



Waking the Dragon

Juliette Cross

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The Gladium Province is on the verge of civil unrest as humans and Morgons, the dragon-hybrid race, clash once more. But amid disorder can also arise passion.

When the bodies of three human women are discovered in Morgon territory—with the DNA of several Morgon men on the victims—it's just a matter of time before civil unrest hits the Province. But for ambitious reporter Moira Cade, it's more than just a story, and it may mean risking her own life.

Descending into the dark underworld of Morgon society, Moira is paired with Kol Moonring, Captain of the Morgon Guard, for her protection. Fiercely independent, Moira bristles at his dominance, and defies his will at every turn. Yet resistance proves futile when passion flares between them, awakening powerful emotions within both, body and soul. But as the killings continue, can their fiery newfound bond survive an even greater evil—one that threatens all of humanity, Morgonkind, and Moira's very soul?...

Waking the Dragon Details

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From Reader Review Waking the Dragon for online ebook

Katharine says

Amazing!

This is my most favorite so far! Kol was everything you want in a alpha dragon! Blushing;)... Juliette Cross is so amazing she pulls you into her world and it's one amazing ride after another in all her books!!!! Loved! 10 stars if I could it's that freaking great! A must read??

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

~ 5 Waking the Dragon Stars ~

Waking the Dragon is book one in the *Vale of Stars* series by Juliette Cross and is best read after you read the Nightwing novellas. It gives us a different perspective on the Morgon race and that some prefer to embrace there more darker dragon side.

I love dragons and JCross has made these Morgon men so irresistible. When they find their true mate it's a love like no other. I am in love with these Morgon men and can't get enough. This book was outstanding and I could not put it down.

Moria is the little sister of Jessen, which we meet both in Soulfire. Moria is Senior Editor for her college newspaper and will go to great lengths to get her story. I'm one who shy's away from characters that are reports. They always seem too pushy, noisy, and annoying to me, but JCross made Moria more of an investigative type, which I found interesting. She is also very strong willed and independent.

Kol is the embodiment of the more hard core Morgon man. Captain of the Morgon Guard and Alpha all the way. We get to meet him in Windburn. He reminded me of Judd from the Psy-Changeling series. A man cold as ice who needs the love of his true mate to thaw him out.

We are about 5-years into humans and Morgon's living peaceful together, but that peace is about to shatter. We are taken on a murder mystery that is intense, darker then I expected, but so good and *WOW* the author throws in a really good plot with some twists that had me reeling. The last few pages where intense, action crazy, and overwhelming.

Kol and Moria make a great pair. The chemistry between these two is explosive. Neither want the emotional ties, but fate has other plans. As things move along they grow to have a deeper emotional and physical connection that both never expected to be possible. The love story was beautiful done.

I can not wait for more in this brand new series by JCross. This book is outstanding, sweet, sexy, crazy, intense, and all out awesome.

***Disclaimer:** Review copy provided by Kensington Books via NetGalley with the sole purpose of an honest review. All thoughts, comments and ratings are my own.

Kelly says

Waking the Dragon is a full length novel spin off of Juliette Cross's Nightwing series. It followed Kol Moonring (captain of the Morgan Guard) and Moria Cade (sister to the heroine in the first Nightwing book - Jessen). It picks up 5 years later. Moria is now grown and is an inspiring Journalist. Young woman are being found killed with DNA of Morgan men. Moria wants to further her career by writing this story. Kol is also investigating this crime and is assigned as her protector.

The story is again told from the heroines pov only. But I found myself really wishing for his pov on stuff, his feeling from his pov, etc. It might be because this was a novel and not a short novella like the last book of hers I read. I still felt the relationship but it seemed the heroine was letting the reader know how Kol felt in certain instances which made the scene seem kinda fake feeling. Shes no psychic.

But again this was a good story. The story line is growing and keeps me really interested. Can't wait for the next one!

