makes the whole series well worth reading. Marianne does not disappoint.

Bookish Indulgences with b00k r3vi3ws says

Ebony was kidnapped and held a prisoner in hell at the end of the previous book in the series. With all ways to and from Skade closed and sealed, Nathaneal has very little chance of getting to Ebony to save her. However, he is not willing to give up. On the other hand Ebony is set on freeing herself from both hell and its prince. Will the two lovers be able to overcome all the hurdles put in their way and finally reunite? Or will the Dark Prince and his plans prevail?

Ebony finally redeemed herself to me. Oh she does whine here and there, but her fighting spirit finally shines through. I still feel that she could have 'done' more if she really tried. It seems that she finally accepted the truth about who she is and has become her own person. Prince Luca, the dark prince, has his charms on and he almost made me believe in him – though I do not know if it was his persuasive nature or my wish for some twist in the tale! Jordan was Jordan and I will not comment on him at all. Nathaneal felt somewhat real to me among all the characters.

I am kind of glad that this is the final book in the series. The premise and the setting was really good and the author has done a good job of describing certain settings and situation. But the plot and the characters were somewhat disappointing. Even Nathaneal, the character that I think was the best in the series has failed to make an impression on me. I love flawed characters but they should have some redeeming qualities. None of the characters in the books felt remotely 'real' and I failed to connect with them completely. The plot felt too simple and very predictable. There wasn't even a single twist.

For the world setting, this series is okay for a one time read.
