



The Paradise Prophecy

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A spectacular thriller inspired by John Milton's Paradise Lost in which the final chapter of the War in Heaven is about to play out on Earth, with the fate of humanity hanging in the balance. The Myth

When God cast the archangel Satan into Hell, ending the War in Heaven, peace prevailed on Earth. Until the fallen angels took revenge in the Garden of Eden. Ever since, mankind has been in a struggle between good and evil, paradise and apocalypse: the fall of Rome, The Crusades, World Wars, nuclear proliferation, the Middle East Crisis... The War in Heaven never really ended-it just changed venues. For millennia, God's angels have been fighting Satan's demons on Earth, all in hopes of bringing about Satan's greatest ambition, the Apocalypse.

The Reality

Satan has never been closer to his goal than right now.

Agent Bernadette Callahan is a talented investigator at a shadowy government organization known only as Section, on the trail of a serial killer with nearly supernatural abilities. Sebastian "Batty" LaLaurie is a religious historian who knows far too much about the other side- and that hard-earned knowledge is exactly what Callahan needs. This unlikely duo pair up for a race across the globe, decoding clues left in ancient texts from the Bible to *Paradise Lost* and beyond. In the process they stumble upon a vast conspiracy-one beyond the scope of mankind's darkest imagination.

Watch a Video

The Paradise Prophecy Details

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Author : Robert Gregory Browne

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From Reader Review The Paradise Prophecy for online ebook

Elly Carney says

A God who has turned his back on mankind.
Five fallen angels. A betrayer amongst them.
Warriors willing to die for that which they protect.
Turmoil such as the world has never before seen.
A battle of right and wrong. Good and evil. Freedom and enslavement.
Who shall prevail? And what is the “key” which guarantees success?

A prophecy penned by a monk centuries ago and inserted in a most unlikely tome. The pages containing these prophetic words were long ago taken from their original text and secreted away. The knowledge they contain could change the world of mankind and all of creation forever. Two individuals, a sleep deprived and skeptical black operations agent and a troubled religious scholar are thrust into a conspiracy larger than and with deadlier consequences than any scheme man has ever contrived. From seventeenth century Florence to modern day Sao Paulo, Istanbul, and London, follow these two unlikely heroes as they unravel the clues to discover The Paradise Prophecy.

A fast paced mystical thriller. With believable characters, naturally flowing dialogue, and a dash of wit Robert Browne's words grab hold of you and don't let go until the very last sentence. The icing on the cake: hauntingly beautiful Gustave Dore illustrations. A beautiful book. An amazing read.

Mary Chrapliwy says

This book rendered me completely speechless as I turned the last page. Browne manages to weave a spell that brings you out of your own world and into his well crafted pre-apocalyptic world.

Sebastian "Batty" LaLaurie is scholar who is an expert on antiquities, religion, and Milton's Paradise Lost. He is also a wounded soul who has been enduring the death of his wife by drowning his sorrows in alcohol. He has nothing left to live for. Meanwhile, there is a death in Brazil of a famous Christian singer by what appears to be spontaneous human combustion. Enter Agent Bernadette Callahan, an investigator from a shadowy government unit called Section who sends her to Brazil to investigate the death. She isn't sure why the United States government would be interested in her investigating the case, but follows orders. Soon Batty LaLaurie is sent, by questionable means, to assist Callahan with the investigation. This book is full of angels and demons and the danger of an approaching apocalypse where Milton's war between heaven and hell rage and only a work of bravery can save the world from impending doom. Batty and Callahan race around the globe chasing clues that will bring them closer and closer to the final, heart-stopping conclusion.

Browne illustrates his fictional world so beautifully that you can completely immerse yourself in the story and later suspend belief without hesitation. He also, quite brilliantly, brings his characters to life, faults and all, so that you may feel some pity for even the most evil characters. These people are not caricatures of good and evil, but instead are multidimensional characters with goodness, faults, and even sadness on the side of evil, that bring the story completely to life.

