



The Season of Giving

Angel Gelique

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Lou Reilly grew up in a strict, oppressive environment, raised by zealous religious parents who merely wanted to protect him from the sinners of the world. Sheltered to the point of isolation, Lou is unprepared to fend for himself when his parents pass away. Bullied and tormented at his new place of employment, Lou starts suspecting that his parents were right to shield him from such harsh and hateful people. Just as Lou begins to befriend a colleague who vows to help improve his life, he is put to the ultimate test of faith. All seems hopeless. But he won't let the sinners win. He won't burn in hell as his parents have warned.

Lou will make things right....

The Season of Giving Details

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Author : Angel Gelique

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Albert says

Very emotional and thought provoking read. I enjoyed it, but it also pissed me off quite a bit. People can be such evil, or misguided assholes. Somebody push the "reset" button already... I enjoy reading most sub-genres horror, but psychological horror is much more disturbing because it can be real. I love being freaked out, grossed out and having chills run down my spine, but I prefer horror that involves "supernatural" type beasties because I know its not real. Well I suppose I wouldn't mind being nibbled on by a good looking female vampire, what guy wouldn't??

Emily says

The Season of Giving is labeled as a "dark holiday novella" on its cover. I didn't really believe that because most of the time when books say that, it's not really true. Well, Angel Gelique is not lying about this being a dark holiday novella (which I truly appreciate). This book is bleak as hell, and I think it's one that is going to stick with me for a bit.

The Season of Giving reminded me of Carrie in some ways - both main characters are extremely sheltered with terrifyingly religious parents who don't tell or teach them anything. Both are wildly unprepared to exist in society and have difficult lives. However, Lou (the main character in The Season of Giving) did not stand up to his parents like Carrie did, so he is seriously screwed when they die. Super religious characters tend to stress me out, and The Season of Giving did its job.

This book was much more depressing than I expected it to be. For some reason I assume holiday horror is going to be fun, and this one is definitely not. However, it's still an intriguing read & I was very invested in the story. It's disturbing & difficult to look away no matter how badly you want to. It's a heartbreaking story.

Although the book is not fun as a whole, The Season of Giving wraps up with an office Christmas party that I think gruesome horror fans will enjoy. It was delightfully horrifying and gross. There are a few funny scenes, but overall, this book is still a grim one.

Just as a warning, there's a lot of verbal & physical abuse, sexual harassment, rape, bullying, etc. All the bad things are happening here. If you find yourself getting too cheerful at Christmas, The Season of Giving will knock you down a few pegs & remind you that everybody still sucks.

Shadow Girl says

The Season of Giving wasn't all **Horrific Holiday Fun** – in some parts... it kind of bummed me out a little bit. It was definitely a hard read at times.

I think Lou's mom used to get together and go to lunch with Carrie White's mom, where they would swap "*Parenting Tips for the Mentally Christian*" over their watered down tea and bad fish entrees.

When Lou does *'make things right'* - I haven't decided if I want to cheer for Lou, the carnage, and the sweet, wonderful revenge **or** if I want to just put my head down and sob.

Full review posted [HERE](#).

Eugenie says

Once I started reading this I just could not put it down - I read it all in one afternoon. It is a story about a young man brought up by fundamentalist Christian parents whose interpretation of the Bible is warped. They view everything from a "holier than thou" viewpoint, and even totally shuns the mainstream church as an institution full of heathens. They instill this attitude into their son, using abusive means to ensure that the lessons are well taught. He is home schooled and is not allowed to have friends or toys and certainly no television which are all viewed as sinful. He grows up into a young man and when he is twenty seven they die one after the other, leaving him to face the world alone with no social skills, no friends and knowing nothing whatsoever about the world outside.

This story is a sad one - my heart went out to Lou the main character - and it is at times quite disquieting. It is not for the faint-hearted but I found it to be a very good read.

Marie says

I was warned this book is depressing, but I went ahead and read it anyway. It revolves around a young man "Lou" that was brought up in very strict christian home and was so sheltered that he knew nothing of the outside world. He lived with his parents until their death and then he was on his own in a big wide world that he knew nothing about. He ends up getting help from a social worker and trying to come to terms with the passing of his parents, plus trying to make his own way in a life that is far different than what he knows. The book takes you into the psychological torment that he endures as he tries to cope with everything around him and the ending was something I wasn't expecting.

The book grabs you from the get go as you are lead into a world of anxiety, suspense, and depression as you journey along with Lou as he tries to come to terms with everything. It makes you want to step into the book to help and comfort him along the way.

There is some gore in this book, but it doesn't really come into play till after the half way mark, when things start happening to Lou in the real world. Giving it four stars.
