



Reluctant Gods

A.J. Aaron

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Become a supernatural immortal?...Reluctantly.

Book one of this fantasy series about reincarnated lovers.

Review by Danita Dyess for Readers' Favorite

Author A.J. Aaron is a genius. I loved this book! Although it had fantastical images, the real story was about Sevilen accepting his power. I understood that everything is as it should be but the author's depiction of this concept is exceptional. The laid-back dialogue and cool characters helped mix fantasy with what is usually considered a serious, esoteric subject. Leyna's mindset and sexual exploits are tastefully done. Quotes from Einstein, Toffler and Drucker reinforced the message.

“Reluctant Gods” asks you to imagine waking up one Saturday morning and learning that you are literally a god with the power to save the world. Your grandmother, Aysel, is an ancient mystic who showed you the secrets behind the trap door. Well, this scenario happened to Sevilen, an engineer with a back problem. Within 24 hours of Aysel’s death, his health is restored. Then, he inherits \$77 billion and learns he can telepathically transport to another dimension. He meets Alexander, a trusted servant and four new angels - Raphael, Michael, Gabriel and Auriel. Together, these super humans will help him reunite with his one great love, Leyna, a gorgeous narcissist who misused her power and died in her past lives. But there is one catch: Sevilen must accomplish this before Leyna’s next birthday and the proverbial clock is ticking.

Author’s Description

Past lives and past mistakes echo themselves for over five hundred years until an ancient agreement with four archangels manifests itself to remind a witch and a wizard of their destiny. This is Leyna and Sevilen’s last chance to reunite and achieve the godlike powers meant for them.

Sevilen, a former engineer, reluctantly takes on his role to try to save his love Leyna from his past life, since in this life, as in her past lives, she will be dead in months if he doesn’t. In today’s life, he doesn’t even like her, and doesn’t care to save her.

Leyna, a powerful, cruel, and callous executive, runs from Sevilen and the thoughts of becoming a goddess, or falling in love with a man.

The two are dumped into a world of magic where they gain abilities to create and destroy universes, throw a bolt of lightning, change into another body, or use their ESP to read minds.

What are the other characters like?

Laugh with the sexy great grandmother goddess, who keeps making passes at her great grandson. Marvel at the ancient, loving, manservant Alexander that makes Jeeve's look like a houseboy. Love the archangels, Michael (Mike), Gabriel (Gabby), Raphael (Rapper), and Auriel (Aurie), who look and act like no archangels you ever heard of.

What kind of a read will it be?

You will be engulfed in this tale of romance, denial, and disbelief, among an outrageous cast of characters. The comedic antics of the diverse and colorful characters will make you laugh while they become as familiar to you as your best friends, in this blend of fantasy, humor, mystery, and romance. Science, beliefs, and real life references will make you wonder, could this happen?

How is it written?

Detailed pictures are created in the reader's mind as they flow through this tale, vividly told. Journey through Prague in the Czech republic and walk the streets of Mala Strana and Stare Mesto. Visit the fully restored mansion in Chardon, Ohio where they all live.

This witch and wizard series, fantasy romance is like no other you will ever read. Is it really fiction that they attained their psychic powers? Or any of their powers?

Reluctant Gods Details

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From Reader Review Reluctant Gods for online ebook

Melinda says

Had Potential, but Never Realized It...

If you woke up and found yourself with the full powers of a God and a portfolio containing \$77B, what would a typical engineer do?

Sevilin is tutored by his greatgrandmother Aysel to remember his God-level powers from his past lives. His biggest issue is believing that what he is doing is reality and not magic. Even though each chapter is headed up by scholarly quotes from Einstein, Toffler, Freud, Marcus Aurelius and many others, there is very little treatment of this material in the text outside of a basic explanation of the theory of relativity, how it applies to a God's ability to manipulate matter and energy in very general/simplistic terms, and the Tinkerbell method of believing makes it true. There is a huge gap between Einstein and Disney's favorite fairy for the basis of science/philosophy.

While Sevilin was not offensive, he is not a compelling protagonist. He is more like a doormat. His girlfriend and fellow lost God Leyna actually was offensive with her habits of ruining other people's lives. She is shark.

