



Broken

Kelley Armstrong

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In this thrilling new novel from the author of **Industrial Magic**, a pregnant werewolf may have unwittingly unleashed Jack the Ripper on the twenty-first century — and become his next target...

Ever since she discovered she's pregnant, Elena Michaels has been on edge. After all, she's never heard of another living female werewolf, let alone one who's given birth. But thankfully, her expertise is needed to retrieve a stolen letter allegedly written by Jack the Ripper. As a distraction, the job seems simple enough — only the letter contains a portal to Victorian London's underworld, which Elena inadvertently triggers — unleashing a vicious killer and a pair of zombie thugs.

Now Elena must find a way to seal the portal before the unwelcome visitors get what they're looking for — which, for some unknown reason, is Elena...

From the Paperback edition.

Broken Details

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Author : Kelley Armstrong

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From Reader Review Broken for online ebook

Siobhan says

Broken is the sixth book in Kelley Armstrong's Women of the Otherworld series, and it is yet another example of why Kelley Armstrong managed to work her way onto my favourite author list in no time at all. As with all her books I have read, this one kept me gripped throughout – I loved the characters, I enjoyed the storyline, and I cannot wait for more.

In Bitten, the first book in the Women of the Otherworld series, we were introduced to Elena. I quickly fell in love with the werewolves, having so much fun with the characters and the storyline surrounding them. In Stolen, we got more Elena – we also got an introduction to the rest of the world, taking us beyond the werewolves and introducing us to the other supernatural creatures. In Dime Store Magic I was disappointed by the change of perspective, fearful I would not enjoy Paige – only to be surprised when I enjoyed her more than Elena. I was overjoyed when Industrial Magic also followed Paige, taking us even deeper into the witch arc. Haunted disappointed me somewhat, though, as I was not a fan of Eve – I'm not sure what it was, but it was my least favourite of the series thus far. I was glad to find out Broken would not be following Eve, and that we would be returning to Elena – I would have preferred a return to Paige (I'm aware it's an unpopular opinion, but I really do enjoy her character), but Elena was still a better option than Eve.

In all honesty, Broken worked to remind me just how much I enjoyed Elena. It turns out I was selling her short, failing to remember just how much I enjoyed her as a character. Elena is so much fun to follow, and the werewolves make things even more enjoyable. I'd forgotten just how much I enjoyed all of the characters, everyone adding a little something that leaves you loving them. I'm glad we went back to Elena in this one, allowing me to remember how much I like her stories.

The story itself grabbed me from the moment I read the synopsis. I love Jack the Ripper stories, and I knew this one would be something completely different to my norm (especially with how it's usually crime thrillers I read when picking up a Jack the Ripper book). Whilst I found the mystery element of this story to be predictable from very early on, I did enjoy how it was a different kind of Jack the Ripper story to what I know and what I had expected – I may have been able to work things out, but I was given an interesting tale.

I also feel as though the events in this book have added quite a bit for the rest of the series – at least, I hope so. Elena's role as a female werewolf surrounded by males of the species has been highlighted endlessly throughout the series, and with this book focusing upon Elena's pregnancy, I can only imagine what is to come in the future books following on from this new detail. My fingers are crossed for lots of drama.

I'm also really excited for book seven, No Humans Involved, as I came to enjoy Jamie even more in this book. Since she appeared in the series, I've been enjoying her character – with her playing a slightly larger role in this book, I found myself excited to see how her story plays out.

Yet again, I cannot wait to grab the next book in the series. I really do need to work on picking them up sooner, rather than going a while between each book – these are very much binge read books, a series you can power through.

