



The Keepers

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Jess denies God. In his infinite wisdom, he's taken everyone she's ever loved. Moving to the French Quarter was a ploy to erase the guilt she felt for rebuking her faith. Perhaps, if she hadn't met Justin, an angel preoccupied with getting back into God's good graces, and drowning in his hatred for humanity, her plan would have worked.

Justin's general disdain for the human race makes him difficult to like, but some higher power has appointed him her keeper. Justin's convinced he can mend her broken relationship with her maker, but in the process he learns a thing or two about his own humanity.

Never mind falling in love, that's not supposed to happen. In fact, it may even be forbidden. Jess just wants Justin to understand her plight, and he wants to protect her from a world she doesn't know.

If neither are equipped to save the other, then whose soul will live and whose will perish?

The Keepers Details

Date : Published (first published June 6th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Monique O'Connor James

Format : Kindle Edition 357 pages

Genre : Paranormal, Angels, Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review The Keepers for online ebook

Sheila says

Jess's brother sends her home to their parents' apartment in the French Quarter after their mother's death. She promises to call him every day. But will New Orleans open Jess up to new experiences, or will it just imprison her in memories?

The New Orleans of Monique O'Connor James' novel *The Keepers* is a lively city with night life, alcohol, neighbors and parades. Post-Katerina, its carefree personality has returned, and Jess quickly falls in with the amazing Vi while watching LSU play football on the TV screen in a bar. Every time Vi speaks, Jess hears the ghost of her mother's accent while the reader drifts deeper into the smoky atmosphere.

Four brothers, svelte, muscular, and simply gorgeous, deal cards, adding excitement to the scene. And then there's Jess's mother's Bible but Jess isn't going there anymore. God doesn't help. He's betrayed her. So she shuts his book in a drawer.

Maybe God's real. Maybe he isn't. The reader doesn't have to share Jess's belief or unbelief to enjoy her tale. One of the brothers proves delightfully drawn to her, and she to him. But there's a beautiful restraint in their care for each other, watchful, protective, wary of boundaries—of which there are more than meet the eye.

Another stranger has fallen for Jess, and his desire is more immediate, more dangerous, and much less restrained. Soon Jess is embroiled in a battle of good and evil, never quite sure which side is which or where she really wants to stand. Temptation is palpable, and beautifully portrayed in a later scene where memories are dredged to yield the broken swords of guilt.

Occasionally wordy and introspective, this novel rides on a quick clever storyline, complex plot, great characters, neat imagination and evocative scenery. It draws the reader to question and take sides in a battle you're never quite forced to believe in, while Jess runs through streets and cathedral in search of an elusive safety, and the almost-invisible Keepers keep watch over her.

Disclosure: I was given a free ecopy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Kristina says

When I first saw this book was so based on religion, I was hesitant to read it. Not because I don't believe, just because I am not hardcore religious. I decided to give it a try because I had heard so many great things about the book. And that is one of the greatest things about it. This book focuses heavily on God, angels, good, evil, and all of that, but it isn't overwhelming at all. The religious aspect makes the book even more interesting and oddly calming, in a way.

The characters in this book are simply amazing. You have Jess, the girl that's broken and lost everything, and Justin, the angel that hates humans with a passion and doesn't like the situation he's stuck in. Watching the

characters grow, especially Justin, was incredible. While Justin still doesn't like the human race at the end of the book, he has learned to love, to be jealous, and maybe even experience a slight amount of pain at the end. Dawson was a great evil character. Another brilliant thing about this book, is that the setting is almost a character itself. While Jess navigated the streets of New Orleans, I was deciding that I wanted to visit there myself. I loved and enjoyed reading about all the characters, even the minor ones. They are all loveable and I found a few similarities between me and Jess. I laughed at the beginning where she has problems with her sandals. Been there, too.

