



Angel's Evolution

T.A. Chase

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I'm a monster. Or so my father would have me believe. I'm imprisoned in a world I hate and fear. As heir to my father's title, I'm expected to marry, but my secret desires may keep me from fulfilling those expectations.

One night a stranger kisses me. In his touch, I see the possibility of a life beyond my prison. My name? Just call me Angel and this is my evolution."

Angel's Evolution Details

Date : Published 2007 by Liquid Silver Books

ISBN : 9781595783073

Author : T.A. Chase

Format : ebook 173 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Historical, Regency, M M Historical Romance

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From Reader Review Angel's Evolution for online ebook

Erastes says

I believe that this is the first book of Chase's that I've read, and the author has nothing to prove to me, it's obvious that she (assumed she) can write. It's the story of Angel who has been so badly abused by his father that he has no confidence in himself, and considers himself to be unclean – hardly surprising when subjected to such abuse.

The cover is one of the best gay historical covers I've seen. We need more like this. Men in period costume. You can't beat it.

I was pleased that Angel's Evolution seemed to be quite meaty - less concentration on sex and more of characterisation. But sadly, and this is (obviously) totally subjective, it was the characterisation that I couldn't like. It's not often that I read a book and simply cannot identify or empathise with the protagonist, but I'm sorry to say that when it comes to Angel's Evolution I just couldn't. Perhaps it was that the book is written in first person present tense, a very brave tense to choose, and not one I think I could ever attempt. For me, present tense has to be light and immediate, action filled – not a deep, very angst and at times dark and violent tale. It's hard for me to explain, but I always feel that the present tense is like constantly being on the edge of a precipice, and even the protagonist doesn't know what will happen next.

But what happens here is that Angel is having such a bad time throughout most of the book and he (obviously) doesn't know what is going to happen, he's caught constantly in the present, and whines almost the entire way through the book. I would have found it more effective if he had been looking back at his life with the benefit of hindsight, explaining his evolution and letting the reader share it, but he doesn't. He just whines about all the crap stuff that is happening to him, whines (very much like Fanon Remus Lupin) about how he's a monster, whines about how he'll be infecting the man who seducing him into becoming another monster, and oh – how can you love a monster? and just... whines. I was half way through the book when I had decided that, when his father had finished with the horsewhip, I wanted to borrow it.

I didn't understand quite why Angel's father treated his son so very badly. If he considered his son to be a perversion you'd think that - rather than treating him like a prisoner – he'd be eager to foist him off on the first fortune hunter that came along. But no, the father locks him up in the country, doesn't allow him to meet anyone outside the family, whips the boy's back so badly he bleeds through his evening clothes and then moans when he doesn't mingle in order to find a wife. He was his heir, and even if you thought your son was a pansy would you really keep him locked away from society, dress him in rags and whip him daily?

There is a nice balance of plot and sex, too. Not sex heavy and when it does appear it's gradual and nicely erotic without being graphic, (Although Angel whines even here...) intense, tender and passionate in turns.

There were a few other things that jarred me; Angel's father wouldn't be a Lord – he's the brother of an Earl, so he'd be an "Honorable", improper use of the term "whipping boy" right at the start, misspelling of "whiskey" instead of whisky, the ubiquitous "gotten" which is always going to make me grind my teeth, and even the title is anachronistic, if you use the word as meaning a gradual change. There's the inevitable OKHomo, Angel's uncle is fine with it, Society doesn't ostracize Duke Greyson for it despite it having hounded the fabulously wealthy William Beckford and Viscount Courtenay into exile. But the writing and the Romance of the story is not spoiled by this. It is well written, and if I have not made that clear, then I apologise. The description is lush, detailed – she writes a real sense of place – you can see the ballrooms,

smell the streets, feel skin and velvet under your hand. The point of view and tense help with this, of course and it's very involved.

If you, unlike me, empathise with Angel and end up liking him, then you'll appreciate the job Chase does. It's just not for me.