Great grandmother Aysel and the assistant Alexander are by far the best characters. Aysel pampers the doormat, torments the shark while wearing scandalous outfits. Alexander keeps everyone drunk and fed. What more could you ask for?

One day a doormat and a shark were given the powers of God's after they found each other and fell in love. It could have been an interesting story, instead, it devolved into descriptions of the multiple changes of footwear daily, girl on girl jealousy, how many strangers want to have sex with the shark and a description and valuation of everyone's jewelry. It's clear that in the future, the shark will be tempted to turn evil, have sex with demons, or switch sides and become fully evil. There will be much wringing of hands, but the bottom line is a shark and a doormat can't coexist happily because they are meant for different environments.

Skip it...

Summer says

I only read the prologue to this book and the first few pages of the first chapter, and I really didn't enjoy it. I couldn't bring myself to read any further. The writing style needs a lot of work, and a lot of it seemed like a long strand of fantasy cliches drawn from books and movies. I have nothing against those who like this book, but my tastes search for something a bit more original with more depth to it. The beginning was simply unable to catch me enough to carry me past what I read. Props to the author for sticking this out long enough to make an entire series, but unfortunately I won't be among those who have read it.

One other note: I have a feeling the scene with the summoning of the angels will get a lot of hate if this series becomes popular. Those are important Christian angels, and Christianity is very opposed to witchcraft.

Jamie Pancake says

A.J. Aaron's The Reluctant Gods is a book that tells the story of Sevilen, a man who lived a normal life as an engineer until his grandmother died and he suddenly became a wealthy man with a lot of secrets in his family. He learns that he is more than ordinary and has lived many lives. He also discovers that he has a love in his life that has lived many lives as well. This book follows Sevi as he struggles to come to terms with all of the things that he has learned about himself and his family and make sense of everything. His mind has a difficult time making logical sense of things that he not only knows are true, but also has seen with his own eyes. When he finds Leyna, the love of his life in past lives, he learns that she is not someone that he would find desirable in this lifetime until he spends some time with her overseas. Leyna and Sevi have to learn their pasts in order to accept their futures together, while also processing a lot of unbelievable information at the same time.

This story has elements of real life things and things that are a part of the story. For example, this book tells of the beauty and rich history of Prague, while explaining magical powers that people in the story possess and exhibit powers that are rather unbelievable, such as the ability to transform one's appearance in the blink of an eye. There is a lot of detail put into the appearance of the mansion that Sevi, and his grandmother Aysel before she died, lived in. I can almost envision the beautiful hardwood floors throughout the mansion and the great furniture pieces. When the remodeling takes place, there is great detail put into the updates that are made to the already beautiful interior of the rooms in the house. Readers will have vivid pictures in their minds as they read this book.

There is also a focus on the meals that the characters in this story have, and the preparation that goes into making them. Readers will salivate while reading this book during mealtimes in the story and will be able to almost smell the food that is cooked in the mansion. This story is told with such attention to detail that it was easy for me to get lost in the lives of the characters as the story was unfolded.

Donna says

Reluctant Gods by A. J. Aaron is a paranormal, fantasy fiction work and also a romance with a mythological theme. This story starts off in the 1400's with Sevilen Decarain calling upon the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Auriel to cast a spell so that he may meet again with his love, Leyna who has died. The story then jumps right into the present time. There is a man Sevilen, who we learn is reincarnated from the 1400's Sevilen, who visits his grandmother, Aysel, in her mansion. The grandmother has decided that it is time to tell Sevilen the truth about his previous life and how he is a god and must take over from her as the "designated one". In the meantime we learn that there is another Leyna, who is a powerful executive that is a real bitch especially to the men she has a relationship with. Sevi's grandmother tells him that he must find this present day Leyna and fulfill what he vowed to do in the 1400's, which is to be with Leyna. She says that there is good and evil in the world and that it must be balanced and the two of them have to fulfill their destiny and become gods. Sevilen works with his servant, Alexander, and Aysel to perfect his magic and time traveling abilities so that he may find Leyna, before it is too late and she has died in this life once again. This story has many similarities with other books, such as time traveling in The Time Traveler's Wife, and also to 39 clues and the Da Vinci Code with regard to being descended (or in this case reincarnated) from ancient times. There is also a lot of magic in the book for all the Harry Potter fans.