Another thing that shocked me about this book is how much emotion the book evokes. I cried the last half of the book because Monique made Jess' pain very real. I've always believed that only a great book can make a person cry, and that is very true for this book. Amazingly, at the very end of the book, my tears ceased because the end left me with a satisfied feeling. I felt even better knowing that there will be a second book called *The Watchers*.

Everything a person loves about a book is in *The Keepers: Romance* (though it is different than other romances, in a good way though), action, a great plot that is original, a fantastic setting, loveable characters, beautiful writing (I enjoyed the bits of information Rory and Asher threw in) sexy angels, and a breath taking ending. Oh, yeah. It has a pretty cover too. What's not to love?

If this book is on your TBR pile, or if you've been thinking about getting it, get it now! You won't be disappointed!

adds book to favorites shelf Now, I want a signed copy!

Jewelz says

This ebook was given to me for an honest review.

The Keepers by Monique O'Connor James was a FANTASTIC book. I had just put up my "contact me" page and a day later I had a request. You have no idea how excited I was. I was just nonchalantly reading my email while my friend, Megan, was over and I see I have a request. I seriously started screaming, which did scare Megan. :) So.. not only was it my first request but it was an AWESOME book. Awesome all around.

From page one I was hooked. It starts with Jess at her mothers funeral. Jess had had so much hurt in her life, and so much death. I really felt her pain. I know how it is to lose a parent, so it was something her and I had in common. I felt a special "bond" with Jess because of her hurt. That's why Jess, out of a lot of YA characters, touched me the most.

Justin was one cute angel. If you look at my list on the right, you'll see I have already added him to my "swoon worthy boy characters list." He's quite the stubborn guy, I have to say. But he's well worth it. I love Jess and Justin's relationship with each other. They're always bickering, but at the end of the day they still love each other. I think that they are perfect for each other. <3

One thing that I think kind of threw me off was, three of the characters had their name start with, J. It confused me at the beginning of the book because I didn't know if Jess's brother's name was Jordan or Justin, but I did finally figure it out and all was well.

I definitely suggest you should get this book. It was a FANTABULOUS read. Yes, fantabulous. I love that word. Sometimes my stereotypical teenage girl needs to come out, okay?! Anyways, I highly recommend this book for paranormal romance lovers. It has all of the things I look for in a paranormal romance and then some. So, therefore, I give this book 5 out of 5 diva crowns. :)

Bella says

Well I have never read any books on fallen angels so this was out of my reading zone but I have to say I am mad I did not read earlier! This book had me at the start and I could not put the book down till the end, took me one day to read and one day to fall in love with the story. The story, characters everything about the books pulls you in as soon as you read the first chapter. I loved the writing and the way things tied together, I really fell for the love story and just how when u read each page you were just so excited to get to the next. The end is even more amazing as the start so make sure you pick this book up! This book is a must read, for the young and adults of all ages!

Tracey Jago says

There was something different about this book which I liked. I did struggle with it at first with it all about God and being faithful to him, but as I continued to read I realised there was more to the book than I first thought.

The book really held me towards the end as I could sense something was going to happen that was going to be life changing, epically for Jess.

The story was about Jess who lost her mother, her father had died a while ago and it was just her and her brother, Jordan left. She decides to leave her family home and her brother Jordan behind to try and start a new life.

Throughout the book Jess faces demons and meets her guardian angels, while she battles with her belief in God every day.

Jess ran into many problems during the story. Dawson, a fallen Angel wanted her dead and had tried to kill her on several occasions throughout the book. Justin, another angel, was Jess's protector from Dawson and also a fallen angel but not evil and not as fallen as Dawson was.

Vi was my favourite character throughout the book. She was an interesting character, she had her secrets and her personality was strikingly different from Jess. Vi seemed to be a wild girl, but one that had responsibilities and one who seemed to try too hard when she was around Jess by cooking and cleaning for her.

I could relate to Jess the most as I could feel what she was going through with her battle of faith. Jess was the sort of character that anyone could relate to because people struggle with faith and the idea of God every day.