I was fortunate to be given an advance reading copy by the publisher for this book due for release in July

2011. I'll be waiting in line for a copy as this book has earned keeper status on my shelf.

Jessica says

Imagine if you will, a world that is on the brink. God has turned his back on the people he created, leaving them to fend for themselves. Every soul on Earth is at the mercy of a Heavenly War. One side is set on creating the Apocalypse, the other side on preventing it. Callahan and LaLaurie have just stumbled into one of the biggest and longest standing battles in the history of the world, and as a reader you're along for the ride. Sound intriguing? I guarantee you, it is.

Meet our fearless team. Sebastian "Batty" LaLaurie is a bibliophile, theologian, and John Milton fanatic who also happens to have a drinking problem. His past is dark, and littered with secrets. Then there's Bernadette Callahan. Section agent, massive cynic and all around bad-ass woman. She might be nearing a collapse, but she'll be damned if she's going down without a fight. These two characters drive the story forward as they take off, across the globe, gathering clues. Murders, sacred relics, and musty archives are just some of what you'll find as you join their journey! It's tough not to be immersed.

What I loved most about *The Paradise Prophecy* is that it isn't a light read. Yes, I'm serious. The psychological aspect of this book is beautifully done, and really makes the reader think as they are reading. I devoured page after page as I hunted for clues and tried to tie things together. Browne crafts the plot carefully, allowing the reader to keep an eye on the big picture while still paying attention to little details. I never felt like I was drowning in too much information at one time, or being given a watered down version of Milton's epic. Quite the opposite actually. To me, it felt like a balanced read. Giving me just enough to keep me reading on, but not so much that I felt like I was being spoon fed the plot.

Perfectly done Robert Browne, perfectly done.

It's not often that a book has the ability to render me speechless. However as I turned the last page of *The Paradise Prophecy* that's exactly what occurred. I was utterly blown away by the complex plot that Browne had crafted. He weaves a tale that pulls you in deep, and doesn't let you go until the last moment. Pages just flew by. That doesn't generally happen in a 400 page book, but before I knew it I was finished and gasping for air. I read this entirely through in one sitting.

If you're looking at the cover of Robert Browne's book and thinking of similar titles, let me set you straight right now. Despite his name being similar to another writer, and despite this being a book along the same vein, this is infinitely better! At least such is the opinion of this humble reader. *The Paradise Prophecy* is a gripping, thrilling, and gorgeously written novel! It's everything I love about the thriller genre.

Highly recommended!

Steve Schlutow says

I loved this book. This book took conspiracy to a new level with secret societies working with angels and

dark angels (demons). I had to go back and read parts of *Paradise Lost* again to remind myself of themes and characters. If one enjoys this type of theme then this book is for you.

Donna says

I'm gonna be honest. I probably wouldn't be as interested in a title like this if it weren't for *Supernatural*. Do you blame me? C'mon . . . have you SEEN Castiel? And maybe a little bite of Crowley, if for nothing more than his snarkitude?

But I liked what this book was promising. It's got religion without too much Jesus going on (actually there was hardly any at all); there isn't much god about it either, believe it or not. The focus is really on the angels, and the demon angels (in this world there aren't any demons a la *Supernatural*, the "demons" are fallen angels on Lucifer's side), and the fight to open up Hell's door and release Lucy from his cage. I liked that. There was a heavy theological element without it being preachy or, in Callahan's words, all woo-woo with the divine. It had a purpose and it stuck to it.

I liked this book to the point that I want to go out and read more of Browne's works. This guy writes up my alley, and not all of his stuff is like *THE PARADISE PROPHECY* either. But he does write thrillers and, judging just by this book, he writes them well.

It's been a long time since I've read a non-YA book that had me rocketing through it and Browne's *PARADISE* did just that. He writes in such a way that even when there isn't any action going on in the chapter, it feels like it. There's always some kind of threat lingering, even if it's off the page, and he makes sure that his characters feel it.

And his characters! They are haunted, damaged beings and he torments them with it. And I love it, the sadist that I am. Both Callahan and LaLaurie have some very large chips that they have to carry around on their shoulders but it doesn't sour them as characters. They don't sit around and pity themselves. They're not a drain on the plot. They have their issues but they turn them around into strengths. Even the most gruesome of pasts turns out to be helpful to the overall cause.

