



The Covering

Dana Pratola

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What do a woman of faith and a heathen biker have in common? The devil, of course.

Tessa is moved to intercede for a man she's never met. When they do meet, she's stunned. Gunnar is gorgeous, charismatic, and driven. He's also hostile, self-destructive, and an unbeliever...and she's drawn to him like no other. The temptation she feels is as dangerous as it is alluring. She wants to stay away, but God has other plans. He reveals the devil's intent to destroy Gunnar, and commissions Tessa to keep him covered in prayer. Can she rely on God to keep her from falling...in love, and into temptation? Or will the devil claim them both?

The Covering Details

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From Reader Review The Covering for online ebook

Kelly says

Unfortunately life had to keep going on, so I had to keep putting the book down, but oh how I wanted to read it in one sitting. What a book! Fantastic Christian romance/suspense/intrigue book! Demons are real and Dana Pratola does a beautiful job through her words showing just how real they are. The imagery of these words is powerful. The romance is also real. Who says that just because we are Christians that we don't have real desires, wants and needs? Nothing explicit, mind you, but whew, real! I laughed. I cried. I gasped. I sighed. Worth reading!

I highly recommend! (And will probably be reading it again myself soon!)

Nona King says

Tessa, the female protagonist, is a lady after my own heart. More than anything she wants to be the "Jesus Example" to those around her, and to live in a way that He would be proud. Like me, she battles with her temper, of putting her foot in her mouth, and she is tormented by the poor decisions of her life. However, she moves on, determination and faith pressing her onward.

Then Gunnar strides into her life and pushes every hot little button he can get his hands on.

Not-so-figuratively speaking.

The attraction is heady, physical, and enough to cause Tessa more than a single moment of temptation and confusion. After all, Gunnar isn't a believer. In fact, he makes it blatantly clear he has no desire to become one. But that doesn't usher away the attraction. Later, when Gunnar begins to show a more tender side to his nature, it definitely does not alleviate Tessa's inner turmoil.

This zing and clash of emotions is one of the best aspects of the novel. It injects a powerful feel of realism to the romance. In fact, Dana has used this tension as a poignant reminder of our own personal challenges, regardless of our belief system, and how we should and could face them in victory.

Tessa learns much about her character because of her willingness to look herself in the face and see her failings as God sees them: a work in progress. Thus challenged, she attempts to do better at treating Gunnar with respect and understanding, and admitting when she is out of line. It is this humility which continues to attract Gunnar, and allows God to begin softening his heart until he, too, becomes a believer.

Dana handles the conflicts and romance in The Covering from a common-sense/Christian world view, spinning an edgy and powerful story. I highly recommend this novel.

Donna says

"What do a woman of faith and a heathen biker have in common? The devil, of course."

This book grabbed me from the very beginning and didn't let go till I was done. Tessa and Gunnar seem to have nothing in common. She is driven to pray for him before they even meet - and he is driven by inner

demons he can't escape.

This story is well written, with well developed characters that lead with their hearts. What a great read!

Teresa Snyder says

This is without a doubt, one of the best books that I've ever read. Honestly, if the book had not been recommended to me I'm not sure that I would have read it. Although nice, the book cover is nothing that would have grabbed my attention; same for the back cover.

This book grabs you from the beginning and does not let go until the very last word in the epilogue. The book has it all: angels, demons, motorcycles, tattoos, real life struggles, passion, life, death, love and victory by the grace of God. I'm not sure that I will ever look at another tattooed, motorcycle riding person the same after having read this book.

This was the first book that I read by this author. It will not be last. Get it. Read it. Share it. You will not regret it.

SirenBookReviews says

A sweet suspense story with a very tortured hero...that's what you get when you pick up The Covering. Gunnar is mysterious, dark, edgy and so much more. It made me want to know more. He has a dark past, and doesn't let anyone in. He needs a place to go for a little while, so he asks a friend. Possibly his only friend. And then there's his sister...

Tessa is the polar opposite of Gunnar. She's a believer in God, she's a good girl, and knows she shouldn't get mixed up with the likes of Gunnar. And the two can't seem to get along very well, but yet, they're attracted to one another.

The story is full of tension, a sweet romance and one that will have you turning the pages, needing more. I couldn't tear my eyes away from the book, it had me that captivated.

If you love a sweet faith based romance, a dark hero that captures your attention, then don't hesitate to pick up a copy of this book.

Suzanne Williams says

I read a lot of books, and ninety percent of them soon fade away in my thinking. I have to concentrate afterward to remember the storyline and the characters. But with the other ten percent, it is that the story showed me something of reality and life, something good about God and people, that causes me to not forget them. "The Covering" is one of those books.

Too many novels with a Christian message come across as either preachy or fabricated. Even the character's struggles seem partially false. But what I love about Dana Pratola's writing is how she molds her characters into real people - people with passions and sorrows, people who feel sexual tension, people with desires and

wants. People I can identify with, who could be anyone around me. I love that she doesn't sugarcoat relationships or the pull of attraction, but paints it for what it truly is and that it is possible to still do the right thing in the face of it.