Rory and Justin had the standout relationship for me because of their closeness and the fact that they needed each other. I got the sense that they were like soul mates and yet they were brothers.

Once I finished this book I felt a new surge of hope in me. This book made me see anyone can be forgiven

for their past actions and that friends are very important in life no matter if they are human or in angel form.

Rose says

I won an Ecopy of this book at Young Readers! :D <http://youngreadersathome.blogspot.com/>

When I started reading *The Keepers*, it seemed to me it was going to be a nice book to spend my time with. Now, after reading it, I feel it was more than that. *The Keepers* is a book about dealing with loss, pain and faith.

The Keepers tells us about Jess, a girl who finds difficulties on believing in God after her mother's death. She decides to run away, leaving her reality behind her in order to find a safe place, where she shouldn't have to deal with her issues.

I loved the characters, every each. Every one of them has his own story and acts by his beliefs. Jordan, Jess' brother, was one of my favorites. I liked the relationship between him and Jess, how they seemed to take care of each other in addition to their own problems.

Usually I hate many descriptions but this time, in *The Keepers*, I loved the city's descriptions. I felt like I could be there with Jess and see everything through her eyes even though I haven't been to New Orleans before.

However, sometimes I felt like I don't know enough. Yeah, I love the mystery part and wish every book had it, but not about important stuffs. It took me forever to find out what was Jess' age, and it was like none was clear about her past. Has she worked before, studied? Not clear. What about her previous friends? I felt like she had no life besides her family before the book started.

The paranormal part couldn't be separated from the story, and I truly loved it. I had a little problem with Jess accepting right away to things but she made up for that describing her fears and her history.

This book is a process about finding a goal. Not only did Jess lose her faith in God but in the lives themselves. It seems she is about to find another direction in her life, one she hasn't expected for.

Published on my blog.

<http://awriterinthebigworld.blogspot....>

Ressa Empbra says

I recommend this novel to anyone open-minded to different religious views, as well as the paranormal world. It's not a 'preachy' read, though based Christian views, but in a thoroughly unique and different kind of way. There's also a good dose of your typical paranormal characters, you know, like demons, fallen angels, and the unexplainable...

The Keepers is a fun novel, in keeping with the popular paranormal fiction romance genre, yet author

Monique O'Connor James has a bit of a different take on the matter. As a fellow-Christian woman, I was pleased and pleasantly surprised to find much of this story is based on God and the different views people have on religion.

Having been a Christian woman herself, Jess decides that God has forsaken her after she loses her mother who was also her best friend. This, after already losing her father. Upon the urging of her brother Jordan, Jess decides to move to New Orleans and stay in the family pad in an attempt to regroup after her mother's passing. To say the least, she has no clue what she's in for.

Thinking it a good idea to get out of the house, she goes to a local hangout for a night out. First, she meets and immediately befriends the peppy, beautiful Vi. Then, the ever-evasive Justin, who is nothing short of an anomaly to her. Attractive and sporting a 'bad-boy' edginess, Jess cannot stop thinking about him after she goes home that night. Yet, thanks to Vi, who kinda runs in the same circles as Justin, Jess 'coincidentally' starts running into him. Often.

Oddly protective of Jess, Justin is never too far from her whether she knows it or not. After a couple mysterious attempts on her life, she discovers that Justin isn't quite 'what' she thought. Hesitantly, she talks him into a rather 'sketchy' explanation. Once he indulges her, surprising them both, she's able to accept his 'differences'.

They end up in an unpredictable, and much of the time, impassioned relationship. Both being too stubborn, neither wanting to concede to the other's views on God, or on anything else, their relationship starts out as a rocky one, to be sure.

When a headstrong Jess finally concedes and allows an exasperating Justin to protect her, they realize they can't seem to stay apart from each other. And, lest we forget that 'someone-wants-to-kill-her' thing, which results in a provisional situation, and having to share close-quarters for the sake of her safety. Along the way, they discover many things about each other, and themselves. Not all bad, but not all good, either.