I loved this book! I loved the whole reincarnation theme and the romance between Leyna and Sevi and how

they are reluctant to realize that they truly are gods. I enjoyed how at first you despise Leyna but then she grows on you and you want Sevi to get together with her. I enjoyed the time traveling aspects and the magic that goes along with it, whether it is the way Sevi describes the tingly feeling of time traveling or the way they are able to shower and change their clothes without actually doing those things. They even learn how to change their appearance. At the beginning of each chapter the author includes a quote that gives you the general idea of what will happen in the chapter. The one part of the book that I didn't care for too much, was the sexual encounter that Aysel has with Sevi. We are to believe from the beginning of the book that Aysel is Sevi's grandmother and to read about the sexual encounter kind of grossed me out. I am hoping that in the second book, we may learn that Aysel is not his grandmother at all.

This book would be perfect for someone who has many different interests, whether it be reincarnation, time traveling, magic or gods. This book is kind of like Time Traveler's Wife meets 39 Clues with magic thrown in like Harry Potter. I loved this book and can't wait to continue with the story of good vs. evil in the next book, Reluctant Gods II - The Demon Seth. You will not be disappointed in this book, I think this will be a bestseller.

My Name Is Legion, For We Are Many says

This book is pretty bad. The idea behind it could have been ok, I guess, but it is so poorly written I had to abandon it 75 pages from completion. It is written like a teen fiction book, and reads like a teen wrote it! The only time it seems like the author gets into the writing is when he is describing the "heroine" and her sexuality, which is creepy in itself. I commented that it reads like he was writing with a hard on. I was simultaneously irritated and creeped out. If Aaron put half as much into the story or his effort to write a pleasant book, as what was going on under her skirt this could have been mediocre at best

Barbara Bamberger says

Reluctant Gods

A. J. Aaron

Angels Guard Publishing

Review by Barbara Bamberger Scott

Reluctant Gods is the first installment of A.J. Aaron's trilogy-in-the-works -- a paranormal romance.

Focusing on the relationship of a pair of lovers deceased in the fifteenth century, the story begins then, as Sevilen Decarain calls on the Archangels to cast a spell on him so that he may again be with his love, Leyna, who has died. Then the plot jumps to current reality. Sevi's present-day counterpart is unaware of his destiny at first, until he learns his true god-status from his grandmother, who informs him that his time to take over for her as the "designated one" is drawing nigh. She tells him he must find the present-day Leyna, a hard-hearted powerful business executive, so they can fulfill their destiny and live as gods.

Aaron, an engineer by trade, does a good job of setting up the structure for his fable. Reluctant Gods is one of those paradoxically logical fantasy tales in which you don't really know anything that is going on until you

know everything that is going on, not because of confusion, but because the author is patient in laying his foundation. At first, for example, the heroine Leyna isn't lovable at all -- Sevilen doesn't even like her -- but the character grows and takes shape as credible and empathic. This is because the author does an excellent job of slowly modifying her behavior and attitude over the course of the story, allowing her to gradually let down her guard.

One could assume, given the immortal/paranormal nature of the story, that this is another member of the vast family of Twilight spin-offs. While there are similarities, the tone is quite different. Reluctant Gods reads as a book written for adults rather than children or teens. The one unexplained plot element is the hint of a sexual encounter between Sevilen and his grandmother, but as this is the first book in a trilogy, perhaps we will learn that all was not as it seemed.

Reluctant Gods should be thoroughly enjoyed by adult fans of fantasy fiction.

Kerry says

I loved Reluctant Gods by A.J. Aaron. I thought that the story line was so interesting and that the author did a great job of character development. I thought that the book had such a great mixture of magic, fantasy and romance. I noticed that this book was part of a series and I was really looking to get into a new fantasy series! Fantasy is one of my favorite genres along with romance and I found that the author did an amazing job of intertwining both of them together.

The book focuses around 2 main characters, Leyna and Sevilen. These two have known each other in the past and understand each other well. Sevilen is trying to save Leyna from a past life. If he doesn't save her in the past life, she will be dead. But in his current life, he really despises her. He is a former engineer and even though he hates Leyna, he is still willing to risk his life to save her, which really shows a testament to his character. Leyna is very powerful and stubborn, so she runs from Sevilen. She is more focused on finding love and a man.

