



Morning My Angel

Sue Brown

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Josh Cooper, top US security field agent, is sent on an inter-agency assignment to London, when a partner in his firm goes missing in suspicious circumstances. Used to working in sole charge of his well-honed team, he clashes heads with the handsome, but pompous Cal, his UK co-operator and superior. Josh's gut tells him something is wrong. He's being kept out of the loop and Cal's agenda is running on a different path.

He also has a personal issue to deal with. He's involved in a cyber-relationship with "Charlie", an unknown man who connected with Josh by accident. Their banter has led to deeper respect and a sexual interest, but now Josh is faced with a growing attraction to Cal. Between this conflict and the tension of the mission, Josh's heart and head are overworked and confused. Things can't get much worse.

Then Josh discovers the enemies he's seeking have a new target: him.

Morning My Angel Details

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From Reader Review Morning My Angel for online ebook

Diverse says

I have to say first and foremost that this story will keep you on your toes. There's mysteries left and right with this book. But, I'm going to talk about Josh for a moment. He was absolutely my favorite character in this. Yes, it's told in his POV so that puts him at an advantage but still... He's witty, perfect dry humor, good looking, just brilliant. I really feel it was wise to keep it in his POV and not head hop. Though I will say I wanted to get into Cal's head a time or two. But, again, knowing what I know now; it was smart of the author to do it how she did.

Josh has this internet love, Charlie, and the Morning My Angel is what Charlie says to him, via IM, every day in greeting. I thought the Angel and Charlie nicknames were adorable! When Josh is told to pack up and head to London with his bodyguards Gil and Landry he does. One of the head guys has gone missing and even though this isn't really what Josh does for a living, he goes.

This story had a tremendous amount of bumps in the road throwing you off course many times. The whodunit, I felt, was far too tricky to figure out and when the book ended and the bad people/person revealed I really got the impression that you weren't really supposed to have figured it out. I'm usually good at the clues and always get it but this time was a no go in that department. I went back a few times after it ended to see where I missed the clues but, no, not really there. So, if that was the author's intention than bravo. She got me.

The secondary characters were perfect and each filled their role perfectly. Jesse is fabulous and I would LOVE to read his story. No doubt he has an incredible one.

All in all I liked this story a lot. It was engaging and exciting and romantic in between all the gun fights, car chases, and bombs.

Simone says

*****3.5 Stars*****

My feelings for this book ranged between

and

It was quite an up and down for me and I had to sleep over it before I could decide how to rate it. Eventually, I went with rounding up to 4 stars because the ups were definitely in the majority.

I won't go into detail about the story itself. The blurb is informative enough and I always try to be as vague

as possible because I don't want to spoil anything. But it's safe to say that I loved the story immensely, although it started a bit slow. As soon as it picked up, it was thrilling and kept me guessing who's behind it the whole time. There were secrets left and right, even those who were supposed to work together seemed to hold something back and this made the whole thing all the more interesting. One of the downs for me was the solution to the mystery, though. Don't get me wrong, I love to be surprised, but the whodunit came a bit out of thin air. Phew, it's hard to explain without giving too much away... Let's just say that there was not even the hint of a hint, so to speak, to back up the behavior of the culprit at the end and with the tendencies he showed then, this seemed a bit too unlikely.

The reason why I didn't rate this book higher was my somehow love-hate relationship with Josh. At the very beginning he had all the potential that I could love him and his quirks without any restraint, with him being a coffee-addict (like me!) and a sucker for the seventies TV-show Charlie's Angels (I loved this show when I was a teen!). But you only get his POV in this story and unfortunately, it turned out that he was a bit too smug for my liking, both, regarding his appearance and his ability to get his job done. He literally checked out every ass within a radius of fifty meters and of course everyone seemed to be interested in him, too, when you can trust his thoughts. At some point, I just had to roll my eyes and thought 'Yes, Josh, I get it. You are God's gift to mankind!' And if he was really that good at what he was doing, he would have found out sooner than Cal and... No, I won't get there. This would be too big a spoiler and I guess you have to read this book to understand what I mean. ;-) Josh's Brit bashing was a bit annoying for me, too, although I'm more of a neutral observer, sooo... you might notice that I didn't like him. At all. ;-)

Thank goodness, Josh redeemed himself throughout the story and even though I still loved Cal more at the end, Josh grew on me and made me laugh quite often.

