



Cornerstone Deep

Charlene A. Wilson

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The Transformation of Anna has been renamed FATED in the SHILO MANOR series. Please look up FATED for the Bonus chapter requested by fans and new cover!

A dark obsession. Eternal love. An ethereal call for vengeance.

“My life is a mirage of endless time. But you engulf me, rivet my mind, encompass my soul.”

What do you do when you lose your soul mate in a dimension that doesn't offer rebirth? Cole knows well the devastation it leaves and buries himself in what's left to him; his duty as a Head Sentinel to the Realms.

For centuries, he has harvested the homeless and delivered them as servants to the nobles of Cornerstone Deep, doing whatever it takes to keep the noblemen content and their minds off what lays beyond the Portal to the Realms.

When he is sent to harvest a second-class woman, who has broken a new curfew, he expects indifference. But Anna's soul calls to him, and the moment their lips meet, Cole knows he's made the biggest mistake of his very long life.

Reincarnation isn't possible on Cornerstone Deep. Is it?

Fated is the USA Today bestseller and first book in the award-winning Cornerstone Deep portion of the Shilo Manor series. If you like compelling alpha heroes, gripping love stories, and magical worlds, then you'll love Charlene A. Wilson's Dark Fantasy romance.

**Heat level - Moderate. Contains subject matter that may be offensive to sensitive readers.

Fated was previously published under the USA Today bestselling title, The Transformation of Anna. It is the same book but with a Bonus chapter at the fan's request.

Cornerstone Deep Details

Date : Published November 15th 2010

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Author : Charlene A. Wilson

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Genre : Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review Cornerstone Deep for online ebook

Nancy (The Avid Reader) says

The following review is my opinion and not a paid review. I was given a free copy of the book from the author for my honest opinion.

The Shilo brothers Cole, James and Vincent are all wizards who come from another realm or dimension. The Shilo brothers live a lot longer than people here they live to be hundreds of years old. They work for Lord Dressen who is the law maker. They harvest humans and erase their memory for Lord Dressen. Lord Dressen then takes them into his home to work as his servants.

Cole, James and Vincent living hundreds of years are always looking for their soul mates. James has been married quiet a few times in his lifetime while Cole has only been married once to his soul mate Mianna. Cole has never re married because he is looking for the reincarnation of Mianna. He finds her when Lord Dressen sends them to bring a young woman, Anna to his manor as one of his servants. By the time Cole figures out that Anna is Mianna it is too late her mind has been erased. Cole has to find a way to get her back.

Cornerstone Deep was a more than just a great read it was a fantastic, magical read. I think that most people are always looking for their soul mates. Someone to love with all their hearts and who loves them just as much. When you meet that one special person and you look into their eyes and you feel like you have know that person all your life or maybe there are times you look at them and a feeling just comes over you like I have know you before but in a different time then you know you have met your soul mate.

Wouldn't it be phenomenal to know that when you fell in love and you knew that when the day person you loved died would not be the last time you saw them? That your souls would be looking for each other in another time and when you met your souls would know. That would be so grand.

Roberta Gordon says

I received this book as an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Loves lost and found, blooming love, intrigue, deception, family ties and magic... I could go on, but these are just several elements in the intricate story line that Mrs. Wilson weaves.

Bound by family duty and honor the Shilo brothers are deeply devoted to one another and the purpose their family has stood for these many centuries. What at first seems innocent quickly turns to shades of deep doubt and betrayals are discovered. As the misuse of power and misleading acts of others affects them differently, they manage to hold on to their heritage and the ties that bind.

As in our own lives we have all encountered deceptive people. We sometimes even think we know the cause for their slights but usually can only guess at peoples motives. Wilson gives you glimpses of those dark souls, but keeps you guessing as to what truly lies behind the sinister acts unfolding.

In *The Transformation of Anna*, Wilson is a wordsmith of rich descriptions that makes you not only visualize the scene but makes you feel as if you can taste the atmosphere she's created, and loathe the villainous dark souls determined to serve themselves. She's taken a broad paint brush, stroked her canvas then taken a silky thread and sown into the heart of her piece, binding factors that will leave you hanging on the edge of your seat and ready for further ripples that carry to the next installment of her *Cornerstone Deep Series*.

