



The Gifted One

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As his birthday approaches, Matthew Westlake fears more than just growing a year older. He fears never seeing another year at all. Each birthday brings a close call with death, leaving holes in his memory, recurring nightmares, and one more glimpse of his guardian angel. This birthday Matt must stand against ancient evils that have hounded him since birth, because he is a Gifted One—a seventh son of a seventh son.

Within Matt rests the unlocked potential of a force for good, but it also makes him a target. Being the Gifted One and dodging demonic attacks aren't Matt's only problems, though. He's fallen in love with his protector, the Archangel Gabriel, and Heaven will condemn that love to save Matt's soul. But Heaven doesn't count on Gabriel loving Matt in return, defying divine law and placing them in danger from demons and angels alike.

The Gifted One Details

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From Reader Review The Gifted One for online ebook

C. says

I'm just so sad.

This book had so many elements to make me absolutely love it, but by the end I was feeling just so disappointed and a general clusterfuck of what-the-F-is-going-on that I couldn't give it more than a one star rating.

First don't let the blurb distract you, it oversells the story and makes it sound much more interesting than it turns out to be, unfortunately. Btw, I really want to know just who writes all the great blurbs you see around. That seems like a person who would author an awesome book!

But I deter myself, let's get back on track. I don't have the pages to give you, so let me just divide my reading experience like this:

THE BEGINNING

Reads a lot like a slice-of-life, but not a very good one. You go through almost every single aspect of Matthew's day - including a " [...] *before heading out of the bedroom, out of his apartment, and onto the streets of Houston.*" - and the plot promised on the blurb is mostly forgotten in lieu of superfluous scenes and over-the-top detailing.

And it's really confusing. After reading the first chapter, you have all this questions of what happened to Matthew's life (the whats, whos, hows, whens and whys) and these are set aside perhaps to create an air of mystery in the story, but to me it was annoying and just made me feel lost.

THE MIDDLE

When Gabriel enters the story it gets more interesting, both in plot developing and the romance aspects, but there still were many scenes that could have been cut off, and frankly the reactions of some of the characters were not believable to me.

And speaking of Gabriel. He and Matt have this eternal-true-love deal going on, but they were together on only a few scenes. **What is up with that??**

THE ENDING

I don't even know what to write here. I respect the author for trying to use Christian mythology, but there was maybe too much of that. I was raised in a Catholic family, so the general lines that were written were familiar to me, and reading them in this book just made me bored. And at one point the angels / demons / good / evil / etc babble just took over to the point it almost became a circus. I felt like I was watching some sort of Christian faith based Saint Seiya anime.

And I'm not going to spoil it, but about what happened at the very end: are you serious? I don't know if it made more angry or disappointed.

ETC

Maybe the problems I had with this book were mostly due to the writing style, I don't know. I felt it was repetitive and had too much detailing, which are things that tend to get me frustrated and annoyed - I had actually started to mentally check the same expressions and descriptions being used more than once. The skips in POV may have also contributed to my bad experience.

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

3 1/3 - 4 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.co...>

Matthew has had many tragedies throughout his life, and each year his birthday brings danger but his guardian angel Gabriel is always there in the background keeping him safe. But, this year is different as the forces of evil are determined to put an end to the Gifted One and Gabriel crosses a line never meant to be crossed. Matt and Gabriel jeopardise God's Grand Design by falling in love, defying God's laws and now a sacrifice must be made before it is too late.

This is a great good vs evil, heavenly powers story. Matthew is the Gifted One and since the night of his birth has been hunted by evil and Gabriel is the Archangel charged with keeping him safe, but Gabriel has grown to love the mortal under his protection and he breaks the rules when he shows himself to Matt. Matt is confused about his instant connection to the mysterious Gabriel, but he tries to put it to the side to make a go of it with Craig, a man who has great potential in the boyfriend stakes. Evil still haunts Matt and monsters from his past are poised to strike and the contact with Gabriel pushes their feelings to the surface, but acting on their love could prove too dangerous with the powers of heaven disapproving.

I enjoyed most of this book, but I have to admit to disliking parts of it, especially when it came to Matt's inability to basically stand up for himself against his friends and how understanding he had to be all the time, it wasn't natural. The storyline was great and Gabriel and Matt were an interesting couple, I liked the way that the past was told in full for the pivotal moments and the way that evil twisted humans to do its bidding. The way the story flows is brilliant and it has emotional twists and turns, with some heavenly aspects and stories lending to the story. There's lots of danger with rescues, some angst, arguing, forgiveness and love, there are some horrifying moments but also some moments of great sacrifice and devotion.

I will recommend this to those who love Angels and evil, some hot sex, Archangels giving it all up for love, danger, and a great ending.