Cal and Josh were so adorable and hot together!!!

I loved Cal's Alpha -but at the same time- caring attitude and the way he always seemed to know what Josh thought and what he wanted to do next was absolutely endearing.

There is definitely potential in this series and since this book ended rather with a HFN, I'm really looking forward to the next book.

Brooklyn says

Loved this. It was funny how Josh totally didn't put two and two together to figure out Cal/Charlie. Ha! But I understand his anger when he finally figured it out. Never would have guessed the outcome of the mystery. Totally caught me by surprise.

Ariana says

[like going off on his own to 'clear his head' was so obviously a bad idea

Daniel Mitton says

(Originally reviewed for Love Bytes Reviews with a copy provided by the author / publisher for an honest review. Rated 4.5 out of 5.0 Love Bytes)

When I saw this book show up on our “to be reviewed” list, I grabbed it before anyone else could. I’ve really liked the books by this author that I’ve read to date, and I’ve been meaning to pick up another book by her, but hadn’t had the chance. Well, now I have.

Have you ever read a book, and had your back brain whispering to you that the characters sound like you already know them? I had to come to my computer last night when I started the book and look at the other books I’ve read by Sue Brown to see if this story was the continuation of another. It wasn’t, but from the first line I felt like I knew the characters. I’m not sure if it is because I’ve read other books with agencies and characters that are flitting through my unconscious? Regardless, I liked them from the beginning, and they weren’t anything like any other characters I had read, so I’m not sure why my brain was whispering to me! LOL.

Josh Cooper works for a private security company in Seattle, where he manages a team of two other security agents. The other two are twins who have worked for Josh for a while and they all have great working rapport. Josh also has a mysterious admirer, “Charlie”, who communicates with Josh via Instant Messages, and refers to Josh as “my angel”, like in Charlie’s Angels. Over the last couple years Josh has fallen for the mysterious man, although he doesn’t even know who is actually on the other end of the IMs.

Now Josh and his team have been sent to London to find a missing hedge fund manager, who has financial ties to the private agency that Josh works for. The man is missing, as is a bunch of money. But things are strange from the time they arrive in the UK. The team from “The Agency”, the British group they have to work with, are very uncooperative, especially the man who seems to be in charge. That man Cal, is pompous and when Josh and his team storm out of their first meeting, fireworks are set off.

I enjoyed the mystery in the story. It was a classic whodunit, combined with a missing person investigation, but the bodies keep piling up. Who is behind it all? And what will happen when Josh discovers some facts about the pompous Cal? Oh, and did I mention someone is out to kill Josh?

I highly recommend the story. I see it is billed as Angel Enterprises Book 1, so I’m hoping for future tales and more on the men we met in this installment.

Cadiva says

A bit of suspension of disbelief is needed but it's a good romp

This book half works. The romance element is very good, Josh and Cal are an intriguing pair who have some amazing chemistry.

The adventure side mostly worked too, with the dashes through London and the spy elements. What didn't really work for me was the actual plot. It never really got properly explained and out the 'how' or the 'why' of what took place occurred.

The villain reveal also really didn't work for me, I just couldn't buy into the motivation or the massive

dramatic criminal element of the plot.

There was also some odd lay out and formatting decisions taken which sometimes made it difficult to work out the scene setting. A few break spaces would have made a world of difference.

Still, I will be reading book two to find out what comes next.

Debra says

Review originally posted at Sinfully.