The only part that I was less than thrilled with was the ending. I felt it was a bit anticlimactic and ended a bit too abruptly for my liking. Like a button was pushed and poof! Over! It could have been set up for a sequel but I'm not sure if *PARADISE* is anything more than a stand alone. Other than that, even the fallen angels he uses are multidimensional. They, too, have weaknesses. Even angels aren't perfect and I like that.

Everything I was reading just felt so real. It felt like Browne had a firm grasp on the Christian mythos and what he created eased seamlessly into it, making it read as if it were something that really did/could happen. *PARADISE* never felt kitchy or over the top. I never felt like it was reaching for something that wasn't there. It was a level-headed, action-packed jet through the apocalypse. I'm willing to take another ride.

I think *THE PARADISE PROPHECY* would appeal even to readers of YA that have a thing for the angels and demons mythos. Even though the characters aren't young, their ages aren't factors in the story so while reading it, they could have been much younger (although with Callahan's experience, that would have made the story reaching). But it's not about the age. The story is just great. If you're looking for an angels and demons story that DOESN'T revolves around some thinly-veiled abusive relationship between angels and humans, you'll find it with *PARADISE*. In fact, there really isn't much love interest at all in this. It keeps to

the point and it's a point you'll want to ride all the way to the end. And then it'll leave you craving for more.

J.E. Taylor says

I had the pleasure of getting a sneak peak of this book and being a huge fan of all things supernatural, especially original twists on biblical themes, this book was right up my alley.

Angels, demons, the end of the world, a fast thrilling pace, what more could a girl want? Oh yeah, a nearly broken hero, one with a core of gold who captures your heart and has you cheering for him from the very beginning.

Robert Browne hit it out of the park with this one.

Jessica at Book Sake says

If you are a fan of thrillers that involve secret societies, the bible and Milton's Paradise Lost, then this novel is perfect for you. While I have enjoyed similar fiction by Dan Brown, The Paradise Prophecy takes it one step beyond planting the question for the reader to ponder and crosses into a more sci-fi or religious fantasy realm. I wasn't familiar with the fallen Angels that this story centers around, but the two main characters were entertaining enough to keep me reading until the end. I wasn't a fan of the "Section" element, a secret black ops government unit, and thought that it didn't do anything for the book as Callahan could have come from any intelligence agency and her character wouldn't have changed much. The professor character is one you relate to, and his added visions help move the story along. Overall it was a good mix of fantasy and action, and the references to Paradise Lost brought the whole plot together nicely.

Reviewed by Gabi for Book Sake.

Stefanie says

Fallen angels, soulless drones, and ancient battles are only the beginning of this story where success is a chance at redemption for humanity and losing means the gates of hell open wide. Religion and history are used to create a new spin on what's really going on between this world and the divine. As someone that can appreciate a new twist on history, I was not disappointed. Not only does Robert Brown create an interesting plot, his characters and language are sure to keep you entertained.

Laura (Madsen) McLain says

Angels and demons walk among humans, and the battle in Heaven continues.

We've seen a lot of Revelation-type badness recently—wars, earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, nuclear

accidents. Maybe the Apocalypse really is coming. Robert Browne draws from the Old Testament, Milton's PARADISE LOST, and angel lore to tell a tale of angels and demons in their eternal war over humanity.

The main characters in THE PARADISE PROPHECY are Sebastian LaLaurie, a religious studies professor at a southern Baptist university, and Bernadette Callahan, a tough government agent who has been sent to Brazil to investigate the mysterious death of a Christian pop star.

The pop singer experienced a meteoric rise to superstar from meth addict in the slums ("The forgotten people, left to rot in their own waste, with little or no chance of ever moving beyond this hole they called home. They were born, grew up and died here—often violently—barely a blip on heaven's radar screen"). When her inexplicably charred remains are found, Callahan suspects foul play, while LaLaurie recognizes supernatural forces.

