



After Eden

Katherine Pine

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Devi knows she shouldn't trust the new employee at her favorite used bookstore. Sure, he's funny, smart and hands down the sexiest guy she's ever met, but something dark lurks behind his unassuming smile and sinful green eyes.

Still, a girl can't always afford to be picky. When an angel abducts your twin brother it should come as no surprise that the one person who can help you get him back is a demon—and only if you're willing to pay his price.

After Eden Details

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CJ says

****NOTE: I am updating my reviews. Y'know: older, wiser, more eloquent.****

I don't know what possessed me to read this book. The summary seems intriguing enough, but after reading it... let's just chalk it up to a momentary lapse in judgement.

In terms of plot, this book is all over the place. It reads like Katherine Pine never devised a plot, or a reference sheet or anything else she could use to keep this book consistent. Because it is *all over the place*. This is what I will henceforth refer to as an "OH YEAH!" moment. Whenever I use this, you can assume that the author has made no previous mention of this information, although it may seem imperative.

So, the main character, Devi, is a lonely secluded girl who doesn't have any meaningful relationships. Like at all. Not even her family: she can't look at her mom without being reminded of her missing brother and dead father. What she does have, is one pseudo-friend named Kim who is Vietnamese, and treats Devi so horribly, which conveniently furthers her isolation. This trope is not uncommon, but usually the isolation is not having absolutely *no* friends whatsoever, but more feeling out of place in your social group and/or family. Devi takes it to a whole new level, the level on which I would keep an eye on her so she doesn't come to class one day with an Uzi. Complete isolation.

****SIDENOTE, skip this if you are triggered by death, suicide, murder, or really creepy stuff**** Devi mentions that her father shot himself on their couch and she used to *sleep on the blood stain and stroke it..* That is **not** sentimental or sad, only creepy and very, very gross. Also, I think it's technically impossible because the police and forensics would need at least a day to make sure he really shot himself, and he wasn't murdered. Because they do that with every case in a shooting. So Devi wouldn't be allowed anywhere near the bloodstain for at least a day, and maybe not at all, because I'd imagine they'd get rid of it for, y'know sanitary reasons. Nobody needs a bloodstained couch and *that's gross*.

OH YEAH! I get migraines so bad everyone thinks I have epilepsy! Oh, okay. So Devi is prone to seizures. What triggers her? No idea! This is brought up and dropped so quick, and is never mentioned again. So we can assume Devi has had a seizure before in public, enough for her to be diagnosed with epilepsy, but there is no further mention of treatment, or self-care. Meaning, Devi never takes care to avoid flashing lights, or swift movements or anything that might cause a seizure. If it's not mentioned again, why is it relevant? Why is it included? Who knows?

OH YEAH! I have an Indian grandmother, and my name comes from the Hindu word for goddess, but this has no relevance to the story or plot. It would be really cool to include this somehow, but it's sort of just kind of there. Oh. Okay, cool. What do I do with this? Why is this here? (I'd also appreciate Hinduism getting the proper respect it deserves if it's going to be mentioned at all)

OH YEAH! I used to be able to see auras, but through the strength of my will I made it go away! Huh? This is said in the middle of the book, and was never mentioned before or after this point, it wasn't in anyway related to the Hindu grandmother. Why is this relevant? It's not mentioned before or after.

At this point the OH YEAH! moments are getting enough to be infuriating but there's still more.

OH YEAH! (This moment comes towards the end of the book so it's particularly frustrating) Remember that brother who went missing? Well he used to have an imaginary friend that he was convinced was real but no one believed him but I lowkey did. Well OH YEAH! turns out imaginary "Cammy" is actually the angel Camael. For some reason when she figures this out she has an emotional outburst and cries forever because she's mad that Camael never revealed himself to anybody else or some obscure reason that is not fully explained.

That's all of the major OH YEAH! moments but there were more that I didn't include because then this would get tedious.

Besides plot holes and discrepancies, the whole concept of the story was executed poorly.