3.5 stars

An accidental IM just after Josh began his employment at CDR was the start of an in-office online relationship with a man he knows only as “Charlie”, and who calls Josh “My Angel”, in a nod to Josh’s love of the TV classic Charlie’s Angels. While Josh has his suspicions that Charlie is a higher-up at CDR he has no clue who he’s been sharing the details of his life with over the past two years, but he knows that he has feelings for the man and is frustrated that Charlie seems to be avoiding all of Josh’s attempts to meet.

CDR is a private security firm and Josh is part of a three man team that is rounded out by twin brothers Gil and Landry. Josh describes himself as the brains of the team while Gil and Landry are the muscle. When a wealthy London hedge fund manager and silent partner in CDR goes missing, along with money from his clients’ accounts, Josh’s team is sent to London to investigate. Although that in and of itself is a bit out of the ordinary, the fact that the missing man is connected to CDR makes the whole case out of the ordinary as it puts the whole agency at risk. As if that isn’t enough, Josh also has the feeling that his team is being scrutinized by someone at CDR and they have been set up to work with a mysterious agency in London that Josh isn’t sure he can trust and seems to have its own separate agenda. As the investigation begins things quickly spiral out of control as new connections are made, old lovers appear and Josh becomes a target.

While the mystery is the main focus, there is a romantic storyline too as Josh finds himself attracted to Cal, his counterpart on the London agency’s team. Although his relationship with Charlie has a strong effect on Josh, Cal is physically there and Josh has to decide whether to pursue Cal or remain faithful to the promise of what may be with Charlie. As the investigation heats up, it turns out that there is more going on than meets the eye as more suspects appear, the bodies start to turn up and the possibility of a good time with Cal turns out to be a potential game changer for every aspect of Josh’s life.

Although the story started a bit slowly for me with lots of players being introduced and the setup of the plot, it picked up as the mystery took over. It was complex with numerous threads and possibilities bringing Josh and his team in deeper with every turn. There were one or two occasions where I was a bit confused as to what was going on with respect to some plot details that I felt weren’t initially fully explained, but everything was clear in the end. There were a number of twists and surprises and I was kept wondering whodunit until the very end.

Even the romantic aspect of the story wasn’t as simple as it seemed in the beginning. As things heat up between Josh and Cal, and the threats to Josh and the team become serious, they quickly force some unexpected confessions and choices. Josh is trying to balance the loyalty he feels to the mysterious Charlie, with the attraction he feels towards Cal, but with everything else going on that requires his attention there really is very little time for getting to know you dinners and romantic interludes, not that the two men don’t take every opportunity they can get to sneak in a bit of fun. The jealous streak the two men exhibit,

especially with respect to one London LEO who is unhappily stuck working with them was entertaining and brought a bit of levity to the circumstances.

The ending is HFN and this being the first book in the series, it's clear that Josh's romantic relationship will be continued in future stories. As Cal and Josh really only spend a week together, we really didn't get to know them that well. It is clear that Cal is a badass alpha underneath his posh exterior and has been through quite a lot. Josh is just as tough, but the choices he is forced to make and the stress of what happens in the story is bound to change him a bit. Things happened a bit quickly in the last chapter and Epilogue and I would really like to see the next story focus a bit more on the romantic aspect of the story. Overall though, this was a good start to the series, especially if you like romantic suspense with a heavy emphasis on the mystery.

Carra says

This is the first book I've read by this author, and now I can't wait to read more-especially in this series. She blended action, romance, suspense and humor seamlessly in this entertaining story, and had me drawn in tight from page one.

I loved, loved, loved Josh's character (yes, enough to say it three times). He's intelligent, sharp-witted, cocky without being an overbearing ass about it, and still shows a vulnerable side when it comes to his feelings for both Charlie and Cal. Cal is his counterpart at a different agency they are working with, and the two of them match up well to each other-and not just professionally. Then there's the enigmatic Charlie, who Josh has never met in person but has developed a unique relationship with regardless of that fact.

