



Moribund

Genevieve Iseult Eldredge

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High school sophomore Syl Skye is an ordinary girl. At least, she's trying to be. School photographer and all-around geek, she introverts hard and keeps her crush on sexy-hot glam-Goth star Euphoria on the down-low. But when a freak accident Awakens her slumbering power, Syl is forced to accept a destiny she never wanted—as the last sleeper-princess of the fair Fae.

Suddenly hunted by the dark Fae, Syl's pretty sure things can't get any worse. Until she discovers her secret crush, Euphoria, is really a dark Circuit Fae able to harness the killing magic in technology. Even worse, she's been sent to destroy Syl. With mean girls and magic and dark Fae trying to kill her, it'll take more than just "clap if you believe in fairies" to save Syl's bacon—not to mention, her heart.

Moribund Details

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Author : Genevieve Iseult Eldredge

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From Reader Review Moribund for online ebook

Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says

I was part of the blog tour for the second book in the series (Ouroboros) and received free digital copies of that book plus Moribund for review! Let me say this readers, I was not disappointed by what I read. An action-packed start to a series that I am really looking forward to dive into further. The chapters switch between POVs of the two main characters Syl and Euphoria who attend the same school. Their worlds collide after a freak accident and a choice between staying alive or facing immediate death, secrets that could alter the course. There is a F/F romance which I adored, I was thoroughly thrilled and left on the edge of my seat at times. The last few chapters in particular made for interesting reading with a good conclusion.

Manon says

I was provided an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Moribund tells the story of Syl and Rouen. Syl is a simple sophomore in high school, except she got into an accident some weeks before the start of the story, which made her best friend turn on her somehow. She's now a pariah at school.

Rouen is a dark fae, who is controlled by Agravaine, a meanie.

Though the world was pretty complex and original, I found it under explained and it felt like the whole setting part was rushed.

To me, the book started too fast, the connection between the main characters was too rushed, it felt like insta-love to me... I found their relationship very cliché even though it was F/F. I just couldn't feel what the characters felt.

Speaking of the two main characters, they drove me crazy and I rolled my eyes so many times. I can't even count the number of times Rouen called herself "emo", which I found pretty weird at first but then, I just found it ridiculous I guess...

The side characters, Fiann and Agravaine were so cliché, I don't even know where to start...

Thankfully, Syl's mom, Georgina seemed pretty cool, I'm also curious about Lennon (a friend of Syl) who was pretty interesting.

So, even though I didn't really like it and it took me a week to read, I'm still curious about the sequel and I might read it... Maybe.

Devann says

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Parts of this were really cute but ultimately I think it was a bit too YA-ish for me to get fully immersed. I liked both the main characters, although I did find it hard to distinguish between their voices sometimes. The story is set up with each of them narrating every other chapter and sometimes I would have to stop for a second because I would literally forget who was narrating the chapter I was reading and get confused for a

second until I could figure it out. I liked the idea of the Moribund - mixing faerie magic and machinery - it's something I haven't seen a lot of before in the faerie genre but I also would have liked to see it fleshed out a little bit more. Maybe spend a bit less time on teenage drama and a bit more on world-building. I loved the whole 'goth musician' angle with Euphoria and also that lyrics from her songs were at the beginning of her chapters, but also the 'I'm so emo' jokes got a little bit out of hand at the end. At first it was pretty tongue-in-cheek but I think it definitely got old as it went on. All in all this was a pretty cute lesbian faerie romance but I definitely think things could have been a bit more well-defined. I haven't decided whether I want to continue with the series yet.

Reija says

I received and ARC of this book for review.

I found that this book really pays a lot of homage to the 90's and early 2000's female hero epics like Buffy (referenced plenty in the text) and even Xena to an extent. I got the intent, the tongue in cheek humor and cheesiness spicing up a story of believing in one self and of course love.

The thing is, even though I can see that the intent is there, I'm not so sure it worked very well.

First of all, this book is heavy on the 'tell' and not so much on the 'show'. Both of the narrators are constantly telling us who they are as people, but we don't actually see them doing much of the things they say they like to do.

The story itself starts right in the aftermath of a huge and mysterious conflict, and a lot of time is spent in mulling about on what the mystery is, instead of introducing the reader properly to the characters, and fleshing said characters out.

I also did not see a lot of character growth happening in the book.

What little there was seemed very superficial. As a reader you know what's going to happen and where the story is going, so it was a little frustrating to see the characters mostly mulling about, doing little to advance the story and less to advance their own character arcs.

Secondly, there's a whole lot of repetition.

At times I had to check if I had accidentally flipped to a page I'd already read, because the author uses a lot of the same language to describe things, over and over and over again. It felt like padding and did nothing to advance the characters. There doesn't need to be descriptors of character appearance on every other page, trust that your readers remember how the characters look when you introduce them at the beginning of chapters.