The novel is plot-driven; we learn enough about the characters to understand their motivations, but what carries the story along is the mystery. Callahan and LaLaurie fly around the world, from Brazil to Turkey to Thailand, searching for answers. There are enough unexpected plot twists to keep you reading late into the night.

THE PARADISE PROPHECY will appeal to fans of Dan Brown's ANGELS & DEMONS and THE DA VINCI CODE.

Tim Busbey says

The war in Heaven makes its way to Earth in the latest thriller from author Robert Browne. This novel was my first exposure to the best-selling author but I now am eagerly awaiting his next work.

You are excused if at first glance you think this book is similar to Dan Brown's "The DaVinci Code" or "Angels and Demons." For one thing, the authors have nearly identical last names. And secondly, the stunning cover certainly makes you think of angels or demons. Both stories do deal with religious mysteries, but that's pretty much where the comparisons end. Inspired by John Milton's classic "Paradise Lost," Browne has crafted a stunning supernatural thriller that goes far beyond your typical globe-trotting adventure yarn.

What if all the evil you see in the world ... all the death and war and famine and violence ... what if all of it, or most of it, was the result of four fallen angels, vying to win enough human souls to bring about the end of the world? Cast out of Heaven alongside Lucifer centuries ago and clothed in human flesh, these four "demons" are wreaking havoc on the Earth, looking to fulfill an ancient prophecy they believe will help them unleash unimaginable evil on the world.

Standing in their way is an unlikely duo. Agent Bernadette Callahan is an investigator with a shadowy government agency known as Section on the trail of a supernatural killer. Sebastian "Batty" LaLaurie is a lecherous college professor with a talent for drinking large amounts of alcohol and a vast amount of knowledge regarding "Paradise Lost."

Together, the duo travels across the globe, decoding clues from Milton's epic and the Bible. But no matter what they do, they always seem to be one step behind the deadly dark angels. Enter the fallen archangel Michael, who is battling the quartet of evil angels and helps the pair discover the truth. It all builds to a

dramatic climax in a stunning setting. Will the world survive the battle?

I loved "The Paradise Prophecy." Browne painted such vivid pictures, the story played out in my brain like a full-color motion picture. I wouldn't be surprised to see it on the big screen someday. The characters felt so human and real. They were not flawless, perfect heroes who always do the right thing to save the day. They were just like you and me, full of faults and foibles, susceptible to temptation. Callahan and Batty are two extremely different characters who work together and grow as characters throughout the story.

The plot was gripping and engaging and kept me turning the pages, ready to discover what was really happening. Browne goes far beyond the typical historical/mythological treasure hunt thriller by seamlessly blending the mystery and thriller elements with the supernatural elements.

I am definitely ready for a sequel. Although Browne hasn't started on a sequel yet, I am hopeful he will be able to write one eventually. I am sure there is more to this story and I can't wait to read it.

On a scale of 1 to 5, I give "The Paradise Prophecy" a 4.

You can read more of my reviews at <http://timbusbey.wordpress.com>

Kim says

You can read my review at <http://thebooklover.wordpress.com/201....>

Trudi says

I had such high hopes for this one. After reading a fair number of angel-icious YA novels of late, I really wanted to sink my teeth into an adult version of such things and along comes *The Paradise Prophecy* promising Fallen Angels, Lucifer, the War in Heaven, an abdicated God, an Apocalypse, all soaked in a heady marinade of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. This should have reeked of epic win.

What I was salivating for was something akin to the film *The Prophecy* crossed with the best angel/demon mythology from *Supernatural*. What I got was something much closer to a cheap, dime-store thriller laced with a Dan Brown *Da Vinci Code* vibe. Not my cuppa I'm afraid. Alas!

Grace says

The *Paradise Prophecy* is a celestial roller-coaster of a thriller. A government agent and a disgraced professor crisscross the globe looking for the missing pages of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The pages hold the key to mankind's survival. Demons, angels and spontaneous combustion....what a combination! I haven't had this much fun in ages!