Niki Hawkes - The Obsessive Bookseller says

[3.5/5 stars] Mini Review: Broken was a decent bounce-back from Haunted, with the added benefit of Elena once again as the POV. I'd heard this was another Elena book before diving in, and I admit to setting some expectations that it would also be another "werewolf" book with all the same intense feels as the first two. Er... kind of not the case. If anything, I'd call this a "zombie" book – with a hybrid of Elena's great POV and the plot structure of the Paige books. Not a bad combination, because it made for a fun mystery read, but I'd be remiss if it didn't admit I missed a little of that *carnal* component that was so strong in the first book (not just the sex, but the overall intensity between every character). Even so, I'm at the point in the series where storylines and characters are starting to cross and I'm loving the convergence enough to keep my enthusiasm pumped for what's to come. As with Haunted, Armstrong incorporated a mystery based on real world infamous criminals (Jack the Ripper, in this case), and I appreciate how creatively they're being integrated into this supernatural world. I hope this book marks the upward swing of the series. :)

Via The Obsessive Bookseller at www.NikiHawkes.com

Kat Kennedy says

So I can't say I wasn't warned... realistically speaking I was warned once I was already three quarters of the way through it, but I was warned none-the-less!

Broken revolves around Elena and Clay as they go through their pregnancy while fighting evil and solving mystery and generally proving, yet again, that they're in love.

I love this couple. Absolutely love them to pieces. Bitten remains one of my favourite urban fantasy books to this day.

My problem was that the mystery in this book was painfully obvious and incredibly uninteresting. I just had no real interest in it and mostly finished reading to see what happened to Elena and Clay.

The story was very heavy on Elena's pregnancy. Clay and Jeremy momentarily losing their balls didn't mind me so much because when I was pregnant my very loving and masculine husband turned into a little bitch as well. That part seemed realistic to me.

Nor was Elena's many physical stunts too much for my realism to believe because, frankly, it's Elena, folks. Even pregnant with twins, she's going to kickarse.

But my issue with the story is that a pregnancy story is ultimately doomed to failure for me. Elena's pregnancy wasn't special to me because, naturally, my pregnancy was so much more awesome. Elena's lovely little twins born were of no interest to me because my own son leaves them long behind.

Usually, I read not to escape but to experience different things than my every day life. In this case, not only was it too similar to what I've already experienced, but it didn't even manage to compete!

Three stars for this one but honestly it's more like 2 1/2.

Choko says

*** 3.75 ***

We are back to Elena as the narrator and after three years of wandering if they should even consider having children, ever, Clay and Elena are heavily pregnant and having no idea how to cope with it. While trying to deal with the anxiety, they decide to mingle with friends so they have less time to think about it. This is how eventually they end up back in Toronto dealing with an interdimensional portal back to Jack the Ripper time London, which is spewing killer zombie rats, infection riddled zombies, and all types of old time diseases. It is interesting, but above all, it is disgusting! ? ? ?!

It is a fun addition to the series, but I am a bit disappointed that all of our beloved wolves and necromancer turned blind and stupid all at once, because the readers figured out who and what the killer was waaaaay before they did. Probably the least of the plots so far. However, the series is still fun?!

Now I wish you all Happy Reading and many more wonderful books to come!

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

Elena and Clay are back! In this installment of the Women of the Otherworld series Kelley Armstrong brings us back for a visit with Elena and Clay. Only now Elena is pregnant, pregnant and stir crazy with a couple of over protective werewolves watching over her, so when the opportunity for a "safe" adventure comes long she grabs it. Of course nothing is ever simple, and Elena's "safe" adventure leads to Jack the Ripper being unleashed on the streets once more, with the added bonus of his zombie sidekicks.

I don't know what it is about Jack the Ripper, but add him to a story and it always makes it that little bit more exciting, it seems to add an extra dose of mystery and intrigue and gore. Which is why after I read the blurb, I was particularly excited to start this book, add in a pregnant Elena and I pounced on Broken and didn't let it go until I had finished. This book is definitely a highlight of the series, although I have loved them all, I particularly enjoyed this one, if I could rate it 6 stars, I would.

First off, Elena, pregnant! I wasn't expecting that but I loved seeing that her and Clay had mostly moved past their past and are moving on with their (hopefully long and happy) future together. This is a werewolf book though so pack is very important and I really like that Armstrong demonstrates the dynamics of a pack in each of these books. Plus I love to catch up with the other members of the pack as well as just Elena and Clay; then there is the Jeremy-Jaime thing, which is utterly adorable, all of which happens in the background. The complicated and varied relationships that Armstrong has built within this world is part of what makes this series so good, it is so rich in detail, nothing ever feels surface deep.

