



Ashlesha: Part I of Awaken the Stars

By Jer Keene

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Ashlesha: Part I of Awaken the Stars By Jer Keene

Rex Vis Tjin's life has never been normal.

Not every kid spent their summer vacations learning tactics on paintball fields, or could strip down a .9mm and put it back together at military-acceptable speed, or had really good instincts for *knowing* things...including when to get out of the line of fire. By the time Rex realized the difference, he didn't care. He's third-eldest of eight kids and they're all nuts, but they love each other. That's the important part.

Four of them go into the military, thinking long-term careers. Then Rex's brother dies in 2005 in Iraq. That's the deal-breaker. Rex bows out after only eight years instead of twenty, and gets to spend the next decade figuring out what to do with the rest of his life. He attended a college he can't remember graduating from. He didn't care; it was just something to fill the empty spaces in his life.

Picking up available work through the Department of Defense fills those empty spaces nicely. Rex has a conscience and the ability to say "No thanks" if he doesn't like a job. He gets to shoot things (or turn them into craters) and the pay is great. Awesome.

On his 36th birthday, Rex meets a redhead in a bar. He wasn't planning on dating, but sometimes you just fit with someone, and he fits with Euan Ambrus very well.

His new favorite redhead is also sort-of the reason why 2016 pushes the envelope on what's normal, but Rex figures that if you're going to make an enemy out of an organization within the federal government, it might as well be the one that's been up to sci-fi levels of weird since 1951

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Editorial Review

Review

"This story is beautiful in the way thunderstorms are beautiful; it's awe-inspiring, humbling and dangerous. There is always a danger with traumatic and difficult topics, but they're spoken of in a realistic, emotive, honest manner that makes it all the more amazing. There is so much heart, soul, effort, and suffering in this story that it takes your entire world and turns it upside-down. The point is that this story will be spoken, heard, and remembered-Ashlesha will be remembered." -Kathryn Cowley "The kind of story that hits the ground running, sweeps you up in its arms, and leaves you bereft and aching for more at the finish line. A true joy to read and impossible to put down." -Joy Demorra "This story reads as well as top-selling authors I've come across: Lois McMaster Bujold, David Weber, David & Leigh Eddings. This author has talent; stories like these have power. It's such a great thing to see someone step out with a powerful work that portrays humans in the good times (and the bad) that make them even stronger." -Rowan F. Wolff "This might just be the once in a lifetime story that will change the way you view writing, storytelling, and possibly blow your mind. It's in all the quiet, day-to-day life ways that really leave an imprint deep within you, wrap you close, hold you tight, make you laugh, cry, and smile through your tears as you whisper, 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.' It's that kind of story." -Katrin Bisiani "Actual safe sex practices, described in very sexy ways! Wait-this story is carving out my heart and roasting it up. I can't start drinking yet, it's ten in the morning! Later: Am now howling with laughter and my stomach hurts and I can't stop. My dog came to see what was the matter with me." -Laura Pye "Possibly the most amazing piece of fiction I've read all year. Terrifyingly realistic in all the best ways, but still so full of love, hope, and family that it makes my heart ache. Utterly incredible." -Amelia Gurley

About the Author

Jer Keene lives in Maine with a mate, two children, and 6.1 cats, because cat number 7 is a jackass who wants to take over all of downtown. The author has been writing since the age of fifteen. Despite hearing nothing except, "That's nice, dear," for years, she kept at it, because crazy people keep doing the same thing and expect different results. Sometimes they're right. Jer is also an artist and possibly a pod person, but that theory is unconfirmed; likes flamethrowers and sometimes emits caustic sounds. Should be approached with caution. The author can be found on tumbler @deadcatwithaflamethrower saying lots of foolish things that other people like to read. The author is still not sure why, but she's rolling with it. Why not?

Editor Joy Demorra is available at www.joydemorra.com. She's editing and writing her own damned good erotica, available soon.

Editor Jules Robin is available at editorjules@gmail.com for helping to shape-up anyone's writing endeavors.

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