I also felt that the story could have done with a little less pop culture references and nods to trademarks. As I was reading the book I kept thinking: "This is not going to age well at all."

A little goes a long way and in this I think, some of the pop culture references could have been cut without losing the ham-factor and nods to Buffy.

I did like that the main characters mostly acted like teenagers and I also liked the Irish mysticism of the story, though not being too familiar with Irish folk tales I can't comment on the accuracy. But I still enjoyed it.

I also loved the fact that the conflict of the story was all about the fantastical elements and not about the main

characters' sexuality. I liked that they were into each other and not judged for it.

I would recommend this book for anyone who doesn't mind a cheesy adventure, but if you're looking for a story with a lot of nuance, then this may not be for you.

Christina Bauer says

So, this book has freaking everything. I'm talking romance, adventure, fae, battles, and even more romance. What else do you want from a novel? Plus: At this very moment, the author GIE is suffering post-surgery on her shoulder because she's a freaking BLACK BELT WHO LIKES TO THROW HUGE GUYS OVER HER SHOULDER AND CRUSH THEM LIKE BUGS. No lie. I get vicarious advice from her Sensei and it's always spot-on. All of which is a long way of saying that if you like fight scenes where girls kick ass, no one is better than GIE. In fact, if she says a fighting style is X and Y, it's because she studied that shiz for decades and the particulars have been meticulously woven through her work. Long story short? You need to read this awesomeness TODAY (aka before everyone else does). That way, you can one-up all the hipsters in your life when they inevitably ask "have you read CIRCUIT FAE?" Come on. You know you want to :)

Andrea says

I received an ARC of Moribund from Netgalley.

It is a good and intriguing story but I felt throughout the whole book that there was more potential to the story. The characters were well written and I could relate to them but some of the scenes like the fighting scene was a bit weak and could have been more. I'm not a big fantasy fan but I think for everybody who is into this genre they will love this book!

andreasupanc.wordpress.com

Hollow Well says

The main thing to know about this book is that it is a YA, lesbian romance, fantasy novel. So, you know, hooray-for-that and oh-well.

Hooray! - because the world is in need of more YA / lesbian oriented novels. (You'll be screaming, "Just kiss her, already!" at the characters.)

Oh-well - because, I most certainly am not the target audience for this novel. I am not so Y any more, and the voice of the characters in this novel are specifically geared towards a Dork-Diaries set. The main character is a high school sophomore and there is an overuse of the word "so" in the prose. Part of me SO wanted to love this, but I could not get past that aspect.

The story is not too complicated. The reader can likely foresee that way the plot will unfold. Still, the tale is... cute... and the characters are put through the ringer to some degree although the peril is never such that I felt great dread. It's so Harry-Potter-Chambers-of-Secrets. So NOT Harry-Potter-Goblet-of-Fire.

But, like I said, the book is boldly lesbian and that is ultra awesome!

Lexxi Kitty says

I'm fairly certain that I was by no means the target audience for this book involving two 16 year olds. I couldn't stand either point of view character. Not only did both of them mentally keep telling themselves to stop being either emo (dark fae) or 'whiny-pants' (summer fae), they super were. They weren't just being tough on themselves. If you made a list of the most angsty teens around, both would be near or at the top.

I understand that they were 16, but there were some much older people around to help them (though they were kind of like Peanuts, the cartoon, parents - there but filler-ish (it is true the mom plays an important role, but she still played while being a stock figure - you could have gotten a wax figure of Barbara Bush from a wax museum and not lost anything)). I say this because time after time they not only acted too stupid to live; they compounded the issue over and over again by setting themselves up for stupidity. Like, one example, they figure out the super stupid 'evil dude's plan and . . . go into a 'let's be patient' stance. Seriously, it doesn't take a genius to know some certain things that might, I say *might*, help ((view spoiler)) It kind of kills the tension when you know certain simple things could have been done to disrupt the major plans but . . . nothing. (view spoiler)

Again: both are 16. Again: bloody months went by and there were several adults around who could have offered pointers, knew of the issue, were close enough to offer these pointers but did fuck all to keep the two young women from fucking up. Which they did, the young women, constantly. It's like every bloody choice they made was the wrong one. From beginning to end. WTF is up with that?

And that half-time show just pissed me off. The people in the stands (view spoiler)

.