There's secrets galore, identities in question, a convoluted case to unravel, and an unexpected enemy unveiled. Now, the identities I guessed at pretty quickly--but the unexpected enemy threw me for a loop as I had no idea. The mystery to be solved really dragged me deep into the story, and the relationship developments were a nice complement to the tensions of the case-while also adding a whole other set of tensions as well.

While the end of the story does bring about closure to the case, and seems to have Josh's relationship headed in the right direction, we're left with some things that are open-ended...just enough to leave me a tad frustrated-and fervently wishing the next book in the series was out. I'll definitely be following this series, and after the excellent storytelling I'll be reading many more of this author's books ASAP.

4.5 stars for Morning My Angel (and I loved the Charlie's Angels theming going on in this story), and I highly recommend this book to M/M romantic suspense fans. It is meant for readers 18+ for adult language and M/M sexual content...and you should be prepared to get sucked in to the series from the moment you start reading!

Natalie says

I feel really bad

Sue Brown has written many books that I've liked. So I always hate having to give a low rating to an author I like. This story was just not what I hoped or expected. Josh was supposed to be some hot-shot security agent. If he was, he had to be the most inept, ridiculous hot-shot one they had. The plot was so confusing and riddled with holes. The only thing I wasn't confused about was who Charlie was. The narrative was written to make it easy to guess but Josh remained clueless longer than was logical. The "investigation" made little sense either. It was mostly showing up after some event happened.

I wasn't impressed with the characterization of Josh or the rest of the cast. Josh still read more like a 20 yr. old, cocky, goofball. The romance was lacking any passion or connection and again, Josh read like a besotted teen, not a mature man, sulking and pouting, then doing immediate turnarounds. The obstacle in the romance was also pretty crappy. The ending and epilogue were disappointing. There was sort of an HFN, I suppose but how this creates the start of a series, I couldn't begin to guess.

Evelin says

I started it for the romance but I finished it for the crime. I seriously expected to have sweet or even sexy messages, but obviously this book was more focused on mystery and action than on romance in terms of writing quality. I admit there were hot scenes, but they were nothing special.

Lauren says

This book was just... really not very good, which was disappointing, because the writing was fairly good, and I was enjoying the presence of properly used punctuation. Josh was kind of funny - in a childish, obvious, loud way - and I was enjoying it up until the moment his group arrived in London and met up with their British counterparts, which was unfortunately, only about 8 pages in. This was the point at which I realised that not only was the plot incredibly lame, but the romance aspect was worse.

The plot was unnecessarily complicated, with twists and turns that didn't make sense, and a bad guy who came completely out of the blue. I mean seriously, he's there the whole time, and then suddenly at the end it turns out that he's nuttier than monkey shit - despite all these supposedly intelligent people having never picked up on any of the signs. It would have been nice if Josh and his team had actually done something useful instead of running around getting blown up or shot at, but alas. Josh turned out to be fairly incompetent, because for all his talk about being headhunted by his company and being more than capable of looking after himself, he actually spent most of his time kidnapped, injured, or unconscious (and all three more than once), and being shockingly inept at working out his little personal mystery.

Which brings me to the romance, which I'm sorry, but I hated. Cal is... truly awful, and I have no idea why Josh spent this entire book panting after him - I mean literally no idea, because the book never says. They have two decent conversations together, then Josh is kidnapped and then found, and suddenly they're having sex and Josh is cutting off his cyber relationship with 'Charlie' because now he has a real life relationship? No, dude, you had an *orgasm*. I didn't realise they were so rare for you that you mistook the feeling.

Cal is obnoxious and overbearing and unnecessarily possessive, described as an 'Alpha' despite spending most of the time sniveling like an idiot until he gets his way. He lies and he keeps secrets and then he lies some more and then, just as it all comes to a head, he gives Josh an ultimatum: he can have his relationship with Cal, or he can have his job. And then he leaves Josh while injured and recovering from being kidnapped

and knocked unconscious (again), only to come back a few weeks later for the epilogue and ask Josh what his decision was.