I also liked the other characters in this book as well. The Great Grandmother Goddess was hilarious! If I had to pick a favorite character, I would probably pick her because she was so funny. Really every character plays a special role in this book and it makes the book come together. Just the story and the characters really made the book for me. I don't really read books with this much creativity, so I felt really blessed to come across this one! I am so excited to read the second book in this series, I can't wait to see where all of the characters end up!! Highly recommend this book!

Kira says

A.J. Aaron's Reluctant Gods is a wonderful example of a fantasy novel. When his Ninee, Aysel dies at 106 years old, Sevilen inherits everything, her house, her powers, and her \$75 billion dollars spending money. There's just one catch, he has inherited her position as the Designated One. His soulmate will die on her birthday within the year if he can't find her and save her. In order to save her, he'll have to help her learn to use her powers, put aside her man-using, dangerous ways, and get her to fall in love with him. All while

learning to use and believe in his own powers. With the help of 4 archangels, Raphael, Auriel, Gabriel, and Michael, as well as some unexpected helpers, will he succeed?

Although the cover of this book does not do it justice, the book itself is a treasure trove of a novel. The plot is well-developed and engaging. The descriptions and historical facts used to help create the story were well-integrated, flawless, and made you feel like you were right there with them. The quotes at the beginning of each chapter are thought-provoking and intriguing. The message of love in this book rings loud and clear, but is done in a tasteful way and does not overwhelm the story. The mixing of chakras, mythology, and god-like characters is unique and makes it feel more realistic than other fantasies.

The characters are well-developed and entertaining, especially Gabriel. I didn't care for the female lead, her growth seemed superficial at times, but the other characters made up for it. The unique personalities and reactions of all the characters are fun to read about and effortlessly draw the reader into Sevilin's world. I love how the addition of the time-traveling abilities and the ability to change things with a mere thought integrate so readily into the character's personalities as well as how they're portrayed in a way that hasn't been seen before in other books.

Overall, I give it 5 stars. Worth the read for any fantasy reader or person who is interested in a slightly more new age-feel to their fiction reading.

Lady Entropy says

DNF

Aarie says

Average

I will start with what I liked. The idea of Sevi casting a spell so that he can save his love is sweet. When he met her she wasn't what he expected with her being a man-eater and all. I also loved that she was a man eater.

I didn't like that although Sevi is an engineer but he refused to believe what he could hear and see for himself for about 70% of the book. He only believed what was convenient for him which made his whole character lackluster and much like a wimpy heroine. I also didn't like that he was presented to be feminine to the extreme while Leyna was portrayed to be extremely alpha male. It was done in a stereotypical manner that should be unnecessary for an author.

I can't go into more detail without spoiling it...but if anything it seems to be a good start into the next book.

Kathie says

“Reluctant Gods” by A. J. Aaron, is a loosely-styled paranormal fantasy that centers around a character named Sevelin Decarain and his paramour, the lovely raven-haired Leyna. As immortals, they intersect with

each other over time; however, they are not always conscious of their state.

Sevelin is, as his grandmother Ninee Aysel tells him, the new “Designated One.” She gives him one-half of an energized stone. “This stone was not split accidentally. An immense amount of power went into it. There’s another half in this realm somewhere. You’ll find it, or it will find you, and you will meet the person who has it.” Aysel then vanishes, and Sevelin suddenly finds himself the possessor of an estate beyond his wildest imagination, and a set of circumstances he cannot begin to understand.

Lord Sevelin (a title he discovers is also his inheritance) dreams of Leyna, who is coming to her own realization about her status and her future. Eventually meeting and coming together, they learn of their ancient past and are tutored by Aysel (who mysteriously reappears) and other “gods” as they become aware of and accustomed to their abilities.

“Reluctant Gods” the first of a series that promises more depth and a continuing saga, is slow at times, and short on detail, but Aaron gives a good premise and the story is engaging.

Melodie says

Two lovers bound together in another time, must find one another in the present. Sevilen, an engineer firmly ensconced in the realistic present has just found out that he has powers that really don't fit with his logical life. Being a rich powerful god just isn't possible, is it?

