



Fated

Courtney Cole

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Seventeen-year old Macy Lockhart thought she had it all figured out.

As a Keeper in the ancient organization, the Order of the Moirae, she literally holds fate in her hands. She lives over and over in lives that end tragically; all to further the good of mankind as she does her part to control destiny.

But there's one lesson that she hasn't learned well enough. Nothing is ever what it seems.

Startling new revelations about her identity surface and Macy realizes that she's more important than she ever imagined.

As she struggles to grasp her new reality, everyone she loves is threatened. Is she strong enough to save them all?

Fated Details

Date : Published June 22nd 2011 by Lakehouse Press (first published June 20th 2011)

ISBN : 9780615506647

Author : Courtney Cole

Format : Paperback 230 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Mythology, Paranormal, Romance

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Beth says

WARNING While I try not to "spoil" anything in my reviews, I may use character names and settings in this review that may spoil it for you. You have been warned ;).

Phenomenal! This second book in the Bloodstone series had me riveted from the Homecoming Dance to the Olympian celebration "cliffy" at the end. *insert hairy eyeball directed to Courtney here* While I really liked "Every Last Kiss", the first book in the Bloodstone series, I couldn't help but feel like there was something pivotal missing- I felt like it was the segue into Macy's life and that there was more to come. Well, there was. In "Fated" Macy's life takes off and soars in all kinds of directions. Just as I found my heart beat returning to normal- Wham!- Cole hits us with another mighty, but brilliant twist.

In "Every Last Kiss" I wondered how the Fates, or Moirae fit into Egyptian lore, when I always equated the sisters to Greek mythology. Being fiction, I just went with it...I also had a passing thought during the reading how much Cleopatra reminded me of the Goddess, Aphrodite...but never did I suspect where "Fated" would take us. As soon as Macy discovered who Harmonia and Cadmus are, I couldn't stop reading "Fated" (pfft, my kids are old enough to fend for themselves for a day, really). I love reading about the Greek Gods and Goddesses in modern literature, and Cole doesn't disappoint with her take on the ancient Greeks and those wicked Fates. I encourage you to read "Fated", but if you haven't read "Every Last Kiss" I recommend reading that first... it really does set the stage for what comes in "Fated".

Cat says

This book was very repetitive. It felt like she was constantly mentioning her/their previous lives as Cleopatra & crew (this does let up as the book goes on, but still continues). Seriously in the thousands of years you've been alive, that's the ONLY one you want to talk about? Well, she does talk about her and her companion's lives as Greek gods constantly too.

So, cons:

- repetitive; besides the aforementioned things, if I have to hear how beautiful Cadmus is one time...
- mention of God and Mother Mary; Christianity comes AFTER your time, and I find it hard to believe that your current teenage life overrides the other thousands of years you've been around
- characters not really realistic (that being said this book is about gods and being reborn), but every character is PERFECT. If you know anything about Greek Gods, is that they AREN'T perfect!
- plot too simple and straightforward. Even the twist(s) are resolved/figured out easily.

Pros:

- interesting concept
- really liked the cover

Glad I didn't buy this; sad I read this at all.

Helen says

Such a fast paced thrill ride, I say! Love this series, it is quickly becoming one of my favorites! I find myself up in the middle of the night reading, because I can't wait to find out what happens to all the characters. So Good!

Heidi says

Four stars: Fated, the sequel to Every Last Kiss is better than its predecessor. An exciting new book that delves into Greek mythology. I recommend you pick this one up!

Our heroine Macy returns in Fated. This time things are different. Further encounters with the two mystifying priests, Annen and Ahmose, awaken more of her submerged memories. The mists of time wisp away and Macy discovers her true identity. She is Harmonia, a minor Greek goddess, daughter of two of Mt. Olympus' most famous gods. This startling revelation makes one thing perfectly clear, she has been duped into playing the role of a pawn in The Fates' great game of life. The realization of her tremendous powers helps her rise up to wrestle her destiny from the three Fates. No longer will she drift along on the river of time fulfilling her obligations according to the whims of the Fates. With her soulmate Gavin/Cadmus by her side she begins her quest to find her own path. Along the way she uncovers shocking and surprising new information about herself and all those she holds dear. She is prophesied to restore the world of Olympus but at what price? In doing so will she be forced to sacrifice all of her loved ones, including Camus her one great and true love?

What I Liked:

*The story far exceeded my expectations. This novel takes you on a journey to the Greek world of myth. The amount of research that Ms. Love has poured into this book is evident in the intricate characters and details. She skillfully brings back many Greek gods and goddesses both major and minor. Her rich descriptions provide a gateway for the reader to enter the mythological world. This is a fascinating, provocative adventure.