"The Covering" surprised me in its depiction of the power of God through prayer. I've never read a story where intercession and the supernatural were so excellently depicted. As a girl raised in the church, I am familiar with what she described, and it felt comfortable for me to read about it. Tessa could have been any one of a number of people I've prayed with over the years, and that's the mark of a great author - the ability make a character that real to the reader.

And as for Gunnar. Wow. Gunnar defies description, both as a male character and as a man. What a powerful depiction of a soul lost, of the struggles to overcome doubts and fears, and of the ultimate love of one woman to bring him back from darkness.

This is such a moving love story. One of the best.

Deborah Heal says

The Covering

Getting It Real

The Covering is unabashedly a Christian novel with a clear salvation message, but without excessive jargon and preachiness. Ms Pratola found fresh and natural ways to present the message all wrapped up in an exciting romance. Gunnar is the perfect mysterious and dangerous hero, and Tessa's love (and God's) breaks through his hard shell to the love-starved man inside in delicious romance novel fashion.

Tessa and Gunnar are realistic and appealing characters, but I was surprised how much I liked the minor character of the pastor. He was particularly interesting, not at all the sappy stereotype of so many novels. My eyes popped open wide when he related his past to Gunnar. Now, that's getting real with people!

Ms Pratola entertained me and also inspired me. I'll be praying to be more like Tessa, sensitive to the pain in others, and like the pastor, willing to be totally transparent.

Nastassja Loots says

The Covering is my first book by Dana Pratola, but will most certainly not be my last. I love Pratola's writing style. The beautiful language combined with a gripping story and fully fleshed-out characters make for an unforgettable read.

God places a need in Tessa's heart to pray for a man she has never met. She doesn't know who, where or why – she only knows that she is driven to pray for someone and that it is a matter of life and death. She faithfully prays for the stranger and eventually realises why God commissioned her to pray for Gunnar before she met him – God knew she wouldn't have wanted to pray for Gunnar once they meet. She would have obeyed, but she would have struggled with it. God got her in the habit to pray for Gunnar so that she could faithfully continue once they meet despite Gunnar's behaviour (in general and towards Tessa). To say

that Gunnar is a complicated man is an understatement – he is hostile, rude and aggressive. Tessa can't deny that Gunnar intimidates her but she stands her ground, unknowingly earning his admiration and respect.

Though different as can be, in every imaginable way, Gunnar and Tessa can't deny or fight their attraction to one another; but Heaven knows they try. God has other plans...

Tessa won't get romantically involved with Gunnar, not only because of his less attractive personality traits, but mainly because he is an unbeliever. As a woman of faith, Tessa knows that the Bible warns against getting romantically involved with a partner who doesn't share her faith – yet she has feelings for Gunnar that no man has ever awoken in her. Tessa can't understand it. God not only puts it in Tessa's heart to cover Gunnar in prayer, He keeps throwing the two of them together. Tessa is terrified of the sexual chemistry she has with Gunnar. It threatens her morals and values – and her sanity. She undertakes to avoid Gunnar as much as possible, but several close calls on Gunnar's life and disturbing dreams where Gunnar finds himself in hell makes it clear to Tessa that Satan is pushing for Gunnar to lose his life while he is still lost. Tessa realises that God and Satan are battling for Gunnar's soul and that she has an important part to play in not only helping to keep Gunnar under God's protection, but also opening Gunnar's mind to the possibility of salvation. Avoiding Gunnar is not an option.

Gunnar in turn fights his attraction towards Tessa because he believes he is no good for her – and I don't say that lightly. This is not Edward Cullen being self-deprecating, Gunnar truly believes bone-deep that he isn't worthy of Tessa. Gunnar is an unbeliever and his history reflects as much. He's not proud of his past and he believes if Tessa were to learn all there is to know about him, she wouldn't give him the time of day. He has a mean streak, he has problems with his temper and he has known countless women. Somehow Tessa's opinion of him has come to mean more than he could have imagined. Aside from the fact that her brother in no uncertain terms told Gunnar to keep away from Tessa, she is a good, pure, Christian girl and Gunnar refuses to corrupt her and tries to stay away. He can't.

Tessa and Gunnar embark on a tentative friendship which soon develops into something deeper. As Tessa clings to God to strengthen her in the face of temptation unlike any she has never known, Gunnar begins to contemplate the validity of her beliefs. Slowly but surely God works in two stubborn hearts to bring them not only His mercy and grace, but also the kind of love they never could have dreamed possible.

Even though they are as different as night and day, I adore both Gunnar and Tessa. They complement each other very well and balance each other out. This is not your typical good-girl-falls-for-bad-boy-story. Their chemistry is tangible and the progression of their relationship is extremely realistic, possibly the best I've ever experienced in fiction. While they are attracted to each other, they don't jump into a relationship. Each of them is aware of the reasons they shouldn't be together, and these reasons carry a lot of weight. They both do a lot of thinking, considering and soul-searching before they decide to test the waters. Even then they take it very slow, getting to know each other at a tempo that Tessa is comfortable with. Gunnar has some trouble with it, but he knows that Tessa is worth the wait. This being religious fiction, Pratola does an amazing job of including sexual chemistry and sexual tension without going too far.

