



Forbidden

Syrie James , Ryan M. James

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A romantic and endearing novel perfect for fans of Rachel Vincent, Julie Kagawa, and Alyson Noel, from bestselling author Syrie James and her son, Ryan.

When Claire Brennan begins to get psychic visions and mysterious warnings that she's in danger at the start of her junior year, she isn't sure what to think. But the truth is stranger than anything she could have imagined.

Alec MacKenzie has fled his duties as a Watcher angel and come to L.A. in search of normalcy. He never dreamed he would find a half-angel at his school, or that he would fall in love with her.

Romantic, with a touch of humor, readers will be swept away by this thrilling stand-alone novel from bestselling adult author Syrie James (*The Lost Memoirs of Jane Austen*) and her son, Ryan James.

Forbidden Details

Date : Published January 24th 2012 by HarperTeen

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Author : Syrie James , Ryan M. James

Format : Paperback 410 pages

Genre : Paranormal, Angels, Young Adult, Fantasy, Romance

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From Reader Review Forbidden for online ebook

Jana at ThatArtsyReaderGirl.com says

I was SO excited when Syrie wrote to me and told me that I was the first ever recipient of a Forbidden ARC! I read this book back in August, and was very happy when it was requested that I post this review now, rather than wait for the month of the release. Put this on your Christmas lists, guys! I think you'll enjoy it. :)

First off, I really loved the story. The premise was interesting, and I like how I had to keep guessing and trying to figure out what was going on. I liked the tactic the authors used--to not tell us what Claire or Alec are for quite a while. All these crazy things start happening, and people are not who they say they are. I felt like I was just as lost as Claire was, which was exciting. I wish the back of the book did not mention angels. It would have been more fun to not have had any clue at all.

Alec is an amazing character, and I'm not going to tell you what he is. It's fun to discover that on your own. He's a mix of bad boy and sweetheart, which I love. He is so sweet with Claire. He's also mysterious and dangerous, yet soft and romantic. He's at Emerson Academy to escape his old life and create a new one... if that's even possible. He enjoys his isolation. As soon as Claire pops up on the radar as someone the Elders should be investigating, his hiding place is discovered and he ends up having to take drastic measures to protect her from those who wish to destroy her.

I'm not going to tell you exactly what Claire is either, but she's something forbidden. Haha. Her entire life should not even exist. She starts noticing changes and has to learn as she goes, because not many have ever been in her position. There's no manuals on how to be herself. Man, this is painful to explain without spoilers, so I'm moving on! She's sweet and wishes to be noticed by this one guy she's had a crush on for years. Of course, he barely notices she's alive. When Alec comes along, though, she begins to gravitate towards him right as this crush starts to gravitate towards her. She's torn. She doesn't embrace the love triangle, like so many YA girls end up doing in books. (Like... did Bella have to act so upset to be marrying Edward, but fling herself into Jacob's arms when he showed up late at her reception? Sorry... I just saw *Breaking Dawn* yesterday.). She does a lot of thinking, and follows her heart. She seems smart. She also uses her talents to help people, like a classmate who needed a push in the right direction. Those are two main reasons why I like her. She didn't bug me, which often happens to me with YA heroines. I feel like I'm saying this a lot lately. Maybe authors are starting to write better heroines in general?

I liked Claire's friends a lot. They looked out for each other, and spent a lot of time sitting and chatting about all kinds of things. Friends usually end up bugging me too. They can so often be petty, catty, etc. I wish I had good friends like them when I was in high school.

There were several plot twists that made me go, "Whoa! I definitely wasn't thinking THAT would happen!" I've noticed that as I read more and more of one genre, books begin to become pretty predictable. I mean, how many love triangles do we see? How many evil villains do we see? How many cliché plot twists do we see. A lot, a lot, a lot. These twists were not something I foresaw. I enjoyed being outsmarted by a genre that I've pretty much figured out.

Of course, the sweet kissing descriptions were just as good as the ones I've read in Syrie's other novels. I love romance!

My only possible constructive criticism... I'm not sure if it's because the book is part of the YA genre (which I've never read from Syrie), or if it was because she co-wrote it with her son, but there were parts of the novel that were totally Syrie, and other parts that did not sound like her. I could tell that two people wrote it.