Tracy says

~* 4.5 Stars *~

A Gripping and Grimly Decadent Supernatural Thriller

Hey, you. You...out there. Have you noticed? Have torn your eyes away from your smartphones and iPads, your Facebook and Twitter accounts, your social networking in any and all forms, and taken a good, hard look around lately? Wars, terrorism, failing world economies, disaster, corruption, pollution, disease, fear, intolerance, hatred. A barrage of seeping, soiled souls spreading like rot over a once fertile landscape. Hard core, irrefutable evidence laid down with fury, as if a thunderous prosecutor is intent on using our obvious damnation as fuel in his apocalyptic war against creation itself.

Well...what if he truly is?

Or, more rightly put, what if *they* are? Four demons, once fallen angels condemned by a tyrannical god, cast out of paradise and, with the ancient serpent, tossed into Abaddon. What if they are even now stalking the earth, cloaked in eons of loathing and evil malice for the chattering monkeys that scurry like cockroaches across the face of the planet? Monkeys whose lone worth is the ease of their corruption.

What if the four have amassed enough souls? Cast enough into the fires? What if there is enough fuel stored in the shrieking agony of the fires of hell to power the gates of Lucifer's locked cell, to finally release him and pour forth unimaginable misery and destruction on a world over which the serpent is determined to rule? And what if those four demons have found the final piece of a prophecy to guarantee their victory, a prophecy so dark, so hideous, that those who have gazed upon it went blind and the pages containing it have been hidden away for centuries?

What if, my dear, fellow condemned, God, in all his Old Testament tyranny, turned his back on his creation eons ago, moved away, left no forwarding address, isn't taking any calls, and we're really on our own against these four demons? Well...not completely on our own. There's Batty... Sebastian "Batty" LaLaurie, bibliophile, theologian, and John Milton fanatic; shameless drunk, willing lout, and utterly broken man. And there's Bernadette Callahan, agent for a secret government group known only as Section; cynic, spy, sometimes killer, always bad ass, and a woman teetering on the brink of physical and mental collapse.

Our heroes.

Go, Team!

The race is long, the clues daunting, the clock ticking down, our heroes over their heads and in constant danger. Across the globe they race, following clues found at the scenes of vicious murders, searching for the brilliant ramblings of a long-dead poet, and whispering of conspiracy, prophecy, sacred relics, and holy artifacts, all in an effort to unlock the mystery of the seven pages of the Devil's Bible...in the hopes of saving us all.

I have a confession to make. I was a little leery of starting this book, knowing up front that it was going to be in a similar vein as *The Da Vinci Code* with much of the mythology and history motivated by and evolved from John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. With all due respect to Dan Brown, I wasn't a fan of *The Da*

Vinci Code in either style or substance, and my vague recollections of *Paradise Lost* inspired only memories of confusion and frustration during a college class best forgotten. The Paradise Prophecy sat on top of the towering pile of books I intend to read, looking quite fetching as I procrastinated. Only when my guilt about a commitment to review it grew to overshadow my hesitation did I sit down, crack it open, and begin.

Mea culpa, mea culpa!

Browne knocked me flat with this gripping, thrilling tale of warring dark angels, the contentious value of free will, and the triumphant potential of even a battered human soul. Incredibly imaginative and judiciously executed, Browne's narrative served well as both a homage to Milton's epic poem, wildly and richly mystical, and as a heroic and timely cautionary tale. Incorporating *Paradise Lost* into the mythology and backstory allowed for The Paradise Prophecy to maintain a note of genuine religious reflection but grounded the story firmly within the comfortable bounds of fiction, instead of it reading like a subversive alternate to historical religious dogma.

As a sleek supernatural thriller the book is a blockbuster, with complex, often bedraggled characters who inspire sympathy and a quest that is flawlessly contained to prevent it from slipping the author's control, but is huge enough to be truly epic on its own merits. I have a big soft spot for anti-heroes in the books I read, so Batty and Callahan were appealing independently, and working together they were positively inspired. I loved how Browne managed their relationship, and thoroughly appreciated their individuality. I loved Batty's sarcasm and his often gloomy view of the world, and adored the strength and intelligence, not to mention the flexibility of thought and motion, that was encapsulated by Callahan. I was especially fond of the roles they had, in which the male lead was the bookish font of all knowledge esoteric...and more than a little nerdy with it, and Callahan was the no-nonsense female lead who dealt with issues by force instead of emotion.