Paul says

4.5 STARS

If you like a good story involving the myths of archangel's and demon's fighting each other for plight of The Gifted One (no it's not Buffy) with flavour of urban fantasy/thriller and a modern day setting, this this is a fun read.

I really liked the originality of the storyline, so many are very similar where this one is not, well nothing I've read in this genre was similar in nature.

It's very well written and takes you through a great amount of different emotions from fun, happy, sexy, sad and creepy quite flawlessly. It keeps a good pace up too making it a page turner. I didn't come across any parts that felt like filler.

So it has a great plot with sub-plots, that merge seamlessly as the book progresses. The MC's are excellent and I loved them but a couple of the OC's were a tiny bit annoying at times but it was minimal and they were important, the mythology was engaging even if it was incorrect, I'm not saying it is because I don't know but it worked for me. Overall this was definitely one of the better angelic romances I've read.

LiveYourLife BuyTheBook says

4.5 Stars

The blurb on this book sounded so good, I had to read it. The cover was stunning and the concept was intriguing. We have God, his angels and the archangel Gabriel as a guardian angel to The Gifted One in one m/m, paranormal romance. Sold! I was eager to dig in for a great read and I was not disappointed.

Tragedy stalks Matthew Westlake relentlessly, especially on his birthday. He lost his family and he continues to have near-death experiences every year on this day. Matt is the seventh son of a seventh son who is known to Heaven as a Gifted One and although Matt is unaware of it, he has a larger destiny to fulfill. He is a skilled nurse who was born with a "knowing" that is particularly helpful in diagnosing what ailments affect his patients. He is a man who is happy assisting others. Matt is also in search of true love so the timing is perfect as Gabriel appears to save Matt's life on his birthday this year. Once he is safe, Matt can't get the intense connection he feels for his unexpected savior out of his mind.....

See Carli's full review at [Live Your Life, Buy The Book](#)

Susan65 says

Not kidding when I say this was a labor in love...for Matt, Gabriel, for me...and for Craig. And no, this is not a menage. You have to read and read and read to get to the conclusion and, thank you God it ended in the most satisfactory way ever.

I admit I was starting to get very, very nervous that what I'd hoped would happen, wouldn't happen. Super nervous. So very happy I got my wish and my miracle.

This is NOT your typical mm romance novel. It's more like a Dean Koontz novel with a little man-love sprinkled on top. Well some seriously saucy and steamy man-love, so maybe not so Dean Koontz after all ;-)
)

It was long and the world building was detailed, but very necessary to understand the whats and the whys and how comes. You can tell this was a labor in love from the author and no corners were cut to get to the end. I almost wished it did because at about half way I almost jumped to the last page to see how it ended.

I had NO IDEA how it would end until almost the very end. But suffice it to say that it was worth the ride.

? Todd says

I liked the book, but didn't really fall in love with it.

And there wasn't much time focused on the main characters getting to really, truly know one another. For Matt, it was more love at first sight, 'nuff said.

The first couple of intimate scenes were kind of "Who's your dirty girl? Yeah, I'm your dirty girl" feeling, which I didn't really care much for at all. Fast forward.

I more enjoyed the storyline of Gabriel and Michael's brotherly relationship, how through the conflict, their love and mutual respect survived.

Not a bad read, but I enjoyed T.J. Klune's "Into This River I Drown" much more. That was a book I fell head over heels for.

Letti says

Matt's life has been plagued with misfortunate events and many of those were catastrophic. Being born -the seventh son of a seventh son, his destiny was written, he become a key player, and someone who is important to the Grand Design. Because of that importance he was granted a protector the Archangel Gabriel. Gabriel has been by Matt's side since the very beginning but has rarely revealed himself; Gabriel's sole purpose was to protect his ward and let the Grand Design run its course.

But things begin to change when Matt is tormented with nightmares; he knows that the dreams are the key to unlocking his past. He suffers from dissociative amnesia due to a traumatic and stressful incident that transpired on his tenth birthday. Birthdays aren't agreeable with him, because his potential resonates strongest on that day.

This is an enchanting tale of good vs. evil, Angelic Forces vs. Demonic that interweave basic Christian Mythology, at times it was so engaging I could hardly tear my eyes away from the words, I was sucked into Flores magnificent world. Certain parts of the book was heart-rendering, where my soul literally felt like it was being ripped out of me, during that moment I cussed Mr. Flores for capturing that heinous moment. And FYI that is something no mother should every read.

You can read my full review at **On Top Down Under Book Reviews**
<http://bookreviewsandtherapy.blogspot...>

Jovan says

I really wanted to like this book. The blurb sounded interesting and I enjoy reading books that expand

upon/use lesser known apocryphal books or mythologies. So I was excited to read it, but excitement quickly turned into eye rolling and stalling on finishing. When I HAVE to take a break from a book, in order to make myself finish it, that book better have a stellar sprint to the finish line to make it worth while, but nope, failed there as well.

