



Angels of the Deep

Kirby Crow

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Becket Merriday is on the trail of a killer who is murdering beautiful young men in the small town of Irenic. What he discovers an ancient race of immortal beings hunted by an incredibly powerful adversary: the angel Mastema. Soon, Beck and his partner, Sean Logan, find themselves at the center of a deadly supernatural war.

Angels of the Deep Details

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Author : Kirby Crow

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From Reader Review Angels of the Deep for online ebook

Kassa says

This is a dark fantasy, so uniquely beautiful in its horror and alluring in its pain that you'll be unable to put this book down. The world Crow has created from the brilliant sun to the depths of empty darkness combine with the fantasy and history of Gods, Angels, Demons, and the ultimate balance of good and evil. The subtle and nuanced writing with beautifully lyrical prose read like a fantasy, yet the tangible evil and fear within almost mock the lovely, moving and descriptive writing of such deeds. This is an incredible story that I read twice before even attempting to write a review and will likely read many more times in the future.

Due to the complexity of the plot and the inability to write a review without discussing any spoilers, there will be no discussion about individual elements ~ although I truly wish I could. The story begins impressively with its vivid setting and lushly dark atmosphere threaded with secrets and pain, but soon turns mesmerizing as the journey moves fluidly across time and space. The plot is intricately wrapped in fantasy, theory, faith, and reality as they combine to create a world unbelievable and yet so richly alive, the dream becomes the truth. Each additional layer of complexity to the already complicated story line never overwhelmed, but enhanced the depth and texture of the tale.

Each subtle and nuanced detail is important, creating a different experience each telling. The emotional upheaval the story takes is almost never ending, unafraid of starting high and cresting upon that level only to plunge into the darkness time and time again. There are no limits, no safety nets, and no rules that are set within this story. Everything is questionable, changeable and fragile. This inherent uneasiness keeps you on edge, waiting to see where the author will go next, what terror and horror is in store in the name of love or hatred. The interchangeable and repeated use of such terms, love and hatred, epitomize the necessity of both emotions and the resulting actions in their honor.

The various characters, a rather large and veritable cast, enhanced the story at every turn. The depth of each person from Sean, Catherine, and Frank to Mastema, Tamiel, and Zefira was surprising. There were almost no missteps in characterization, each essential to the story and surprising with their purpose and intent. Beck, as the hero, is a stunning character from his overwhelming anger to his desperate cling to humanity. His need to love and be loved is emotional and moving, as is his voracious denial and avoidance. Beck's progression within the story could have been enough for a wonderful tale, but in combination with a fascinating plot, this story easily elevates itself. From the beginning priest to the last Nephilim, every character's presence is felt within the pages and its own addition to the tale important.

However, for all the raving about the story I have done there were some definite problems. None of these will detract from the story, hopefully, nor should they scare a novice reader away. The story's twists and turns with heart racing emotions and actions are almost too much at times. The author never just offers information; instead she makes the reader work for every clue, every inference, and every subtle hint. While this works especially well in combination with many elements of the story, some are over done and simply cause unnecessary confusion and work. Several background elements to the various characters could have easily been offered within a simple context without the slow dropping of hints and cut off conversation and not affected either the tone, pace, or impact of the story. Especially with the maze like plot building at the beginning, the flow and cohesiveness of the tale would have benefited from a few of the more mundane details freely offered.

Additionally, as a name holds power several of the characters used more than one name and thus the mixing

of multiple names could be confusing if not paying strict attention to who is who. There are also continuity errors that occur, some noticeable and some subtler. Even so, the revelations certainly do not stop ever within the book. If you think you've figured out the truth, think again and start reading the book from the beginning. Chances are you missed something. The last hundred pages especially involve so many twists and turns and detailed scenarios that you want to be sure to read this book in one sitting if possible, but the fast pace and fascinating topic will keep you glued to the story.

There are literary aspects that could keep scholars entranced for ages, from the overwhelming theme of light versus darkness, to God and faith, revenge and forgiveness, and even men versus Angels. However absorbing these themes may be, this tale is still a love story. Violent, gory, and beautiful in its terrifying horror, the theme of love is never far away. This may not be for everyone, but for those that enjoy an absorbing edgy story that you won't be able to put down and keep you guessing, I highly recommend this story. The ending is satisfying, if not simple, and the hint of a sequel will have you almost sorry the story ends.

Mel says

I really, really liked this, but I'm also glad it's over. Weird, huh? And I'm not glad it's over because of the dark content.

I have become a lazy reader, which quite annoys me, and to read ANGELS OF THE DEEP took quite the time and energy from me. I can't even pin-point the exact reason, to be honest. The world, the ideas, the philosophy, the characters... they are all enormous, huge, powerful. And that's amazing but also tiring. At least for me, it was.