Christina says

4 Stars - 3 Flames

I FINALLY had a little extra time to pick up a book from an author I've grown to love. Ever since this was released last year, it's been calling my name, begging to be read. I'm soooooo happy I was able to finally indulge, but dang it, now I've got to come up with more free time because I'm hooked on yet another series by this amazing author!!!

Let me just start this review off by mentioning that this is probably one of the hottest anticipation, pure animalistic hunger, sexual PNR's I've read in a long time. A mighty description, huh? I can't describe it any other way. The way this author describes the lust building between Kol and Moira is amazingly intense, and worth every word read. I think the tagline is perfect, "the greatest danger lies in the passion he stirs...". Putting the hotness aside, the detail in discovering this world where humans and Morgons live together, intermingling races and even the history of the Morgons, is told in such a way that it's hard to NOT picture yourself experiencing the world first hand.

Moira is a student at the University and the lead editor of the school's paper. Her ultimate dream is the become part of the cities newspaper staff. She feels that in order to accomplish that, she needs to cover some of the most dangerous stories. Thus following her on a journey to break the case in the Devlin Butcher murders. But the only way to ensure her safety means that she is paired with the captain of the Morgan Guard, Kol, who is without doubt, dominant, to say the least. Kol IS dominant in every way. As the captain of the guard, it's his duty to make sure things are taken care of and safe. But taking care of Moira has become something different for him. When we learn about the Morgon history, mixed with the fact that Moira's family having history of their own, it's no wonder he's drawn to protect her.

I can go on and on about this story and setting it up for you to read, but that would take away from the surprise elements as well as the pure joy in reading it for yourself. I've read many PNR's from gargoyles to fairies, bears to wolves, but there is truly something special in dragons and this Morgon race. It's really hard for me to pin point it....it's just magical.

*I received this book from the author in exchange for my honest opinion.

Hana ? says

3.5 Stars!

So I felt like I was missing certain things while reading this and realized this is a spin-off series to the Nightwing Series which I should have read first... but oh well. I still got the gist of everything but I was just slightly out of order.

Moira is the editor for her University's paper and is a journalism major. She has a lead on a big murder case involving abducted girls and begins to investigate. She gets assigned protection by her brother-in-laws security firm as the case becomes very life threatening. This protection has a name, and it is Kol. Kol is an overprotective, quiet, and mysterious dragon who is very intrigued by Moira.

"I caught a glimpse of possession, obsession, and devotion from the piercing blue. Then he made me his, once and for all.

The story-line was very interesting and I really got immersed in this world Ms. Cross created. An overall great read! Now I'm off to the beginning to read the Nightwing Series!

Sylvia says

So many thoughts brewing in my head and so many emotions flowing through my soul, as I sit here wondering how I can write a review to mirror how exceptional and magnificent **Waking the Dragon** is.

Already enthralled with this fantastical world created by the brilliant Juliette Cross, thanks to her **Nightwing Series**, I dove right back in, peering and watching the story unfold around these dominant and sensual Morgans, the fierce dragon-hybrid race.

Relationships between humans and the Morgans are on the verge of collapsing with the bodies of three human women discovered, savagely drained and disembowelled. Evidence points to Morgans and this is just the ammunition that is needed to keep segregation alive. Enter in the extremely independent college student/journalist, **Moira Cade**. She has been working on writing an exposé on these terrible murders, using her connections, whether professional or personal. She is fiercely determined and will stop at nothing to get to the truth, often putting her life in danger. I admired her courage and her unwavering spirit, always seeking and prying. She was definitely one tough woman to crack, but that didn't mean she couldn't. It would take someone who was just as strong, as insistent and commanding as Moira, who would yield her heart yet still be her equal. Only one man comes to mind, begging for our attention. The Captain of the Morgan Guard himself,

Kol Moonring.