The Jack the Ripper aspect of the story was also interesting and more than any of the other books in this series, I found Broken a bit creepy. There were some real edge of the seat moments in this book that meant it was a very hard book to put down, you need to know what's going to happen next. Although I did find

myself muttering at the book a few times; what is a heavily pregnant women doing going about fighting zombies?! It definitely added an edge of frustrated excitement to the book.

Another great book in the Women of the Otherworld series, I can't believe I waited so long to read them. If you haven't started this series yet you need to go and pick up the first book, you won't regret it!

valee says

OMG! I just can't believe how freaking amazing this book was. I loved every page of it! It just kept getting better and better. Definitely the best book in the series so far. Much better than the rest, actually. I was expecting an amazing read but never one such as this one, with drama, adventure, suspense, and so much more. The best Urban fantasy book I have read in a while. I have been hooked with this series since book 1 and have not been able to stop reading it since then; one book right after the other, but I never was so thrilled with one of them as I am with this one right now. My favorite supernatural species in this series: the wolves, and this book is all about them, so what can I say? A damn terrific read!

I'm not gonna write what the book is about as you can all read that in the book summary, I'm just gonna say what I think about it instead. So let me tell you that if you're a fan of Shape shifters and enjoy reading Urban Fantasy, this is the read you have been looking for. I just got to the point where I become extremely obsessed with a series. It has been so long since I added a book to my "obsessions" shelf that I can't even remember which series was the last one to get in it. But I'm happy to let you all know that here is another series that deserves a place in that shelf with others like: The fever series, Guild hunters series, Dark hunters, Night huntress, BDB, LOTU, IAD, Demonica, Midnight Breed and Psy changeling. Right now I don't think it is better than any of them but it's really getting there, definitely has the potential for it. I still believe this series can do much better.

Can't wait to finally get to book 7! Starting it right away. I have so much to do right now with work and study and this series is the only thing I can think about. Boy I'm gonna have a big problem if I can't stop reading it. I just hope after book 7 this obsession slows down a bit.

alicat ?↗? says

I really enjoyed this next installment of the Otherworld series! Elena is now pregnant and it cracked me up to see Clay and Jeremy mother-hening her around. Of course given that she is the only female werewolf and her pregnancy is unprecedented (as far as the wolves know). There is just something about the dynamics of the pack that I love - they are truly a family and their playfulness is fun to read about. It isn't all about oooh I'm a scary werewolf. Plus I loved seeing Elena still be a badass while she is super pregnant.

I loved seeing characters returning and meeting new characters. Yay to meeting another decent vampire - I like Zoey so much more than Cassandra. As usual I love watching Jaime get all flustered around Jeremy.

The mystery in this book was decent - not the best but definitely brought some new things to the table. I did figure it out relatively early but I kept second guessing myself.

Anyway I think most people who've enjoyed this series will like this installment too! It isn't heavy on the

romance but more about a family taking care of one another. Clay and Elena still have their amazing connection but are cautious with steamy things due to her pregnancy.

Fables&Wren says

WrensReads

We are back to the pack!

First thing we learn? Elena and Clay are PREGNANT. That's a whole new thing. Since there has not been a known female werewolf besides Elena, there has never been a child with two people who have the blood of the wolves. Now there are. Elena doesn't know if she is able to actually carry a child to term, but they are going to find out because she is big and pregnant.

And Clay and Jeremy are crazy careful about everything. Need help carrying a chair to the patio? Don't worry Elena, I'll do it. Don't want you to hurt yourself. Need help getting up? Here's my hand, no need to put too much strain on yourself.

You can't really blame them though. They don't know what they need to do or how to do it or what to expect. But you can believe it when I say that *Elena is very stir crazy and is itching for something more than the four walls around her and a run on the grounds.*

So when a "friendly" Houdini half-demon (reference the second book people) calls with a job that only a werewolf can do, Elena is quick to convince her pack that they can do it **easily with nothing to worry about.**

There's something to worry about.

Bugs. Rats. Zombies (wuuuut? Guess you can reference the third book for that one. Except it is a different kind. Yes, kind.... ugh). Sorcerers. Vampires. Necromancers. Witches. Wolves. Legend serial killers.

