



## Radiant

*Cynthia Hand*

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## Radiant Cynthia Hand

Clara is desperate to get away—from the memories that haunt her in Wyoming and the visions of a future she isn't ready to face—and spending the summer in Italy with her best friend, Angela, should be the perfect escape. . . .

For as long as she can remember, Angela has been told that love is dangerous, that she must always guard her heart. But when she met Phen two years ago she was determined to be with him, no matter the costs. Now she must decide whether she can trust Clara with her secret, or if telling her the truth will risk everything she cares about.

Alternating between Angela and Clara's perspectives, Radiant chronicles the unforgettable summer that will test the bounds of their friendship and change their lives forever.

## Radiant Details

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Author : Cynthia Hand

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## From Reader Review Radiant for online ebook

### Zemira (Kylo Ren fangirl) Warner says

Originally posted on YA Fanatic.

I'm torn between giving 4 or 5 stars. I loved it so much. First Destroy Me and now Radiant! You people are trying to kill me! I want, I need Unravel Me and Boundless. Since Unravel Me is pre-ordered I only need to find some money to get Boundless too. **Tucker and Warner! All I need to say to you is**

\*clears throat\*

This is mostly Angela's story but we also have Clara's POV. We get to see how they spent their summer in Italy before heading out to college. I liked Angela since Unearthly. There is just something in me that makes me love reading about goths and practically everyone who stands out.

Clara is still dealing with her mother's death, her brother's disappearance, and her breakup with my fictional boyfriend, Tucker while Angela sees her secret boyfriend, Phen (Penamue). IMO, they make an interesting couple. Since Clara is an empath she gets a glimpse into Phen's soul and doesn't like what she sees not because he 'bad' or 'good' but because he is an angel and apparently angels are incapable of loving people (cause they are God's creation and they are meant to serve only him, something like that), but they do care, just not enough. So Clara thinks he should stay away from Angela because he will break her heart in the end. Phen is an Intangere (angel with a purpose, dunno exactly what it means) and he basically inspires people to write, compose, draw, etc. He is a nice guy/angel and he is described as looking like Orlando Bloom \*drools\*. He has that Dimitri Belikov quality about him I find incredibly appealing and you can feel that he is helping Angela to grow up as a character. Since Clara doesn't think hooking up with an angel is a good thing this sets a strain in their friendship so they spend the rest of the summer practically not talking to each other. I am looking forward seeing how will they work things out in Stanford, or will it set them farther apart.

This novella also features a prologue and the first chapter of Boundless which will probably blow my mind away. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw Wendy bringing Clara's stuff back from Tucker and inside the box there was a copy of Vampire Academy. VA is basically the reason I got into books. Before it, reading was just an obligation. I never knew there is a thing called Young Adult fiction. Well, I did read HP and Twilight but I thought that was just a one/two time thing.

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### Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Update Note : I'm in the middle of book 3 at the moment and can finally confirm that it is not completely necessary to have read this short story before reading book 3. However, there is a huge tie-in of one particular instance which happens in *Radiant* with something that will take place in *Boundless*. The situation is explained enough in book 3 to where you can get by if you skip this story, but I liked knowing what happened in *Radiant* first.

Angel books are probably even worse than vampire books for having to slog through a whole lot of mediocre in order to find the gems.

Truth be told, I tend to prefer the *Angelfall* style of angel lore... where the vibe is dark and the angels are suspect. I have a harder time with the manufactured sappy-romance type of angel stories.

Thankfully, the *Unearthly* series is pretty decent for an angel set of books which has more romance than horror. I gave high marks for the first two books and am anxiously awaiting the third.

*Radiant* is a short story which takes place between books 2 and 3 and the majority of it revolves around Angela. This particular story was just okay - interesting enough, but nothing to find myself excited over. I'm not even sure how necessary it was to the series. Other than getting to find out about an angel living in Italy who drives Angela's passion, we didn't really learn anything else new about information having to do with Clara's story.

All I can think is that this angel will probably show up in future books to help drive the story along, so I guess if you feel the need to know about this character before he's brought back later (even though I'm sure he'll be explained if/when he makes a reappearance), go ahead and read this. It's such a short story that it will only take but a few minutes to read, so you won't be wasting your time even if you don't find out much in the way of new information.

Regardless of how underwhelmed I felt about this side story, the series itself is absolutely worth the read if you enjoy stories of love, destiny, and the journey of one girl to find out who she really is.

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### **Dominika says**

I enjoyed reading from Angela's POV and I'm curious what happens next.

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### **Tatiana says**

[loses her virginity by "seducing" a much, much older man and has an affair with him while being a minor. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Lisa says**

Angela & Clara! I need this novella in my life, like, now.

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## shady boots | #WatchPOSE says

This review is also available over at my blog.