Susan says

DNF at 66%

It was not bad.. but I'm just sick of all these mediocre books. I don't have the patience to even finish this one.

Yes, Angel/Robert was my kind of guy. Shy, abused and being held captive by his father for years. And Greyson was the absolute knight in shining armor who saved this sweet boy. So, I should have loved this!

The writing was not too bad either. But still.... I was bored out of my mind....

I'm off to find a decent book to read now...

Lillie says

This book made me cry. I loved the romance and love between Angel and Trey. It was so beautifully written! I wish Mr. Chase would revisit them sometime and write more about them. They were wonderful and so deserving of their happy ending.

Lindsay says

I LOVED THIS BOOK! I thought the love story between Grey and Angel was very well developed and I literally read this in one sitting. Angel works through self-doubt and low self esteem from abuse to a more confident man. I really enjoyed reading this book, it was awesome!

Liza says

Angel has been held captive and abused by his father, beaten and degraded at every turn. Even though he is the eldest son and heir, his father hates him because of his attraction to men. While at a ball, he catches the eye of Greyson, the Duke of Northampton, and his life will never be the same.

I loved how Greyson swept in and rescued Angel from his horrendous father, taking him away and protecting him. It was a little like the bodice rippers I read in high school. Angel had a lot of self-loathing to overcome, years of abuse taking their toll on his emotional well-being. Everything about this story was romantic and sweet and I loved it.

Daisiema says

I didn't mean to read this book right now. I bought Angel's Evolution, because I had just read an interview about the author T.A.Chase, and it looked interesting. I was hesitant because it is in first person, and well it's no secret first person is my LEAST favorite way of storytelling, especially in the romance/erotic genre. So, I thought I would sneak a peek at it. Ummm... needless to say, once I started it I couldn't stop reading it. After reading this amazing book, I honestly don't know how it could have been written in any other way. (I never thought I would say that)

First, let me say that this is NOT a light read. If you are looking for an easy-going romance, this book is not for you. There is a lot of emotional angst, physical abuse (not by the hero) and personal growth the main character "Angel" goes through. I experienced all of his sorrows, pain, grief, despair, hope, love, forgiveness and finally his happiness. It was a rollercoaster ride from the first page and didn't let up until the last.

I don't want to give too much of the storyline away, so I'll try not to spoil it too much.

This story is set right before the Napoleonic Wars in England. First, of all the storyteller's name is not really "Angel". He comes by that nickname later in the book. (You'll have to read why and how on your own) You won't actually find out his real name until the end of the book, by that time he was everyone's Angel anyway so his real name became insignificant.

"Angel" thinks he is a monster. He has been verbally and physically abused from his father since he was ten years old. For fourteen years, he has been ignored, beaten and treated worse than a slave. Because "Angel's" father is an influential man, and wants an heir, he throws "Angel" into the middle of the Tons season. "Angel" is horribly shy and doesn't know how to handle crowds or to simply have a conversation with others, so even though he will be beaten when he gets home, he usually hides in the corner and watches the festivities unnoticed and uncared for.

When Greyson spots "Angel" in the corner he falls in love with him at first sight. He wants to erase the sadness and pain from "Angel's" eyes and save him from his "Angel's" father's wrath.

I liked the determination Greyson had to help "Angel" and to make him a part of his life. I thought it was a very beautiful love story that had many twists in the storyline and interesting characters. I really loved this book. "Angel's" triumph felt damn good at the end and I can't recommend this more.

5 out of 5 stars.

Jocasta says

I enjoyed every word in that book. The best part in the book when Angel faces his father.

“Hit me,” I challenge him. I wave a weak hand towards the priest holding me. “Beat me.” I scrub my hand over the blood on my face and hold it out towards my father. “Spill my blood until it pools beneath me. I’ll never deny my love or my lover.”

Shock pushes through the anger in my father’s eyes. He steps away from my hand.