Another very realistic aspect of the novel is Gunnar's struggle with faith. The doubts he has, the questions he asks and the concepts he ponders are very real and very believable. His attitude towards Christianity is skilfully handled, as is his gradual consideration of its beliefs.

SPOILER ALERT This is Christian fiction, so you might have guessed that Gunnar ultimately accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. The pacing of his struggle with Christianity towards his ultimate acceptance, repentance and conversion is perfect. It doesn't happen overnight and it doesn't happen before he comes to grip with his past, man's sinful nature and his need of salvation. The whole process of Gunnar's disbelief to considering the possibility to accepting the Gospel as truth is very realistic. The author did a wonderful job of making this process not only believable, but emotional as well.

A deep and sometimes dark, thought-provoking read, The Covering is one for my favourites-shelf. I highly recommend this very touching book.

Pat says

Amazingly unique and beautiful story of love and redemption on so many levels.

deb says

Sometimes you read a book and the characters stay with long after you have finished the book and this is one of those books, this is the kind of the book you wish was a family saga series. Julie Lessman has the O'Connors and Dana Pratola should have the Masons.

Tima says

Tessa is a sweet Christian woman who's trying to decide what God is directing her to do with her life. Gunnar is a bike riding "heathen" being taunted by the devil. They meet when they both crash at Tessa's brother's house. They are both having housing issues and need a place to stay.

The attraction is instant, but so is the fear and the dislike. Tessa is scared of how Gunnar makes her feel and his violent reactions to almost everything. Gunnar doesn't exactly have the best past and doesn't feel he's worthy of someone as "clean and pure" as Tessa.

The book deals with intercessory prayer, encounters with angels and demons and salvation. And at the heart of the story is a beautiful love. There is God's love for His children and a romantic love story.

As I've mentioned before I'm always up for another romance and Christian fiction is one of my favorites. The story was gripping and thought provoking. My only complaint would be with some of the theology. But since most people won't be reading this for the theology I think it's not going to be an issue for many people. Can't wait to read the author's next books.

I received this book free of charge in exchange for my honest review.

Pauline Creeden says

What happens when a man falls in love with a woman that he thinks is too good for him? When he thinks she must be crazy for not seeing him for "what he is"? When Gunnar finds himself falling in love with Tessa in this Christian romance, he has to learn to accept and forgive himself before he can ever let anyone else do the same.

This book's characters had me thinking about them long after putting the book down to get on with my day. It was one of those books that is just not long enough! When the story is over, you are left wanting more! I

highly recommend it to anyone who likes a good clean Christian Romance with a little bit of edge.

Paula Phillips says

If you have read the book "The Reluctant Prophet" by Nancy Rue, then parts of this book will feel familiar . As from the first page, I was captivated with The Covering by Dana Pratola , as she had Tessa getting the overwhelming feeling to pray for someone - it was like watching somebody with the prophetic gift of Prayer at work , praying in Jesus's name and flipping through scriptures in the bible. I think people like this are amazing and I love books that enhance the gifts of the spirit that God gives us. Further on in the book, we meet Dominic -Tessa's brother who is also the local cop and read the arrival of Dom's friend Gunnar Mason. He is a biker, and looks like a rough character. Lately he has been eaten up by guilt and the Devil is feeding on it , making him feel worthless and that those around him would be better off without him evading their lives. The quote that first impressions can be deceiving rings true in The Covering as we see the relationship between Tessa and Gunnar develop first as friends and confidants - people to talk to and turn to and then maybe more ? But when Gunnar's past is revealed , is it too much for Tessa to handle and will she retreat back to her safe world or will God be able to show Tessa and Gunnar the gift of forgiveness and the power that comes with it ?

As always , I love the stories that come out from the White Rose Publishing House , they are so inspiring , sweet, suspenseful and romantic at times. Though every now and again, they publish an OMG story and The Covering by Dana Pratola is one of those books that everyone should read.

Pegg says

A sizzling attraction, a touch of spiritual warfare, and characters who intrigue from the first page. What more can you ask for? How about the gospel message and redemption? Yeah, it's got all that. Buy this book. Read this book. Pass it on.

Gunnar is the bad boy, Tessa is the naive girl, the powers of good and evil are tugging at both of them. The instant attraction is compelling and a bit dangerous. Tessa walks a perilous line between her Christian beliefs and her love for a rough but gorgeous biker. Gunnar struggles with demons and his past. Neither wants the relationship they find themselves in. You have to read the book to learn how it all works out. No spoiler here!

Mauve7 says

A lot has been said about this book already, so I won't be redundant. However, the heroine's relationship with God was something that put me on my toes because I NEED to step up my game! It made me realize that I have a lot to improve about my walk with Him and I LOVE when books do that! Books like this make me reflect and make me reevaluate everything in my life and my heart.

This story featured a troubled man and a very spiritually strong woman who God wanted to use for His glory. She responded immediately and, with some coaxing and praying, he did so as well.

The love story was paced well and it went how it needed to go.

Congratulations to Ms. Pratola on such an amazing book!

Bravo!