That's right. you get everything. Which, honestly, is why it is four stars instead of five.

I miss the part where the werewolves weren't fully emerged in the supernatural world. I thought they liked to keep their distance. I mean, I know they kind of got sucked into this and such and they now have friends in the supernatural world and stuff; but I truly don't like them having to deal with other things outside of that. *This whole book seemed to be more up Paige's alley instead of Elena's which is why I didn't give it a five star as much as I wanted to.*

Don't you dare get me wrong, this is still a marvelous book. **Kelley Armstrong hasn't lost her touch at all and it will keep you interested and laughing and sitting on the edge of your seat**, I just feel as if it would have played better if it was more of a *witch* book instead of a *wolf* book.

The writing is still the best thing. The story is still at its peak. It still fits so well with the rest of the series that

I full-heartedly love.

Now I believe the next book is a Jaime book and that, my friends, is something I have been dying for. She deserves her own book by all means.

Goodreads | Twitter | Instagram

Wendy Holcombe says

I'm impressed by Kelley Armstrong's ability to change her style of writing to match the character she is writing through.

However, I was disappointed in this book. I think it may be because I don't like Elena's character as much as the other Women of the Otherworld. Also, the story line was very predictable.

Since Elena used to be a reporter I did not understand why during their investigation she didn't pick up on obvious clues.

I'm also disturbed by how little she seems to be aware of her own body. (how can a woman's husband not only feel but see their baby kick before the mother feels it?)

There was a new character introduced who I liked a lot, I hope she appears in other books.

I do wish Jamie and Jeremy would hook up already.

Cathy (cathepsut) says

Some spoilers ahead. This was boring, sorry.

I developed no interest in Elena or Clay. Clay was one-dimensional. Elena was whiney. All other characters stayed flat.

The pregnancy lacked interest. Usually supernatural beings with a pregnancy have some interesting character development going on. Not here.

These are some of the most boring werewolves ever. Not impressed with the world building in general.

The sex scenes were not sexy. They just seemed like a required plot point to tick off.

The portal and the Jack the Ripper angle sounded like fun at first, but then devolved into a zombie hunt that lacked tension. How inept are these werewolves, that they can't catch them? Over and over again. TWO zombies. The apocalypse can be boring, who knew. And the bad guy was dull, too. Plus it was the guy I suspected from the start. It all seemed pretty pointless.

After 250 pages I was hoping for Clay to fall deadly ill from his infection or to start changing into a zombie, just so something interesting would happen.

I can't believe I liked some of the books of this series so much and others just dragged. Maybe it's me, who knows. Maybe if the book had been a hundred pages less, it would have had more momentum. I guess I am finally calling it quits with the Women of the Otherworld, at least for now.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

“We sacrificed a mosquito. I bet that's what did it. It was probably a virgin too.”

I was happy to finally return to Elena's point of view after being away from her voice for a few books. This turned out to be the weakest of the first three starring Elena's POV, but it's still worth checking out.

We get plenty of Elena, Clay, Jeremy, Jaime, and the setting of Toronto with an unusual historical mystery involving magic. The Jack-The-Ripper lore was certainly unique although not my favorite side-plot of the series. I kind of missed Stonehaven, but the dirty, gritty feel worked well.

The book focuses mainly on Elaine's pregnancy, how overprotective Jeremy and Clay are about it, and her personal fears about changing and endangering the child. Some of it got a little tiresome, but overall I liked the overprotective wolves and thought it cute. Elena's fears were justified but I'm glad she got over some of it. I would worry about shifting causing a miscarriage, so can understand the reasoning.

Jaime comes aboard and I enjoyed her scenes. She's one of my top favorites and I love her crush on Jeremy. She gets awkward and trips over everything when the alpha shows up. On the downside she was kind of treated like crap a few times. I definitely wouldn't keep crushing on someone like that without some reciprocity by now.

Zoe is a new character...she's fun. I'm not as crazy about the vampires in this series but she's humorous and quirky. Tee fascinated me with her creepy, insane energy. Villains worked - I kind of saw the hidden twist but guessing in advance didn't deter from the story-line.