Leyna, a beautiful wealthy, driven businesswoman is on a collision course with disaster. Her hobby of seducing and then destroying the lives of married men is going to get her killed. She has no idea that she is a goddess (at least of the supernatural variety).

These two must find one another, and realize their powers so they can continue to help out us mere mortals. Past mistakes must not be repeated and powers must be learned and embraced. The story is fast paced and easy to read. Romance, intrigue and humor all abound. I found it a fluffy read, not unpleasant, but not much of substance. It is number one of a series. I'll probably skip the other two.

Meagan says

This book is so well written, I could not put it down. I loved the personalities of the characters and the story kept me interested. I enjoyed the fantasy aspect of the book because I could imagine everything as I was reading. I also liked how the things they had done in the past were still affecting them so many years later. This book was so interesting and kept me so wrapped up in the story that I could barely focus on work this week! I am planning on picking up AJ Aaron's other book as soon as possible and hopefully be just as impressed with it!

Mochalove says

Author A.J. Aaron entices readers with a great escapist read in his novel Reluctant Gods; this is the first novel of his fantasy romance series, which does not disappoint. This inventive fantasy romance incorporates components of the occult, magic, romance, and mild sexuality to create an interesting read featuring a

curious mix of fascinating characters.

Sevilen Decarain and Leyna Di Amore are old souls whose ultimate fate was determined many lifetimes before their own. Sevilen is the hero of this creative tale, he is wealthy, handsome, and albeit, a somewhat reluctant, newly realized god. Guided by his great grandmother, Aysel (also a god) he finds himself on a mission, to find an unfamiliar woman from his dreams, convince her that she will be a God and that they are destined to be together to help mankind.

Initially hesitant to accept his fate and faced with a challenging task, Sevilen finds time is running out and for him obstacles abound. As polar opposites, it is hard for Sevilen to rein Leyna in. While he is somewhat grounded and willing to cooperate, Leyna is hardheaded, selfish, angry, and oversexed. If Sevilen does not succeed in convincing Leyna of her destiny, she will die by her birthday and miss the last chance for both of them to fulfill their eventual destinies of becoming Gods.

This was an entertaining fantasy read; it was amusing at times especially the scenes including the archangels who were just too cool. Another interesting aspect of the story is the way the author incorporated spiritual principals it was an intriguing twist that really lent to the story.

Overall, I enjoyed reading Reluctant Gods, it was a good read to help escape the ordinary, and I look forward to reading the next installment in the series.

Kathy says

Reluctant Gods by A.J. Aaron

Paranormal, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy

Sevilen is an engineer, his life is mapped out predictable, it makes sense; until the death of his Great grandmother, when he is forced to reluctantly accept and learn the gifts that are his birth right, and save the woman he has been meant to love and protect. The power of the universe is his to create and destroy if he could just figure out for sure if it's all a silly dream or reality.

Leyna is a powerful and cruel top notch executive, she targets men exploiting their weakness and then seeks out to destroy them and ruin their lives, they are play things for her amusement nothing more, she seeks power and has no use for relationships. When the two are thrown together they must come together and fulfill their destiny's as gods and learn what they must of the seven gates or they will be doomed to seek each other out again in the next life and until they right their mistakes from the past.

This was a very different read for me and I am having a hard time comparing it with anything I have ever read before, I really liked the premise of the story, the easy way the characters interact with one another they are very laid back Sevilen's Great Grandmother is constantly making passes at him, which is both uncomfortable and funny at the same time. The passage of time in the book is done beautifully and flows very well transitioning from POV without being distracting. I found myself confused for the better half of this book which I found frustrating, and a little distracting. I wasn't sure what was going on or what to

make of it; I wasn't sure if the author did it on purpose so you could empathize with Sevilen's confusions and reluctance to accept his new reality or if I was just being daft and not getting it. Once I figured out what was going on and understood the concept of the knowledge of the seven gates and the Chakras and how this was going to impact their lives as they know it I enjoyed the story much more, although I will be honest it is still slightly confusing. Its core is a love story about two people that have to find their way back to each other after

centuries apart. This is a good book for those who love the fantasy genre or the paranormal genre's it will grab your attention, will make you laugh as you root for this unlikely couple trying to figure out their abilities, and where they belong in this world and the beyond with the help of their mentors.

I gave this book a 3 out of 5 star rating.
