



Title: *Vexyna's Awakening*

Author: Alpha Cing

Publisher: Smashwords

Reviewer: Vanessa Finaughty

Vexyna's Awakening grabbed my interest from the word go. The story begins with a bit of light humour, which the author continues to throw in here and there where you least expect it. The humour works well to keep the story light-hearted enough for young readers, though Vexyna's experiences and discoveries are anything but, and there are plenty of philosophical aspects for readers to contemplate.

Vexyna is different from others in many ways, particularly with regards to her eyes, which she cannot allow anyone to look into, lest the person come under her control. To avoid the issue, she permanently wears dark glasses.

When Vexyna is driven from her village by external forces beyond her comprehension, it sets her on a collision course with fate – something one cannot avoid no matter how hard one tries. On Vexyna's journey to save her land from the Red Empress who engineered her village's destruction, she begins to discover her hidden heritage and joins up with an ever-hungry thief, a crystal-generated life force and a few other intriguing characters.

Vexyna's Awakening is young adult fantasy, though even as an older adult I found it quite enjoyable. The author's descriptions are well written, giving good visuals of each scene, and the world she's created and all its 'rules' are well explained and interesting. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good fantasy. As the enigmatic talking cat says, 'magic comes in many forms'.