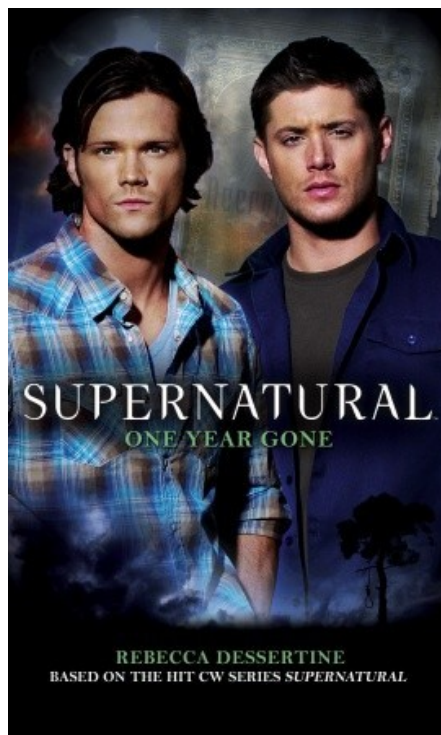




One Year Gone

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Dean believes that Sam is in Hell so he is trying to keep his promise to his brother and live a normal life with Lisa and Ben.

When he realizes that a spell in the Necronomicon could raise Lucifer and therefore Sam, he convinces his new family to travel with him on vacation to Salem.

Meanwhile Sam is not as far away as Dean thinks and is determined to protect his brother from the Salem witches...

A Supernatural novel that reveals the untold events of the missing year between seasons 5 and 6!

One Year Gone Details

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Author : Rebecca Dessertine

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From Reader Review One Year Gone for online ebook

Jordan says

SPOILERS for season 6 of Supernatural, but not for the book!

This book can be judged by its cover. I always hate the Supernatural promos/covers/etc., and usually it's a matter of ignoring the cover and knowing the glory inside, but this one really is cheesy. (Sam and Dean are beautiful and wonderful but the cover is still terrible)

As a big fan of the series, I wanted to check to see if any of the books were any good. This one stood out to me as the one with the most potential. (A whole book of Dean/Lisa and Ben? And soulless!Sam? Yes please! So much potential for angst, drunk!Dean, soulless!Sam murdering people, and whatever else) I went in with low expectations, but even those were failed. I tried to like it, I really did, but it lacked in every area. I actually cringed a few times at its failures. I don't exactly regret reading it, but if anyone asks about it, I can't see myself ever answering that it should be read.

Much of it is just laughable. Too many coincidences, stupid decisions from the characters, and occasionally pure lameness (Pirate scene, anyone?). I have to wonder if the author actually expected certain scenes in it to be sad. (They weren't.) Let us never even speak of the gang members and how awkward that all was.

The character development was contrived. I didn't like any of the new characters, and barely even cared about the old ones (and I have a lot of emotions swirling around those people, so for those emotions to actually get blocked like that...) One could say that technically they were in-character, but really, they lacked everything that made them *them*. They became stereotypes. Lisa was classic concerned mom and patient girlfriend, Ben was classic brave-but-young boy, and Dean was classic something or other. Any of his 'wit' lacked actual wit and felt unnatural. Even soulless!Sam, being unnatural and blank anyway, was faulty. He had flickers of actual care, which he shouldn't have had, and certain things didn't strike me as things he would actually do or say. He and Samuel had the most in-character moments out of anyone, though. Speaking of Samuel, I actually liked him *more* in this. (It's an easy accomplishment. He's one of the few characters I really dislike in the series) It's a really minor thing that doesn't justify actually reading the book, but it was a pro. Fortunately, the other Campbells in season 6 were not present.

A very minor thing that ticked me off was a line that said Crowley 'cackled'. Maybe I'm being too much of a perfectionist about this, but I can't for the life of me see Crowley 'cackling'. The guy barely chuckles. He gives people the 'are you really so dumb' face, and he smirks for sure, but... *cackling*? No.

I can't accept this into my idea of Supernatural canon. The tone is too different from the impressions we get of that year from Dean and Lisa. I think if this had all happened, Lisa may have kicked Dean out, and a lot of us wouldn't have blamed her.

The best scenes were all near the beginning. Pre-vacation was tolerable to me. Not good, but tolerable. Soulless!Sam and Samuel were tolerable through the whole thing. Also not good, but tolerable.