*Harmonia, I gained a new appreciation for this character. She transforms in this book. I was excited to see her battle the Fates. No longer does she succumb to lives filled with great pain, sadness and sacrifice, this time she is in control. What I admired the most, was her tremendous love for those she cherishes. She possesses a love so great and pure that she is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect them from harm.

*Cadmus, as Harmonia's soul mate his affection for her is deep and unyielding. He is willing to slay dragons and anyone and anything that attempts to harm his love; his life. He is fierce, loyal, kind and handsome. He certainly can make the ladies swoon.

*I was relieved that this book answered so many of the questions that remained from the first book. It cleared it up the confusion surrounding the two mysterious priests and I finally learned their true intentions, as well as those of the Fates. This clarification definitely made the story much more enjoyable.

*Finally price point, this book is available for purchase at the time of this review on amazon.com for \$2.99 (Kindle version) at this price you can't go wrong!

And the Not So Much:

*While Ms. Cole has an engaging writing style filled with beautiful imagery, at times it is repetitive. Certain phrases are repeated throughout the book. Each time someone grasps the bloodstone she goes through the

same repertoire. This is distracting but it does not detract from the overall story.

*The book opens with Macy returning from her life as Charmaine and resuming her present day life. The author builds up a storyline involving Jade (Cleopatra) and you are led to believe the plot is going to follow her strange genetic abilities. Then the story alters and you are immersed into the Greek mythological world and the modern day story lines are thrown away. I am not sure what their purpose was but again this does not mar the overall story.

*Finally, each of the major players in this book have several different names and identities, due to numerous reincarnations. The author shifts back and forth with their names especially the Jade character. I would have preferred the establishment of one identity instead of reverting back to prior names.

Fated is a great addition in the Bloodstone saga. It is a complex well-researched novel. It is book about choosing your own path and destiny. It is also a story of great love and the lengths one will go to in order to protect those that are dearest to the heart. A beautiful story. I enjoyed this book and I am eagerly anticipating reading the next book in this series; *With My Last Breath*, published August 23rd 2011. All three of these books are available on Amazon.com for a terrific price. I highly recommend you get them today.

Favorite Quotations:

"The night was so dark, so velvety that I felt as if it was tangible, as if I could breathe it in, as well. I felt it clinging to my skin and caressing my body like unseen hands."

"Courage is not being fearless- it is created by overcoming your own fears."

"The dark night yawned far and wide; the blacks, blues and grays swirling together and appearing as some sort of an unnatural aurora borealis."

"Don't speak to me about destiny!" I said angrily. "For two thousand years, the Fates have manipulated me using that very same line. Destiny, fate. What are those things except for someone imposing their will on others?"

"Greatness often comes from unexpected places."

Nicole Williams says

Holy Moly! Courtney Cole wrote such an AMAZING start to this series with *Every Last Kiss*, it can be hard to continue to deliver this kind of literary awesomeness throughout the duration of the series. She delivered with *Fated*, all the way. I love how each book in the series I've gotten a little "history lesson" and the writing is, simply put, eloquent and masterful. Hoping the third one's on its way because the cliff hanger at the end of *Fated* left me wanting more . . . like yesterday!

Dani says

I have to admit I was surprised when Courtney Cole asked me to read an ARC of *Fated*. I loved her novel *Princess*, but hadn't exactly given *Every Last Kiss (ELK)* a glowing rating. She said she felt like I'd give her my honest opinion of the book, and being curious about what adventures lie ahead for Macy, I said, "Um....yes please." And my honest opinion is...I loved it.

Fated picks up with Macy Lockhart several months after the conclusion of *ELK*. As a Keeper in the Order of the Moirae, it is her destiny to live life after life making sure that each existence's tragic fate is fulfilled. Except that this time, her present life as Macy is different. This time instead of unknowingly playing her part in fate's design, she remembers parts of what she is, who she is and who she has been. The stakes are higher in *Fated* and intrigue, revelations, betrayal, danger and love, await Macy as she begins to discover her true identity, her true destiny and as she fights for all that she loves.

One of my biggest issues with *ELK* was Macy/Charmian's character. I had a hard time in *ELK* reconciling that Macy and Charmian were the same person. There was some kind of disconnect there for me. It felt like for the majority of the time they were two completely different people and Macy's character was largely absent for most of the story. I felt like the modern-day teenage perspective in *ELK* was just....missing, although I do understand the author's reasons for focusing more on the character as Charmian. However, in *Fated*, Cole does an excellent job of combining Macy and her past selves into one, dynamic character; a wonderful amalgam of all her lives. Courageous, fierce, loyal, determined, empathetic, considerate, friendly and wise; Macy is a character that you grow to love and that you're rooting for long after the last page has been turned. In fact, all of Cole's characters in this story are wonderfully developed, have unique dynamic lives and personalities and you really get the sense that she knows them inside and out.