The idea has potential to be intriguing. Pine makes the insinuation that Lucifer Fell not because of Pride but because of Love. Very interesting. This implies that there is more to morality than just a linear scale of good and evil in the supernatural realm. Note, here, Pine is going based on Christian theology in her novel. So this means, that demons have the potential to do good, such as love. Does this mean that they feel the same love that people feel or only the bad types of love like obsession and envy? See? This has potential to be very interesting, but Pine fails to recognize that potential by keeping it a binary scale but flipping the ends, meaning angels are bad and demons are good. It just doesn't make any sense. I mean, it could, but she just doesn't put in the effort to make it work.

For example Cammy/Camael, the imaginary friend/angel has absolutely no range of emotion. Like zero. His full identity and personality are based completely on following orders. I guess it's supposed to create conflict, but it just falls flat. It would be more interesting if he had at least a *tiny* personality or an emotional range greater than a teaspoon so he could be conflicted with following orders even though he had to follow them, but alas that is not the case. We are stuck with cardboard zero emotion Cam, and it's disappointing.

I did like Oz however. I liked his character and his quirks. I love that he loves pancakes. Very interesting traits for a demon. But the BIGGEST problem I had with this WHOLE book is that Oz has to live in a fake unnatural (for him) body because otherwise Devi won't find him attractive. That is a terrible message, even lowkey to send (it's a tad different because Oz is a demon but it's still a horrible message). I like that he's compassionate, and kind, and goofy. However, having a demon with these traits should add to the plot of a novel that should be about the complexity of good and evil, but instead just adds to the chaos of a book and a mess of a plot.

My recommendation: Skip this book. Give it a pass. It's poorly written, the plot is a mess, and it will leave you frustrated

Sarah says

First, I'll give you the good: This book is somewhat funny. I found myself laughing outright at some of the scenarios and banter, so that was good. Unfortunately, that isn't what this book is about and it doesn't make this book better overall.

I'm going to agree with some of the other reviewers on this: There is a beginning and an end, but the middle is lacking. Neither the beginning nor end are that spectacular either, and that's why I gave it two stars.

The beginning is okay. At first it seems like a complicated mess of different ideas - it starts off with a vague introduction to the situation with her brother, then cuts into something else with Oz, then goes on to Devi coming home to find Forneus in her living room, and on and on - but soon everything sort of comes together and you become more comfortable with moving on in the story. However, just as soon as it hooks you in, it disappoints. The entire middle is a big fluff of nothing. We end up with a hefty portion of the book dedicated to "padding" a friend's ex-boyfriend's car, which had zero relevance to anything else at all, and A LOT of religious talk.

That, I think, is the difficult thing with these kinds of books. An author may have a great idea or concept of Heaven and Hell for a book, but they have the daunting task of presenting that world to us so the whole rest of the story makes sense. And they have to do it in such a way that we won't be overwhelmed or confused. I'm impressed with Ms. Pine's detail of the "heavenly world" and everything that goes along with it - it's an interesting interpretation - but she unloads it on the readers all at once. You're assaulted with all these theories and stipulations, what an angel is exactly, what's the difference between demons and devils, what does it mean to have no soul.. no spirit, etc. and you just end up bamboozled. I'm glad she explains it all, but it needed to be done carefully and in small doses.

Ms. Pine's style of writing is also very messy. When you're writing something, you know exactly what it means because you know the line of thinking you went through to come up with what you wrote, but not everyone else does. I think she wanted us to draw conclusions and make assumptions about certain situations that only she could understand or make. There seemed to be gaps in conversations and situations, and behavior that didn't make sense. There was also the little editing problem. Not too big a deal for me, it's easy to get over, but when she is constantly spelling Forneus "Forenus" and words like "aliv" are missing letters altogether, I start focusing on those things; especially when the writing hardly makes sense anyway.

I was a little concerned about Devi too. She is a bit bipolar. One second she's all over Oz and wants to kiss him and be his savior, the next, she can't even look at him because she's afraid of him. Their whole relationship goes like that. They'll be laughing and flirting, then all of a sudden Devi is crying and Oz is feeling sorry for himself; or vice versa. She's like that with the angel too. She'll hate him, then pity him, then hate herself for pitying him, then cry about it and want him to feel sorry for her, then hate him again because he doesn't. At one point she even complains about Oz not being there to save her yet. She doesn't even think of trying to get herself out, she just waits and hopes Oz will come for her. Honestly, she needs to get herself together and buck up.