Through it all a love that lasts a lifetime and maybe beyond shines brightly. It's a strange new world that Mrs. Wilson has created and the vibrancy will amaze. Her palate is a broad spectrum of twists, turns and

details. Kudos!

Gaele says

Immortals seeking the souls of their loved ones through millennia, women with many lives unknown to them, and a series of roadblocks to prevent the reunion. A cleverly plotted set up for a series of stories, and it is the characters and their battles that bring this story to life for the reader.

While I found several uncomfortable moments in reading this story, when it often felt as if the women were little more than pawns in a great game of chess, Charlene Wilson has managed to craft a story that is redolent with suspense, emotion and fantasy that is interwoven with a romance, one of the things dreams are made of, and all the more poignant and satisfying for the difficulties encountered in fulfilling the promise it holds.

With well-defined characters that have abilities and insights that provide an interesting addition to the story, believable and often quite clever dialogue that highlights the brother's relationship and a truly nasty authority figure who seems to enjoy creating messes because he can, while not an always comfortable or easy read, this is a good read and will hold your interest. There are some steamy sex scenes, a character that was trapped in situations not of her making, and imagery detailed and defined to give readers a solid sense of place and the worlds in which the characters live. On closing the book, the overwhelming sense I had was of the odd approach to enforce and display the love relationship, against all odds.

I received an eBook copy from the author for purpose of honest review for Full Moon Bites tours. I was not compensated for this review, and all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Ashley says

Anna has lived many lifetimes through reincarnation, but forgets each previous life. Ahhh the premise is so interesting! And the book did not let me down!

The characters have been written to be lifelike. I felt love, sadness, and anger with them. The plot is definitely a fun one. Cole, another reincarnator must get Anna back from an evil lord! The perseverance and hope in this novel really sold me.

I definitely can't wait to continue with this series. :) You will not be disappointed if you're a fan of romance and the paranormal!

Rebecca Graf says

Cornerstone Deep is a little science fiction, paranormal, romance, mystery, and suspense masterfully woven to create a story that is very unusual. A family from another dimension lives in a world where their existence as wizards are only known by a few. One woman is wanted by a very powerful man. He will do anything to get her including manipulating the law and using his power. The Shilo brothers use their wizardry powers to help the ones in power. They don't realize they are being used until the reincarnated soul of one of their

wives is the victim. Then it becomes a battle of magic, wills, and souls. This is a very intricately laid out plot that kept me guessing throughout. I have to admit that at first it was rather confusing which is not uncommon in any science fiction style story. New worlds and cultures take time for me to adjust to. Multiple story lines unfold captivating the reader. The plot is well-developed and had me wondering what was going to happen next.

This story has many characters in them with their unique traits and personalities. I found myself connecting to many of them as they appeared to be so real with great depth. Even the evil ones had depth and called out to me (not in a sick, evil way).

The story is not slow though it is not extremely fast paced. It slows down to explain histories and describe the unique world that the story is set in. For me, it was the perfect pace.

The dialogue was well done and reflected the characters' personality extremely well. I think the dialogue and the narrative around it helped the plot and gave it and the characters the depth they exhibited.

There are elements of magic within the story. While there are no graphic sex scenes, the story is extremely sensual.

This was a very enjoyable read. Finishing the second book right now.

Note: This book was provided as part of a book tour with no expectation of a positive review.

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

Can I just say I really really love this series! Can you imagine living a long life and re-birthing? Can you imagine being from a different dimension gifted with abilities beyond belief? Welcome to the Wizards Of Shilo Manor. Three brothers Cole, James, and Vincent are Wizards from the Shilo and they have a story to tell.

This is Cole's story and what a story it is. Can you imagine being in love and having your loved one taken from you? Cole loves Anna and the two are meant to be together but something happens and their worlds are turned upside down. Cole will have to overcome a lot to get to Anna. Can you imagine spending four centuries loving one person? Love knows no bounds and knows no space and the story of Anna and Cole is one incredible story.

There is lot's of action in this story as well as romance and a little bit of reapers. I loved how the reapers in this story had a different role. The reapers take the homeless off the streets and give them an opportunity to be servants for the rich. They can have their memories erased as well if they want to start a new life but the option is up to them. This is a great story with lot's of things that will surprise you.