The zombie angle was definitely different, and the story-line was a little cheesy, but it was over the top creative and well structured.

Lauren says

Broken

4 Stars

When Elena Michaels is asked to pay back a favor, little does she know that she is about to unleash one of the most vile murderers of all time onto an unsuspecting world. Tasked with stealing Jack the Ripper's "From Hell" letter, Elena accidentally triggers a dimensional portal that enables zombies, plagues and even the notorious killer to appear in modern day Toronto.

Fast paced and action packed with strong world building and solid character development. Unfortunately, the Ripper lore is not utilized to its fullest potential.

Broken highlights once again Armstrong's skillful construction of a world replete with numerous supernatural beings existing in secret alongside humanity. Werewolves, demons, vampires, zombies, witches and sorcerers are all woven seamlessly into the storyline.

In terms of the romance, Elena and Clay's relationship has improved drastically. In contrast to the childlike, squabbling pair in the first two books of the series, they have finally become a cohesive unit. Elena has definitely matured (perhaps her pregnancy has had a positive effect on her) and is a great deal less whiny. Similarly, Clay has realized that he cannot keep Elena wrapped in cotton-wool and supports her choices rather than constantly arguing with her.

While Jack the Ripper is a favorite theme of mine, it is not put to good use within the narrative as the zombies take center stage, and the explanation given for the Ripper's original killing spree is uninspired and obscure. Moreover, the identity of the primary villain is painfully obvious and one wonders how Elena and her allies managed to miss all of the clues.

All in all, an entertaining addition to the series and the hints that Jeremy is finally beginning to see Jaime as something other than a ditzy necromancer are intriguing. Their book is next and not a moment too soon. Hopefully it will live up to expectations.

Diana Stormblessed says

Sigh. I was so excited that we were going back to Elena's point of view. I loved the first 2 Elena books. This one not so much. The plot drags and there were too many "convenient" moments. I still like the characters but I found a lot of the choices they made in the book to be less than intelligent. The whole series feels very draggy to me. I'm not sure if I'll be continuing with it.

Jessica ☀️ ➡️ Silverbow ➡️ ☀️ Rabid Reads-no-more says

It's been a while since I've read the Otherworld series, and I'm finding myself a bit at odds.

I love (love, LOVE) the characters and their relationships/interactions. About 50% of the time I also love the plot. The other 50% of the time . . . not so much. Saying that I find (some of) them to be over-told or tired seems too strong, but it's also kind of the truth. I called *Stolen* the best retelling of *The Most Dangerous Game* that I'd come across. And that's true. But did I like *The Most Dangerous Game* the first time I read it? No. And now with *Broken*. Do I like variations on Jack the Ripper? NOPE. He was a gruesome serial killer who murdered prostitutes and cut up their faces. What's to like?

And why do children always seem to be the targets? People die in books. I have no problem with that. I don't *like* it, but I accept it. But that doesn't mean you need to target kids. It just doesn't.

So even though I love Clay and Elena, and even though I think it's hilarious to see Jamie so flustered by Jeremy, did I really enjoy *Broken*? Sadly, no.

Christina says

3 stars for the disconnected, slightly mundane beginning of the novel; 5 stars for the amazing Armstrong-style ending.

I won't lie; as much as I fangirl over Kelley Armstrong, Elena, Clay, and the whole werewolf world... I was initially disappointed over Broken. I skipped from Stolen to Broken (shamefully, I wish I'd had enough patience to read the three in-betweens first) and just felt like Armstrong had lost her touch to the werewolf world. Suddenly, Elena's POV wasn't about the werewolves, it was about all the other supernatural races. I didn't like it. I crave the werewolf world because Armstrong has such a tight grip on it. It feels so real. And in this book... it was gone.

Clearly, it comes back. So if you're feeling disconnected, don't lose heart. It comes back, and I'm all the more grateful. I think it's partly also my fault that I felt so disconnected because I skipped the three other books. I missed three years of their world, of their growing up (even if the books aren't completely focused on them), and suddenly they were thirty five plus and completely different to how they were in Stolen. I wish I hadn't skipped past those three years.

I absolutely adore Zoe, though. Oh Kelley, if you're reading this, you need to write something from Zoe's POV! PLEASE. She is brilliant.