One of the other things I love about this story is the romance. Even as Macy is fated to live over and over again, she is also fated to meet and fall in love with her soul mate again and again in every life. Their lives often end in tragedy and I just find it darkly romantic to love and lose your beloved in every lifetime. And for me as a reader, it makes me desperate to see them break this terrible cycle they are fated to repeat. Macy and her soul mate, Gavin are just so sweet and true together, and it makes you hope that someday they'll find their happily ever after.

As with *ELK*, Cole weaves her story within a legendary/mythical background and paints vivid images of Macy's world through her beautiful descriptions. This story largely involves the Greek pantheon and Cole really did an excellent job of preserving the spirit of the original Greek myths even as she created a mythology that's all her own. I'm not going to say much more, so that you, Dear Reader, may discover for yourselves all those little moments that make you gasp in shock, make you hold your breath, and make you sigh in contentment.

So overall, as previously stated, I loved *Fated*. It actually made me revise my original opinion of *ELK* as I considered the two stories as a whole. The things I had originally disliked about *ELK*, I began to see in *Fated* how they were a necessary foundation to understanding the complete story. The Bloodstone Saga just has such depth and scope in regard to the world, the characters and the underlying mythology and with it Cole has created a wonderful, romantic adventure that spans across the ages.

Stitch_Princess says

I have to admit I went into this book thinking it was going to be terrible. Didn't see how it could surpass the first book in the series. Second I didn't know how great the story would be going from Cleopatra to Zeus. Not to mention with all the 4 and 5 star reviews I was afraid I'd be disappointed. I could not of been more wrong about all of it.

The story starts off almost the same way as the other with Macy in Pasadena. However, this time all of her

memories are still in tact. Generally the characters are the same just different names. Macy finds out that in another life she was also known as Harmonia and her boyfriend Hasani who turned into Gavin is now Cadmus. And their backgrounds turned out to be with Greek mythology. I won't go any further as to not spoil anything.

With such a drastic turn from the first one I was skeptical. But Courtney Cole pulled it off amazingly. I loved every bit of it and even liked it better than the first one. While reading it I was wondering why the author would choose to write the story in such a way. Why start out with Egypt and then go into Greek mythology? The author does go on to comment at the end that she did it that way so we could see how tormented the Fates had been to her character. And I must say I don't think I'd have it any other way really. In this one I got more of a sense that Macy/Charmian/Harmonia had grown up a lot. Her character felt more mature and seemed ready to accept her fate.

Not to mention I also got more of a sense of action and urgency that the first didn't have. Which I think it came out perfectly. Courtney Cole is a gifted and talented writer and I look very forward to many future books to come (no pressure).

Branwen Sedai *of the White Ajah* says

Yes! Yes! Yes! The second installment of this series is absolutely awesome! *huge grin* After I finished 'Every Last Kiss' I was terribly afraid that nothing could top it. Apparently I misjudged Courtney Cole's writing, because this book rocked me so hard! First of all, I am SO glad that we got to see so much love between Macy and Gavin (or is it Harmonia and Cadmus? *winks*) and it was just such a treat to watch their immortal love unfold even further. Sometimes all the romantic drama in young adult books can be painful to read, but these two lovebirds are just so constantly blissed out with each other. It's very refreshing and uplifting! I also love that we see a different mythological background in this story. As much as I love ancient Egypt, I love ancient Greece ten times more so this book was really fun to read on so many levels! In any case, this is a young adult series that should not be passed up! And let me just tell you, after reading the ending you will be DESPERATE to start reading the third book!

Shelley says

~Rating~ 3.5

~*Genre*~ Fantasy

*~*Review*~*

Fated is the second installment in the Bloodstone Saga. Seventeen year old Macy Lockhart has been through a lot over the course of her lifetimes. Yes, I said lifetimes and she's not really seventeen. You see Macy is a Keeper of the Fate in an organization called the Order of the Moirae (Fate). It is her duty and responsibility to guide her charge, or Daedal through each stage of life, ensuring she makes the right decisions regardless of whether or not she agrees with the final outcome.