Tifferz says

This story is unlike any other story I have read. It has a clever plot and interesting characters. It is filled with mystery, magic, love, deceit Cole, James and Vincent are brothers but so different in personality. I found the banter between the three is great! This is also a truly deep, long lasting love story that is eternal. This is Cole's love story and it is not without the unexpected. Ms. Wilson really packs a punch with the emotions

felt in this story. I picked up this book and now it is over. I totally consumed this in one sitting. I am going to read book two straight away.

Just FYI~ This does contain sexual situations.

Sandra says

Loved this book. It proves that love never dies. True love means doing whatever you have to do for the one you love. Looking forward to reading Echoes

Annette M Guerriero Nishimoto says

Today's review is on Cornerstone Deep by Charlene Wilson

Everyone is looking for that one true love, that one that completes us. In short, our soul mate. Using the belief of reincarnation and a paranormal aspect, Wilson brings us this beautiful love story in Cornerstone Deep.

Cole Shilo and his two brothers James and Vincent are wizards that come from another dimension. They, unlike the people of Cornerstone Deep, live for hundreds of years. In this dimension, they work under the Lords maintaining the laws and using their powers to clear the minds of the lower class, making them compliant to "work" for those of the higher classes.

While obtaining one such individual for Kyle Dressen; one of the Lords, who has had his eye on Anna for a long time and has gone to great lengths to make her his. Cole realizes that the woman they have just procured; Anna Sinclair, is the reincarnation of his beloved wife Mianna.

Now it is up to Cole and his brothers to get Anna back and reverse the magic that made her compliant to Kyle. Doing this comes with great cost though. Is true love worth that cost? What would you do for your one true love? What lengths would you go to for your soul mate?

A delightful fantasy world with a beautiful love story. Who wouldn't like to read that?

3 of 5 stars

Toni says

A refreshingly different tale, set in a world similar enough to our own to give one some recognizable shivers. The three Shilo brothers are individualized with their own hopes and desires, and both together and separately, they're likable and interesting personalities. In fact, I couldn't find fault with any of the characterizations in this book, from villain to hero. The concept of the Reapers taking the homeless off the streets as a way to supply servants for the upper class, seizing only those voluntarily wishing to forget and giving them blank personalities in which their "owners" can implant new memories is a concept I don't believe I've come across in any of my vast readings. It would have been so easy to make the Shilos the villains of the story, but to make these Reapers the heroes and have them likable as well is a masterful twist.

This is an exciting, suspenseful tale that isn't so much about magic, though there's plenty of that floating around, but is more about true love and how its essence may live from century to century, recognizable only to the two beings to which it has happened. The dialogue is snappy and amusing and the narration never lags. Since this is Book One, it appears the Shilos are in for some more adventures, and I, for one, will look forward to them.

Samantha says

I received this book to give an honest review.

After reading the product description and a few customer reviews, I was very excited to get started on the Cornerstone Deep series. Initially, I liked how it started out - got to read both perspectives of our hero and heroine - but as soon as Cole turns Anna over to the dreaded Lord Dressen (later realizing what a HUGE mistake that was) we don't get to hear a lot of what is actually going on with Anna. The majority of the book is spent with Cole and his brothers, James & Vincent. Don't get me wrong, they are sweethearts and I love them both, but I would have liked to know more about what was going on with Anna. The first 3 chapters we hear from her but then nothing until about chapter 9 or 10.

(It took me a little while to keep going with it but I wanted to see how it would end)

I found the explanations for the different dimensions, religions/belief system, laws, and class of citizens was confusing, randomly placed and difficult to keep track of. There were also terms and titles used for the characters throughout the book that were not greatly explained until nearly the end of the book.

I don't really feel the 'romance' between Cole and Anna. They spent a total of maybe 10+ min. together before he turns her over and doesn't realize until the next day who she is to him. I can understand his immediate need to go get her back and get to know her, but the fact that he is still hung-up on his late wife (400 years deceased) and basically starts out thinking that Anna will be just like her. His brothers try to set him straight and I think he gets that while the souls are the same, their personalities may very much be different, but he may still be holding out. I believe he could learn to love Anna, but the ending kind of kills it for me... I was expecting more than I got and I hope the next 2 books will restore my hope.