Heather says

Reading Broken and Men of the Otherworld simultaneously allowed me to realize what I had long been suspecting, I read Armstrong for the men of her Otherworld, not the women. Strike that, I read Armstrong for the Werewolf men of her Otherworld, not the women.

I'll admit that I shamelessly passed over Dime Store Magic, Industrial Magic and Haunted to get right down to business with Broken. I appreciated, even enjoyed inclusions of other supernatural races in Stolen, but it was Armstrong's werewolf lore that got me addicted to her writing, and ever shall be. I thought for sure, that because this book contained a majority of my most favorite Armstrong characters, that I would love Broken but no such luck. Perhaps writing so many non-Pack focused books prior to writing Broken caused Armstrong to lose sight of what made her books so special in the first place, her werewolf lore.

The story was mildly entertaining, though incredibly far fetched and certainly breached into wish fulfillment territory. I don't like babies with my smut, and I pray to God that Armstrong will omit excessive mentions of the twins from Frostbite. I like Elena, I truly do, but she definitely became a Mary Sue in this installment. There simply isn't a snowballs' chance in hell that a woman, werewolf or no, in her third trimester could kick ass when she could barely tie her shoes. I'm sad to say it, but all the characters became shells of themselves. Clay and Jeremy were worrying mother hens and while I could certainly see Clay as being overly protective, when is he not? The Clay of Bitten simply wouldn't do mother hen. He would be appalled by what was done to him in this story. Armstrong crippled him, literally! Gah!

Regardless of all the many, many flaws contained in Broken, I still enjoyed it. Let's face it, a sub par book by Armstrong still trumps most of the other Urban Fantasy out there. And damn, that woman can pen some steam!

Stephen says

I really, really wanted to be able to give this a full 5 stars. I mean, the concept is fantastic...pregnant werewolf facing down what could be Jack the Ripper who came through a dimensional portal from his Victorian England home.

Kelley Armstrong is a brilliant author, and usually her works are almost flawless. Unfortunately, this one dragged, a LOT. In the previous novel of this series, *Haunted*, there were a couple of chapters that felt like filler that left characters going in circles and avoided furthering the plot in any meaningful way. In *Broken*, that section was over 75 pages long. I think the success of the series may have led to the publisher pushing a page count that she couldn't quite meet without filler.

So, to sum up...the story is very good. The characters are amazing. The concepts and imagery are great. the execution of the plot gets a 'meh' from me. What could have been a 5 star novel gets about a 3.75 from me.

I still love the series. I am going to keep reading all the way to the end (I hope). this one just feels like a speed-bump that the next will hopefully make up for.

Becky (Blogs of a Bookaholic) says

Hm. My least favourite instalment of the series so far. For some reason I failed to drum up enthusiasm for this one, the plot line just didn't grip me and seemed unnecessarily drawn out with lots of unneeded descriptions of the pack's everyday motions bulking the story out.

The ending made me smile though. :)

I'm sure the next novel will be up to Kelley's normal awesomeness though.

Megan says

Kelley Armstrong's books are becoming more and more difficult for me to rate and review. On one hand, her characterization and world building are some of the best I've read. But on the other hand, she apparently wants to be a mystery writer, and her plots have become formulaic. Le sigh.

Here is what kicks ass about this book: The Otherworld is amazing. Armstrong's strength as an urban fantasy writer definitely lies in her ability to create a believable, well defined, and engrossing world without ever overwhelming the reader with info dump. In *Broken* the story revolves around Elena, Clay, Jeremy and the other werewolves. We are also confronted with sorcerers, ghosts, zombies, necromancers and vampires (oh my!) There may be a few others I am missing. But my point is that Armstrong is able to weave so many beasties and mythologies into an amazingly complex and enjoyable story.

Another strength is Armstrong's characters. Whether I love them or hate them, they are all incredibly well rounded, authentic and have distinct voices. So many urban fantasies rely on secondary characters who are defined by their paranormal type. The people we meet in this series are fairly unique in addition to their

Otherworldly persona.

