



ANGEL 1: When Angels Cry

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18-year-old Angel's sudden arrival at the Phoenix throws Dane's heart into a frenzy.

But after losing out so recently with Caleb, he is in no hurry to feel the heartache again and resists his own rapidly growing feelings for the young man, unaware that what Angel needs most right now is someone he can trust and feel safe with.

Caught up in an abusive situation at home from which there seems no escape, Angel's prime objective is to protect his little brother from the same hellish existence he himself has been thrust into at the hands of their sick minded stepbrothers.

ANGEL 1: When Angels Cry Details

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From Reader Review ANGEL 1: When Angels Cry for online ebook

Christy says

It's been too long since I was here with my guys from the 'Phoenix Club' series. In case you aren't familiar with it, each main character gets his own trilogy, but all of the characters and their stories weave in and out. It sounds confusing, but it's actually not. I will give my warning, again, that this author tends to write sex scenes which require little to no lube, often no condoms, and very little prep. Both parties, meaning the main characters, are having a good time, although there are scenes of assault and dubious consent revolving around Angel, so if that's something that might bother you, then these stories might not be for you.

Angel is another sad young man who's ended up at the club to dance. Dane is having a tough time staying away from him, after losing his heart to Caleb, and then watching him fall in love with another. Dane is positive that he can't possibly survive this again. Angel has been living in hell for the past six years, and if it wasn't for his little brother, Maddy, he'd have gotten out long before. Angel and Maddy's stepbrothers, Wade and Axel, are homophobic, bigoted, redneck pieces of crap, who force Angel to work to pay the bills so they can do as they please, and get high. They don't allow Maddy to go to school and they've beaten Angel severely many times. They watch Maddy when Angel works and Angel is just eighteen, and Wade told him already that if he ever tried to run and take Maddy, they would find him and take the punishment out on Maddy. The brothers started pimping Angel when he was only thirteen, and he's trying to prevent any of that from happening to Maddy, who is only fifteen.

All of these guys have hurt my heart, in one way or another, but Angel is really the worst. What he's endured, and continues to suffer, at the hands of his stepbrothers, is atrocious. The hovel that Angel and Maddy are forced to live in is horrible. I really need Dane to step up to the plate here, because I want Angel and Maddy saved, and I really want the stepbrothers to get some hellacious nastiness done to them. Of course, I'm hoping Gabe and Cole will have input with that, since they're just mean in their revenge and retribution. Horatio and Max are still colliding with one another and, I have to say, I'm really looking forward to their story.

This was a great beginning to Angel and Dane's story. I'm really looking forward to the bad guys getting their just rewards. Yes. I am feeling a little bloodthirsty, why do you ask?

booklover says

So at the end of "Unbroken ~ Caleb book 3" Gabe and Cole teased Dane saying that he'd find his "Angel" soon enough and who walks in..... A new boy looking for a job and he's called ANGEL !!

The thing is though Angel's wings are broken, thanks to his step-brother Wade who is making Angel sell his soul and anything else he can sell to get money for Wade and co to waste on drugs and alcohol. The only reason Angel does it is to save his brother, Maddie from suffering the same thing as he's been forced to go through. He can't help but fall for Dane and when a "dance lesson" goes further the feelings he encounters are out of the norm for him, so, when Dane turns cold afterwards that leaves him even more broken.

What i love about the way CJ writes these books is that while the focus of the book is on Angel, Dane and what's happening to Angel, she keeps us in the loop as to the goings on with other characters such as Max/Horatio and Cole/Gabe but does so without giving too much about them away therefore leaving you panting for more from these guys too. Absolutely GENIUS !! Loved it !!

Alina Neac?u says

“Angel.” Dane stopped him and his heart leapt with hope.

“Yes?” he whispered, afraid to try and speak any louder, certain his emotions would break and he might throw himself at the man, begging him to not shove him away.

“I, uh,” Dane cleared his throat but still wasn’t looking at Angel. That wasn’t a good sign. “I had a good time tonight.”