It was just... weird and gross, and I think I'll have to avoid this author from now on.

Donna says

Loved Josh and Cal and they are one of my favorite couples now. This whole book was so fun to read. I can't wait to see what the sequel will be about. This is my first Sue Brown book and I look forward to reading more of her books.

Helena Stone says

Morning My Angel brought all of my reading favourites together and turned them into one beautiful, fast-paced, unputdownable, and heart-warming story. This book gave me fascinating mysteries to solve, combined it with heart-stopping action to keep me turning the pages, and topped it all off with an utterly charming love story, I mean what's not to love?

Let's look at the mysteries first, because there are several. First and foremost (for me at least) was the question as to who exactly was 'Charlie' the mysterious man Josh has been exchanging messages with for two years and for whom he's fallen...hard. I have to admit I was several chapters ahead of Josh when it came to unravelling this question but I'm fairly sure that was the author's intention. And then there are the unresolved questions related directly to Josh and his team being sent to London; where's the missing man and why exactly are the Americans in England, dealing with a case that's normally out of their remit? To say that the revelation as to who exactly was the 'criminal mastermind' came as a huge shock, which is exactly as it should be in a well plotted thriller. I did raise one or two eyebrows when it came to the explanation as to why it had taken so long to uncover the bad guy, but in the greater scheme of things that was really a minor issue, and afterthought more than something that bothered me while reading.

As for Charlie (of course I'm not going to reveal who he is) and Josh's love story, that was a pure joy to read. Mostly angst free, the coming together of these two men was portrayed in a charming, at times cute, and overall very satisfying manner. Of course there are issues, but they're dealt with in an adult and realistic way. I have to admit to reading large sections of this book with a huge grin on my face. Charlie and Josh/Angel together, bouncing off each other (both verbally and physically) were a pure delight.

I'm so happy this book is listed as #1 Angel Enterprises. I'm looking forward to spending more time with Angel and his Charlie. I sorta hope that a future story featuring these two men will be told from Charlie's point of view. Not because I felt that seeing the whole story through Josh's eyes somehow short-changed the reader—far from it—but because I'm now so intrigued by Charlie that I'd love to get to know him more intimately.

Well written, with characters who were both charming and fascinating, Morning My Angel came with what for me was exactly the right balance of mystery, action, and romance. This surely is Sue Brown at her best and I couldn't recommend this book more!

Meags says

3.5 Stars

The synopsis for this one caught my eye immediately. I enjoy a good action-suspense story every now and again, and I've always had a thing for romances that begin with/involve couples who initially connect in some way other than face-to-face, so the combination of these themes worked quite well for me here.

In this instance, MCs Josh and Cal have been chatting online for two years under the pseudonyms Angel and Charlie (a witty play on Charlie's Angels). The two men have formed a deep and intense connection, with Josh hoping that one day he'll meet his Charlie and hopefully be swept off his feet. The problem, however, is that Josh has no idea that Charlie is Cal, or that Cal just happens to be the boss of his security firm – a boss he's never met because Josh works out of the Seattle branch, whereas Cal runs point at the head office in London.

When Josh and his team get sent to London to help work a complicated and potentially dangerous case, that may be directly linked to the firm they work for, Josh meets Cal and sparks fly. Not only does Josh find himself in the midst of a confusing case, one that starts threatening his life and the lives of those around him, but he also finds himself torn between his feelings for his boss and his feelings for "Charlie."

I enjoyed this story and I liked the premise, but I'm still a bit unsure whether I actually liked Josh or Cal. Josh was a bit of a princess and although he showed his vulnerable side a time or two towards the end there, I feel it took way too long to endear me to him in the first place. The first half of the story just had him bitching up a storm, snapping at everyone in sight, while making lewd comments and eye-fucking most of the men that crossed his path. I also had trouble comprehending how Josh, this genius expert security dude, couldn't put two and two together for the length of time it took him to realise that Charlie was Cal. It was just a bit too obvious – regardless of the fact that we as readers already know this fact from the onset. There were just too many moments and hints that should have clued Josh into Charlie's true identity, making me question how smart and capable he actually was at his job. The whole thing required some suspension of disbelief and that's okay, but it did take me out of the story a little.