Just uttering his name sends me over the edge, falling into a pillowy field of ecstasy. This force, this beast of a Morgan man who stands as high as the mountains, so powerful and glories. With eyes ringed, silver, like the moon. Stoic, brave, bold and hard. Freezes you immobile, numbing you with his frosty gaze that sweetly burns you to the core. Fire and ice, all rolled into a solid and unbreakable man. The definition of **RAWR!** What more can I say about *Kol Moonring* except that he has me ranting like a mad woman, uttering things like, "*Can I keep him?* See, I've lost my mind. I am definitely spent. I know why Moira succumbed to the **Iceman**...there was no choice whatsoever when *Kol* entered her world.

Okay, I think I have rambled on about *Kol* enough, or have I? *wink wink*

With that being said, **Waking the Dragon** is just another fine example of the extraordinary thoughts of fantasies that **Juliette Cross** invites you into exploring. She wants to excite your mind, capture your soul, bewitch your heart and tantalise your senses. *I can't wait to fall under her spell again.*

Naomi 🐨 says

I absolutely loved *Waking the Dragon* - what a terrific first book!!!!!! I must admit that I love everything Juliette Cross writes. Rich and vivid descriptions, endearing characters and hot Morgon dragon men - what's not to love! Cannot wait for the next one ❤️?❤️?❤️?

Robin (Bridge Four) says

???3.5 Stars???

After reading the Novellas *Soulfire* and *Windburn* I was totally ready to dive into this world of dragon human hybrids again and try the first full length Novel in the Vale Series. While this is the first novel in the Vale series I do recommend reading at least one of the novella's first to get a grasp on the world and some of its workings. I believe you will easily catch on if you don't read the novellas but since many of the characters carry over from there it will be more enjoyable if you have the backstories of Jessen and Lucius along with Sorcha and Locian. *That is just this readers humble opinion though*

Moria grew up with wealth and privilege in a very controlling family. Her sister Jessen was disowned for falling in love with and bonding to a Morgon (human dragon hybrid) man Lucius. Moria was young at the time but she never really forgave her father for choosing that path and so now that she is in college she has distanced herself from her family name and cut herself off from the money in order to build a life for herself and still be in her sister's life.

Moria is easily likable right off just for that. She is a strong woman who works hard and wants to make sure that the accomplishments in her life are hers and not because of her family's influence or wealth. She is the editor and chief of her universities newspaper and a pretty good reporter to boot. Her newest interest is in the apparent Morgon cult killings surrounding women abducted from the Vaegnar Games after partys. Moria is determined to get the scoop and possibly help out so that no one else is injured.

Now in my opinion Moria might be a little over zealous but at least she isn't stupid and knows that she will

need some help in the form of Morgon security. Good thing she has an 'in' in that department as her brother-in-law is the head of one of the most prestigious Morgon security firms around. She finds some allies in her goals but only if they get to pick her team and who will be there to protect her and even thought she doesn't like him Kol Moonring as lead on the team in non-negotiable and all I have to say to that is **lucky girl**.

Kol is tall dark and brooding with absolutely no interest in humans, well at least until now. He is captain of the Elite Morgon Guard (special police) *did I mention I love captains of anything, but especially elite fighting forces and ships*. He is a force of nature and the sexual tension that starts to build between them is palpable. He is also a strong dominant Morgon and he is ready to play this seduction game with great patience and there is a game afoot.

Lead the way, Kittycat."

My mouth dropped. "Excuse me."

"You heard me ." His voice was a low rumble, mere inches separating us.

"Don't call me that."

"Mmm. You sure enjoy judging others. Taciturn. Intimidating. Iceman. But you can't handle how others see you."

I clenched my jaw tight.

"Kittycat suits you. Sharp claws, watchful eyes, volatile when cornered." He flicked my braid over my shoulder. I batted his hand away. His grin made me want to scream . *"See what I mean."*

Yes I have read a version of this love story before with the stoic, hard, strong silent type and the independent stubborn woman who brings out the softer side of him. But I love it. I really liked all the time spent on little verbal banter and the growing lust to something deeper that grew between them. Kol totally snagged my adoration and I really liked the man he was and how he saw Moira and how he was in so many ways perfect for her.

You can think whatever you want with that logical brain and defiant will of yours. It still won't change the truth."