In Every Last Kiss, the first book in the series, her charge was Cleopatra and she was Charmian her handmaiden and best friend. Macy has a bird-like birthmark on her wrist that seems to burn when the Fates

are angry with her after she appears to do something wrong. You could call it a bad decision compass, or just another way to keep Macy under the thumb of the Fate sisters.

It is now several months after Every Last Kiss and Macy has been reunited once again with her soul mate now known as Gavin Chase. She plays in a band known as Macy and the Grays which has been honored with playing at a Homecoming dance. But, things change quickly when without any warning at all from her guide; her new charge appears at the high school her band is playing at. She immediately recognizes that Jade is her Daedal, once known as Cleopatra. The only problem is that her memories which are also supposed to be there, are missing.

There are dire warnings from several different individuals who tell her not to trust anyone, including the Fates. It seems that Macy is the key to changing past misdeeds of the Fates, which brings her back to the time of Greek Mythology. It also appears that the Fates haven't exactly been telling the entire truth about why Macy is supposed to stand by and guide her charges towards death.

Macy isn't even her real name it's actually Harmonia. That little fact is revealed in this installment as well as who her real parents are, and what actually happened to the Greek Gods, including her own parents, who have been under the Fates spell for thousands of years. What Macy finds out in this book, changes everything she was ever told about being a Keeper.

Cole brings Greek Mythology into her story this time around, especially Zeus, Olympus and the twelve Gods that used to live in Olympus. She spins a tale that keeps readers wondering just who is really on Harmonia's side, and who is trying to stop her from fulfilling her prophecy.

This story is actually better than the first one in my humble opinion. There are some grammar and editing errors, but it was more intense and suspenseful, and of course, the ending leaves you freaked out and demanding that the next book come out immediately if not sooner. Oh yes, this author definitely enjoys her cliffhangers!

Author states that the next book shall be released in the Fall of 2011. I'll be waiting.

Emma (BelleBooks) says

First of all I want to say a massive THANK YOU!!! to the author, Courtney Cole who very kindly asked me if I wanted a review copy of Fated!

This is my third Courtney Cole book, and her writing has never disappointed me yet!

This is the second book in the Bloodstone Saga and it starts up pretty much where we left Macy after everything that happened in Every Last Kiss.

After everything that Macy went through in the first book you would think that she could finally sit back, relax and have a bit of a normal life now right? WRONG!! Fated has even more action and drama in it than Every Last Kiss did...infact I actually think I love this book more than I loved Every Last Kiss!

Fated follows Macy as she pieces together even more pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that is her life. She discovers the shocking truth about who she really is and what her real purpose is.

Along the way Macy comes face to face with Witches, Greek Gods and Flying Horses, really what more

could you ask for in a book? Saying it like that it may seem that Courtney Cole has tried to cram too much into the one book, but believe me everything slots into place perfectly!

The book is full of twists and turns which left me literally speechless at parts. I just could not believe all this was happening to poor wee Macy! I was very close to tears at one point as well!

Overall a brilliantly written and thoroughly researched book. And I'm going to say it, it ends on a cliffhanger!! Courtney how can you do this to me? I literally cannot believe how Fated ended and I am DESPERATE for the next book now!

Jennifer says

Fascinating!! Wonderful story! After Every Last Kiss I had to wonder how Cole could possibly top herself..but she did. Fated was amazing.. The twists and surprises kept me fully engrossed and anticipating each turn of the page! This book took me on a roller coaster ride of emotions. Love, hate, fear, anticipation, grief, happiness.. I could go on and on. Cole has a wonderful way of making you feel as if you know the characters yourself.. and you feel like such a part of the story. I cannot wait until the next book of this wonderful saga is released! Thank you so much Courtney Cole for putting a new twist to my imagination. I would say that this is a perfect YA series to read, but I believe it could appeal to young and old alike. Thank you again and I will be awaiting your next release!

Melanie says

Whew! What a ride! A sequel that holds the same power as the book that came before it... ta dah! I really enjoyed Book #2 of the Bloodstone Saga and I am so glad that Book #3 was just released.

Macy discovered a lot about herself in Every Last Kiss and that trend continues in Fated. Not only does she discover her soul mate in Gavin but she also finds Jade, her Daedel in her life as Macy. She quickly finds that nothing is as it seems and she is not who the Moirae have made her out to be. There is treachery around every turn and a lot of new information to process.

The ending is a killer and it definitely made for a great transition into the next book!

Melissa says

Wow! What an ending! I'm still feeling kind of speechless after finishing this second book in The Bloodstone Saga. Just when it seemed that all had turned out for the best -- BAM! I'll admit that I wasn't quite prepared for it. Those Fates and Keres were so manipulative. But, wait . . . I'm getting ahead of myself.