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The first time I heard about *Radiant*, I was like FINALLY. Because it was about damn time we get to see what's inside Angela's head, and find out who that guy she met was and what really happened between them. So, naturally, I rushed to get this novella on the very day it came out.

Even though this was only a novella and was very short, I still enjoyed it very much. I may be biased because I'm so in love with this series, but I wouldn't love the series so much if I weren't so connected to the characters, and I am. I love Clara and Angela, and I was glad that Cynthia Hand finally wrote something that alternates from both of their points-of-views.

So Clara and Angela are in Italy over the summer, and things are great until Angela starts acting strangely and sneaking out at night. We're finally introduced to Phen, the guy that Angela's kept secret from Clara for quite a long time. And Phen is none other than, an angel! Angela's unsure if she should tell Clara about him or not, because she desperately wants to be with him, even though Phen has made it clear that they can't have anything more than kisses and flings here and there.

This novella was very short, but also heartfelt. I found out things about Angela that I never knew, like how her first kiss was in eighth grade—with *Christian*! xD I was like whaaat? That was pretty interesting to know. Clara is still all broken and gloomy about her breakup with Tucker, and I don't blame her. I would be too. :/ I mean, it's Tucker freaking Avery.

My overall thoughts on this novella is that I thought it was great! I loved reading from Angela's POV, and the author did a great job in differentiating hers and Clara's voices so that they never felt like they blended together to me. I hope the author will be doing more novellas, like maybe a prequel telling of Clara's mother's story, perhaps? That would be *awesome*!

At the end of the novella, there's a *Boundless* excerpt, which I was so excited to read! I just cannot wait for this damn book to be released already. My hopes for it are, well . . . usually I want final books in a series to be explosive and very climactic and all that. But this series to me has always been light and character-driven, so I hope there's only limited amounts of action. Just because it'd feel *weird* to me, you know? Even though this series is obviously a paranormal series, the way it's written is like a contemporary. So I just feel like if the third book is action-packed, it would feel weird for some reason.

Still, I can't wait! Only a little over a month now 'til it's out. :D If you're anxiously waiting like I am, I suggest you read this novella right away. It'll help ease the pain of waiting for *Boundless* a little.

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## Muse-ic ? says

Well.

Angela is kind of an asshole.

But she's in love and she feels judged. I literally have to keep reminding myself that most people would act the same way if placed in this position.

Honestly, that's something I always fear; that I'll meet someone and I'll project my ideal significant other on that person and *think* that this person is special when truly the relationship will likely not work out.

Especially because I'm a reader. I have this idea of the kind of person I want that I've built from my book boyfriends, so I'm always worried that if I like someone a little, I'll project my book boyfriends onto him in my mind and make him out to be someone he isn't.

The mind is quite powerful.

That's kind of what Angela was doing. She has this idea about Phen that isn't quite accurate because she didn't really *look*.

Love made her blind. And then led to other issues.

She's divulging everyone's secrets because she's in loooooooove like she should have IDIOT tattooed on her forehead.

And I'm saying this have read most of the third book.

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### **Giselle says**

As this fantastic series is coming to an end, I decided I would actually go ahead and read its novellas as well-a rarity for me, which is a good sign you need to read this series if you haven't yet! Plus, I kind of don't want it to end, so I'm doing all I can to stretch it out.

A far as novellas go, Radiant was a gratifying journey into Angela's love life. Angela is a character I both adored and questioned in the previous book, thus I was excited to learn this novella would bring us into her life and show us a bit more about who she really is. After reading this short but worthy novella, I do feel that I know her a little better. Her motivations for her secrecy is made obvious once you find out who this love interest is.

We're not left wondering how Clara will react, however, as we get her perspective alongside Angela's in this story. It was good to see her again after the events of the last book, it was also interesting to see her reactions to this relationship. I'm always happy when a protagonist is conscious of the potential lies or betrayals that her or her friends might have on their plate. The characters are the main reason I've greatly been enjoying this series, after all.

I'm not sure how Cythia plans to bring in the subject of this relationship in the third novel for those who haven't read this novella, but I do think it would be a good idea to read it before the finale so you have a better grasp on Angela's feelings as well as Clara's towards this matter. Plus, we're introduced to a character whom I'm assuming will become a big part of the final installment.

Overall, I give this novella two thumbs up for entertaining me for half an hour! <--This is not as easy as you might think!

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For more of my reviews, visit my blog at Xpresso Reads

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### **Wendy Darling says**

So, is Angela eeeeevil or not? :D Let's hope this answers it.

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### **Cynthia Hand says**

As always, got to rate a five for my own book. And it's pretty dear to my heart. Love writing Angela.

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### **Ari says**

This short story is quite confusing.

I always liked Angela (I still do) but now I am not sure about her anymore.

I liked her optimism and her pretty white wings were supposed to reflect her pure soul.

I wonder what will happen that will change things.. because I am sure that things will drastically change.