I am not satisfied with the ending -- but I digress, there are 2 more books in the series and I am hoping things will pan out for the better.

On to the characters!

Cole - 1st born of Syllis Shilo, founder of Terra. He carries the weight of the world on his shoulders and is starting to feel the strain. 400 years prior, his soulmate, Mianna, died (no explanation as to how) and he has been searching for a new soulmate ever since. He is the leader of the Reapers/Wizards of Terra, whom are tasked with keeping the peace among the lawmakers and enforcing the laws of Terra.

Anna Sinclair - Only child, and is an artist - stain glass is her medium of choice - and is searching for something to fill the void in her chest. Keeps off-putting the very forward, Lord Dressen. *didn't really get to read a lot about her and I found that very frustrating)

Lord Dressen -- older gentleman (not a fitting word for him) and has a HUGE obsession over Anna. While he is a good looking, wealthy & a high-standing member in public society, he has almost 30 years on Anna and he makes her uncomfortable. But he doesn't let that stop him passing a law on a curfew that will eventually get Anna in trouble and in his clutches (EWWW!)

James Shilo - 2nd born son of Syllis Shilo. He is the middle child and peacekeeper between his older and younger brother. While his big and intimidating appearance screams, "Back off before I end you," his is calm

and logical but knows what is right and wrong and is very gentle towards those he cares about. Cole seeks him out for council throughout the book and is wants nothing more than for his brothers to find happiness. But he will not hold back if he feels that they need a butt-kicking every now and then.

Vincent 'Kid' Shilo - 3rd born and youngest child of Syllis Shilo. With about a 300 year gap between his birth and James, he sometimes finds it difficult to communicate with his eldest brother and has a bit of an issue with authority (mostly when it concerns Cole). He is known to be quick to love and move on after his wife passes on but has been acting a bit differently about his latest love.

I know more about the Shilo brothers than I do about Anna at this point (funny, because it is HER name that is in the title) and I hope that changes in the rest of the series.

S.M. Blooding says

The setting in this book was great! There were little details sprinkled throughout the book that just made the setting flare for me. It was very visual and I felt like I was there. It was a chilling landscape.

The characters were enjoyable and ornery. The three brothers took center stage; Cole, James and Vincent. I have to admit, I didn't like Cole at first. I was honestly hoping this was Vincent's book. The way the three brothers interact with each other was very entertaining. I loved their banter, how they got on each other's nerves, but, also, how they were there for each other.

This is, however, a love story. The opening scene hit a little close to home for my taste. However, the thing that really got me, and the reason there are only four dragons, is the fact that Anna was stripped of her sense of self. I have to give coo-dos to Ms. Wilson for writing such a challenging story, but...Anna was changed against her will to like someone I despised. It was a very uncomfortable situation. I have to say that reading this book, there were a lot of uncomfortable moments for me, and I had a hard time remembering that this was a love story.

This did, however, make the fight for love a lot more poignant, and a lot harder. A lot of times, you get love stories that are just about two people bickering and tripping into that four letter word called love. This story wasn't that. Cole had to overcome a LOT to get Anna – HIS Anna – back. The field of love for these two was riddled with landmines which just made everything that much deeper.

All in all, this was a well-written story. The subject matter made me squirm. The sex scenes (most of them) were hot. Ms. Wilson gets props for writing such a difficult story. I have to say, I would not have been able to do so. In order for me to write it, I would have had to change certain key elements. That's the reason that, even though I wasn't comfortable reading the book, I feel Ms. Wilson earned a full four dragons.

Dianne says

Simply magical. Charlene A. Wilson's **The Transformation of Anna** is a touching tale filled with magic, romance, love and perseverance told with an almost mystical quality! Anna has lived many lifetimes, but with each reincarnation, she has no memory of her past lives or of the soul-deep love she has shared with one special man, who appears human, but is so much more. When she becomes the object of desire for a

magically powerful lord, he will stop at nothing to possess her, including using Cole and his brothers to achieve his goal. Can Cole give her up or will his soul's longing for his mate be too powerful to resist? What will happen if he awakens her soul, her heart and her eyes to who he truly is?