My main issues were: 1) the writing style, which bordered on overdone and swung between extremes of painfully flowery prose to crudity that was supposed to seem sexy and intimate; 2) the character interactions and 3) how the plot developed.

What bothered me most was that much of the dialogue and some of the secondary character interactions came across as over the top soap opera drama because of their immediate and extreme feelings for the two men in Matt's life, Craig and Gabriel. It was like the best friends HAD to love one and hate the other to give the story more "dramatic tension", but at best it was poorly executed and at worst unnecessary, especially with the almost rabid way Matt's friend Dee expressed her feelings/concern. Concern is one thing, but the way she was portrayed was intrusive, irritating and seemingly written to incorporate the addition of the drama of "strained long term friendships" to the increasingly operatic triangle, which just made me dread scenes with her and Shane b/c it became a predictable pattern of them ganging up on Matt w/o letting him speak, Shane being inappropriate and Dee screeching about something.

Regarding the plot, it was pretty straight forward and progressed steadily if not very engagingly, despite the distracting dialogue, until about the last 30% of the book. To avoid spoilers, I'll just say that the manner in which the book is going to end becomes readily apparent after certain events, and feels like a cop-out to all the drama and angst intrinsic in Matt and Gabriel's potential relationship. The writing style, character interactions and the almost blah and uninspiring use of apocryphal background all combined to make this story only an "Eh" for me.

Blue Bayou . says

Not sure if I am going rate this right now. I did not finish but I did. Sort of.

I got all the way to chapter 21 and then skipped to the last chapter. Why did I do that? Well I was pushing myself to read this story by then, it didn't really hold my attention. By the time I got to Chapter 21, Matthew had been having a relationship with Craig and some supernatural stuff starts happening that makes Craig leave and Gabriel comes back. I don't really have an issue with leaving one lover for another however the 'love' between Matthew and Gabriel was not flushed out enough for me to believe. (Craig and Matthew had a love that I would have followed).

When Chapter 21 starts Gabriel and Matthew are finally together and getting ready to consummate their love. The scene was odd to say the least. In previous scenes with Craig and Matt, Craig was the aggressive one. When Gabriel and Matt get it going, Matt is the aggressive one. And not so much aggressive but controlling. In Matt thoughts I am told why but to doesn't ring true. Another issue I had was the lack of lube, yeah yeah I know it's a story and its fantasy. Again, I say if you've ever had it, then you know you NEED it.

I also wasn't a fan of Matthew's friends Shane and Dee. I am sure they were added for levity however they just irritated me.

So by now I have skipped to Chapter 31. I did this not because I had to find out what happened but because I read a review that said by the end you'll understand. Maybe had I read all of the story I would have understood more but by the time I got there it wasn't so much that I didn't understand the ending, I just didn't like it. I won't say here what the ending is because even though I a 'spoiling' this whole review I don't want

to give it away. Suffice to say I've not seen an ending like this one before and I would prefer not to see it again.

Chris Jeffreys says

4.5 stars.

This book is a roller coaster ride of a mortal's interaction with the Devine, Archangel Gabriel, and compelling secondary characters that are well developed and intriguing.

I won't give anything away in the story, so here's the barest of thumb-nail summaries of the intricate plot. Matt Westlake is the seventh son of a seventh son who is known as the Gifted One in this book. In his reality, he is a skilled nurse with a knack for knowing what ailments afflict his patients. But, he is a man in search of eternal love.

Through his life, he has faced and survived extreme adversity, although those who are around him have not fared as well. While his survival is initially thought to be coincidence, clearly there is Devine intervention involved in his protection. As the Gifted One, he plays an integral (if yet unspoken) role in the future of mankind. Evil forces and Devine forces are locked in a constant battle to eliminate (or protect) him.

But, at its base, this is a love story. Surely, it is a fractured love story caused by the circumstances surrounding Matt's existence; however, it is a love story nonetheless. As you can note from the comments that I wrote as I was reading this book, there was a recurrent question in my mind whether this author could bring together a suitable ending to this novel. In the end, I believe the author fashioned the only possible ending to this novel that would not cause readers to revolt en masse. Whether the ending is good or a bad must be left to each individual reader.

Without revealing any more of the novel, I can say that this is a compelling story that was quite a page turner. The plot is far more than just one sex scene after the next. But, as an aside, when the author does write sex scenes in this book, they are erotically charged and very hot.