I'm not sure if it's because her writing style and Ryan's were not blended seamlessly, or if it was just that I'm used to reading adult fiction from Syrie instead of YA. In either case, it's not a huge deal... just an observation. If I had not read other works of hers, I doubt I would have noticed anything at all. I've just come to recognize Syrie's literary voice because I like it so much!

I asked Syrie if she and her son were planning to write a sequel, and she said that in their minds, it's a trilogy. However, HarperTeen only committed to one book. They have great ideas for the next two, though, so hopefully Forbidden is well-received, and they can continue the story. I'd love to know more about what's in store for Alec and Clair. Actually, I'd love a prequel, too. Throughout the story, we hear little bits about Claire's parents. I'd love to read about their story as well. It has the potential to be a pretty beautiful story.

I definitely think that the book will appeal to more than just YA readers, and I think a lot of that is due to the fact that the characters are not annoying and certainly don't fit into the stereotypical high school student formula. I think it also helped that Alec had a certain maturity that seemed to influence the other characters, and that brought on more mature conflicts and issues. I'm 24, and a lot of YA novels I read make me feel pretty old. Haha. I know I'm not old, but in a totally different place than most YA characters. I didn't feel like this while reading Forbidden, and I forgot they were all highschoolers. It was refreshing.

In short, it was a wonderful book. I quite enjoyed it, and only took about 2 days to read it. Hopefully this team gets to continue the story! While it can totally stand on its own, there are plenty of ends that are just a tad loose, that could use some tying up!

Leigh Herondale says

For more review check out: <http://hypnosomnus-leighmarbella.blog...> and <http://sybillinebooks.tumblr.com>

I finished reading Forbidden by mother and son tandem, Syrie and Ryan James. The novel is about Claire and Alec, who are both different in their own ways. I don't want to mention why because I might spoil the story for future readers.

Claire and her mom are constantly on the move because her mom believes that she's constantly in danger and she's kinda' paranoid about it. Although, her paranoia actually has a basis. haha. Anyway, the story is told in alternating POV's, Claire's and Alec's.

I liked Claire a lot. She's a girl who just wants to be normal but somehow she feels like she does not actually fit in anywhere even if she has two best friends. Claire did not annoy me at all BTW. I've been constantly reading YA novels without the annoying heroines and I like it. She's not exactly a tough chic or anything but somehow the authors made it work. She's definitely not annoying as hell and I like the fact that she does not make all her friends and Alec do all the work just like *coughs* some other female heroines that I'll refuse to name. haha. I hate it when female characters become dead weight. Plus, her best friends are just adorbs. I like the fact that they support Claire with whatever it is that she's going through.

And then there's Alec. Alec who makes me swoon. Alec, the sexy soldier/ warrior whatever. I don't exactly know what to call him without giving his identity away. haha. He's sexy. Period. Anyway, I loved Alec from the get-go. Plus, the Scottish accent is just to die for. haha. I know, I didn't exactly hear it but I can only imagine how sexy he sounds with that accent. I like Alec not just because he's sexy or whatnot. I like the fact that he is constantly protecting Claire, her friends and her family while trying to hide what he really is and constantly breaking the rules that he has lived by for so long. I loved the part wherein he's trying to act all

mundane and everything. Can you believe it? A guy who does not eat junk food? I found that really funny.

I enjoyed reading this novel. I think the trying-to-act-normal-thing is cliché but somehow it worked in this novel. There was a possibility of a love triangle but I like the fact that Claire did not just run into the other guy's (Neil) arms whenever she had the chance. I actually liked the writing style. The fact that it was written by two people without making it pretty obvious is just amazing. And the fact that they made the readers guess what these two were up until the middle of the novel made me want to read it even more. I'm not really sure if it's gonna be a series or whatever but I think the authors gave it a nice closure with endless possibilities. They wrote it in a way that left it with enough loose ends to make it a series but still enough closure to make it a stand alone. Confusing? I know. Just read it so that you'll understand what I mean. Anyway, I'd give this a 5/5 star rating.

Carla says

For some reason my original review didn't save. So here we go again.....