I ignored his hand, the feel of his stroking thumb. Tried to. Wasn't working. "What truth?"

He removed his hand, leaving me cold, leering down as if he wanted to bite and swallow me whole. "That you belong to me. You just don't know it yet."

&

"I'll tell you what you want, Moira." His hand released my hip. Long fingers wrapped my nape, his thumb resting below my jaw, the other still clenched in my hair. "You want to be possessed, but not controlled. You want to be protected, but not smothered. You want to be dominated, but only in one way."

I did love this version of that love story. This is a PNR so I would say that the romance aspect at times overshadowed the world building and plot but I still enjoyed those aspects of this story as well

??? The Plot ???

I was a little worried that this would follow the plotline of Windburn a little. That is not the case at all, while on the surface some of it looked the same in the beginning, by design I might add, the underlying reasons for the abductions of the girls are extremely different. I was drawn into the clues that lead to what the

motivations for the crimes really were. I was scared for our heroine and other characters throughout the story as the plot got bigger and bigger. The last twenty percent was intense and full of drama as storylines played out.

The way that dragon lore played into the plot also grabbed me. I really like it when the world contains a history and it can interweave with the present. That was the case here and the Bad Guy....well he is something else and extremely terrifying and so are his overall goals. The way Moira is willing to put herself on the line to save those she loves was fantastic down to her doubts when she got there.

Also the new information about the Morgon Guard was worked into the story well and I love the idea of the assassins for the guard all being women....GO GIRL POWER. We all know women are far more sneaky and deadly than men.

??? Overall ???

Overall this was a good time with my new favorite PNR supernatural beings. The story was well thought out and while the major story arc is definitely not complete this arc of it wrapped up very well and we were not left with a huge cliffhanger until the next book. Kol and Moira were a captivating love story and I adored them together. I'm really excited to see what else is in store in the Vale Series.

Thank you to Netgalley and Kensington Books for providing the ARC for review.

Dianne says

Once again, two species can't seem to play well together all of the time and the fires of civil unrest are being fueled by the murders of three human women, found in Morgon territory, covered with Morgon DNA. Enter Juliette Cross' world where dragon hybrids and humans balance precariously on the precipice of battle in **WAKING THE DRAGON** and watch one feisty, headstrong reporter risk life and limb to uncover the truth story behind these gruesome murders all while fighting off her attraction to the most aggravating Morgon she has ever met.

In a tale of the Bigger-they are-the harder-they-fall, one must dodge the barbs shared between Moria Cade and Kol Moonring, her assigned bodyguard who may have met his match, if not physically, surely in matters of the heart. These two will battle their emotions, even as Moira does all she can to get her story and Kol will be tested to the limit in keeping her safe. Two souls, each loners by design may discover there is strength in numbers and truth in two hearts beating like one when that perfect mate is found!

Apparently "evil" did not get the play nice memo, because someone is out to destroy the world of Gladium, the Morgons and humanity and Moira's quest for truth and a great story will put both her and Kol in mortal danger, then again. Have you ever seen a Morgon whose heart's desire has been threatened by evil? Hang on tight, there is a mystery to be solved, evil to be vanquished, even as the flames of desire begin to blaze!

Why yes, Juliette Cross does know how hot-blooded Morgons like their romance, heated, passionate and intense, kind of like that first bite of fresh, cheesy, sizzling hot pizza, you know you are going to blister but, it is soooo worth the mouth-watering joy of it! Great conflict, great action, great romance, and yes, great reading!

Series: Vale of Stars - Book 1

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Dawn says

I honestly don't know what to say!
Moria... Kol...
I think this is my favorite Morgon story so far.

I am sad because there is only one more book after this one!

Thank you Juliette for again making me fall in love with your books!!

Tanja ~ KT Book Reviews says

From the moment I tapped the icon on for Waking the Dragon in my Kindle app 'til the very end I was completely captivated. There's a gristly murder case with dead girls popping up everywhere and an impressively strong reporter with the drive and determination to figure out what the local enforcement has not. That would be Moira Cade. She has connections in high places and a foot in both the human and Morgon territories.