If we judge a novel on its ability to hold the readers' attention, and draw the readers into the emotion of the characters, then this novel succeeds. I am just not certain whether the ending of this novel was sufficiently satisfying to give it five stars (but, it is a close call). Four and a half stars from me for this book.

There's a hint in this story that the future of Matt's role as the Gifted One could give rise to a sequel. It would be interesting to see how earthly and divine intervention can again come into the characters' future lives, and I would encourage the author to pursue that storyline.

M says

This book didn't sit well with me. I found the metaphors and similes too florid, and it seemed to me an uneasy balance of extremely gory and violent and extremely cheesy. So, I was all set to one-star it. But then this line happened: *'I'll squash your baby head if I have to'* (in reference to a demonic baby clown). That kind of giggles deserves an extra star.

Bev says

Well, how on earth do I begin to review this book? I'll start by saying that I wasn't going to do this tonight...I was supposed to be going to watch the new Star Trek film (yeah I'm a Trekkie, so sue me!!), but hubbie was 'unavoidably detained', and no, not by the police...I thought yay, I'll do my Gifted One review...so, I'm sorry Chris and Zachary, I'm pining for you already, but it's a hot date for tomorrow guys!! 4 stars

I made more notes for this book than any other book I've read so far, so that should tell you that it was quite a complex book. I have to admit that I was initially drawn to the artwork on the cover which is beautiful...shallow I know, so the signs were promising as far as I was concerned for the book...although of course, the opposite can also be true unfortunately; however, this time I struck gold!!

The Dreamspinner blurb on this book was intriguing. I'm not particularly religious, so was hoping it wouldn't be a 'wrath of God' type book, and although there were some elements of that, they were interwoven into the story so deftly by the author that you didn't feel he was pointing a finger at you in particular. Father God makes several guest appearances, as do the Heavenly Host, seraphim, archangels, lots of demons and joy of joys, the Gifted One Matthew, who is the seventh son of a seventh son, and therefore someone very special indeed with a larger than life destiny!!

Nothing seems to go right for Matthew Westlake, tragedy stalks him, especially around the date of his birthday. His family were killed on that date, and he himself keeps having near-death experiences on his birthday every year. He also has terrifying nightmares, they begin to get more frequent, and are so disturbing that he consults a psychiatrist...the therapist helps him to understand that the nightmares are symptomatic of his fears about his childhood and what happened to his family. He is obviously unaware that he is the Gifted One, part of some **Grand Design** that only Father God knows about, but he has his own Guardian Angel Gabriel, and he has watched over Matthew since he was born. Matt is a nurse, who although he doesn't realise it, has some inkling or special knowledge as to what illnesses or ailments patients have, sometimes even before they've seen the doctor, this 'gift' has obviously been given to him in readiness for his eventual destiny. He loves helping others, and although he has good friends, and a 'sort of' family in the people that adopted him, is still searching for the elusive 'love of his life' that he is certain exists somewhere for him, and him alone.

On this particular day in this particular year, fate in the guise of demons, is waiting in the wings yet again, poised to try and kill Matt to ensure that the balance between good and evil is tipped a little more firmly in evil's favour; however, Gabriel is lurking in the shadows, sure in the knowledge that **nothing** will happen to Matt on his watch...he is the Angel of Vengeance, and will stand for no nonsense. He saves Matt yet again, and this time, a very strong connection is formed between Matt and his saviour Gabriel....Matt cannot get Gabriel out of his mind, and Gabriel, well, he is not allowed to feel anything for humans as it interferes with his ability to look after his charge, but it's too late for that.....

Gabriel is aware that he is getting too close to Matt, but cannot help himself and they fall deeply in love. This threatens his Divine purpose, and the other archangels, Michael in particular, pay him visits to re-iterate that this is not something he can do...he is the Angel of Vengeance and cannot fall in love with a human, it is throwing the Grand Design off course and there will be consequences. I'm going to leave it there, you will have to discover for yourself what happens to Matt and Gabriel, and whether good triumphs over evil. I will just throw you a bone here...another 'someone' comes along and falls in love with Matt, and plays a major part in how the book ends...if indeed that is what happens.

Yes, I enjoyed the story, and although the language was a little flowery at times, and I didn't understand why demons could only materialise through a human host when the angels could appear at will, it certainly didn't lessen the story in any way, shape or form for me, it's a winner.

Michael says

4.5 Stars rounded up.

Aeren says

DNF no voy a darle estrellas ni nada porque no he conseguido superar más que el 45% de la novela. :(

Elin says

[and both his birth-parents and siblings, and his adoptive parents has been murdered on his birthday. He's now in therapy because he's haunted by dreams of the night his adoptive parents was murdered (when he was ten), and the dream is keeping him from remembering before that night. (hide spoiler)]