This was your typical 'Forbidden Love' book!! But I truly enjoyed it, it was cute in a sense. I really liked that the Authors used some swearing (that's always a plus for me, don't judge). There were no secrets between friends, which was a nice change. Every character was included throughout the whole book. I gave this book 4 stars because it was:

1. Predictable -.50 of a star
2. Not enough action -.50 of a star

This was a really fast flowing story, ALL the characters were fun and funny. But they were true friends and it made their click have great chemistry. Claire and Alec were your typical forbidden love but it didn't drag; like most books do. They hated each other then fell in love then they were parted and then they came together again.... blah blah blah.... and still I loved it!!! It mostly took place in a school but there was so much more to it than that. They were involved with the school like, choir (that's how she first fell for Alec... Like I said super cute), prom and tutoring... It sounds dumb, but it's not what you think. Read the book to know what I mean

In conclusion to my terrible review, this book was:

1. Funny and Entertaining
2. All the Characters where fanfreakintastic
3. wasn't bored once and a fast read
4. VERY CUTE love story!

4 *'s

Kreiden says

“Breath taking since the Hush, Hush Series.”

OMG! This book takes my breath away since the Hush, Hush Series. The story is very simple but as you read further you're going to discover some new events that may shock you.

This is definitely one of my favorite books. Reading it makes me feel kinda familiar since I've read a lot of Angel Novels, but it has its uniqueness kind-a-way to express the conflict of the story.

Claire and Alec: The two characters that you're going to fall in love with—and also their friends Erica and Brian. I could say that a teen novel like this shows a lot more of loyalty to one another that I really liked.

Being an Angel/Grigori (The Watcher) and fall in love with a Nephilim is a NO-NO Rules. Actually the book has a few conflicts (kinda easy though) but I am satisfied after reading this book and I regret NOTHING buying this. A DEFINITELY MUST READ!

Natalie says

[Click here](#) to read this review on my blog, Mindful Musings.

In a Sentence: Forbidden showed some good writing, but the story and romance fell flat for me.

My Thoughts

Forbidden was one of those books that showed up unexpectedly in my mailbox. I honestly hadn't heard much about it, but it was a YA book, and I'm almost always interested in the books HarperTeen sends me, so I figured I'd pick it up and give it a whirl so I could try to have a review up close to its publication date.

The premise of Forbidden was pretty run of the mill for young adult paranormal romance, as you can probably tell from the synopsis. However, even books that are full of genre-typical tropes can be good reads if they're well-executed. Unfortunately, Forbidden had one of those tropes that is almost always a no-go for me: insta-love. By page thirteen, I was already wanting to put the book down because of the instant, undeniable attraction between Alec and Claire, even though they knew virtually nothing about each other. It's not that I have problems with romance or love stories, but I tend to get annoyed by insta-love relationships because they don't ever feel realistic to me. Still, I kept reading, hoping that I would be able to either get used to it or its presence would fade.

While the quickly progressing relationship between the main characters remained a point of aggravation for me throughout the book, I DID feel that it was improved a bit by the alternating points of view between Claire and Alec. It didn't cure the insta-love problem for me completely, but being able to see inside the heads of both Claire and Alec helped me to accept their relationship. I also thought that Alec was a decent character. I liked that, even though he fell into the mysterious, hot, dangerous, new boy category, he wasn't overly broody or mysterious.

As far as the other characters go, I actually found the minor characters to be pretty well-written. Claire's best friends, Erika and Brian, were a great addition to the story. Not only did they seem realistic and provide comic relief throughout the book, but they also were supportive and involved in all aspects of Claire's life...as opposed to the "ignorant friend syndrome" that frequently occurs in YA literature. I especially liked Erika. She just seemed like a ball of fun! She was so cute and quirky that it was hard not to like her.

I think most of my problems with Forbidden revolved around two things: the fact that I thought that the

relationship between Claire and Alec seemed forced, and that I felt that I had essentially heard it all before. At the same time, Forbidden can definitely stand on its own with other similar books in the YA paranormal romance genre. Perhaps my feelings about Forbidden stem more from me getting tired of genre tropes than the book itself. Still, while I think that the authors have talent as writers, this story just didn't do it for me. I'd be willing to try something from Syrie and Ryan M. James in the future, but as far as Forbidden goes, I don't think I'll be continuing this series.