I already said I didn't like any new characters, but my complete dislike for the Nathaniel/Thomas/Caleb/Hannah/etc. gang is worth mentioning. I hated that the author just pulled another 'two brothers' thing, and just threw a sister in there for variety, seemingly as an afterthought. A sister that of course gets left out of everything and doesn't actually matter in the equation. They throw her compliments to try to counteract that, but it amounts to nothing. I gave no craps for any of them. I didn't like that ancestors were brought up like that at all. They were an attempt and a failure at adding emotion. All they did was make the book longer and introduce a really stupid coincidence. Also, with how important that story was, I felt like

Dean needed to hurry and get to the end. If needed he could skim, but honestly, he just conveniently waited to read the end until he was reaching the climax in the present story. And so he could have found out what was going on a little earlier, and didn't.

I didn't feel the Dean/Lisa/Ben love very much, or even the Dean and Sam love. (Except for maybe a little at the beginning) This was a dry husk of a story and it made me feel nothing, whereas I cried about the series it comes from as recently as the night before last. (Re-watched the end scene of Swan Song, then listened to Americana.)

Dean's endangerment of Lisa was outrageous. If I was thoroughly convinced of his emotionally compromised state it might get a pass, but the author did not convince me, and he just came off as a jerk. (Minor spoilers) The fact that he lied AFTER Lisa almost died the first time was unacceptable to me. A simple "I'm looking for a book that could possibly help with Sam, and I stumbled onto witches" would have been sufficient, but no.

I don't see why you would, but especially don't read this if you haven't watched the series. (Then again, maybe it wouldn't be so disappointing to you, then...?)

Back to the world of fanfiction I go-! (Seriously, so many of my fellow fans, to me, create better stories than the 'official' ones I've read)

Rating: R

Generic fighting and violence, and a brief, somewhat gory nightmare. A single line in a nightmare that alludes to the possibility of a character being raped. Moderate language. Some crude humor. Some religious people may be uncomfortable with all the talk about Lucifer/demons/Hell/etc., but it's a book based off of Supernatural so probably no one's concerned about that going into this book. SPOILERS: A certain character lacking a certain soul puts a child's life at risk and harms him to kill a comparatively harmless creature, and continues to do similar things throughout the book.

Shelly says

This was actually the first "Supernatural" tie-in book that I read. It nearly kept me from reading the rest of the series because the writing itself was so poor. I was intrigued by the thought of finding out how Dean spent his year without Sam. The plot did turn out to be interesting, but the actual word craft of the story itself is easily the weakest of the tie-in series so far. For fans of the television series this is an interesting aside if they are already reading the tie-in novels, but it will not win the book series or the tv show any new fans.

Jennifer Louise says

Well I am rating this in terms of other tv tie in type books, knowing full well that they are not literary masterpieces.

This book could have been a 4 star if only the author did not put in so many unbelievable pop culture references. I just can't imagine Sam or Dean spouting all of those lines. I also think that the characterization of Lisa was way off. The one other thing that bothered me was the horrible editing job. There were words misspelled and added where they were not supposed to be.

Otherwise, the story, going to Salem and running across the ancient coven of witches had its merit. I enjoyed

the story. The differing perspectives were done well. I liked the story shown from the past, and seeing the lineage of the Winchesters expanded was a bonus too.

I. S. says

A longer review is coming when I'm on my computer. All I can say right now is thank gods that's over!

Later:

To be absolutely honest, the only reason I finished this book is because I **paid** for it, and it took me over three months to get through it. If it had been fanfic I came across on the web, I would have stopped reading it right after Dean came up with the bright idea to raise Sam from Hell using the *Necronomicon*. You know, that book mentioned by HP Lovecraft, the guy that Dean knew nothing about in aired canon? That might have been excused if there had been some reference to him hearing about it in some of the OTHER media that refer to the book, but there wasn't one.

Now, keep in mind, I could be judging the author a little harshly because of the glowing forward written by Kripke (show creator) where he goes on about how much she knows about the show... However, considering that show facts (like Sam's birthday -- MAY, not March) are not the only thing she gets wrong, I'm not all that sure I'm off base here.

First, there's the anachronisms. I sincerely doubt the colonists in Salem, MA would have been using the meter as a unit of measurement. Flintlock pistols require a bit more to fire than just picking one up, pointing, and pulling the trigger. And firing a "two-handed barrage" and a jammed gun mean entirely different things with flintlocks than they do with modern pistols! Ben's jammed gun would have probably blown his fingers off at best, and quite likely done much worse.