I think more time should have been spent on Kai as well. The very first couple of chapters revolve around his impact on Devi and then all talk of him after that is very meager and unconvincing. I wanted more of a story there.

I'm not going to continue the series. I don't think it's worth the money I'd have to spend or the time I'd have to dedicate. I don't recommend this book to others either.

Chrissy says

This was a good story and I am looking forward to the next book. I do have one issue with this book that made me give it a lower rating. This may be a spoiler so be forewarned!

I was extremely disappointed with Devi's treatment of Camael. I frankly didn't understand why she was so

hostile and cruel to him. I don't care that Camael technically doesn't have feelings, but seriously, it's human decency to not be so uncaring. It confused me that Devi was upset over the bug that flew into the flames, and was concerned about Forneus a few times after he was a jerk and had intentions to kill her. However, she couldn't bring herself to be decent and forgiving of Camael after learning he didn't have a choice taking her brother. He even tried to prolong taking Kai for her sake, and then stayed with Devi to watch over her. I mean seriously her behavior is just retarded and hypocritical. I sincerely hope the author changes Devi's attitude in the next book for it to be more consistent behavior. I greatly disliked Devi as soon as she didn't move past her attitude towards Camael. In fact my thoughts on Devi were akin to disappointment.

Tiffany says

This book has an interesting plot about demons, devils and angels. Also the characters are unique so it is an enjoyable read. The main character Devi has had a tragic life after the loss of her brother and father. One day she meets a demon and she starts to get closer to discovering what happened to her brother. I will definitely continue to read the series because I want to see what happens next.

Iris says

Deze recensie is als eerste geplaatst op Carpe Libra

After Eden start zeer veelbelovend. Onze heldin valt bijna in de armen van onze held (oké ze viel op de harde vloer, hij moet duidelijk nog aan zijn reflexen werken ;)) en ze voelen zich op de een of andere manier meteen tot elkaar aangetrokken. Ook de flashbacks die Devi ervaart over haar rare broer Kai wekten enorme nieuwsgierigheid op. Een engel die kinderen zou ontvoeren? Behoren zij in alle verhalen tot de good guys? Of gaat het hier om een gevallen engel? Hier moest ik meer over weten!

Maar toen.... begonnen ze met praten en hielden niet meer op. De afwisseling tussen actie en eindeloze conversaties had iets beter verdeeld kunnen worden. Mijn aandacht verslapte gewoon. Alsof mijn broertjes tegen mij over voetbal beginnen te praten, zo saai was het. Ik heb het boek ook verscheidene keren gewoon even moeten wegleggen, aangezien ik merkte dat ik dezelfde zin steeds opnieuw moest lezen. Het verhaal bleef gewoon niet hangen...

De rest van het verhaal werd daardoor een beetje meh. Er waren nog wel leuke stukken hier en daar, maar ik miste het gevoel dat ik aan het begin had. Ook is me nog steeds niet duidelijk wat in dit boek het verschil is tussen een Engel en een Duivel. Logischerwijs moet er een belangrijk en duidelijk verschil tussen zitten, maar dat kon ik niet uit de tekst opmaken. Dit maakte het verhaal een beetje raar in mijn ogen...

Conclusie

Het was een beetje moeilijk om mijn gevoelens over After Eden op een rijtje te krijgen. Er zaten superleuke stukken in (ik kijk tegenwoordig anders tegen maandverband aan ;)) maar er waren ook stukken waar ik mezelf doorheen moest slepen. Zo saai waren ze. Daarom uiteindelijk toch maar 3 sterren gegeven. Het is leuker dan het gemiddelde boek, maar ook niet veel.

Molly says

I had to give this one up at about 60%. I wanted to check out some independently published books, and this one has a great cover that drew me in, but I was very disappointed.

The premise is not too bad. As far as fallen angels go, it's fairly standard. The twist is that God cursed demons to be killed by any humans they fall in love with. It had potential, but there are several fundamental problems.

First is editing. I can't stress this enough. Everyone needs a professional copy editor at the very least. This book was riddled with errors that even a decent literary minded friend could have caught.

But I would have overlooked a few errors if the basic plot would have made sense. The demon -angel-devil mythology was confusing. The pacing was terrible. There were little snippets of nice writing, but I basically felt like this was just ready to be workshopped rather than published.