Ms. Wilson has taken a blank canvas and created a stunning piece of literary art with her words. Never rushing, each page flows in smooth succession while she kept me spellbound through the entire tale filled with all the elements that make for an incredible read. Magic abounds, as well as deceit, treachery, love and honor. While these elements are not new to literature, the presentation made by Ms. Wilson is truly unique and holds its own kind of magic. Each character has been fully developed and given life through her words, some most definitely evil, some innocent, some honorable, but each feels alive. Her ability to create realistic dialogue and to express the inner most thoughts of her characters is a beautiful thing, from the easy-going brotherly banter to the inner torment of wanting something so badly, but refraining from taking it.

The Transformation of Anna is a thought-provoking journey filled with the magic of love.

I received a review copy as part of Charlene A. Wilson's Echoes Book Blast and Giveaway at Tome Tender now through November 24, 2013. To read more about this series, click on the above picture!

Series: Cornerstone Deep, Book 1

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Available to Purchase from: Barnes & Noble | Amazon

Amber says

Transformation of Anna by Charlene A. Wilson is a beautifully stunning and deeply touching story of the darkest of treachery, the rebirth of lost love, and the discovery of hidden secrets. Being left absolutely breathless and deeply astonished after reading such an extraordinary story is a new experience for me. I am anything but disappointed in this superbly enchanting and endearingly exhilarating tale of deeply true and lasting love. My heart was captured and lost to this spellbinding journey!

This is a most unique story that I have come across in comparison to my normal choice of books. However, this story touched me in a very different and extremely powerful way. My heart was lost to three brothers who are the most curious of beings. They are for all intense purposes like any other men and yet they are so much more. While they crave love and companionship like any other males, their desire for fulfillment is taken to a much higher level of love and devotion than what you would normally see. Not only do they desire to know physical love and fulfillment, but their hearts become forever and fiercely entwined with the ladies that they take as wives for they search for their true soul's mate. Once found, their union is tenderly cherished and lavishly celebrated in an unending commitment that not even time itself can break.

Perversely unbridled greed, seemingly unlimited power, and personal pleasure at the expense of others were other themes that permeated this story. They controlled and directed the darker parts that formed the deadly

and deceptive resistance toward true justice and real happiness. In doing so they created a thin veil that guides and administers those under them while hiding their true intentions and deceitful actions. It is imperative that we guard and constantly purify our minds and hearts to not allow the seeds of selfishness and greed to dominate and transform us into something that we were never meant to become. We must be ever vigilant and cautious in the choices that we make. Our thoughts should always remain on what is good and pure and right. Only then can we be confident in making the right choices.

I was almost heart broken when this story came to an end as I was extremely committed by then to see what the next part of this incredible journey holds for these extraordinarily breath-taking characters and their astoundingly brilliant story. Charlene A. Wilson has created a bold and magnificent beginning to what promises to be a highly entertaining and emotionally gripping saga of a most unusual family and their struggles with rediscovering their purpose, recapturing their heart, and reevaluating their priorities. I highly recommend this story to those who pour their whole heart into living life to the fullest, loving others with abandon, and recklessly pursuing their purpose.

Anastasia Pergakis says

This book is amazing! I've read it multiple times already. The love between Cole and his wife to me compare only to say Romeo and Juliet or even The Princess Bride. It's real, true love and Charlene shows it with such wonderful emotion. It's beautiful!

The book itself is written at the highest quality. The detail that Charlene puts into this story on the objects around the characters as well as the characters quirks is astounding. When I got this book and began reading it I couldn't put it down! I stayed up all night to finish reading this book! I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves fantasy, paranormal, and of course, true love! I would give this a 10, but alas, GoodReads only let's me rate it as 5 stars!

David Hunt says

Ms. Wilson has created a world that she can play in as she likes! This story revolves around Anna and Cole! Anna is trapped in a situation where Cole must harvest her for the Rulers use and pleasure! The laws have been bent and Cole discovers the transgression involves his soul mate! A binding has been placed on her soul that must be lifted! But when a soul is in danger the Gods will intervene! The only downfall of this book is the editing or lack there of. A good team of beta readers could have done much to improve the story! Still all in all an interesting and whimsical tale of love reunited!

