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Angelhood



Synopsis

GOLD AWARD WINNER • MOONBEAM CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS HONORABLE MENTION • 2015 READERS FAVORITE BOOK AWARDS FINALIST • 2015 GRACE AWARDS LONG-LISTED • 2015 INSPY AWARDS

Seventeen-year-old theater geek Nanette believes her life is headed toward stardom on Broadway. But when her dream theater college rejects her and her best friend dies in a terrible accident, Nanette decides the world would be better off without her. Unfortunately, the afterlife offers something less than a heavenly situation. Trapped between alternating periods of utter darkness and light, Nanette is stuck following a high school freshman around. Soon, she learns she's a guardian angel, and the only way she can earn her wings is to keep her young charge, Vera, from committing the same sin she did—taking her own life. But Nanette is missing more than just her wings. She has no tangible body or voice, either. Frustrated by her inability to reach out to Vera and haunted by memories of her old life, Nanette wants to give up, but then she sees what happens when another Guardian at the high school turns his back on his charge. The shock is enough to supercharge Nanette's determination. She's going to find peace in the afterlife as soon as she can convince Vera that living is what life is all about.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a YA novel but it will appeal to adults as well. Parents, this YA novel is completely safe to share with your kids in middle school and up. It's a powerful and compassionate look at suicide as seen through the eyes of a teenager who does the unthinkable. In this story, "purgatory" means that a person becomes the guardian angel for someone else contemplating the same fate. Purgatory ends when the ultimate choice for life or death is made. A.J. Cattapan has written a great story with terrific characters. I was carried away by Nanette's battle to keep her charge from giving in to the darkness and evil that tried to surround her. This is a difficult and dark subject but the author has written a story based on hope, not darkness.

From the opening scene, *ANGELHOOD* by A.J. Cattapan, was unexpected. Shocking even. It is not a typical feel good book about angels, but deals with the realities of teenage despair as well as spiritual warfare on a totally different level. The premise is quite dark, but by the end of the book it was actually quite uplifting. It was certainly engaging. Right from the opening scene, there was no putting this book down. It is written in first person present tense and is a trend that takes some skill but was well executed, making the story feel quite immediate. Descriptions are detailed and believable, even though it deals with supernatural and unexplainable elements. Geared toward a YA audience, this book has a definite Christian message but is non-traditional in its presentation, storyline, and outcome. It's a great book for teenagers going through some kind of inner turmoil - those who feel like they're outsiders or those that may have lost hope. It was surprisingly enjoyable despite the dark subject matter. SPOILER: The main character commits suicide on about page three. It isn't glossed over but it isn't condemned either. That's what I mean by a very dark thread. The bulk of the book is basically her in a purgatory like state, as a guardian angel in waiting, so to speak. It is not happy or pleasant or any of those things and obviously there is some questionable theology, but I don't think that was the point of the book. In one word, it's a book about HOPE in a very dark place...

When I first began this book, I didn't think I'd be able to finish it, but I kept reading, and I'm glad I

did. It's difficult for this Mom to read about teen suicide, but I know it happens, and hopefully this story will reach troubled souls who might wonder whether or not ending their life would be best for themselves and others. This is a powerful story and a vivid reminder of the spiritual battle going on all around us, and I felt so uplifted by the ending. Highly recommended.

I don't normally read YA books, but I was captivated by the cover and the message. It took me back to my high school years when all too often, the same issues of suicide, death, and fitting in were constantly plaguing many teens as they unfortunately are today. As humans, we are constantly in search of a guardian angel to help us, guide us, and tell us that this chaotic beautiful life of ours, is worthy of living, living through the challenges, and making things right a little at a time. This was a great read not only for middle-grade and young adults, but also adults too. I enjoyed the characters. A.J. Cattapan is a wonderful writer. I applaud her on her debut novel. All the best, Chiara Talluto,[...]. Looking to read more.

Nanette takes her life when she decides the world would be a better place without her. But instead of finding the peace she hoped for, she discovers she has become a guardian angel. She can only move beyond angelhood if she can prevent a teenage girl, Vera, from inflicting the same harm upon herself. I'll admit I found Nanette difficult to relate to at first, as her decision to commit suicide seemed very rash and I didn't get a clear sense of the depression that led up to it. The story really got me hooked, though, as soon as she entered "angelhood," because it felt like she was unraveling a mystery as she put different pieces together regarding Vera's life and how to accomplish her mission. I really liked the way Vera's story came together, and I appreciated the book's message of hope amid all the tragedy. I would recommend Angelhood as a unique, thought-provoking read!

This cover moved me To open the book right away. This is the first book that I have read in it's entirety since having two children. It has inspired me to hug, love, and hold each one of my children, and hope that they never feel what these characters experience. I wanted to call the main character to say I can help You, Or I am here for you. This book is a must read for all adults and teenagers alike. It remind us all that many people live in darkness and we need to do whatever it takes to fight off the darkness for our friends.

My Middle Schooler begged me to read it because she enjoyed it so much and wanted to have a "book club discussion" with me. I finally got around to cracking it open and then couldn't put it down.

Very well-done story, and now we look forward to reading more by this author.

Charming YA tale of a young woman who makes the ultimate mistake...and then finds out that there's more to it than she expected. Helping someone who is in despair is hard enough for us. Now imagine you couldn't talk or even tap them on the shoulder. But if Nanette wants to escape the worst of fates, she must learn to negotiate her new state...and be someone's guardian angel. Very sweet story. Unexpectedly satisfying ending.

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