But it was worth it!

Because Kirby's language and style is just utterly beautiful, poetical.

Change, the uninvited guest that destroys what once was.

Because the lines of right and wrong, of good and evil blur. Because you can even feel pity for evil.

When you face Mastema, do not hesitate. Though he's incapable of mercy, there is much that is tragic about Mastema. He's an instrument of fate, and that's never a kind path. We've all felt his despair. Not even at the end can you allow yourself to pity him.

Because there was lots that I didn't see coming. It was a delight, actually.

Because there's love and even romance and happiness.

Because we also get the POVs of the bad guys, which I think is rare. A treasure? A torture?
Here's a teaser for you in the spoiler—although it is actually not a spoiler—if you want, from Mastema's POV, the, um bad guy, with his counterpart Beck:
(view spoiler)

This book comes with TRIGGER WARNINGS of inexplicit child abuse/rape, explicit rape, strong violence. And all of these appear quite often... Do not read this if you are easily offended, too.

Recommended :)

Ami says

I don't even know how to classify this one: horror, supernatural, love story. It's totally wrapped into one. The story is very dark; from the first page, it feels like there is a dark cloak all around you, while you follow the story of the hero in this book, Beck Merriday, as he is trying to find a serial murder that has been viciously and gruesomely killed a number of people in his town.

The story goes into a supernatural realm -- with angels, and demons, and Nephilims (children of fallen angels and mortal women), and other Biblical terms (Yahweh, Hanoch) that I'm not very familiar with (I'm a Muslim). It feels getting dark and darker -- and you try to find a glimpse of hope as the hero keeps falling into a dark abyss, a nightmare.

It is definitely nowhere NEAR anything I have read before. That makes it really different and well, really good. Plus it gives me chills. I mean, look at the cover of this book!! I read it at night, when it was raining hard -- with thunders. Looking at the cover definitely does not help enlighten the darkness.

Dreamer says

Kirby Crow's use of language is both haunting and beautiful in this darkly excellent m/m horror read. Police chief Beck is faced with a demonic serial killer in the quiet town of Irenic.

'The twin virtues of sin and purity lured Mastema in like a hooked fish, impaled through the cheek with steel desire, swimming hopefully toward death. He reached for the creature.'

Camilla says

I have no idea what to say here.. I dont really want to write a review.. Would love nothing more than to just delete this book from my Kindle, and never think about it again..

I have *no idea* why this book bothered me so much.. But when I seriously wanted the "good guy" in this book to end up with the nasty, bad, motherfucking evil SOB, you get the point that I absolutly didnt get the *point* of this book..

Or maybe it shows that there is something seriously wrong with me, but I would rather not dig deeper into that theory.. :o/

This is about Beck, who we get to know in the prologue, where he almost gets molested by a priest.. Yes, thats the beginning, and then it just goes from there.. Beck is unique because he had a "Watcher" for a father

and a human for a mother.. All this he knows nothing about, until later in his life.. Lets just say that these *halflings* are special, and not supposed to feel love or stuff like that..

There is Sean, who we get the feeling early on is the "good guy" and a love interest for Beck.. I just never liked the guy.. So yeah.. That sucked too..

There was Mastema.. The evil motherfucker.. Oh, let me say that both Mastema and Sean had been in love with Beck's *soul* for over 6000 years, and they both wanted him.. Sean on the good side.. Mastema on the bad side.. So how fucked up am I for wanting Beck to be with Mastema? *Jesus Christ!*

I dont know.. I just felt that Sean loved the former body of Becks soul more than the new version of the soul, which would be Beck, if that makes any sense? lol And for some reason, I thought Mastema talked more directly to Beck than the former soul.. Ahh well.. Fuck it. Still didnt it like it..

I dont know.. Some of the chapters were good though.. There were few times where I felt I was into it, but it was only when Beck and the evil motherfucker were together.. So yeah.. I'm so screwed.. :o/

All in all.. 1 star.. Didnt like it.. And let me end with a perfect example of why I didnt like it.. This is one sentence, try to imagine a whole book of sentences like this... Good Gawd..

"Everywhere, from Assyria to Babylonia, the entire valley of the Euphrates was aflame with the abhor of the children of Abraham, who had brought Yahweh to them."

Try reading 300 pages of that!

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

This is a difficult review to write because the book is so complex, so you'll have to bear with me while I go through my impressions.