Every time Jess starts to believe maybe she wasn't forsaken, after all, another blows bowls her over. Only to remind her that God does not care about her, or anything in her life. Justin continually attempts to reason with her, convince her that God is real, and he does love and care about her.

The story goes from one emotion to another, their relationship goes from propitious to capricious, and back again, then taking everyone into a lively adventure later on. I enjoyed the dialogue throughout. The editing, in my opinion, was one the novel's best attributes. Not too long, not too short, The Keepers is the perfect sized read.

This story explores and vividly displays a wonderful imagination on the author's part.

You'll be pulling for Jess throughout the novel!

I look forward to reading more of Monique O'Connor James' works!

Donna (BLHmistress) says

What can I say about this book? Well, for one I read this in one setting and I found myself thinking about

issues in my life and wondered if I experienced what Jess experienced would I question my faith too.

A lot of people feel really uncomfortable when they read books about or touch on the topic of religion and to be honest I did at first too then I kept reading and some I could understand her anger and Justin's frustration in trying to help her.

At first I felt like Jess and wished Justin would understand her more, but then I had to keep reminding myself he had all this anger himself. There were parts where I wished Jess would grow up as well but she was being led by her emotions so in a way it was understandable.

A couple side characters I want to mention that I absolutely loved and almost more than the main ones and that is Rory and Vi. I loved what they added to the story. Vi, reminded me of my best friend, some of the things she did or said is exactly what my friend would have done and I had to laugh. Rory brought light to Justin's dark.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed this book, I like that it made me think, feel which is one or two things I look for a book. Would I recommend? Yes and I am looking forward to reading more by Monique in the future.

Carly Wallace says

Monique O'Connor James Hea everybody Anne here with my review on The Keepers by Monique O'Connor James. I was given this book and allowed myself 2 weeks to read it, now obviously it didn't take me that long in fact I broke my record by reading it in 2 and a half days, and here is why..

Have you ever suffered a tragedy so great that it made you question your faith? Yes most have, this book has a gift for you, it can show you that things do have a reason for happening and even though it's heartbreaking and tragic, love and solace can be found in even the most unwilling of places.

Jess had already lost one parent, a memory she had as she stood looking at the casket of her mother. Now she was gone too with only one person left to hold onto Jess renounced God for all she had suffered in her life. Her brother forced her to New Orleans where he assured her things would get better, while he handled business back at home. Unwilling to see the bright side Jess runs into an unlikely friend that would start a change she never could have seen coming.

Justin was perfect, too perfect for the likes of a heartbroken girl who had given up everything, including her sanity she thought. While Jess struggles to pull out of her self pitying depression, a battle has erupted around her. A series of close calls and strange feelings leave Jess broken and bruised, all along her quarrel with Justin and his back and forth moods is leaving a mark on her self assurance. Justin and Jess become wrapped in a complex story of good and evil as well as soul searching rights and wrongs. Can good really win over evil or is it all a game of chance. Love is an unfaltering key in this book from character to character and beyond, they can never doubt what they have been given, because once you give up on love no matter how insignificant you think it is or it hurts too much to bear it, it's the glue for our world and beyond....

This book was amazing the descriptions and details were amazing and they pulled you into the story several times bringing tears to my eyes. I felt the plight of the characters and the twist at the end was so dramatic and unexpected that I had no choice but to stop and sigh. I give this book 5 out of 5 and I am eagerly waiting on the next installment...