Judging from the references, and the 'things' in the book, this really did read as if a serious attempt was made to make this 'Buffy the vampire slayer' like. With Summer Fae being Buffy, who has just the one parent (dad's somewhere unspoken in Buffy, almost never around; no mention of him in this book); Fiann, the bitchy head cheerleader in this book, is basically the bitchy mean girl Cordelia. Emo Dark Fae is 'obviously' the brooding Angel character. Scooby gang was basically missing, though (unless Lennon was supposed to be Willow; no one corresponds to Xander, and let's just forget all the rest of the Gang). The librarian who is actually something else . . . yeah, that's here also. The 'evil' principal? Yeah, that's here (and there). The popular girl who suddenly wasn't any more? Yeah, that was in both Buffy and this book (as in Buffy was a popular cheerleader until she wasn't; Summer Fae was in popular group though kinda on the fringes it seems). To a certain extent, I think the book suffers from all the constant Buffy references, because then I play the game I just did in this paragraph, and I see how much is lacking in this book.

hmm. I was thinking one of the reasons I might not be in the target audience is a lot of the pop references either not things I'd recognize, or, if I did recognize them, are fairly recent. But Buffy's old. The film was out in 1992. TV series started in 1997, ended in 2003. A 16 year old would have been alive when the show ended - barely. *shrugs* I went on an odd tangent.

The villains were stupid (I mean that they were by no means on the level of Moriarty from Sherlock Holmes, more on par with Forrest Gump). The 'good guys' allowed their whiny/emo-ness to get in the way of their brains to defeat dimwitted evil dude. (view spoiler)

Man that villain. Shesh. Weakest villain I've seen in decades. Mmpsh. Stupid Forrest Gump man-boy villain.

Rating: 2.5

August 9 2018

Kim Dyer says

Oh I wanted to like *Moribund*. I was attracted to it purely on the basis of it being both urban fantasy and LGBT. I like faerie stories and it's been so long since I last reviewed a novel with a lesbian protagonist. Unfortunately, it quickly became clear to me that *Moribund* and I weren't going to get along.

The world-building seems interesting a first but the author doesn't really do a lot with it. It's not explained exactly how the *Moribund* functions or even what happened to the fair fae. While the concept of a bio-mechanical faerie plague sounds pretty damn intriguing, I never really got a good idea of how the *Moribund* functioned, came to be, or even infected other people.

If you strip the concept of the *Moribund* from the tale, the story becomes quite generic. It leans a bit too heavily on the story, making frequent ironic references to how similar the characters' situation is to an episode of *Buffy*. Yet part of the problem for me was that it all read a bit too much like a *Buffy* episode. If you replaced the fae with vampires, that's pretty much what you'd get. Except the book was really lacking in some of the things that really made *Buffy* great.

The novel's biggest flaw is its repetition. If you removed this from the novel, you would probably half its length. Be prepared to hear Euphoria waxing lyrical about how she is a dark fae sluagh, that the hearthstone is dying and that Agravaine is hunting the last sleeper princes. Over. And over. Again. This is really something that gets on my nerves. Readers aren't stupid. They can remember something that happened at the start of a novel without the author having to hammer it home.

I also thought that the two narrators - Syl and Euphoria - were not distinct enough. Their voices sounded exactly the same, which was a problem as I constantly found myself forgetting who was speaking. Both even used the same odd dialect - including words like fiddlyfarting and woojy which I've certainly never heard a modern teenager use. This rapidly became frustrating as all Hell. While I could see the reason for the separate narrators, I really felt that more could have been done to make the two girls sound like different people.

In terms of character, the book was also pretty weak. There were no shades of grey in this story. Characters were either totally good or totally evil. Agravaine's plan had no subtly or true motivation behind it, beyond his desire for power. Similarly, Fianne was just a bitch. Head cheerleader, rich parents, bully - you can probably imagine the sort.

The two protagonists were also problematic. Both were absurdly overpowered and never truly looked like they could ever fail. Although Euphoria spends most of the novel training Syl, we never see any of it. Any scene of the two of them bonding is rushed over, with huge chunks of school year passing by in a few pages. Because of this, their relationship is purely insta-love. There is no build up and little tension. They just simply fall for each other at first sight.

So, all in all, this isn't one I'd recommend. It looked promising but it was just too repetitive and the characters were flat and generic. I might look at the sequel one day, but I'm in no hurry to.

Tiffany says

So I admit, I was confused by the meaning of certain words..and they are used often and are def important to the plot (Grimmacle, Glamoury, heck even Moribund itself) yet I still enjoyed the story. It could definitely use more explanation, more back story, more history but I like the overall goal/what it attempted to be. It has potential but dang it I just couldn't fully understand what was going on at all times and that def took away from the plot.

I'll still read the sequel. :)

Erin Bales says

This is a book unlike any I've ever read. Been looking for some YA LGBTQIA urban fantasy? Well, look no further!

This book has a lot of strong points, but its strongest have to be the awesome characters and the crackling, adorable romance between Syl and Rouen. Seriously, I could not stop squeeing. From the first moment they met, I was dying to see them give in to their feels for one another. Of course, there are plenty of obstacles in their way--coming at them from both outside and within--but every hurdle only made me love these characters more. Oh, and speaking of obstacles, this book is also jam-packed with these amazing, vivid fight scenes. The magic is super-cool, and the monsters are horrible/awesome!