It's a dark book from the beginning to the end. The life that Beck, the protagonist, has led is difficult from the beginning. Reading about the abuse he had to endure as a child was heart-wrenching. There's an image in the book of him as a child bleeding while he walks down an aisle which will be impossible for me to dispel. It makes you really cry for the loss of innocence, for the pain. At this point Beck sees himself as a child through some kind of mirror. It's impossible for him to soothe that child, as it is impossible for us to ease that child's pain through the pages of the book. Many times in the book someone inquires about the past and many times it is said that the past is written in stone and can't be changed. All this makes the finality of an act of violence so cruel almost unbearable. Beck keeps returning to it in his mind and he refuses to tell anyone about it. The priest who abused him used to call him "angel", and it was unsettling that evil could be attracted to the most precious part of Beck's being as if he recognised it in some way.

Beck struggles throughout the book for his humanity. His other nature, which is the nature of an angel, is a core inside him and at the beginning he can't perceive it and when he can, he is not able to understand it, although his job, his dreams, the people he loves are determined by it. The angels in the book are not the good guardian angels we are used to: they are beings whose reasoning is not understandable by human minds, their actions are not to be judged by the good they make, but by the adherence of their behavior to the will of God (and I'd like to say that God is notable by his absence here).

Beck doesn't have only a human/divine nature, he has also a female/male nature, but the reader is given no light, no accomplished feeling even when Beck gets to know about himself, realising the reasons why he is as he is and what is expected from him. He is confused, torn between two powerful supernatural beings who love him each in their own tortured ways. He doesn't know what part of himself he has to surrender to continue to exist.

What is really remarkable in this book is its logic. There's a scheme inside the book that ties everything together: the past and the present; all the characters; the reasons why they love and the reasons why they hate; the places. The last pages of the book, with the final confrontation between Mastema and Beck, are soaked with emotions and meanings, and everytime you think that you have the resolution, there's a twist that makes you reconsider your expectations and sometimes makes you feel a poor little human struggling for a satisfying end.

In all the hurt and confusion of Beck's life, there's a burning flame which is not enough to defy the darkness, but it's warm enough to drive away the cold, and that's Sean's love. It's a safe haven, where Beck can finally find tenderness and understanding. It's what I felt rewarded with for having gone through Beck's trial with him.

I am sorry if my review is so confused, but this book really blew me away and I don't have the skills to express it.

Amara says

I really want to be able to write a coherent review for this one, however I am struggling greatly with that as I can't seem to get past my "WOW" response. It's been a long while since a book has tripped all my triggers like this one did.

I've always had a strong draw to stories of angels and demons, however finding ones that are well written isn't easy to do. Throw Nephilim into the mix and it rarely goes well. Frankly, Kirby Crow has given me one of the best dark fantasies I think I've ever read.

Angels of the Deep is by no means an easy read. It's filled with dark, even gruesome things. It blurs the line of what is good and what is evil, it's filled with layers behind every character, every situation. It has a complexity that makes you work for the beauty behind the darkness of it all.

The writing was powerful. The imagery, incredible. The characters were amazing. The story so rich in fantasy, theology, faith, love, hate, good, evil, all amazingly woven together; so full of twists and turns, so dark and engrossing I found it almost impossible to put down. At every turn I simply HAD to see what was going to happen next. To make any further review, I would have to re-read it to completely absorb all that this book holds, if I ever could.

Bottom line: I will most definitely be re-reading this one, I will most definitely be reading all the Kirby Crow books I can get my hands on, and... if 5 stars stands for "it's amazing"... I give Angels of the Deep 6 for... beyond amazing.

Highly, HIGHLY recommended.

REREAD REVIEW: STILL NEED MORE STARS FOR THIS BOOK OF THE UBER AWESOME.
MOAR STARS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Julesmarie says

This is another one that I'm having such a hard time giving a star rating to. This book actually took me months to finish because it was so harrowing and nightmarish to read that I couldn't take it in more than small doses.

What I liked:

The writing is fantastic! Among the most lyrical and vivid m/m books I've found so far. The imagery is clear and vivid, every scene is described in such carefully accurate detail that it was difficult to not get wholly absorbed into them.

I also liked the fresh and interesting take on the battle between "good" and "evil" and the examination of those concepts. I appreciated that it was clear that NOBODY is completely good or completely evil, but that we all make choices that invariably lead to us having bits of both in us. I also really liked that "indifferent" was included along with good and bad when Beck was thinking about things there at the end.

I think perhaps my favorite thing was the emphasis on free will. Each of the characters ended up where they were at the end because they made the choices that put them there. (view spoiler)

What I didn't like:

There is so much that is horrific in this book. The whole atmosphere of nearly the whole book is filled with this terrible pessimism that seems to rule out happiness as a possibility, let alone a goal.

I think the thing that kept making me need to stop reading this was how fluid "reality" was in this book. Beck's life at times became this waking nightmare that I was accompanying him through, and it got to the point several times that I just couldn't take any more horror or destruction or lies.