Thank you Anne

Bonnie says

3.5 star review. Originally posted at: <http://www.handsandhome.ca/2011/09/th...>

The Keepers was an interesting read for me. I really enjoyed the author's take on angels, and the way they could, or would, interact with humans. Justin and his brothers seemed to share an incredibly interesting past and their connections really made the story for me. The author also did a fantastic job realistically portraying the main character's struggle with her faith after suffering so much tragedy in her life. Her anger with God was apparent throughout the novel but there was also something, or someone, which kept pulling a small part of her back to her familiar religion. For those of you who stay away from religious books don't let this turn you off, The Keepers was more about struggle against religion than finding it, and I would in no way consider it to be a "Christian" fiction. Religion certainly did play a part – we are talking about angels (and fallen angels) – but it wasn't a book about religion if that makes sense.

Unfortunately it was difficult at times to follow the story because the writing felt choppy in places, especially when transitioning from one scene to another. I really enjoyed where the plot was going and think that there is potential for a great series here, but I just don't think that the story was delivered as well as it could have been.

As for characters Jess and Justin were the kind of characters that I love to hate. Jess was whiney and selfish and completely took advantage of the new friends that she had made. Justin was even worse, he was rude, careless and had no problem expressing at any point in time how disgusted he was with the human race in general. Their tumultuous relationship certainly did add some excitement to this book and I went back and forth between hating them and cheering them on. I also have to admit, it was nice to finally have a romance that took time to grow and develop instead of instantly being there.

I actually preferred the secondary characters in The Keepers; these were the characters that I felt I connected with the most – I was completely intrigued with Vi and Justin's brothers deserved a swoon or two! There is so much left to be explored with all of the characters and I think that another book with a focus on them would make for a fantastic sequel!

The Keepers was based on a great idea, and it certainly held my attention from the first page. This book did have a few shining moments for me and I loved the darkness that James brought to the story by way of the brooding angel type. The Keepers was unlike anything that I have read lately and I would recommend it to anyone who loves a story full of emotional conflict, turbulent relationships and of course, dark, broody and fallen angels.

I received a copy of The Keepers from The Bookish Snob Productions (thank you!!!) in conjunction with the author's blog tour. All opinions are my own.

Kimberly Callegan says

The Keepers, by Monique O'Connor James, is extraordinarily captivating. This beautiful story had me an emotional basket case! I was filled with angst, longing and elation. I found myself holding my breath, while my stomach tensed, as I waited to read what happened next. It is a story, many who've suffered with loss,

can relate to. A story that you can get lost in. A story that lures you, from Chapter One, to the end.

The Keepers was written in third person. The flow of the story is impeccable. The author gives such vivid details in her debut paranormal romance novel and offers the reader, a story that will stick with them, for days. The reader can identify the compassion that the author put forth in her story.

Jess is a lost soul. She's lost her faith in God and fled to New Orleans, to escape her many losses, back home. She's seen the guardians, all her life, but she ignored them. Justin loathes humanity, but he is intrigued by Jess. He wants to protect her from the demons that try and claim her. Guardians are not supposed to fall in love with their guarded. Could he be the key, for Jess to restore her faith?

I was extremely sympathetic towards Jess. She'd suffered more loss than one person could handle. I longed for her and Justin to be together and found the humor in their bickering; they'd fought like an old married couple. Justin is definitely a character you could embrace yourself in to. What girl wouldn't want to pet a HAWT angel's wings? Vi, was my favorite character; she was full of exuberance and a blessing that Jess needed in her life. Rory, Justin's brother possessed so much loyalty to his counterpart. Although I adored most of the cast, the villain in the story, was so real, I couldn't help hating him!

I look forward to reading the second book in this series. I highly recommend this book for the young adult and adult. The Keepers will be marked on my "read list" as a favorite and will boast five stars!

Stefan Ellery says

If you have not picked up The Keepers written by Monique O'Connor James and you like PNR I strongly suggest that you do so. Her novel focuses on two characters that are worlds apart in their thinking and existence. A human who is angry at God and an Angel who hates humans. If that were not enough they have to deal with evil elements that are determined to keep them apart.

Monique has the ability to make her characters feel real not one dimensional. They all have a personality with quirks that can make you care for them. Even some of the supporting characters have elements of realism you can enjoy.