Sarah Fox says

I am sorry I didn't read and review sooner. I loved the transformation at Anna. The world was well set. Inept on reading enjoying the magic and the idea of looking for a true love soulmate, souls that speak to each other. I look forward to reading more books in series and by author. I was provided a review copy by the author.

Amanda says

It took me a few tries to me to get into this book. It is not something I would normally read, as it has an alien component to it. After I really got into it, around chapter 6 or 7, I couldn't put it down. The characters are very well developed, likeable and easy to relate to. The story line is different but good. I normally don't read about aliens or reincarnation but the way it was done made it interesting and enjoyable. Normally I read about other fantasy, supernatural type characters and the way this is written, it is developed similarly but with an unpredictable story. The characters aren't all good and make mistakes but they seem to be good people who are trying. I look forward to reading the rest of the books and I know this has a small amt of spoilers but not too much. I really enjoy the author's writing.

RoseyLovesBooks says

The Transformation of Anna: A sensual fantasy romance by Charlene A. Wilson is Book 1 of the Cornerstone Deep series and is a Fantasy Romance

Cole and his brothers are wizards who use magic to wipe the memories of the homeless and deliver them to the noblemen of Cornerstone Deep as servants. Cole believes in reincarnation and has spent the last 400 years searching for his beloved Mianna, his dead soul mate. Anna is a beautiful artist who has been fending off the advances of Lord Dessen for over a year. Lord Dessen offers Anna wealth, security and love, but she's just not interested. After Cole receives a special order from Lord Dessen, he and his brothers capture Anna, wipe her memory and cast a spell on her to make her compliant before delivering her to Lord Dessen. After Cole goes home, realises that Anna, the woman he handed to Lord Dessen, is Mianna reincarnated. Will Cole be able to get Anna back?

The Transformation of Anna has magic, intrigue and love. Charlene A. Wilson has created a magical fantasy world with interesting characters. I highly recommend this book.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book

Brooke Banks says

This review is hard to write for me, but then again this book was hard to read. I won the second book in this series, Cornerstone Deep Echoes, in a first reads giveaway. So obviously, I had to read this book first. I really wish I had read this book before I entered the giveaway - I'd have known not to enter the giveaway. But alas, the only way I learned of this series was through the giveaway. I was intrigued and looked forward to reading this series a lot.

First things first. ***Trigger Warning for Rape*** in this book. If you want to know what you're avoiding...(view spoiler)

I wanted to like it so much. There are some elements in this book which are great, very creative and different. However, it feel apart with the characters, poor execution and basic lack of information exchange. The world setting is quite certainly different. Yet there were things missing, that just didn't make sense. I also found it hard to grasp the concepts well through the story. Truly, the best thing of this book, was the reference guide. The guide made sense and filled in a lot of things that helped. For instance, this world is

supposedly the mirror of Earth and in the year 2024 yet, there are no mention of internet, computers, planes, trains, cameras, video recorders, etc. I mean after all wouldn't it be easy for people to capture one of the Shilo boys slipping up? Everyone here has a cellphone with picture/video capabilities, yet there is no mention of this. Did this world just progress conveniently differently for the Shilo boys to not have to worry so much about getting caught? Also, how do they swing lying to everyone when they live so long? No pictures to haunt them? They only have painted portraits? These questions and more nagged at me, this lack of information, this lack of detail, truly drove me out of the book and out of my mind.

I'm sorry but without a proper explanation I find this set up extremely hard to swallow. No poor explanation, glimmer or glimpse into the history of this world is given. As fascinating as this world may be, if it was given a chance to be a world instead of a cardboard cut out setting place in a cheap play. Yes, a very talented art student worked very hard and made it look very pretty yet you can still see how flat it is and its outline. It is totally erected for the benefit of giving the Shilo boys a playground made miraculously in an instant out of smoke. The world building is simply lacking in the *building* department.

I have to admit having the main god, god of conformance was pretty funny. That god is only as good as you are, and there's a good reasoning why he doesn't step in and help. That solves a lot of problems of gods. I do wish we knew if these three were the only gods or if other realms have other gods. I just find it so restricting to know nothing beyond the narrow shallow view of the cardboard cutouts.