“I no longer fear you.” I throw back my shoulders and straighten so I’m standing taller than he is. My body screams in agony. Pain is beginning to return. “I pity you. You live in fear and face the world with anger. You’ll never know love from anyone, not even your own family. At least while I’m burning in hell for my perversions, I’ll know I’m loved.”

Leslie Nicoll says

Having plowed through two other T.A. Chase books, I almost gave this one a pass, but I am like historicals so I read the sample--and got sucked right in. I read this in 2.5 hours (when I should have been doing other stuff!). It's very romantic--almost a little over-the-top--but story of Angel's salvation and eventual evolution was well told and quite well written.

If I was reviewing this as a pure historical, I'd have to quibble about the use of "ass" (instead of "arse," they were in London, after all), some slightly modern language (did they say, "Don't be a stranger" in 1800? I doubt it), and the general OK!HOMO attitude of most of the people around Angel and Greyson, especially the servants. But I ignored all that and just read it as a very romantic love story and in that way, it worked for me.

Recommended.

Rachel says

Angel and Grey were perfect for one another. I loved the support and shoulder Grey gave Angel to cry, grow and become the man Angel was meant to be. I loved this book.

JD Crittendon says

Sometimes Love Does Conquer All!

A traumatic, heartbreaking love story between Robert aka Angel & His Grace Greyson. I like the MCs, the first person narrative and the main character progression and the pacing of the story.

What I do question is Greyson's servants loyalty in this era and the convenience of Antagonist's debts...I question the authenticity of this story taking place in this era.

Overall, a good, sad but lovely ending

Omega696 says

I must admit I'm really surprised after confronting this book with many good reviews I've read. I didn't like it. First of all it was written in first person, which I quite enjoy. It was the present tense of narration I always have problems with. So it immediately took some point from the book. That doesn't mean it couldn't be good. Unfortunately plot didn't help the matter.

I like romance stories with abused characters finding redemption. But I like people to have some personality. Unfortunately Angel sorely lacked in this department. Besides he was behaving like mentally impaired. I'm not saying the books about handicapped can't be good, but rest of the characters behaved like he was perfectly normal just scared. I understand his father beat him, but Angel behaved like his "evolution" stopped at the age of 10.

Another thing that just wasn't my cup of tea - the insta love. I really prefer books where characters work for their relationship. Attraction is fine, but immediate love confession without having even one logical conversation was a bit too much. There was no development with this couple.

Sadonna says

First I really am a fan of this author and this is the eighteenth book of hers that I've read. Kissed by God is one of my all time favorites. That said, I think I am one of the few people who are not very enamored of the Regency period. This is a historical set in that period.

Angel, our MC, is of the aristocracy, but he has been kept away from society and we learn repeatedly and horribly abused by his father for over a decade. However apparently at 23, he needs to find a wife and has been forced into the social season. He of course has no interest in women and has no idea how he is going to be able to do this. Then he sees a man he is immediately and passionately attracted to at these balls, but he hides as much as he can since he has never developed any social skills due to the isolation and abuse. His father has told him he is a monster and he has believed it until this point. But then the man seeks him out and kisses him. He begins to think maybe he isn't so crazy and monstrous. The man, Lord Greyson, turns out to be one of the most powerful members of ruling class feels. Greyson feels he has found his soul mate and rescues Angel from his father with the help of Angel's uncle who has his own demons he is wrestling with. Apparently it's love at first sight for Greyson because they have no contact before these society balls. Angel is really just so much chattel to his father and his only purpose apparently is to find a wife and marry well, but of course he is not going to let go of his "heir" so easily.

The rest of the story deals with Greyson doing his best to care for and heal Angel. He is appalled by the abuse and he only wants Angel to feel safe and loved. He also aids in repairing the relationship between Angel and his uncle. The uncle is also horrified by his brother's behavior and the harsh treatment that Angel has been subjected to. There are a few subplots to the story as well including the circumstances surrounding the death of Angel's cousin and Greyson's role as advisor to the crown. I'm not sure how much the intrigue part of the story added to the plot although I guess it did provide a tie to the cousin's story. One of Angel's brothers also makes a late appearance and decides to finally do the right thing after Angel is once again the subject of more abuse.

