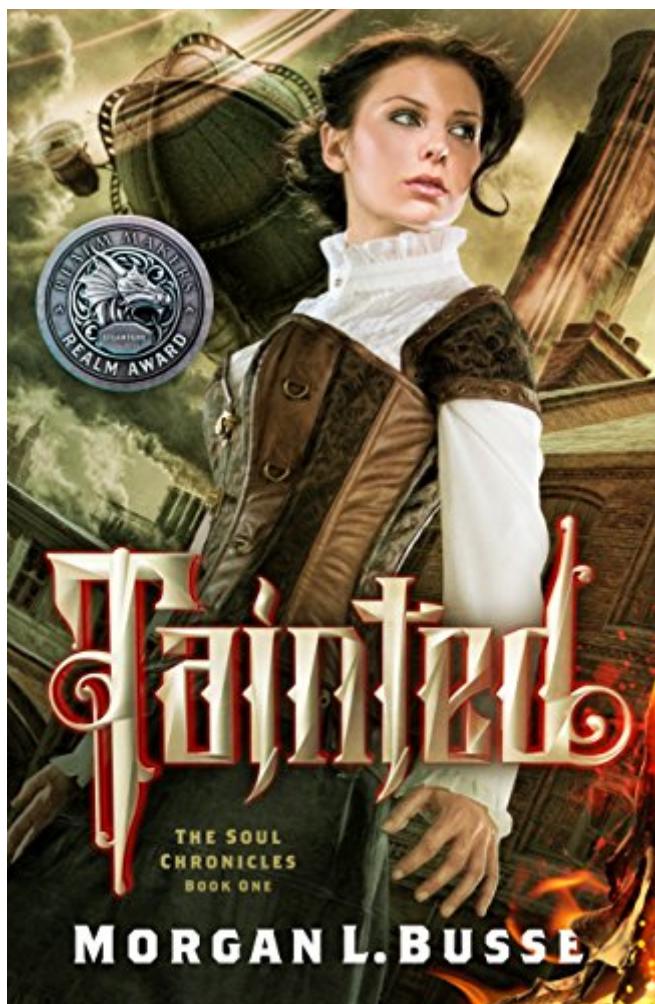


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Tainted (The Soul Chronicles Book 1)



Synopsis

What happens when your soul dies? Kat Bloodmayne is one of the first women chosen to attend the Tower Academy of Sciences. But she carries a secret: she can twist the natural laws of life. She has no idea where this ability came from, only that every time she loses control and unleashes this power, it kills a part of her soul. If she doesn't find a cure soon, her soul will die and she will become something else entirely. After a devastating personal loss, Stephen Grey leaves the World City Police Force to become a bounty hunter. He believes in justice and will stop at nothing to ensure criminals are caught and locked up. However, when Kat Bloodmayne shows up in his office seeking his help, his world is turned upside down. Together they search World City and beyond for a doctor who can cure Kat. But what they discover on the way goes beyond science and into the dark sphere of magic.

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Customer Reviews

my rating is actually 4.5 stars I bought this book months ago and finally had the time to read it and it totally amazed me from the beginning! The cover totally grabbed my attention and Kat's character really resonated with me, I was truly blessed by this story and I'm eager to know how the rest of the

series will turn out

Tainted is my first venture into the genre of Steam Punk. I had heard of it before and just didn't think it was for me, so I never tried reading any of it before. But when I came across Tainted by Morgan Busse, I was intrigued because I loved her Follower of Light series. So I decided to give it a try and I'm so glad that I did. Tainted takes you to a time where the world is powered by Steam, full of amazing inventions, and even some magic/powers (not quite sure how to classify it, but it is done well and I was intrigued by it). Kat learns a lot about herself as the story progresses and her and Stephen run from the bounty hunters chasing her. The story is full of twists and turns that you don't see coming and there is a lot of action. The characters are well developed and you quickly find yourself invested in their story. I really enjoyed Tainted and I can't wait for book two to come out. I will be rereading this one when the next book is about to come out just to refresh myself on the story. I loved it. 5 Stars

Tainted by Morgan Busse is a switch in genres for her. Or is it subgenre? Cross-genre? Anyhow, the book is a steampunk adventure with fantasy elements making it very different from the High Fantasy/Heroic Fantasy that was her last series *The Follower of the Word*. *Tainted* is the story of a young woman named Kathryn Bloodmayne, who is eager to attend the prestigious school commonly called "The Tower" as part of a new initiative to allow young women into the ranks of the scientific leadership of World City, where Kathryn lives. Despite some hiccups, Kathryn seems to be doing fine, until an unsettling and horrible power that she long kept at bay and secret comes burning forth and makes her a fugitive from those who would misuse her powers. All she wants is a cure and desperately pursues a lead with the help of a bounty hunter that she isn't even sure she can trust. *Tainted* was a fun ride that suffered a bit from two issues. First it never really gives a payoff for the beginning plot of the enrollment in the Tower. It was merely added back-story, which is fine, but I would have personally liked to see more of her time at the school. The other issue was how the action seemed to jump around between plot devices. Is it a magic type of fantasy? A quest? A heist story? What? Despite the above two criticisms, this story was really engrossing. The characters were, in the style I have come to love from Busse, very real with real insecurities, issues and who made real mistakes. One can easily see themselves in the characters. Yet they also really had (at least the good guys had) senses of morality and tried to do the right thing. Both leads, Kat and Stephen (the bounty hunter) made mistakes in the novel, but both try to do right in the end, even though it will be hard. I think that's a lesson we all can learn, to try to do right and to not get bogged down.

down in the reality of our (sometimes quite sizable) mistakes. The other lesson I saw in the novel was an area that one can connect with the characters as well, especially Stephen. That is the area of thinking and praying about choices we make to ensure they are not just the right choices, but the right choices *for the right reasons*. You see, sometimes what seems like the right action might not be, or might be something we are doing for the wrong reason. If we think and pray more, we might come to a different conclusion. Those who have read *The Follower of the Word* series know that they can expect the evil guys to be *evil*, yet also sympathetic. One evil man is sympathetic for his injuries, and another man for his back-story. But these do not excuse their crimes, especially the latter, and like Darth Vader and I suspect Kylo Ren (if he is redeemed), I think death is the natural culmination of any redemption arc. I have seen some flack given to Morgan Busse for showing the actualities of human desire and lust. Even though the characters do the right thing in the end, Busse has been attacked for addressing these issues of temptation and triumphing over it. I can't disagree more with her critics, and I find the realism and the show of struggle with, and triumph over, improper sexual desire to be refreshing. I really enjoyed this work and can't recommend it enough. Rating: 4/5 Stars.

I enjoyed reading this. The primary characters have depth and are likable in spite of their mistakes. The secondary characters are a little flat, but it didn't detract much. Most of the novel was fast paced, although it started a little slow. I found the story intriguing and finished it in one day. Even though this is the first novel in a series, the story was complete with a satisfying ending. I'm interested enough in the open points to want the next installment.

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