Book #2 in the Bloodstone Saga did not unfold in any way that I expected. Just when I thought that I had my head around what was driving the plot, everything would change. I enjoyed the way that Macy's/Harmonia's memories return to her gradually, and as I read I also felt as if the real story of what was going on slowly

unfolded to me also. As I began to understand what was obviously going on I wanted to go back and reread the first book with this new understanding. I believe that some of the missing elements that confused me in the first book would suddenly take on much more meaning for me. It is fascinating how Cole is able to weave elements of Greek/Roman/Egyptian mythology into a well-written novel that keeps me on the edge of my seat and trying to figure out the mystery of who everyone is and what is motivating them. This book continued the excellent writing of the first book with great detailed descriptions of the characters and their emotions. Because of the different location for this book there wasn't as much need for the rich description that was present in Book#1 as Cole described ancient Egypt. But, it was still full of exactly the right amount of descriptive language to keep me engaged in the world created for this book.

If I have one complaint, it would be that this book was a little too short. I really wanted there to be more. It isn't that Cole's book was flawed for lack of details or poor plotting. Instead, it was so good that I was hungry for more. As I finished the book I just sat there for awhile and digested all that I had read. It seemed too soon to let this world go. And now I wait, and wait, and wait. I am ready to read the next segment in this great story, but I'll have to wait a few months until it is published. It'll be hard, but I'm just happy that I have had the opportunity to be introduced to this fun story. Maybe I'll pass the time waiting by re-reading the first two books again. I very much enjoyed this book!

Kim says

Fated is the second book in the Bloodstone Saga and is every bit as wonderful as the first book. Macy is back in Pasadena, living her current life and waiting for her new Daedal to come into her life again. From the moment Macy meets her, things begin to go very differently than ever before and she realizes something is very wrong. She quickly realizes that nothing is as it seems, including herself.

This book goes in a completely different direction than the first, and there are a lot of unexpected twists and turns that led to things I didn't expect at all. Once again, the author weaves actual mythology and legend and real people with the fictional and it is absolutely seamless. While the first explored ancient Egypt and its mythology, this book delves into Greek mythology. Her ability to maintain the integrity of the true mythology while also layering her own with it is amazing and makes for a very absorbing read. I highly recommend picking up this book, as well as Every Last Kiss, and you won't be disappointed! The next book in the series comes out in the fall of this year and I can't wait for it!

Shari says

I am always leery reading a sequel when I love the first book of a series so much. Will it hold up to the first? Will it take me deep into the book world, intoxicate me with its story and leave me wanting more? So, while I was excited to see where Macy's adventures would take her next, I was cautiously optimistic at how the second book would unfold, wondering if I'd love it as much as I loved Every Last Kiss.

I certainly did! WOW. Fated takes off running from where Every Last Kiss ended, and barely leaves a moment for you to catch your breath. I'm still trying to recover from the shock of a well crafted cliff-hanger (so cruel!!) but despite the cruel cruel ending (ahem...how long am I gonna have to wait for book 3??? :lol) I'm still blissfully enchanted by yet another beautifully written tale.

I think if I were to compare the two, Fated gave me a bit more depth into the character of Macy... a bit more connectiveness to her 17yr old self and the decisions she'll be faced with down the road regarding her future. But on the level of excitement, suspense, mythology, fantasy, history and romance... they're so equally matched I can't decide which was better. I choose both :)

I absolutely LOVED that this second book takes us into the realm of Greek Gods and Goddesses... my goodness this series delves into not just one of my long time interests, but two - first Egyptian history and mysticism, followed by Greek mythology? WOW! I'll admit during the last few chapters of Fated, I wondered a bit at how the 3rd book would be able to rank as high as the first two, but after the cliffhanger, I'm certain it will just continue along the same mesmerizing path as the first two.

Fated is, like it's prequel, crafted so masterfully with imagery so powerful and breathtaking that you can all but breathe in the air along side the characters. It also continues with the beautiful romantic relationship of Gavin/Cadmus and Macy/Harmonia, filling you with the warm fuzzies of love perfectly defined. Macy/Harmonia's true nature is compelling and gives you a greater understanding of her purpose in life. I won't give away any secrets or spoil any discovery for the reader, but suffice it to say, it is perfectly satisfying to realise what she truly is.

Another wonderful, beautiful tale filled with love, friendship, mysticism and suspense. This is a fantastic series that I can't wait to see where it heads next. If you haven't already read Every Last Kiss, start there, and enjoy the journey, every step of the way.