Also I didn't see all that jealousy coming, maybe because I liked her so much. Yes, she had this all mystery around her, knowing things that others didn't, pushing for finding out secrets, but still this caught me by surprise.

Maybe I should read the first 2 books again and see what I've missed because Cynthia doesn't throw things at you just for the fun of it. Her story is well crafted to the very last detail and I am wondering where all this came from.

To say a few words about the novella, we find Clara and Angela spending summer in Italy. There is not much really happening, but I liked finding more about Angela, her "summer boyfriend" (Phen) and a bit of his secrets, and it was nice meeting Clara even though she is heartbroken and confused - more than she's ever been.

Now, I said jealousy, but I hope you don't get me wrong, I didn't mean regarding Phen (I still wish for Clara to find someone else, because the old love-triangle is not appealing to me any longer, but that's just wistful thinking - it won't happen, don't you worry about that).

Angela even wanted them to spend time together, wanted Clara to like Phen, to approve maybe of Angela's relationship with him. What comes between the girls is something that might grow in the next book and I wonder when it started.

I fear that Boundless will break many hearts, I fear especially for mine.

Take care of yours too ;)

Happy reading and happy holidays!

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### Gavin says

This was an enjoyable novella telling the tale of Clara and Angela's summer trip to Italy. While there Clara experiences the first of her new visions. We also get to meet Angela's mystery boy, Phen.

The Angela/Phen relationship was intriguing and definitely the best part of this novella. Phen is a fascinating character. I'm dying to learn more about him. Clara's reaction to the romance is also quite interesting.

I loved that this switched between Clara and Angela's POV. It was great to learn more about Angela and to see this world from eyes other than Clara's.

All in all this was a worthwhile read that has boosted my interest in reading *Boundless*.

Rating 3.5 stars

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### Anatea Oroz says

#### **This review is also posted on my blog, Anatea's Bookshelf.**

Since we still have a little more than a month until *Boundless*, book #3 comes out, I was sooo happy when I found out about *Radiant*!

I love being back in this world! This is more Angela's story, but we also have Clara's POV. I really enjoyed *Radiant* because it focuses on Angela and her mystery guy \*squeal\*, even though I kinda missed having Tucker and Christian in here.

Angela and Clara are spending their summer in Italy before they go to college. They're researching Angel related stuff, but one day they see Angela's mystery guy in metro and the story gets quite interesting. His name is Phen (Penamue) and he's an Angel. Yes, you heard it right! But he's an Intangere which means he's not on the side of good nor bad angels. He's Switzerland. Oh, and he looks like Orlando Bloom \*wiggle eyes\* I like him, and I think he and Angela make a really cute couple! But that makes one of us. Since Clara is an empath, she can see how he really feels about Angela, and she's not quite fond of the idea her best friend dating an Angel.

I can't wait to read *Boundless* now to find out more about Phen, and of course to see with whom will Clara end up.

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### ♥Rachel♥ says

*Radiant* was an amazing novella. A lot of times novellas can be disappointing and short, but this isn't the case here. I *highly* recommend reading this before reading *Boundless*, as I think it will be an important piece in the story.

***Don't read this if you haven't read Hallowed, as it would spoil major plot points.***

This takes place just a few short weeks after the events in Hallowed. Clara and Angela are spending the summer in Italy, staying with Angela's family. Clara is still heartbroken over her mother's death and Tucker, and can't get him off of her mind. Angela can't get her mystery man out of her head, and we finally get some answers to this nagging bit of the puzzle.

I didn't trust Angela in Hallowed. I always suspected she was hiding something, and this novella sets some things straight in my mind. I want to smack Angela for something she does, because I think it's going to come back and bite everyone in the behind later. I know, cryptic. Come back to me after you've read this and we'll discuss.

Christian's presence is, surprisingly very sparse. Hmm...wonder what that says about Clara's final choice. I guess we'll all find out *very* soon! I'm jumping up and down with anxious excitement over the release of Boundless. I want to read it immediately, if not sooner!

Okay, you know I have to give you a swoony quote. It wouldn't be a "Rachel" review without one. I won't tell you who it involves. You can try and figure it out on your own:

*He kissed me so many times, more than I could count, but each time it was like this wonderful surprise. He always got this I-want-to-kiss-you expression in his eyes, right before he'd draw me in. My throat aches as I remember the agonizing joy of those few seconds before his lips touched mine.*

You can read this review and more at The Readers Den.

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### **Irene Sim says**

This is a short novella about Clara's and Angela's summer vacation in Italy before college. The best part of it is that we finally get a look inside Angela's head and her mystery man. For once, Clara seem to be focused on her friend and not her own misfortunes which was a pleasant switch from her insistent self-pity in "Hallowed".

Her new vision is a troubling one and after that last sentence I'm really curious about what Cynthia Hand has up her sleeve for "Boundless".

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