Licking his lips slowly, uncertain where this was heading, he said quietly, “So did I.” Dane rubbed his mouth, his elbow resting against the driver door as he stared blankly at the outside of the club building. “I like you, but...” But? No...

“I’m not really looking...” his words faltered, seemed unsteady, but then he neutralized them again.

“...for anything serious. And with us being co-workers...maybe we shouldn’t do this anymore.” His lips tightened and he continued to stare out the side window. “I’m not trying to hurt you, but...I don’t want you to think that we’re...together.”

that's fucking wrong Dane in so many ways!!

Lisa ~ Books Are My Drugs ~ says

I'm not sure why I continue reading this series but it's like crack.

Terribly angsty, horrible sex scenes - like bad porn

Lelyana says

This one was harder than the previous.

I think Abel, is the luckiest one among the boys, he's got Kaplan anyway. And he's not bad guy, Kaplan was just lonely and very rich.

But Caleb...sigh...harder.

And Angel..with Dane being a dick and what he and Msddy had been through, I know this is going to slow my reading.

I need to know if Dane is redeemable or not, even my heart is broken for Angel.

Heading for a second book of Angel.

Nic says

I got a couple of the stories from this series for free (via Smashwords) which started me on the series. Those that know me, also know that I have a bit of an obsession with finishing a series once I have started, so I read these pretty much back-to-back. I'm not going to write about each story individually, rather just leave some overall notes.

- the series is made up of a number of trilogies so there are 3 books to be read to bring each characters story to conclusion (you can buy them as separate stories or as the trilogy which I think is more cost effective)
- there are recurring characters through out each book, including Max and Horatio who don't get their stories until right at the end, although there are teasers right the way through
- there are very dark moments - rape, abuse, torture
- there is lots and lots of sex between all the couples, not just the main ones featuring in the current story. All couples seem versatile and all call each other 'baby'.
- condoms and lube seem entirely optional (mainly earlier in the series?) although there's an HIV theme
- these guys have lots of emotions and like to think about their feelings. They are also all prone to tears and heartache for each other

In summary, I think this series suits a reader looking for lots of drama, characters who agonise over emotions, are comfortable with abuse themes and like lots of sex in a book. I moved between 3 and 3.5 stars as I read through the series. In general I liked it, I did get invested in the stories.

Karen says

This is the first book I've read in the series, and I must say, I often felt lost. I will certainly read the next part of Angel's story but haven't yet decided if I like the series enough to start at the beginning.

There's a lot of sex and the book flits back and forth between several couples. It's hard to get a handle on what's going on, and it's very difficult to connect with the characters. Part of this is obviously my fault for starting the series in the middle. I do really like Angel and would like to see him happy.

Brooklyn says

I had a hard time finishing this book. It was tough to get through those scenes of abuse. And I really dislike that to get the whole story, I have to read two more books. ugh!

Sunne says

Just to make that clear in the beginning: This is not a whole book in a series, this is part of a book, that's been split in three. A book in a series has one arc, that is completed at the end of the book, other stuff can still be open etc.etc.

So – while I dislike this concept of breaking up storylines into several partial books – I knew this before I started reading. I got the first part free on amazon and thought “well, why not, the other two ones are affordable, too, it's like getting a sample”.

This means – my review is for all “three books”:

When Angels Cry

When Angels Fall

Angels and Demons

Now...actually, the first part must have been good enough for me to buy the second part, right?

Yes, Angel is a sweet character and I liked him. He made a few bad judgments in my opinion but hey, I can't hold that against him, his life had been horrible so far.....aaaand now comes the rant:

Am I really supposed to believe that a boy, who had been raped for his first time at the age of thirteen, then forced to prostitute himself over years, really enjoys sex? Okay, with the magic ingredient of love and emotions..but with a customer? All the while knowing his little brother is alone at home with the two men who did this to him? *gulp*

And the biiiig issue he and Dane have is solved by a simple "I forgive you"? Angel doesn't even want to know why?