Action, intensity, romance, heartbreak, snappy one-liners--Moribund has it all. AND it's only the first book in the series. YAY!

D.M. says

Light vs dark.

The dark fairies are struggling to hold onto the heart of their magic. Their solution is to spill the blood of the sleeper princess fairies. Rouen is a dark princess fairy. She doesn't want to help kill the sleeper princesses but has no choice. She is part of the circuit fae and to become free she must help destroy the sleeper princesses.

Syl is having a hard time at school. Her family have fallen out of favour. Syl doesn't have the money to keep up with her friends and unfortunately, they have distanced themselves from her. Syl ex-BFF is a bully and Syl is now a target of her meanness. There is a new person at school and Syl is hoping to have something of her own, but everything isn't as it seems.

This is a lesbian romance with a fantasy twist. Syl doesn't know who she really is but is dreaming about a beautiful girl.

I've joined the tour for book 3. I enjoyed this story, however, I didn't like the mean girl theme.

3 stars out of 5. This series is available on Kindle Unlimited.

Rebecca Weight says

Syl is the "weird girl who lived" & now friendless, after an accident she can't remember. She has a bit of a crush on Euphoria, her favorite goth artist, who is actually a Dark Fae & her possible unbeknown enemy.

This book presents a very different kind of Fae, circuitry/technology mixed with Irish folklore. Constituting an enticing world which teases your curious nature so well, the more you learn, the more you thirst for. With the dual POVs of Syl & Rouen/Euphoria from the get go, we are gifted with a better understanding of intentions & responsibilities. There are two sides to every story & Rouen's is surprisingly not what you expected. And you will really really love her for it.

I really enjoyed that the start of each chapter had Euphoria lyrics or quotes from Glamma's Grimm. This book is about fighting the odds for what you want. Can love trump everything?

Eldredge has a great sense of humor which shines in both POVs. The "crushing" is adorable even though sometimes the flirty comments may seem out of place. Not that I didn't like the flirting. The author has an easygoing, colorful way of expressing herself & I adore her quirky words like crazy-bananapants or woojy-woo. The word emo is overused. Just enough to make it a drinking game.

Enchanting & full of danger and treachery, there is an unknown sinister plan brewing alongside the one that is supposed to be saving the Dark Fae. Cleverly executed, the reveals do surprise, but evolve the story in a way that makes sense. The final battle may have been too long with all the villain comebacks.

I am addicted to the Circuit Fae world and will surely be reading the sequel.

Belinda says

4.25 stars English ebook - I have dyslexia. Review follows later. My grandson has to be born in a few weeks and I am Washing all his little clothes. ?????????

Jo says

Lesbian faeries restoring the balance in the fae world while falling in love. I definitely wanted to love this, but its cliche and repetitive, "not-your-average-girl" sarcasm from both perspectives got old fast. Only good thing was two girls crushing on each other. I think this is a book I would have enjoyed in middle school because of the unique magic-world building and the romance, but there are so many small things (like micro-aggressions) that I cannot get past.

Rating: 2.5/5

What I liked:

-Two girls unapologetically falling in insta-love. I don't like insta-love (at all), but it's very very refreshing to see two girls doing it. The absolute best part was two disparate girls dealing with the romance even when they weren't accepted.

What I didn't like:

-Syl and Euphoria sound like exactly the same person. Their first person perspectives only differ in the background knowledge.

-I detest girl-on-girl petty hate. I don't think it's good to write stories about girls putting each other down or about girls bullying each other. I especially don't think it's a good idea to write about girls putting each other down because of money or sexual orientation. Even more when these stories don't have enough undercurrent or substance or real motive for bullying. It's true that sometimes bullying just happens because people believe they're superior than others, and that girls can be just as heartless and cruel while others go along with it to avoid confrontation. But I would have liked better conflict than the stereotypical rich girl bullies the pretty, poor, smart, witty and somehow-better girl.

-This book doesn't do a good job at really bringing in diverse aspects. Syl's family loses their money and they move to poorer section of town which she calls "slums" even though by her description they are nowhere near as close to poverty to describe it like that. Although the book tried to include racial diversity, there were several supportive characters that had ethnic-sounding names, they had no substance and no real characteristics. They weren't even described beyond their names. The one who had the most characterization was Lennon and she was definitely stereotyped as the pretty, nice, demure East Asian. There's also a slew of micro-aggressions and appropriations throughout the book: from calling characters "exotic" to mixing up different cultures to fit the punchlines. There's also a ton of ableism that comes from the moribund literally taking limbs.