Second, the writing is amateurish and flat. There's really nothing to connect you to the characters, to make you really worry about them or empathize with how they're supposed to be feeling. Lots of 'Dean did this, then he did this, then blah, blah, blah.' In addition, some additional characters are handled so badly that they're flimsier than cardboard cut-outs, and what should have at least been a slightly emotional scene at the end is blown off in about two paragraphs.

Third, the author honestly seems to be more interested in writing historical accounts of other members of the Campbell family than she is in writing a real **Supernatural** book. This is the second tie-in novel of hers where more effort has been spent writing about the Campbells in the past, and this one had an even higher percentage of it than the last one did. If that's what she wants to write, that's what she should write. She's not doing herself a favour trying to write Sam and Dean if she can't get their voices or characterization right.

And that's the thing that bothered me the most and that I've saved for last. I'm okay with soulless!Sam waterboarding a witch for information. It's something he would have done, and since the boys weren't fans of witches when he HAD a soul, I can see it. Though I honestly want to know how tiny this woman was if he could drag two chairs into the bathroom of a hotel at the same time, with her TIED TO ONE OF THEM. Really? I know Sam is abnormally tall and strong, but... really? But still not the worst thing. That, I reserve for her treatment of Dean. I can't really remember one sentence in the book where I actually felt like he was hurting because Sam is gone, or truly worried about Lise and Ben, and although show!Dean tries to hide his emotions, he feels them very deeply. This wasn't evident at all. And there is **no way** that someone who takes the risks he takes to protect the innocent would **blow up a storefront using C4 as a distraction!** Even if he COULD get some from Bobby, and even if he had some reason to bring it along on his 'get the

Necronomicon to raise Sam from Hell vacation' he wouldn't be blowing up a store front! It took all of my willpower to keep from throwing the book across the room at that point.

Do yourself a favour -- if you're a fan of quality writing, historical accuracy, or of the Supernatural characters you see on TV, avoid this book. You'll just end up with a headache if you don't.

Lexi says

Believing that Sam is in Hell, Dean tries to keep his promise to his younger brother and live a normal life with Lisa and Ben. However when he realizes that a spell in the Necronomicon could raise Lucifer and therefore Sam, he convinces his new family to travel with him on vacation to Salem. Meanwhile Sam is not as far away as Dean thinks and has his own reasons for hunting the Salem withes...

Pros:

- » The story reveals what happened between seasons 5 and 6 and it's written by Kripke's assistant, so that's probably what "really" happened (I know it's a tv show and it's not real, but you know what I mean).
- » The book was interesting and easy to read.
- » In Supernatural ties-in there are always some original characters. I don't usually like chapters with their stories, but this book is a big exception. Dean finds a journal of the ancestor from the Campbell side of the family and it turns out hunting has always been in his blood. It was very interesting to read.

Cons:

- » I am not a native English speaker, but I noticed some typos, some bad grammar, but it didn't really bother me.
 - » Sam!girls might be disappointed, because this story focuses mostly on Dean.
 - » Lisa's reaction didn't feel very realistic. Dean put her and Ben in danger and she didn't even get mad.
-

Cassandra Miller says

I am not going to lie, I bought this book purely because I am a fan girl.

Ignoring the fan girl in me, the book was okay. Not great, but not terrible. The characters were the ones I have known and loved for years, and the storyline wasn't awful. Didn't match with the television show, but not awful.

The whole idea of Dean looking for the 'Necronomicon' was weird, considering he had no idea that it existed in Season 6, and the book is set after Season 5. However, the idea of the Campbell family in Salem during the witch trials was interesting. I enjoyed the characters of Nathaniel, Caleb and Thomas. I really think the book should have just been about the Campbell family, instead of involving Sam and Dean, it would have been a lot more interesting and could have explored the family a lot more.

Sam and Dean were nearly the same. There were a couple of times where I felt that Dean was out of character, but many of his smart-a** comments make me smile, and reminded me of the show.

Soulless Sam make me giggle. I have always found Soulless Sam fun, and this book just reminded me of that point (in all honestly, this was the main reason I bought the book).

So, the book was neither good nor bad. Would I read it again, sure. Would I suggest it to other people, probably not, unless they are Supernatural who could get a laugh out of it. Will I buy the rest of the Supernatural book series.....most likely, but I have fan girl issues.