However, I do feel like the end made up for a lot of that. The end seemed filled with hope just as much as the rest of the book was filled with despair, and I appreciate the metaphor of the triumph of hope and love and faith over darkness and despair.

I'll likely not put myself through reading this again, but I'm glad I finished it.

Elisa Rolle says

2009 Rainbow Awards Honorable Mention (5* from at least 1 judge)

Gaby says

This book is totally different from what we usually read in this genre, and this is one of the reasons why it makes it so unique. It's not an easy read, but i still enjoyed it a lot.

Review to come soon.

Kris says

The Tasting:

Why I bought it:

A combination of the cover, the blurb and the author.

Dislike/like (ending on a high note):

Dislike~ More of a warning than a dislike... I am familiar with the Nephilim (the children of the 'Sons of God' and the 'Daughters of Humans') and therefore was quick to catch on to the main premise of the story, which, as the blurb says, is the hunting of the Nephilim by the Angel Mastema. It's not essential to have an in depth knowledge of Nephilim, but a certain amount did help me to better understand the nuances of Angels of the Deep. Along these lines, some back story and flashbacks appear throughout the book to assist with the development of the story. Take notice of them. They are important!

Like~ This is dark fantasy, my friends. Not everything is as it seems and bad stuff happens (a lot) to people; some of which is quite graphic including murder and references to rape and to child abuse. Not a pleasant afternoon's reading by any stretch of the imagination. So why the heck is this a like?? I LOVE good dark fantasy, that's why. *G*

Dislike~ Being very, very honest, this story contains a cast of characters, who are very difficult to like, especially the main character Brett. He is a bit of a bastard, un/caring, cold/hot, a prick to his estranged wife, hovering on the brink of an affair with a man, and more often than not seemingly detached/inhuman. I thought he was a total wanker and then the big reveal happened and all became clear(er). This – and subsequent revelations – did make me feel more sympathetic to Brett in the end.

Like~ Twist upon twist upon twist upon twist. Other than the fact that I figured more people were going to die (prob'ly quite gruesomely) I had no idea where the plot was going and what was going to happen next. I love it when an author keeps you guessing, don't you. :)

So, what I think:

This will definitely NOT be everyone's cuppa. For those of you who, like me, enjoy dark fantasy with a strong dash of mystery, GET IT. It's an engrossing story which has the added bonus of being written by the talented Kirby Crow, who never fails to impress.

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‘Tasting’ is my version of a mini-review where I talk a (very) little about what I liked and disliked about a book as well as who I think the story will appeal to. Oh, and I’ve added a bit about why I picked up the book in the first place – sometimes this can be interesting to know.

LD Durham says

Gorgeously written. Kirby Crow evoked so much with her writing, that even if the story wasn't enthralling, reading it would still be worth it for the near poetry she created.

The book starts off a bit confusing, but by about the third chapter I had gotten a handle on all that was being thrown at me and become very involved in the story. The characters are enchanting and evocative. The story is dark but beautiful. I'm not a hundred percent certain how I felt at the end of it, but I still thoroughly enjoyed the adventure, both in the physical and the emotional aspects of the book. A really impressive book.

Aleksandr Voinov says

What an amazing, engrossing, fantastic read. I loved it. I think this is probably among the top five in the genre, and stands right there with my favourite from Tanith Lee and others in terms of "dark fantasy". Brilliant. What a book.

G.B. Gordon says

This one will stay with me for a long time. So. Much. Pain. I couldn't breathe when I finished it, it was so heavy. The darkness is not without hope or redemption, but even the comparatively positive ending has an elegiac quality to it. I felt every ounce of the weight of the world that Beck carries on his shoulders.

Playlist: Nick Cave's Murder Ballads, Bruckner's 8th Symphony and Björk's Dancer in the Dark (and if that doesn't tell you what to expect, nothing will)

So why read it? Because all that gravitas is cloaked in an opheliac beauty reminiscent of Rimbaud. Lush, vivid, richly detailed descriptions that engage all the senses. I too rarely come across a modern author who dares and is able to use the whole stunning palette of the English language with such lyrical perfection. (I suspect I would start to read the Income Tax Act if Kirby Crow wrote it.)

Em says

This is a tremendously dark and haunting paranormal story which some may find too much. The world-building was absolutely stunning and there is a huge amount of detail which I always love. I'm a huge fan of Kirby Crow's books but this is simply a cut above, I'm kicking myself as I should have read it ages ago. It's beautifully written and just perfect for anyone like myself that enjoys dark fantasy/paranormal and a great story with complex characters. It's complicated and one of those books where you have to really put the

effort in to understand what's going on, but it's so worth it. There is a romance, not the conventional sort and explaining further would give the game away. Go and read it, you won't be disappointed!