FicTalk Blog says

Reviewed by Meg

I'm starting to wonder if a lovelorn angel lusting after a human or chasing after a nephilim is the new trend coming in on the tail of vampire fiction. Forbidden, by mother and son duo Syrie and Ryan James can definitely be slipped in with the forlorn angel breaking the code of his angelic lifestyle that seems to be the current trend in the YA paranormal genre. Forbidden follows Claire, who essentially lives a gypsy lifestyle with her mother, flitting from place to place with no real reason. During this book, Claire and her mother have remained in one place for nearly two years and Claire is currently enrolled in an elite, private academy where she has to bust her butt to maintain a high GPA so she can stay in. Of course, as any female lead in current YA fiction, she's super smart and has no problem maintaining the perfect grades (personally, the "perfect student" female lead is getting a bit old to me. Someone, create an original character please, one with spunk and some real flaws? Thanks.)

Enter Alec, the mysterious, handsome stranger who shows up on registration day and oddly attaches himself to Claire and her friends. It's made clear almost immediately that he's got a secret that he's hiding, and that he's not everything he seems to be. *cue melodramatic music* Dun..dun..dunnnnnnn

I want to make something clear here, I have instant disdain for any YA book that creates an immediate and powerful love between two adolescent characters. I think it's important that young readers are exposed to characters who develop a love based on getting to know one another, and spending time together, not seeing each other from across the lawn and feeling sparks arc across the entire campus as they immediately fall head over heels in love with one another without uttering a word. Okay, so maybe I exaggerated some. Alec and Claire didn't fall in love like that, but it was pretty quick and unrealistic, and I'm not a fan of a love with no sound base.

Also, I have issues when a book has scenes that are uncomfortably similar to scenes in other extremely popular YA books, like...when Alec miraculously appeared out of no where and saved Claire from a falling beam in a construction zone and disappeared, as if nothing had happened. It was eerily reminiscent of a certain vampire/human girl/car saving scene in another book. Do I really need to give you the name? Really?

Which that leads me to the characters. Is it just me, or do all female characters in YA fiction now have to be astonishingly smart yet dense at the same time, oblivious to everything around them. Also, do they have to be quiet, mousy, and reserved, and oddly unpopular even though they are highly attractive (and don't forget, they can't realize their pretty. That's a no-no in YA fiction, guys.) And do all male leads in YA fiction have to be hot, brooding, mysterious, secretive, and almost a "bad boy" by definition? Because if so, this book hit stereotypical YA fictional characters right on the bulls eye, cause that was Claire and Alec to a T.

One good point in the book was the writing style. It was very age appropriate considering the audience the book was geared too, and it was well written. The words and punctuation were used correctly, there weren't

a ton of glaring errors hiding in the paragraphs, and the sentence structure flowed nicely. It was written as I would expect, and want, a YA novel to be written. Forbidden definitely gets a thumbs up for me in writing style!

Overall, I can't say that I was a fan of Forbidden. I found it to be drawing from too many other YA novels in plot, characterizations, and general concept. I also had issues with the instant love between lead characters, the predictable outcome at the end, and the lack of answers at the end of the book. I know it's first in a series, but seriously, there still needs to be a decent amount of closure at the end of the book. I don't foresee myself picking up the next book in the series, and I can't see myself recommending this book to anyone over the age of 13.

Mizuki says

It's a 'I had read better written, more exciting fanfics about angels than this book' 1.5 stars.

Be warned that NOTHING HAPPENS within the first 200+ pages of this novel, the story is filled by the daily affairs of the heroine and her friends from the freaking high school.

(A special thank to Jun Bisque, a dear friend of mine who made this jpg.)

Also, you have to be warned against the dull writing, the cardboard cutout characters, cheesy romance, *I'm a special innocent snowflake* Mary Sue heroine, *I'm evil but I've never done anything scary in the book* villains and the mind-numbingly boring highschool melodramas. We also got a 100+ years old immortal drooling all over a 16 years old girl as well. Last but not least, the heroine is rather useless, she needs her love interest, a.k.a the mysterious, brooding new boy in school who really is a 100+ years old immortal to save her life repeatedly.