Browne not only tells a wicked tale, but he crafts the telling very well, pacing the plot threads with careful consideration and an eye for the big picture, revealing tidbits of information as it goes along. It kept me on the edge of my seat throughout, hungry for the next big reveal, dying to find out how each piece connected. The prose was fluid and dialogue natural, and despite the weighty topic and worldly locations, I never felt I was in over my head with the languages or wealth of information. Neither did I feel like I was being spoon fed a *Milton For Dummies* retrospective. Browne writes with intelligence, his work literally vibrates with it, but its the sort that embraces and draws you in, instead of slamming into you and demeaning in bites.

While it's hard to view such a fantastic and entertaining story with a critical eye, there were a few points that left me a tiny bit less satisfied. I was a little put off by the way sex was used in the story, as nothing but a tool or method of corruption. With nothing to balance that, it gave the impression of being a condemnation against sex in general. I also thought there was a time or two when Batty's gift came in a little too handy and some very esoteric information fell into his and Callahan's lap a little too conveniently as a result. That led to an instance or two where information came out in larger info dumps, instead of in bits and pieces as a natural consequence of actions taken or mysteries revealed.

Those issues, however, were minor and didn't detract much from my sheer, unadulterated enjoyment. And enjoy it I did. Very much, in fact. It's so smoothly written, the supernatural elements so perfectly blended with the mystery, thriller, and action adventure elements, that the story unfolds with unusually sharp clarity. I admired every nuanced crevice and appreciated each bit of tone. It all played out like a major motion picture in my head and would be extremely well suited to the big screen. I hope I see it there, and in the meantime, I plan to see what other efforts Browne has published. The Paradise Prophecy may have been my first experience with him as an author but I can guarantee it won't be my last.

Excellent read.

Disclosure: An Advance Reading Copy of this book was provided to me for the purpose of a review. The rating, review, and all thoughts and comments included are my own.

~*~*~*~

Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

Chibineko says

The Da Vinci Code is going to both help & hinder Browne when it comes to this book. As both books deal with religious mysteries, the two of them are going to inevitably be compared to one another. The authors having nearly identical last names will only help further this along. It'll help since people will see this book, remember the good times they had reading TDVC, & pick The Paradise Prophecy up. It'll hinder because people won't find a TDVC-esque read behind these covers. Which I view as a very good thing. (Hey, there are enough clones out there.)

Agent Bernadette Callahan is a talented investigator at a shadowy government organization known only as Section, on the trail of a serial killer with nearly supernatural abilities. Sebastian "Batty" LaLaurie is a religious historian who knows far too much about the other side-and that hard-earned knowledge is exactly what Callahan needs. This unlikely duo pairs up for a race across the globe, decoding clues left in ancient texts from the Bible to Paradise Lost and beyond. In the process they stumble upon a vast conspiracy-one beyond the scope of mankind's darkest imagination.

This book was fantastic. I'm always looking for something, anything that will give me that heady rush that getting wrapped up in a good book always gives me. I absolutely loved that Browne didn't go the traditional route with this sort of book, which is to give us either a Dan Brown or a James Rollins clone. I also love that he gave us heroes that are so flawed, so initially corruptible. Batty & Callahan play well off of each other, him being the Mulder to Callahan's Scully. I also appreciated how the idea of angels & evil played into the book without going too over my head. This was an easily addictive read & I'm glad to have read it.

I can't help but feel that there will be a few people who will be inevitably disappointed that this book goes more to the supernatural than the whole "historical/mythological treasure hunt" angle that is predominant in the genre. I can understand that to a point, but if they allow that to completely taint their reading they'll be missing out on a really fun read.

The book wraps itself up nicely, but hopefully Browne will write a sequel or two. This is far too good to just be one book & I'm really digging his writing style. It's very addicting.

4/5

(ARC provided by Netgalley)