I also couldn't forgive the absolutely cheesy Twilight reference to sparkling vampires. I should have given up at that point.

I could say more but none of it would be favorable.

??Hannah?? says

This was an okay read. At times it was a little slow though. I liked it enough to make the effort to finish it. If the author hadn't mysteriously disappeared from the face of the earth I might have continued this series. However, it seems like it will never be completed so why waste my time.

Katinki says

I'll call this one really more like **2.5 stars. It's better than a 2 but not as good as a 3...so yeah, 2.5**

What I like:

- The world. I liked the potential here - the demons, the angel hierarchy, the devils, the spiritless, the soulless, etc. It's a pretty nifty idea.
- I also like the conflict presented with Devi (main character) and her brother and how they fit into this particular world. I also like the separate romantic conflict between Devi and Azazel/aka Oz (conflict meaning she's destined to kill him).
- I like Azazel/Oz. He's a nice mix of bad ass and sweet. I'd have liked to have seen more of him / his powers.
- *sometimes* I like Devi. At points, she was a sympathetic lead, but other times... honestly? Kind of weak.
- More below on the negative side, but I like Forneus.
- I like Camael's (Devi's angel guardian) characterization quite a bit. The author has done a fine job showing the difference between the earthbound and the angels. Unlike other "angel" books out there, this one makes

the angels less... human. It's an interesting approach.

- Thank you, no love triangle. A+ on that.

- *sometimes* the chemistry between Devi and Oz works. Sometimes, to be frank, it's too far, too fast, to the point it's not believable.

What I don't like:

- For lack of better terms, the lack of story organization is my biggest beef. More than once I found myself shaking my head and thinking that this story couldn't possibly have a solid (or logical) outline. It was disjointed and, really, in places just poorly set up. There's not enough information early enough. There's too much information without prior hints too late. Sometimes it seems like "stuff" just randomly happens. More background on the world and more importantly on the rules of it is needed. And it needs to be laid out in a more orderly fashion. Also, there are segments that really are just not needed at all, plot-wise - i.e. the entire chapter devoted to "padding" James's car.

- The secondaries need a lot of work. I like Forneus, but furthering the point immediately preceding this one, I don't get him. He's not nearly developed enough if he's going to be such an important character in the story. Kim, Devi's best friend is a waste of text. One, she's not important to the story, and two, she's very unlikable.

- The appearance of the villain and the climax itself. No lie, I was going, "HUH? Where did she come from?????" And too, how Forneus "saved" her...just no. That wasn't hinted at or alluded to at all. Really, that whole scene made little sense. More background was needed ahead of time. As is, it was just... illogical and too unexpected to be believable in the world.

- As mentioned above, Devi and her chemistry with Oz needs work. At times, it's just... not believable. She's also sometimes just... not really compelling as a lead.

I'll probably read the second book in the series because I've found that often series such as this (first time and self pub'd) improve as they progress. I'm hoping some of the issues resolve. We'll see. Either way, it's a fast read, so not too much time invested.

I can't say I'd recommend it highly or broadly. But if you really like the "angel" YA subgenre, you might give it a shot just to see.

Jody says

After Eden was easy to read and I liked the story about an outcast Devi, who meets a mysterious guy at her favorite used book store. Devi's twin brother Kai was taken by an Angel when she was 10. She has always felt she was missing something ever since that day. She has been plagued by migraines since his disappearance. Her father committed suicide on their couch because he couldn't stand the loss of his son. Devi's Mom is an alcoholic and more absent than present in her life. When Devi meets Oz, the bookstore guy, he seems to know all about her headaches. She is attracted to him but has been a loner for so long that she keeps him at a distance. It turns out Devi was born without a spirit and therefore when she dies she will cease to be. Apparently this makes her a Demon magnet. Oz protects her and she seems to have an Angel. She wants to make her Angel appear so he can take her to her brother. Oz helps her because he loves her. She doesn't realize his feelings and I often wanted to shake her. I loved Oz even though he was a demon. I wanted her to be with him but it just never really happened. Oz is sexy and saves her more than once.