Kol Moonring is relegated the lovely task of keeping Moira safe. Captain of the Morgon Guard, he is everything he should be. Powerful, dominating, and fiercely in control. I gotta say the push/pull between these two is amazing. Neither will bend in their fierceness and both want the same outcome.

"You want to be possessed, but not controlled. You want to be protected, but not smothered. You want to be dominated, but only in one way."

Moira and Kol are going down as one of my all time favorite couples. It's the words shared between them throughout Waking the Dragon that has truly moved me to highlight with abandon.

"Tragedy changes us all, Moira. We get to choose how much. Some survive with a few bumps and bruises. Others wear their scars forever and build walls to block the world out."

"Life was too short to waste, harboring bitterness against family and cherishing loneliness like it was his own precious pet. Life was too short to waste on ambition alone, pretending it was enough for me. I wanted more. I wanted Kol. I wanted...love."

In all sincerity, it's Cross' best book to date in this reviewer's humble opinion. Waking the Dragon had

everything a good read needs to become great: action, adventure, love, lust, fight, determination and mind blowing tension that leads to an explosive coupling.

“I’m burning for you, Moira. An inferno flares inside every time you come near me.” He traced his tongue over my bottom lip. “I won’t go up in flames alone.” He ground out the words. “You’re going to burn with me.”

What more can I say? I loved it.

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Jessica Frances says

I freaking LOVED this book! Wow, totally blown away. I loved the novellas in the Nightwing series (definitely recommend reading those!) and was super excited that there was going to be full length novels attached to that world. This just felt perfect to me. I loved the mystery, the danger, the world which was built up even more in this story and the chemistry between Kol and Moira was incredible. You could immediately feel it between them but there was no rush or any feelings that this was insta-love. Their connection felt well deserved and fleshed out. I completely fell in love with Kol and his family and my heart broke for what Moira went through. The villain was freaking scary as and I was terrified and at the edge of my seat biting my nails through the last half of the book. I also fell in love with Moira. She is a fantastic heroine and I love how the heroines in Juliette’s stories are never weak or need saving. I love how they are all strong, independent women who can stand on their own, and I also love that she doesn’t have to compromise on strong heroes to make that work. The writing was fantastic as usual and I can’t wait for the next one in this series. A must read for paranormal fans.

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

Waking the Dragon is book one in the Vale of Stars series by Juliette Cross. This book is best read after you read the Nightwing novellas. Have you ever read a book and when you read that last word of that last page, you just sit there staring at the page you just finished in wonder? This book was that amazing. To say it was intense is an understatement. The love story part of it was beautiful. The sexy scenes were hot. And the action was intense and gripping. I loved it all.

Moira Cade is the little sister of Jessen whom you met in Soulfire of the Nightwing series. It’s been a few

years since the events of that book and Jessen is now married to Lucius Nightwing. Morgons and humans are living in harmony in Gladium, relationships both business and personal are blossoming and fruitful. We also get to see some of Sorcha and Lorian who are also happily married. Moira isn't the little sister any more. She is the senior editor for her college's newspaper while she finishes her journalism degree. There are no limits to the lengths Moira will go to to get her story. She is strong willed and independent.

As of late, three human women have been brutally murdered, all giving the impression that it was some sort of cult like killing. All three women bore the DNA of several Morgan men. Moira with the help of one of her colleagues getting her inside information, is determined to crack this case. She has a plan but her own safety is at risk. So her brother-in-law attaches a body guard to her for her protection.

“The Devlin Butchers were bringing all the prejudice and fear back to the forefront, rebuilding a wall we'd successfully torn down, brick by slow brick.”

Kol Moonring is quite the hulking specimen of a beautiful Morgon Man. He is Captain of the Morgon Guard. He would like nothing more than to find out who is killing these human women. At the request of Lucius he finds himself assigned to protect Moira. It didn't take long for the sparks to start flying between them. But both Moira and Kol are solitary souls. Neither has the time or patience for emotional ties. Sometimes, though, fate has other plans.