I will say that my heart did a little flip every time Cal would call Josh "my angel" once they were face-to-face. It was all a bit swoony and a lot romantic, as things progressed between the two and truths were slowly revealed. So, points for that.

I also didn't predict the turn-out of the case they were working either. I'm not often left surprised, so it was a pleasant treat to not have seen the ending coming.

I'll definitely be adding the sequel to my TBR shelf because I need to see how Cal and Josh will now go about navigating their new relationship and how they'll manage their careers around the whole no-romance-in-the-workplace issue they've found themselves up against.

Audio Edition:

Just a quick note (mainly for myself) to say that this was my first Joel Leslie narration. Generally, I quite enjoyed his voice work. I found some of the accents a little trying but that's on me, not him. I'll definitely be on the lookout for more of his narrations in the (very) near future, seeing as how popular he is among the M/M reader crowd.

Lisa The Novel Approach says

This book was a flat out five star read for me! I am a huge fan of Sue Brown and her writing style, and while this is not her usual romance, in that it is a mystery/whodunit, the book does have an underlying theme of pure romantic attraction between the two main characters. The banter is light and witty and the chemistry of the two MCs comes off the page. This book paces well, and every time you think you may have it figured out, Brown throws in a curve ball and the mystery continues. I pretty much read this book straight through, and it has been a LONG time since I have done that. There are two sides to this book, the mystery and the romance—both sides written so well that you find yourself seamlessly engrossed in both from page one.

Josh works for CDR, a security firm that provides protection for those who can afford it. He heads a team of three: himself and a pair of twins, Gil and Landry. Josh loves his job at CDR; he is good at it. He's not the muscle, that is the twins' job, but Josh's quick mind and eidetic memory make him perfect for solving puzzles and figuring out who may be after the people they protect. He's brilliant, he's a little irreverent, outspoken, and gorgeous. Josh and his team get sent to London to find a hedge fund investor who has gone missing, but things just don't add up, and it soon becomes clear that everyone involved has their own agenda for what is happening. And no one wants to share.

Cal has been working for a sister agency to CDR for several years, he's good at his job, and having to work with the new guys from across the pond puts him in a position to test whether their reputation is as deserved as people say it is. From the get-go Cal butts heads with Josh in an unspoken test to see if Josh measures up. Cal is older, a little battle worn but has a heart of gold and amazingly sharp green eyes.

First of all, there is the romance...

"Morning Angel" pops up on Josh Coopers computer every morning. It has for two years. The first time it appears, he answers with "Morning Charlie," in a nod to the old television show. Now, two years later, Josh is in love with a man he has never met but who he talks to every day. Charlie seems to know so much about his life that Josh is convinced it is someone he knows. Then Josh gets sent on assignment to London and the prompts begin to change, to "Morning My Angel," and Josh begins to wonder if he has met "Charlie" and who he could be. But then Josh meets Cal in London, a real, live, breathing man, and the attraction is immediate. Torn between a "real" man and Charlie, Josh has to choose.

Then there are the mysteries...

A missing hedge fund manager, stolen millions, dead bodies, crying widows, secretive agencies each working their own angle on the case, surly cops, overlapping evidence and more questions than answers. For her first mystery, Sue Brown manages to create a complex and multi-faceted whodunit that will keep you guessing and totally entertained from beginning to end. I appreciated the ending in the book; after all, these are two very intelligent men and as such, having them maintain their own identities as they work toward their HEA made perfect sense to me. I felt it was a testament to the depth of the characters and Sue Brown's writing style that the men she created stayed true to form right to the last page.

I highly recommend this book!

Reviewed by Carrie for The Novel Approach Reviews