The book deals with some interesting mythology regarding Angels and Demons. Demons are the Angels that were sent to guard and watch over Eden but fell in love with God's creation and therefore were banished

from Heaven to life immortally in the creation they loved so much. Oz is one of these Demons. Oz makes being a Demon not seem bad. It is almost as if it wasn't their fault they loved creation so much. Then there are Devils who are the Angels whom were thrown out of Heaven for wanting to become better than God. Lucifer is the Prince of all. Lucifer has sent his Devils to collect Devi as she is the only person who has been born without the spirit in centuries. Then there is Devi's brother Kai who was pure spirit and therefore belonged to Heaven. It was a little like they shouldn't have been 2 people but one. This was a good story and I will definitely read the next one but I do wish Devi would get more together with Oz.

Savannah (Books With Bite) says

I am really enjoying see author think outside the box. Stories are now becoming so much more than what they used to be. One genre that is popular is angels. I love the any story with angels, but when Heaven and Hell go to war, its even better.

Devi is a great character. I loved her personality from the very start. She is a very humbling young lady who is just trying to find answers. I like how both her and her brother had a strong connection to war that is going on. The storyline is not only unique but realistic. Many things in this book have biblical setting. So if you aren't familiar with the bible, you might bot get it. Then again, Ms. Pine made it easy to understand since she did a great job explaining the story to the reader as you unveil each secret. Which was wonderful. I love secrets!!

All the characters in this book played a big role. While they may seem minor, their roles are bigger then what you think. I like how all sides of the story are explain from each character. Things you wouldn't believe happen to them. Each of them have a stake in this war, it is just matter of who gets it first.

My only gripe was the beginning of the story that sort of confused me. It lead me thinking of something else, when it was something entirely different. (Don't want to say to spoil the story.)

If you like angels, biblical history, and a unique storyline read this book. Ms. Pine created such a world that was easy to dive into and stay in. The story flowed just right, as well as the character development. Nothing happen too fast or too slow. The pacing of the story was perfect in revealing the characters, secrets and the war.

Kami Dodson-Perry says

Devi is very emotional even though most of the time she does not know why. Devi has missed a part of herself since her brother was stolen & she has never felt whole since. Devi is constantly thinking about her brother & any answers she can get she is willing to pay the price for the answers. Her favorite bookstore is now owned by Oz who is a demon & she is falling in love with. There is a curse on demons (which in this series are fallen angels)& it is related to love which really sucks for both Oz & Devi. Devi also meets a devil who wants to deliver her to hell for his prince (Lucifer). So she needs to survive & escape the devil which is kind of friends with Oz who is protecting her from everyone while trying to be friendly with her guardian angel (Oh yeah that too) who is trained to fight devils & demons. She is mean to the angel for reasons that are completely understandable but once he shows himself she can always see him (I think) & being away from her hurts the angel. I see this becoming a major problem for Devi. I liked the book & will read the next

in the series. I am hoping for some more answers to the puzzle. I would like to see how Devi & Oz handle everything & see their relationship progress to the next level.

Gabby says

Can you give negative stars? I honestly had to make new shelves just for this book. The characters were annoying and always crying (bad boys and girls)??? Seriously? I have a hard time believing that a bad boy demon is a cry baby too! Don't even get me started on the erratic dialogue and complete lack of sense. I definitely would not recommend this book to anyone... There is no real romance and no real story. YA readers.. Don't waste your time.

Alyssa says

3.5 This book was surprisingly good for 99c on Amazon!

Meet Devi. Her brother Kai was taken away by a gorgeous angel when they were children, her father committed suicide, and her mother -- who blames herself for all the wrong that has happened to their family -- is a shell of herself. She drinks alcohol and passes out on a couch that is the same model as the one her dead husband shot himself on.

Meet Oz, or Azazel (or Jasmine... more on that to come). He is a fallen angel, or a devil. He owns a bookstore, can shape shift -- into anything, including a female... yes. Hello Jasmine), and has a love for all things -- particularly pancakes from the pot-head hangout next door to his bookstore.