Monique does not overuse the paranormal, but relies on the interaction of her protagonists and antagonists to drive the story forward. The Keepers can be bought from Astraea Press or Amazon. Even if you are a guy and Leary of reading PNR than this book would be a good place to start.

Thamy says

How strong is your faith?

The story is about Jessica Hunter, a 24 year old woman who struggles to accept her losses and denies God. After her mother passed away Jess decides to move away and spend some time alone in New Orleans. She struggles with the guilt she carries in her heart and believes God has a personal vendetta against her. Why doesn't He listen to her prayers?

Jess meets Vi, a charismatic and loving girl who helps and convinces Jess that there's more to life. Much more. She is convinced to have fun and to live a little bit.

Jess meets Justin, a handsome man with a jerky attitude, but still he captivates her attention and all her

thoughts.

Justin is an angel who has been punished by God for defying His powers and love for humanity.

Justin has a special and hard job, he needs to show and convince Jess that there's more to her faith in God, he needs to save her soul before the demons destroy her forever. Justin has a lesson to learn himself, you can't save someone without feeling compassion and this angel has a lot to learn. Believe me about this!

I read this book during a Sunday afternoon, I enjoyed this read and the story captivated me from the beginning. This book is about loss, love and most of all it is about faith. This book is about missing someone so much that sometimes breathing can be a difficult task, it's about to love someone so much that you wish you could take their place in their pain because you can't bare to see them suffering.

I cried reading this book, I don't know the author personally but I can't shake the feeling that Monique gave a lot of herself into this book as it feels so personal, loving and heart-breaking at some parts.

I would only mention that I would have liked to know more about some of the characters in the book, I think there was space to go a bit further into their lives, and "maybe" that I would have liked Jessica to be younger than 24 years old as her personality is portrayed as a naive and innocent girl.

I think faith transcends religion. Love, pain and loss are part of everybody's life.

I recommend this book. I hope you will enjoy it.

Misty says

This book really starts out with a dark, sombre tone, that for me stayed for throughout the book. But not in a depressing way lol more of a suck-you-in way! I loved it! It's dark, passionate and emotional.

I admit at first, I was a bit worried about reading the book because I knew there was some religion in it, whilst I of course have nothing against religion, it's just not for me for reading material, but the book doesn't feel 'preechy' at all, it's more about Jess, her loss of faith and her struggle to find it whilst ironically falling for an angel - a hot, brooding angel by the way.

I really enjoyed the romance between Jess and Justin, it wasn't your typical fall-in-love-after-five-minutes romance, but had a very believable love-hate start that developed into love, it was heated and passionate and I felt the characters challenged each other constantly. Justin was a very interesting, complex character, the only part that I felt didn't make sense was something Jess discovers about his past, but I can't say because that of course would be a spoiler.

Though would've preferred a little more action this book was great, the story was interesting and different and it's beautifully written. The ending definitely left me wanting more and I can't wait to get my hands on the sequel!

Tishia (Paperback Opinion) says

This was a wonderful thought provoking book. Jess, who has gone through more tragedy in her life than anyone could bear, loses her faith in God. Ironically, she falls for Justin – an angel trying to protect her. It's quite the interesting relationship because Justin doesn't really even like humans, and he has trouble understanding human emotions. Jess has gone through so much, and the man she falls for can't even empathize with her.

Justin is a love/hate kind of guy – one minute you love him, the next you hate him. He can be such a jerk sometimes but at other times you can't help but like him. As he gets more attached to Jess, some of her human emotions rub off on him. It's interesting to see their relationship progress – they can't go a day without arguing because they see things differently.

I really liked all the characters in this book. Rory and Vi were a couple of my favorites and I would like to see books about their stories one of these days. I definitely want to read more about Jess and Justin though. I can really relate to Jess and her issues with God. I'm not a religious person at all, but I do still love to read about angels. This is a nice paranormal romance that I would recommend to readers of any age.