So, I'm not going into the storyline because I'm writing about all three parts and don't want to spoil it. Let's just describe the parts this way:

There is a lot of sex, between side characters (who seem to have their own books) and some between the MCs themselves and both with others, voluntarily and forced. There is rape. There is protected and unprotected sex (okay, short rant: Angel wants Dane to use a condom to fuck him because he doesn't know about his own health status anymore – yup, had forced bareback sex the day before – but has no problem coming in his mouth). There is sex to console a friend over heart wrenching grief, so deep and profound that he can't function anymore (okay, some parts obviously still function).

Oh...you heard my sarcasm. Sorry, I tried to keep it away but it slipped in.

All men – yes, as mentioned, there are more – seem to have secrets, issues, deep soul eating troubles (even the ones who seemed to be in a happy relationship). They solve/avoid them mostly by fucking which could have been hot but got repetitive after a while. All sex scenes – and there are many – sounded very similar.

So – this book has sex, humiliation, prostitution, troubles souls, rape, loved up couple, etc. If you like all that, you'll probably like it. For me it got boring and I was very tempted to skip parts, another soul searching, another sex scene....sorry.

Oh..and I'm going to give the first one two stars – because it was okay. Unfortunately the second and third didn't really do it for me, they get one star.

✿-Anna-✿ says

First book in a second group of stories about the men in the Phoenix club is about Angel and Dane...

Angel is the one being abused and blackmailed in this story to protect his younger brother Maddy from his older brother Wade... but hopefully as the newest member of the hottest gay strip club in NY he'll find the love and help he needs to get out of the hell he's living in... can't wait to see what happens.... off to read book 2

Rachel says

Love Cj Bishop's phoenix club series.

The boys are so hot and scared and damaged. And the emotion is so strong.

Loving Angel's story so far.

Cant wait to read the 2nd book next lime right as soon as i finish this review!!

But Dane what are u doing treating him like that??? Is it because of what he said while sleeping?? If so why didnt u just ask questions??

And Max and Gabe so much to sort out.....

Janie says

Seriously Dane, you fucking dick. How could you treat Angel like that. I just want to wrap Angel and Maddy up and keep them safe and loved.

jagr9563 says

I now know I started reading this series out of order, because this is the first book I read in the series. I seriously think however it should come with TRIGGER WARNINGS!! I most likely would have given it 4 stars had it had those warnings attached to them. And if they do, I apologize, but they must not be big enough for me to have seen them.

Now on to the better part of the review - at first I was a bit miffed that it seemed like all these stories started at the mid point of their lives and not the beginning. - Well, duh - they might start at the beginning if I would have read the first 4 books! HAHA The writing style of this book is very good. I only ran across a few continuity errors which weren't so bad as to break the flow, just give it a little stutter. I hate how Angel's brothers have used him without any regard whatsoever over his or Maddy's feelings. They are cold hearted bastards and deserve to rot in hell and there are times when I seriously have to put the book down and stop reading, the abuse is that bad. But it is so well written I get sucked in again and after a few hours am able to pick it up again. I hope the first 4 and the remaining books are not as filled with abuse and sexual depravity they put Angel though as in this book. If so I seriously don't know how I will be able to continue reading. It's rough. But I think it's so rough because it's so realistic and you just want to scoop these boys up and take them far far away!!

All in all I feel that I now MUST read the rest of this series, and will do so starting now. :)

Maddie M1RiH says

Angels book was powerful from the start, you just had this gut feeling this was going to rock you and yes I was right I was a mess.

When Dane met Angel, Angels hearts was beating so fast I thought I was going to have palpitations. Dean try's to distance himself but why your have to read.

What Angel is put through by his Stepbrothers and there friend is sickening but made the story whole. Angel did what he had to for the protection of his young brother Maddy.

Tissues was flowing and even though this book was tough I would re-read it again

Teri says

[rape, forced prostitution (hide spoiler)]