Now with a background capable of being interesting if it was investing in, that leaves the story riding on the shoulders of the characters. Now matter how chiseled, strong and handsome they may be, they are not Atlas. I was seriously annoyed by almost every character. It wasn't all bad though. The characters did all have a personality and stayed in character. They were well done and thought out. Their dynamics were interesting. Really, characters had so much potential too like the setting. They acted consistently, though it was consistently annoying. I just couldn't stand them, mainly the main male characters. Most of the women I liked, I just thought they should run far away from the men. The men just seem to breathe on them and now their in love. I didn't really see the attraction.

Cole - Goddamn is this dude cocky, disrespectful, stupid and just so full of himself. He ditches a woman by just leaving and not explaining. The woman is so in love with him, she still thinks they are together. This is a major plot point. In fact, all of the plot comes from Cole's stupidity. It was just annoying. It's all spun to make it seem like he's still a great guy, just so blinded by love. Oh how sweet! *Not*. His treatment of Charlotte and Anna makes me wish he'd spend eternity alone. He didn't give a shit about Anna, until he found out she's his soul mate. Who cares about all the people you've harvested and made as slaves?

James - Now James is a great guy. He has really no flaws. At All. His stupid decisions comes from the stupid assumptions his entire family makes. Usually an all perfect character annoys me because it's so unrealistic and hard to relate to. This time around, I was just glad to have someone I didn't hate. I mean really, if James wasn't the smart, calm and nice dude the whole family would fall to shit. Maybe they should have.

Vincent - Now, this young brash drunk on love dude is pretty great. He argued not do harvest Anna. He argued against many of Cole's stupid decisions. He gets angry often being stupid himself, but this is spun as just being passionate and head strong. His treatment of his wife, Elaina, was a major irritation.

Anna - I honestly liked Anna. As just Anna. I was so annoyed at everyone with their treatment of Anna as a thing to be manipulated and owned. It was disgusting. Those claiming to love her, just wanted to control her. Not just Dressen but Cole too. Does no one want just Anna? She's lost everything yet they morn for her soul, her re-birthing evolving soul but no one loved Anna just as Anna, for the person she was now. She was a strong, determined, dedicated, talented woman but people just wanted to use her.

I understand it's just a story and there is going to be jackasses in them, even main characters. But besides a few bright moments I just couldn't deal with these people. They were supposed to be the anchor, the meat, the driving force of the story but they made me want to drive off a cliff. Maybe it's just me, not my style, not my book. Maybe I was just missing the important clue in to why these women would be in love with these men.

So the characters and setting had potential, but ultimately fell flat. That leaves the plot to talk about. The story actually wasn't that bad. It was just hard to get into, hard to care about and hard to finish due to all the other elements of the book. I really wouldn't have finished this book if I hadn't won the second book in a giveaway.

Now, what if you are just looking for a fluffy, enjoyable romance to sink your teeth into? Who cares about the world building? Who cares about the plot being rescued literally, by the gods? It's all about the romance of soul mates steaming it up. But even there I think the book fails to deliver. There are several sexy moments and sex scene. The first of which is a very detailed sexual assault. Well, lovely. Then the rapist gets his victim as a complacent, no free will no memories sex slave. Again, very detailed sex scenes with them that is just unendingly creepy. I was just so repulsed. Oh, but what about the other sex scenes? They failed to titillate me. The way it was described was so hard to imagine and get into. With all the halos, birds singling and godly perfectness about it all, it was hard to remember we were talking about sex. Maybe it simply wasn't my style or I just couldn't enjoy it because of all the other issues with the book. I can't be sure. I just found it all so lacking.

Don't get me wrong, I like an enjoyable fluff book, especially paranormal fantasy. That's the whole reason why I entered to win the second book in the giveaway. Unfortunately, I didn't enjoy this book. It has moments, it has some great elements, and it certainly had potential. I just know that if I hadn't won the second book in the giveaway I'd have quit reading it and that means something since I finish everything.

I like to be detailed about reviews for my own record and so that if other people read my reviews they have an idea of what to expect. Obviously of course this is all my own opinion and others have really loved this book, this series. Don't take this personally. I am indeed a fan of this genre but not this series. I would not recommend these books to anyone.
