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# Awaken Online: Catharsis

BOOK 1 : CATHARSIS  
**AWAKEN  
ONLINE**  
TRAVIS BAGWELL

READ BY DAVID STIFEL



## Synopsis

Jason logs into Awaken Online fed-up with reality. He's in desperate need of an escape, and this game is his ticket to finally feeling the type of power and freedom that are so sorely lacking in his real life. Awaken Online is a brand new virtual reality game that just hit the market, promising an unprecedented level of immersion. Yet Jason quickly finds himself pushed down a path he didn't expect. In this game, he isn't the hero. There are no damsels to save. There are no bad guys to vanquish. In fact, he might just be the villain.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I didn't think I was going to like this book. I just got it on a lark while I was buying a couple of others. I found that I had trouble putting it down once I started. The main character's struggle with moral ambiguity was really interesting as well as how his real life interacted with that. The battles were interesting as were the different tactics the main character tried. In several battles, I kept wondering how he was going to pull them off or if this was the one he'd finally lose. Every battle had real risk in it. The character is not a powerhouse who rolls over every conflict. Even when he is quite powerful, he still ultimately gets by, narrowly sometimes, by his wits. The writing style is not amazing and there are some cliché elements to it, but I kept reading because I genuinely wanted to know what happened next, and before I knew it, I'd read the whole thing. I'll be picking up later novels in the series as soon as I can.

I have a new favorite LitRpg. You guessed it. AO. I've been reading a lot of bad and good litrpg in the

last few months. Play to Live series by D. Rus, that russian dude cracked the ice for me and probably many others. Now I have found my quest fulfilled and my desires quenched in the fires of Bagwell. Long live the prince to the throne of D. Rus. I say Bagwell is a fine heir to the path that writers like D. Rus and others have set. A world written in such detail that makes me WISH we have mmorpgs like them NOWZ so i can go out and play them after reading the book. Mr. Bagwell: You write. I will game...I mean read your gaming novel.

I accidentally bought this instead of getting it for free with kindle unlimited. Initially I was a little upset but after reading it I can tell you I don't mind having spent the money on it. This is reminiscent of end online before he got on the crazy train. While there were some grammatical errors throughout, it wasn't enough to make me lose my immersion or stop reading. If you are a fan of litrpg go ahead and get this one. It's good quality. If you have never read litrpg before I would still recommend it. With the addition of a couple others to get you started. Aleron Kong's chaos seed series Way of the shaman (I can't remember the author's name) Brent Roth's Dragon's wrath series

I've been reading the litrpg now for a little over a year. I am completely obsessed with it. I hesitated when I first picked up this book as it was a twist on the category, in that the traditional thoughts of good versus evil are at least in part challenged. ...not in the truest sense of "challenged", but in that it raises the question of "Does the end justify the means?". ...at least this is one of the over-arching concepts to me in the book in considering the entirety of the in-game story line. There are several other themes within the book, but I won't highlight them as the themes themselves might change your mind on reading or not reading the book. Ultimately, I enjoyed the different themes within the book as they are well incorporated and don't drown you with cliches. The book is darker than I normally read, with more gore as well, but still contains this "hope" throughout. ...it is just not done in a stereotypical manner. ...in many ways that was refreshing to me as it wasn't predictable in that sense. I would like to see more resistance against the main character, and would honestly expect to see it in book 2 and 3. Book 1 definitely sets the stage for a lot of potential roads for future books in the series. Definitely would like to see Frank incorporated more in the series as well. Big question mark to me on him. While darker than what I normally read, I am still fairly impressed. Well Written: A Appropriate Length: A+ Good Story Line: A Good Editing: A+ Recommend: A+ Author on Watchlist: A+

Awesome and innovative book. It is always refreshing to find something genuinely new and different

in the genre. Got only 3 hours of sleep tonight as I had to read just one ... more ... chapter ... and finished it in one sitting at 3AM. Very much looking forward to the next volume and hoping that it continues to run a tight story. In my experience some LitRPG series that start out good (though not quite as good as this one) lose the plot after 2-3 volumes as the world gets too big, the characters too many, and the scope of the challenges too large. I am really hoping this series will keep churning out great new volumes, which continue to read at a fast and suspenseful pace :-D

What is "good" and "bad"? From the point of view of a teenager it seems to be a matter of perspective. The author flips the standards in fantasy/RPGs and while the main hero (?) anti- hero (?) is fully fleshed the others are fairly one dimensional but all too believable of working within the framework of a game world. Quite excellent as a first book and interested to find out what happens next.

Awesome start to a great virtual reality roleplaying game story! With a very few minor quibbles I thoroughly enjoyed this book in a way that few other offerings in this subgenre have promised or delivered. Hope the author is a fast writer because I can't hardly wait to see what happens next.

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