Bitch, please.

Not to mention said heroine is all too ready to forsake her life, happiness and future after her love interest *left her behind in order to save her life*.

Shit, I'd been getting that all-too-familiar Twilight vibe while I read the book.=___=

I don't hate this book, I even like the parts when the authors make fun of Twilight and disco-ball pseudo vampires, the characters aren't hateful neither; but I'm both annoyed and disappointed by this novel and its authors.

Astha says

Nothing against the book but...

This book is very nice if we see it from one perspective but from the other perspective this book is a bit lone and things took a lot of time to develop. Even the story took a lot of time to develop . If this book had been in a series the. the review would have been different .As it was slow aand to to long.

The characters were great and the way they developed in the story was also very good but as I already said slow Pace made it less readable. As it had double pov it made things bit easier in the starting but the heroine made it little boring and the vibes were like fallen then twilight and then why am I reading this .Every one was trying to achieve a happy ending and it made me feel the heroine was suicidal by nature.

The hero feel in love with the heroine instantly so it made him possessive because our heroine had a crush on a boy neil. So thing were a bit spooky. Now a days Ya books angel shelf have become more about democracy and war ancient fight to save human race or the heroine that it make this book reduce all it starts. But I will give it 3 for a possessive insta love thing.

Wren [t(he)y] says

This review can also be found at <http://fortheloveofbooksreviews.blogs...>

Claire goes to school at Emerson Academy, and she's hoping that she gets to stay there to graduate high school. She and her mother move around a lot, and Claire wants to stay for a while near her friends and crush for once. Things are changing for Claire, though. She's been having visions and she knows things that she shouldn't ... The idea of possibly being psychic scares yet excites her at the same time.

Alec is new at Emerson Academy, but friends and grades are the least of his worries. He's run away from his duties watching out for the spawn of angels, and making sure that those who have turned dark stay in line. He doesn't plan to meet Claire, or to fall for her. But with the possibility of imprisonment if he's found, and his sudden new mission to track down a Nephilim, meeting Claire, and discovering what she is, complicates everything.

It had been a while since I'd read a book about angels, so I figured I'd give this one a try because I'd picked it up so long ago. I was very impressed with the story and the characters, and I thought the romance was really sweet.

I enjoyed the author's use of angel myths, including the Nephilim. While forbidden romances can be cliché at times, I thought that this angel romance was forbidden in the best way possible. It wasn't too far fetched of a conflict, but I thought the problems that the characters faced were sufficient enough that their worries and fears truly made sense. This book had the perfect balance between conflict, romance, and everything else.

Alec's rebellion against what he'd spent his life doing was one of the best parts of this story. I love when characters rebel or go against what they've been taught to believe, and Alec really fit this criteria. His courage to take a stand for himself and try living a new life at Emerson Academy was admirable, and his feelings for Claire were sincere. Alec was my favourite character because he was just so interesting, he had such a complex past with so many hopes for the future.

I also find Claire a likeable character, and I enjoyed reading about her powers and visions and how they developed. Claire's friends played an important role supporting Claire in this tough time of her life, and I appreciated that they didn't abandon her when things got really crazy. The characters in this novel were very enjoyable to read about, and that's what made this book so special and interesting.

However, I truly wish that this book had been longer. It doesn't seem that there's going to be a sequel, and

with the ending that Forbidden had, I've found myself rather disappointed. That's the thing that took off a star for me.

Overall, a great read. Fans of angel stories will like this book, especially if you're looking for a book that doesn't revolve solely around fallen angels. Those who like forbidden romances, especially those in YA, should give this book a try.

Kelly says

I enjoyed Syrie James's first two paranormal novels, *Dracula, My Love* and *Nocturne*, and so I was happy to try her new young adult paranormal, *Forbidden*, co-written with her son Ryan James. I enjoyed *Forbidden* but found that it didn't quite stack up against the two aforementioned books.

Forbidden centers on Claire, a studious high school girl; and Alec, a Grigori angel who goes AWOL from his job of eliminating fallen Nephilim (human/angel hybrids) and decides to attend high school. It turns out that Claire is not entirely human herself, making their budding romance a violation of angel law. The narrative alternates between their points of view.