Crysania Smith says

If there was a zero star rating, I would have given that. I wasn't expecting much, but this fell short. I looked forward to reading about Salem, an area I know well. Clearly this author has never been there because her spacing of sites was so off. Write what you know, if you don't research it, please just leave it out. The boat fiasco was unforgivable and as out of place as every Batman movie with too many villains. I could go on but honestly, it's not worth it. I'm not even sure why I finished this book.

Rissa says

One year gone

Sam said yes to Lucifer and Dean is living a normal life.

Dean is living with Lisa and her son Ben and having a normal life and mainly loving it. But a case comes to town and Dean cant help but want to solve it... for old times sake.

I really enjoyed this, i thought it was cute seeing Ben again because i loved their short loved relationship on the show and getting to see Dean happy made me happy.

Matt Spaulding says

Very put-downable. Not just an uninteresting "Supernatural" story but an uninteresting story all together. Full of typos, too. I have never read a book with so many typos.

Stacy says

Unfortunately, this was one of the worst books I've read in quite a while. I love Supernatural and it's stunning to me that someone who works on the show could screw it up so badly. Almost every word of dialogue coming out of Dean's mouth was a bad joke - it was truly bizarre. Never once did I actually laugh at these "jokes." And the idea that Samuel and Sam are working in the same town as Dean and somehow Dean never picks up on the giant white van following him around everywhere is ridiculous. I feel like I have to quickly read another Supernatural book just to try to erase this awful one from my memory.

Collin says

MWUAHAHAHA. IT'S MINE. ALL MINE. Well, the library's. BUT MINE TEMPORARILY. The lost year. The most tragic year there ever was. Well, sort of, ish, not exactly, BUT STILL QUITE

HEARTBREAKING.

Later:

Okay, well. That was a disappointment. I've read far, far better fanfic. Plus, I'm not sure anyone goes into an SPN novel - about the MISSING YEAR, no less - wanting to know anything about Campbell ancestors. I skipped over those portions because I just wanted Sam and Dean angst. But since Sam and Dean aren't allowed to meet, there's not really... much to it.

The Dean/Ben relationship earned it its two stars. In the end, though, I didn't care enough to check it back out from the library once it was due.

Trudi says

My boys how I love you ... these knock-off, tie-in novels not so much. If the publishers behind these books had any sense, they would mine some of the stellar fanfiction that exists out there for this series: yeah, some fanfiction is painful and embarrassing dreck but there's an impressive amount that's written with love, passion and talent. Those stories are so much more *there*. They don't feel forced or gimmicky but natural and real. There's depth and emotion (inspired by what show delivers on a consistent basis). By comparison, these sanctioned "official" novels feel like a bad imitation, like a weak pastiche.

I can't help myself though, I keep coming back for more. These are the desperate measures taken when show is on summer hiatus. September 25th can't get here fast enough. And why oh why do these books have to be so very PG-13???? C'mon, it's a *book* ... do you still have to worry about advertisers and censors? Boo! The day this show moves from the CW to HBO I will die a happy woman. I watch it for the plot (of course!), but a little full-frontal is a beautiful thing.

What snagged this book 2 stars (SPOILERS FOR SE06):

(view spoiler)

Courtney says

The story of this one is rather weak. You'd think that someone who works for Eric Kripke and who has written for the show would be able to write a halfway decent book, but you'd be sadly disappointed. I'm not a fan of soulless Sam and having to read about him just slowed the story down too much. Also, I find it highly unlikely that Dean would take Lisa and Ben on a hunting trip that would potentially endanger them. The last book Dessertine wrote wasn't great, but it was better than this one. I recommend giving this one a pass, unless you're a hardcore fan of the show.

Brianna says

I've learned by now that TV tie-in books, especially while the show is still on air, don't take any chances or

enrich the characters' stories. Despite that, I read this book because it claimed to tell us about Dean's "lost" year in between seasons 5 & 6.

I found it groan-inducing and all too often representative of the worst part of the show -- the misogyny. I mean, the term "female trickery" pretty much says it all.

Sue says

I've read good Supernatural books. This isn't one of them.

Rebecca Dessertine clearly can't write and she's really bad at story-telling. And don't even get me started on that horrible, weird end. Absolutely no. Don't read it if you can avoid it.

The only good thing I found in it is that at least the beginning made me like Lisa. If Dessertine wouldn't have transformed her into something utterly stupid in the end I would even have started loving her. But no. For someone who should know the characters - all characters - by heart she's really not good enough.

Oh and don't read the book before you watched the 6th season. The book's full of spoilers.