And then there's a cast of other characters such as Forenus, who is a demon and friend of Oz in a love-hate relationship and also wants to bring Devi to his "prince" (I assume Lucifer); Kim, Devi's only friend who is Vietnamese and a sucker for bad men, also a bit shallow as well; "Cammy", the angel watching over Devi; and Onoskeilis, who loves Azazel and is trying to kill Devi to prevent the love of her life from succumbing to God's curse: (view spoiler)

I didn't particularly enjoy all the religious bits as I'm not a religious person, but thankfully -- for an angel and demon/devil book -- it wasn't as bad as it could have been. Plus, I was looking for some cheesy/fluffy pnr YA book to read and was mildly entertained by this. I may even get around to reading the sequel.

TheBookAddictedGirl says

4½

I was asked by the author, Katherine Pine, to review After Eden. Well, with angels, dark romance, demons and the paranormal, this book sounded like my idea of heaven (no pun intended, there). I had even been planning on buying it, before Katherine offered it to me. And, after finishing, I can honestly tell you all that I loved this book! Thank you Katherine, so, so much!

There was something very addictive about After Eden, right from the beginning. The prologue was simply

amazing, about how close Devi and her twin brother, Kai, were. In it, the two are playing The Snow Queen, and she promises that she will always find him. And then she wonders that if her name were Greta (the girl in The Snow Queen) she would be able to save her brother and find him, regardless.

“But I’d been named Devi, and so after he was stolen I couldn’t find him, no matter how hard I tried.”

Devi’s suffered lots of losses in her life: her brother’s abduction, her father’s suicide, part of her mother got lost along the way and part of herself disappeared when her brother did. When she meets Oz, she knows he’s different, but then again, she’s used to different. Because an angel took her brother...

There was something about Devi that drew me in. She was almost socially awkward, and damaged after her brother’s disappearance. Just... different. More mature, but she was also able to laugh easier than most.

Smart, intuitive, emotional and brave, Devi was just easily likeable. Then there were all the little mysteries about her: the sudden headaches she’d get for no obvious reason, the circumstances in which her brother disappeared... She was an amazing protagonist, and so strong after all she’d been through.

Oz, our love interest, I loved. He was funny, cute, with a punk-rocker-slash-artsy-type look. I’m not a big fan of the love-at-first-sight, but I could get why Devi was so drawn to Oz. He was mysterious, sweet and... well, perfect. What I loved most was the fact that he wasn’t one of those overly-brooding male leads: he was witty, hilarious and his personality was really addictive. Plus, he had a few tricks up his sleeve...

Devi’s best friend, Kim, was brilliant: and completely insane. Oz’s friend Forneus was an odd character: one minute I hated him, the next I liked him, the next I hated him again. But... he cared about Oz. Even though he was mean.

Devi and Oz’s relationship was completely believable, even with the first-sight aspect. The two of them just went together, perfectly. And when they were together, more often than not I ended up laughing at one thing or another.

What I liked most about this book was the mythology: it was incredible, and obviously very well thought out. The writing was brilliant, although there were a few minor grammatical mistakes. The hints were dropped, the twists revealed slowly, teasingly, until I finally understood: by then, the book had finished, and I hadn’t put it down in hours. And the characters were amazingly real, and I actually felt like I got to know them as I read. I recommend this to all paranormal romance readers: it’s a new twist on the genre, in my opinion anyway.

After Eden was insanely hard to put down, and once I finished, I found myself thinking of the story and characters. I was also left with a strong urge to go back into the world. I can’t wait until the sequel comes out! Because, right at the end, the ultimate piece of information was revealed...

Steffy says

The summary was good and the few first chapters have real potential, I really thought I would enjoy that book but unfortunately the promising start didn’t really deliver.

I know that starts of series might not always seem like the best but this book didn’t manage to capture my interest on any level.

I can’t say the plot is flawed but there is a lot of inconsistencies, the absence of some essential explanation that almost makes me wonder if the author had a define plan when she started to write the story.

I have to say the same about the characters, they are very uni-dimensional, you can’t really feel anything.

Where some books make my heart aches for just one hand holding, this one actually bored me while reading the supposedly hot make-out scene.

The writing style itself is not bad but there is quite a few editing errors that might be a concern for readers. English is not my first language and if I noticed quite a lot of them I wonder how native speakers will react. Honestly there is not much more I can say about this book, it was not completely TERRIBLE but I still thought that it was for a a waste of money and time. It is far from being a YA of quality which also makes

me wonder about the author age and writing skills.