“You can think whatever you want with that logical brain and defiant will of yours. It still won't change the truth”

“What truth?”

“That you belong to me. You just don't know it yet.”

As Moira puts herself in danger to try to track the women's murderers, she is faced with an evil horror beyond anything she could have imagined. At the same time, she finds a both emotional and physical connection with Kol she never thought possible.

I believe I said it in both of the Nightwing books but I am in love with these Morgon men. When they find their true mate, they love like no other. Their protectiveness is fierce yet they are so tender. And just the mental imagery of these huge hulking men with beautiful wings. 'sigh' Kol won me over immediately. His feelings for Moira apparent from the start. These two make such a great pair. About the last third of the book was intense like crazy. My heart was pounding. The action crazy and gripping. There is not a cliff hanger although much still needs to be resolved.

Juliette Cross knows well my intense love of her books. You can't go wrong with any of them. I know this because I have read them all. I want to say that this was my favorite so far. I might have said that after I finished the last book, though. Just know that this book is amazing, sweet, sexy, crazy, scary, gripping, intense and just awesome. That is how I feel about it anyway. I hope you will love it too.

Beth says

Waking the Dragon should really come with a warning, INTENSE SCENES MIGHT CAUSE EXCESSIVE NAIL BITTING. Let's just say the first installment in Juliette Cross's Vale of Stars series was intense! Action Intense, sexually intense, vividly intense.

Moira is a reporter fighting to make it on her own, when she comes across ritual murders on human women, with proof they were killed by Morgon men, dragon shifters.

Asking her brother-in-law, a Morgon male, for assistance, lands Moira with a Kol, the captain of the Morgon Guard, as her body guard. Passions fly but Moira resists Kol's controlling ways at every turn. The deeper they delve into the mystery, the more evil is revealed. Thrusting Moira and Kol running for their lives.

You could say its an episode of *Criminal Minds* with a huge paranormal twist. There is a dark and dangerous murder mystery to uncover, with winged warriors battling for power and control.

Magically creative with awe inspiring world building, Juliette Cross once again captivates and entertains with a human/dragon-hybrid love story.

This was my first time touching on this world, but it definitely won't be my last. It also had me adding the Nightwing Series to my wish list.

I received this ARC copy of *Waking the Dragon* from Kensington Books in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication June 9, 2015.

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Sequence in Series: #1

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Find this book on: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

For Reviews and More Check out: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Jonel Boyko says

Cross really kicked it up a notch with this one! It's intense on so many different levels and in many different ways. Cross' writing has an eerie feel to it at times, adding to the suspense of the story, while at the same time bringing this world to life in a vividly real manner. This is one author who definitely knows how to use sex and intimacy to build a relationship between her characters, rather than simply as an interlude in the

story. And it's hot as Hades when she does it!

Cross lays out what it means to be a Morgon, both physiologically and culturally, while maintaining the forward flow of the story. The differences between the clans becomes very apparent throughout this novel. What makes each family tick is not only intriguing but also integral to the working of this world as a whole.

The main character's outlook on life made me smirk, I loved it. I enjoyed Moira's need to stand on her own and succeed yet also appreciated her ability to realize when she needs others. Kol's dark, brooding, dangerous personality really shines through and is definitely something to dream about for a long, long while. These two make a fantastic couple, proving that relationships definitely do work both ways. She surrounds these two with secondary characters that really pack a punch. Some we met in past series by the author, others are entirely new. Either way they round out the story fantastically and are easy to get to know within the pages of this novel. Oh, and just a word of warning for any of you who loved the Nightwing brothers... Just wait until you get up close and personal with the Moonring twins!

I loved being back in Gladium province with Cross' new series. I laughed, I cried, I was taken to a magical world, I lived alongside the characters for a short while, and am now longing to return. That, my bibliophilic friends, is the mark of a truly great story.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.