Here is what is not-so-awesome about this book: Speaking of characters, I would love to see them grow and change a little bit. One of the things I loved so much about Bitten is seeing Elena struggle to accept her wolfiness and the pack lifestyle. Since then, Armstrong has written stories with protagonists who face external struggles rather than internal ones. Not really a big deal, but when we are seeing the same characters over and over again (granted, not all books feature the same protagonist) I would love to see... I want to say character development. But that really isn't the right word because they are already so developed. I just want to see characters change some as a result of their experiences.

Regarding those character experiences... at the beginning of each novel the protagonists and her partner are faced with a *mystery*. One that seems quite simple and straightforward but becomes more convoluted as the quest to solve it continues. At this point in the series, I know to expect lots of Scooby Doo type chases down different pathways, old fashioned detective work (you know, based on finding the right clue or talking to the right person rather than scientific evidence) and introductions to lots of new and old people, and lots of new and old mythologies.

Here is where Armstrong's books leave me so conflicted. I've read through bad urban fantasy plots when I am in love with the characters and want to see where they are headed. *cough* Charlaine Harris *cough* And of course so many urban fantasy books are dependent on awesome plots without a lot of character growth. Unfortunately at this point in the Women of the Otherworld series I know what to expect from the plot. And the characters. The result is a reading experience that doesn't make me feel nearly as much as I would like to. The twists and turns while mystery solving become annoying and the life-threatening situations are lacking intensity. All in all, I am faced with a skim-worthy, blah book.

If any of my local libraries happens to get the rest of this series on audio, I will continue with it. After all, I love Armstrong's writing style (mystery stuff and weak plot aside) as well as her Otherworld. This series is great to listen to as I am driving to work or completing errands. But as far as sitting down to read a novel? I'm moving on to books with a little more surprises in store for the reader.

Tatiana says

As much as I hate to say it, but "Broken" is the weakest "Women of the Otherworld" installment so far. My dislike has nothing to do with the main characters (I remember not really liking "Dime Store Magic" strictly because I didn't really care for Paige or Lucas), but has a lot to do with the fact that "Broken" has a wish-fulfillment/filler quality about it. Allow me to elaborate.

The focus of this novel is... Elena's pregnancy. That's right, not a zombie outbreak accidentally caused by Elena when she opens a Jack the Ripper's old letter, but her growing stomach. I am all for babies and weddings and such fluff, but not in so much detail. The constant clutching of Elena's stomach, the vitamins, the eating, the buying of baby furniture, Clay's and Jeremy's relentless hovering over her, it just gets annoying very, very quickly. Even more, the way both guys act in this novel totally emasculates them IMO, they behave like two middle-aged aunts instead of paranormal hunks I've known them to be. I think Elena's pregnancy should have been completely edited out of this book, with the exception of a couple of flashbacks maybe. It has a place in the Otherworld universe, but it should have been realized as a short story/novella (a la "Beginning" and "Savage"). As a part of the novel, it overpowers the story in a painful similarity to

"Breaking Dawn."

My second complaint is the story itself, or rather lack of it. Normally Armstrong's books are filled with fresh mythology and engaging mystery of some sort. Not here. No new mythology is introduced. The zombie lore is paper thin and evasive and even Elena's strange pregnancy is never explained (it is accelerated and what happens during the Change is still a mystery to me). The case itself is convoluted, there is a lot of running around and reuniting with various familiar characters from other Otherworld book for no other reason than to help fill the pages because they obviously add very little to the investigation. And finally, the bad guys are just a joke. Two zombies who can be killed with no efforts and the main guy (whom I will not name) who wants to get to Elena for some stupid reason.

After this assessment you'd think I totally hated the book. That's not the case. It is somewhat enjoyable. I still love the characters, the old ones (Elena, Clay, Jeremy, Jaime, Antonio and Nick) and the new ones (Zoe Takano). There is some great dialog and overall the story is fast-paced and a quick read. But I just expected Elena's and Clay's novel to be much better. "Broken" is nowhere nearly as good as "Bitten" and "Stolen." Although I am disappointed, I am however not giving up on the series yet. I've already flipped through "No Humans Involved" and there is quite a bit of hot Jaime/Jeremy action. Something to look forward to!