The novel is a quick, smooth read, and its main characters are pleasant people to read about. Claire is sympathetic, and her friends are sweet and funny. Alec is a good guy who wants to do the right thing. His rival for Claire's affections is a decent guy too, and the popular girl also seems genuinely nice even though Claire expects her not to be. Claire's mother is more involved and supportive than is common in this genre. The enigmatic Helena, once we finally meet her, is awesome! With the obvious exception of the villains, the characters in this book are easy to like. Another nice touch is the genre savvy of Claire and her friends. Before they find out what Alec really is, Claire tosses around the idea that he might be a vampire, or maybe a Slayer.

The trouble is, *Forbidden*'s plot feels like something I've seen before. There's the shy girl who doesn't realize she's gorgeous; the mysterious supernatural guy who goes to high school despite being over 100 years old; angels and Grigori and Nephilim, which are everywhere at the moment; a romance that is against all the universe's rules; and a love triangle. What I loved best about James's previous books was that they stood out from the rest of the paranormal field: *Dracula, My Love* had those fun twists on Bram Stoker's original *Dracula*, and *Nocturne* told a vampire story as a character study and something of a fairy tale retelling and had an unconventional ending. *Forbidden* is a lot more like the other books out there.

You could do a lot worse than *Forbidden*. The writing is fine and the story didn't annoy me with sexism or character stupidity, as some YA paranormal novels have done. The likable characters and smooth prose keep the pages turning. But the familiarity of the plot detracts from the experience, and it needed a little something more to make it stand out from the field.

written for fantasyliterature.com

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Stereotypical characters fall into the YA trope of insta-love, but with an angel mythos that

has an interesting twist to it.

Opening Sentence: It had been a really crappy morning.

The Review:

The premise of the novel was interesting, even if the angel mythology isn't anything new. It's got a few interesting twists that I enjoyed, but for the most part it's got the same staples as most YA paranormals. The strongest part of the novel was the characters. I loved that Claire isn't a social outcast or Ms. Popular, the two extremes already plentiful in this type of story. The friends she does have are brilliant. They're fun, loveable, and hilarious, but they're also smart and trustworthy. Claire tells them everything, even the crazy, and they want to help her.

At first I thought the title Forbidden was about Alec and Claire's romance, but it isn't. It's about Claire and her life and the fact that she really, really shouldn't exist. I didn't like the way the author kept what she was from us so much of the story — I think it was an attempt at adding tension-filled mystery — because we know something's wrong, we know about the angels, so just tell us already! But Claire's sweet and crushing on a boy who doesn't know she's alive, and just an all-around typical high school student. When Alec shows up, mysterious and Scottish, her feelings begin to focus on him and her crush finally looks at her, but this isn't a love triangle like I expected. Claire is smart and level-headed and follows her heart instead of embracing the drama of having two boys. Her brain made her a great heroine to read, but why are YA heroines so intensely smart and yet idiots at the same time? The insta-love made me want to punch both Claire and Alec.

Alec is good as well, but I had a few problems. Because this is a mother and son team, and Claire and Alec are written respectively by each, they didn't flow together. At first I thought it might add to the voice and distinguish each of them, but instead it distracted me. As a character and a love interest, he's good though. The stereotypical "bad boy" that can only be redeemed by our intelligent heroine. He seems all confident from Claire's POV, but we can see from him how insecure he feels about trying to be normal and fit in. Because he belongs to a very old society that he's run away from, he turns Claire's already odd life upside down. Claire turns up as someone the Elders need to investigate and his hiding place is outed, placing them both in danger. No matter what Claire is, Alec's going to protect her.

This is the beginning of a trilogy, according to the authors, but their publisher only picked up the one book. I'm not sure if I believe the rest of the series will deliver enough to be picked up. This book fell back on clichés — hard. While the twist on angel mythos was interesting, it was too drawn out and despite the characters having great potential, the authors let them fall into their respective molds. If the sequel does get picked up, I hope we see more of the humor and they make an effort to turn Claire and Alec into individuals.

Notable Scene:

She yanked the phone out and glanced at the screen, fully expecting the text to be from her mom.

Instead, it was from an unknown number. All it said was:

Don't panic.