I'm really torn about how to rate this story. There is not a thing wrong with the writing – there are many beautiful passages. I can certainly understand Angel's need for and willingness to go with Greyson – the boy has been abused horribly and this is really the first kindness shown to him. Greyson for his part seems to

truly care about Angel and wants to help him heal from the awful abuse he has been subjected to. There is also good balance of sex in the story that builds given the fragile state Angel is in at the beginning of their relationship. My issue with the story is twofold really – the whole insta-love “locking eyes across a crowded room” and then the lack of repercussions to Greyson for having a male lover while it’s obviously been an issue for others. I know he’s fabulously wealthy and powerful and certainly that gives him some leeway, but it seemed unrealistic to me. Many people really love this story, but unfortunately, it was just not for me.

Shira Anthony says

[“Angel” is an abused son of a lower-level nobleman in London. To say he’s a wreck is an understatement. Dragged to the balls and parties thrown by London’s elite, he cowers in the shadows and wishes he could disappear (in fact, he’s tried to kill himself once). He desires men, and he knows he will

Elisa Rolle says

This is one of the most beautiful romance I have read. Robert is a young nobleman tortured by his father who fear his son and heir being homosexual. But Robert doesn’t know nothing about sex and nothing about love. But one night he meet Greyson, a duke who is searching an angel... from that moment his angel is him, and from that moment his name is Angel. In fact, we only know him like Angel, his real name is revealed only at the end when Angel is ready to break free of his cage and declare his love.

The romance is in first person, and we read all the story through the eyes of Angel, eyes tormented but also eager of love. Greyson is able to fill him of love. This is a great romance where everything is narrated with a softness and with the ability to make us feel the real sensation of Angel.

I strongly recommend this romance to everyone.

<http://elisa-rolle.livejournal.com/29...>

Ravyn says

Written in the much-dreaded first person present tense, *Angel's Evolution* is narrated by 23-year-old Angel, the whiniest, most tortured soul I've had the displeasure of reading about.

If you haven't guessed, my first major problem was with the narrator himself. Unfortunately, there is very little dialogue in this book, so the reader is stuck listening to Angel's tortured inner monologue the majority of the time, which mostly consists of self-doubt, self-recrimination, and general angst. It gets old quick.

My second major issue (aside from the tedious narration) is with the lame storyline. Set at the turn of the 18th century, the novel begins as 23-year-old Angel is being shoved into London Society for the first time after years of isolation. The reader soon learns that Angel has suffered terrible emotional and physical abuse at the hands of his father since the age of 10. While his father is obviously a disturbed, abusive guy, his

actions don't really make any sense. Why did he suddenly start hating and abusing his 10-year-old son? There's a feeble attempt at explaining this late in the novel, but it still doesn't adequately explain why Angel's father singled him out from the rest of his offspring for torment and abuse. Furthermore, why would his father have tortured his eldest son and heir for so many years only to throw him into Society at this point? It doesn't make any sense.

So on to the hero. Our knight-in-shining-armor, Duke Greyson, first spies Angel at a ball, and supposedly falls madly in love with him at first sight. After an incident at a later ball some weeks later, Duke Greyson takes Angel into his care, despite never having had an actual conversation with him and also despite the fact that Angel is crazier than a loon and skiddish as a wild animal at this point. So even though this is a romance novel, there's no actual romantic development.

The only reason I kept reading this book was because I kept expecting some big final confrontation between Angel and his father. From the title of the novel and from its basic premise, I was also expecting one of those abused-victim-turns-strong-fighter-with-the-love-of-a-good-man type stories. Um, no. Angel's "evolution" isn't really much to speak of at all, and the final "confrontation" is completely dissatisfying.

I've enjoyed some of T.A. Chase's work in the past, and I'll probably try it again in the future. But for me at least, this was a total bomb.