She glanced up and saw Alec secretly working his cell phone beneath the cover of his desk. Another message arrived:

I'll share my notes. —A

She smiled. That was nice of him. She was putting her cell phone away when the sharp rap of knuckles against glass brought her eyes back to the classroom window. She froze in horror.

FTC Advisory: HarperTeen provided me with a copy of Forbidden. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Fireminess says

I'm sorry if this is all over the place, but this book made me angry.

Okay. Practically everything that I consider wrong with young adult genre is in 'Forbidden'. There are so much nonsense in this book. As it progresses it gets better, yes, but only slightly. The worst chapter is the first one, where we are getting introduced to the characters who are going to annoy be with us for the rest of the 400+ pages. The book is written in two POV's - one is in Claire's (the protagonist) and the other one is in Alec's (the lover boy). Claire immediately notices how "omg tis guy is even hotter and cuter than Nial, that guy I had a crush on since forever". (view spoiler) Author doesn't want Claire to seem obsessed, so she drops a few rude comments in her head, turning Alec's shyness and awkwardness into being "cold" and "rude". I feel sorry for the guy, because well, it is clear from the first two sentences that the author is going to pair them up. But then we get to Alec's POV and it is revealed that he isn't SHY or AWKWARD, he is actually really smooth and charming. Except this time, Claire is so beautiful and just so ethereal that he is totally in luvies with her in a matter of seconds and that's why he is behaving this way. Basically the whole chapter is the elaboration of *she was perfect, he could not stop staring at her*. The fact that he just met her doesn't matter at all, because they fall in love after like six chapters anyway.

Despite Alec's deification of Claire, she still comes off as one of those whiny and annoying characters that you would love to slap.

"Claire didn't need anything that upscale to be happy - but every time she walked in through the door and saw the cream - colored walls and carpet (in other words: bland) she was reminded that they never stayed in one place for too long."

(I hate when writers use brackets to put in something completely unnecessary. So your walls are bland. Man, I feel like my eyes have been opened.)

Their relationship is so bland (~~HAH~~) bizarre. He saves her from a car accident with his special powers and leaves a hand print in the car (hm, where have I heard that before?) and all she has to say (after a few days, mind you) *"I haven't thanked you properly for the whole saving-my-life-thing"*. This is where I lose it. I can feel that the book isn't going to get any better.

We find out that Alec is an angel and a powerful one at that. And obviously Claire can't be a simple human, that would be just stupid. So we turn her into a helluva strong half-blood nephilim, first one in 'eons'. What does she get with that, you ask? The magic OF SINGING. **OF SINGING**. Because Angels have harps and angelic voices and stuff. GEDDIT? They then proceed to sing a lame ballad, both fascinated to no end by each others' 'magical' voices. Apparently Claire screeched like a dying cat before she discovered her fantastic voice and she doesn't get surprised at all when she suddenly becomes the next Adele.

Another thing. Alec is Scottish, therefore he has to say "aye" in every sentence. I think I've never seen him say yes. What is he, a goddamned pirate with a wooden leg?

I don't even remember what exactly happened with the plot. They get threatened by someone from upstairs

and our wonderful couple has to break up (sob). Poor Alec is just trying to save their lives, but of course Claire gets all clingy in Bella-like manner, storms into his apartment and puts both of their futures in danger.

We also get a line that could rival Twilight itself.

"You wondered what I am?" Alec said gently, his voice echoing as if they were inside a cathedral. "Go ahead. Find out." he opened his shirt, grabbed her hand and pressed it to his beautifully sculpted chest."

At least in Twilight it made some sense. Edward showed Bella that he could sparkle. What does he show us? HIS BEAUTIFULLY SCULPTED CHEST. Does it reveal anything? NO. Am I just supposed to figure out that all Angels have beautifully sculpted chests? Is it a part of the lore like vampires drinking blood or werewolves turning at full moon? NO. Sigh.

Kaede says

[image error]

Wendy says

I didn't actually finish this, I only reached page 137. It is your average paranormal high school angel romance, enough that I would have finished reading it, most likely, and probably given it a decent rating. So why did I stop?

I have noticed an increasing trend in young adult books using derogatory terms in reference to individuals with developmental disabilities, in this case, on page 137, "Holy crap," Erica said. "We've been so short-bus about this."

Teenagers probably think this is funny and just read it, laugh or not, and go on. As someone who writes and also works with children with disabilities in an elementary school, where we are trying to stamp out bullying and engender understanding, it truly dismays me when I see this happen in books that have recently been published. The children I work with are kind and loving, they are just different. They have autism or cerebral palsy or Down syndrome, in some cases other syndromes. There are some wonderful students at our school who come and volunteer as peer buddies to students in our class, and become their friends and understand their differences better.

Yes, sometimes people with disabilities act differently in public, make strange noises, or do strange things. They are honest, they don't hide who they are. Just because some of them can't speak doesn't mean they don't have things to say, they just need people willing to take the time to listen.

Authors have a responsibility, to an extent. If we put something in a book or story that's derogatory, there needs to be a good reason for it, not simply put it there to make fun of people at their expense. There's nothing wrong with people who are gay, lesbian, bi, transsexual, transgender, bi-racial, a difference race than our own, etc. etc., and if comments were made about anything like that, there would possibly be a stir about it, but often if it's making fun of disabilities, it doesn't get mentioned.

It is not open season on people with disabilities. Authors need to remember this, think about their audience, and remember that what they write sinks in. It encourages further devaluation of a population that doesn't

deserve it, and includes some of the best people I've known.

It's truly a shame, because I think this book has promise. I just think that authors, editors, and publishers such as HarperTeen should think about these things a little more closely. Just because someone with a severe disability might not be reading your books, someone who loves someone who is might be.

Amy Lignor says

For anyone who reads great books the name Syrie James should already be on top of all 'to-read' lists, as well as categorized as a consistent '5-Star' author on all reviewer's lists. Whether taking on Jane Austen, vampires, or anything else you can think of, Ms. James definitely knows how to create a story that is the 'best of the best.' But this time around she brings two new things to the table: The subject of angels told in a new way that hasn't already been done six hundred times; and her son, Ryan, who enhances the story ten-fold with his own creativity and a definite 'male' point of view. (Which YA has needed for some time).

Claire Brennan is a young girl who's having a bit of a rough time. All her life her mother has packed them up and moved to a new city or town the second Claire started to feel comfortable in her new surroundings. The one thing she doesn't want is to be uprooted again, seeing as that she now attends a school called Emerson Academy that she absolutely loves. Her two best friends - Erica and Brian - are always by her side; she is madly in love with Neil, who is a red-hot singer in the school's choir; and she works hard to make sure that she can keep her partial scholarship to this righteous Academy. The picture of a 'normal' American teen, right? Except for the fact that dizzy spells have begun to affect her and strange visions are appearing in her mind, Claire is A-okay. Until...

A new student comes to town by the name of Alec. Not only is he extremely handsome but he's also Scottish, so that accent pretty much sweeps everyone off their feet. Except for Claire. When she first meets Alec he's quite distant, and she basically would like him to go away. But soon Claire's life changes immensely, especially when this strange boy begins to show some seriously superhuman strength. (No, not those guys). When Claire finds out that Alec is actually a member of a very old society that he decided to go AWOL from, her life really becomes a mess.

She is one of the Awakened. Not only that but Claire is a Half-Blood. Her father, who she never knew, had some very special powers in his background and now Claire is paying for the fact that she's a type of 'being' that may one day turn on the world and take people out. Vincent is Alec's godfather, a man who works for some real 'higher-ups' whose job it is to erase Claire at this young age so she can never cause any harm. But Vincent forgets that nothing is more superhuman than the power of love - which Alec has for Claire big time!

I have to say this book is a thrilling ride. From a trio of fallen angels to a battle with a were-creature, this fast-paced plot is extremely adventurous. And the romance? Let's just say that the romance is so powerful between Claire and Alec that they make old Bella and Edward look like nothing more than 'good friends.' This is not just a YA, this is a truly amazing story that, while you're reading it, you're also picking out the best actors to play the roles on the big screen. All age groups will find themselves absolutely attached to this incredible novel!

A story of pure fun, fantasy, romance, humor - you name it - Syrie James and her son have brought it! Get this one the second it comes out!

