



Hidden

Marianne Curley

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For as long as Ebony can remember, she's been sheltered. Confined to her home in a secluded valley, home-schooled by her protective parents, and limited to a small circle of close friends. It's as if she's being hidden. But something is changing in Ebony. Something that can't be concealed. She's growing more beautiful by the day, she's freakishly strong, and then there's the fact that she's *glowing*.

On one fateful night, Ebony meets Jordan and she's intensely drawn to him. It's as if something explodes inside of her--something that can be seen from the heavens. Ebony still doesn't know that she's a stolen angel, but now that the heavens have found her, they want her back.

Hidden Details

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From Reader Review Hidden for online ebook

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (UK & ANZ) and Netgalley.)

Ebony has always known that she was different, but her parents have never been open to talking about her and their family. When Ebony finally forces her parents to talk to her, they tell her something she wasn't expecting – she's not their biological daughter.

Jordan is a normal kid who has not had the best of starts in life. He's currently in foster care after his parents died, and has even spent time in a juvenile detention facility. When he meets Ebony he is intrigued by her violet eyes, but he has other problems when an old friend tries to kill him.

Ebony sets out with the intention of finding the man who gave her to her parents, even though they told her that they'll be in danger if anyone discovers that they have told her her true heritage, and then her parent's house explodes and burns to the ground.

Jordan survives his stabbing, and is then visited by an angel called Nathaneal, who tells him that it's now his job to help find a girl called Ebrielle who is really an angel, who was stolen at birth.

Is Ebony Ebrielle? What do the angels want with her? And what happened to Ebony's real parents?

I thought this book was okay in the beginning, but the further I got into it, the more unbelievable it became, and the more I felt like I was forcing myself to read on.

Ebony was an okay character, but she was a little stupid at times. She totally didn't take what her parents were telling her seriously, and the first chance she got she went against what they had told her, and not only that, but she led her best friend into danger as well.

When she was told that her parents are most likely dead, she just argued! I know denial is a stage of grief, but to point blank refuse to accept even the possibility that they are dead, when she knows that they were threatened should they ever tell her about her unusual heritage, their house exploded and burned to the ground, their car was in the garage, and there are no records of them travelling anywhere is a little unbelievable for me.

Jordan was another okay character, but he was pretty spineless. He didn't accept what he was told by the angels initially, but he didn't take much convincing. He was even pleased to go with Nathaneal when he realised he drove a Lamborghini! He didn't immediately think of Ebony and her violet eyes and her super strength when he was told he was looking for a missing angel named Ebrielle either which seemed a little dense.

I found it really difficult to connect with either Ebony or Jordan, they were both just dull, a little self-centred, and didn't make good decisions.

The storyline was okay, but I have to say that I was bored. Some parts were just unbelievable, other parts cliché, and the info dumps drove me crazy.

When Nathaneal started explaining exactly what was going on to Jordan I seriously considered not carrying on reading. It was such a massive info dump! The last book that was like this that I can remember was 'Undeadly', and this was no different – it was like reading an encyclopaedia. I don't know about you, but I

find encyclopaedias pretty dull unless it's a subject I'm really interested in, and I really wasn't interested enough in this book to appreciate this giant history lesson!

Jordan got quite a few sermons like this from Nathaneal, and they were all pretty bad. If I had been Jordan being told all this stuff I would probably have fallen asleep.

Then there's a blo*dy love triangle! I mean please?! First Ebony is instantly attracted to Jordan, and then Nathaneal makes some kind of move! As if this book wasn't bad enough already, the author throws in a love triangle! Worse, Nathaneal tells Jordan that he has a fiancée waiting for him back home, but then I was confused when he later spoke to Ebony as I wondered if he was actually hinting that she was his fiancée? Not sure. Ebony seemed to be instantly drawn to Nathaneal as well though, so I really don't know what will happen there! I know that some people hate insta-love though, and there was two cases of that in this story!

Overall; I thought that this book was dull, cliché, and probably more suitable for a younger mg/ya audience, as the story did seem quite childish. I'm sure there are people who will like this, but I personally can't recommend it.

4 out of 10.

Rashika (is tired) says

I started this book with rather high hopes. I am not big on angel books because of bad experiences with them, but the summary of this book lured me in.

Oh god I don't even know where to start with how terrible this book was. It broke my heart into little pieces. I was almost bawling by the end of it because it was so BAD!

For someone who is too lazy to read this whole rant. Here is what you need to know. The main character is involved in a love triangle where both the 'romances' are insta love.

Now that I have that cleared up let's start with the Ebony. I hate her. By the end of the book all I was hoping for was the fact that she would die. She is a nightmare of a main character. She is extremely pathetic as well. In the beginning I didn't think she was that bad. When told she was adopted, she had the reaction I had been looking in all the other books where characters find out they are adopted, she asked why they couldn't have told her earlier, because the fact that she was adopted wouldn't change the fact that she loved them and that she knew they loved her, so why? I was so glad that she wasn't going to be a stupid main character but it was all a lie.

When Ebony first encounters Jordan, she starts rambling and then she stares in his eyes and she feels something. Ohmergerd. It was love at first sight. However, what happened in this encounter was that she accidentally bumped into Jordan but because she is so strong he kind of goes smack against the wall. At some point during the conversation he states that she is strong and then she goes all awkward. Now what I don't get is that is there something wrong with being strong? Girls cannot be strong?

Later on we found out that this connection they had was because she was his guardian angel. You cannot imagine my joy at that point. I thought this book was going to be everything I hoped Halo would have been. Where the girl goes around saving the guy's ass and you know protecting him. Well the joke was on me because Jordan is about a hundred times smarter than this doofus.

Now then we must continue on to her stupidity. She wants answers yet when Jordan and Thane are actually trying to give them to her, she goes in denial and runs away from that. I mean when the dude Zavier comes she is intrigued, and even though her senses tells her to run away, she stays and listens to what he has to say but when it comes to Jordan and Thane. Nooo she just won't listen. Does she have a thing for bad guys?

If I thought the whole situation with Jordan was insta-love.. I don't know what I was talking about. The situation with Thane was insta-love redefined. Despite the fact she was so vary of Thane, when she actually meets him, its love at first sight again. She feels like she finally belongs. At this point I was hoping for lightening to strike and kill her or me. I was on the verge of tears because this book was so awful.

This girl needs to get serious help.

She spends a good part whining about finding her parents but when she actually meets the angels? She doesn't even bother to tell them what she learned from them, because that couldn't help at all could it? She spends such a large portion in denial even though she's the angel whereas Jordan, who is merely a human, is more open to the idea than she is. Talk about irony.

Now moving on to Jordan, who was our male lead and is also apparently not a love interest anymore. I didn't like him at first. I was pretty sure he was crazy but he was so much better than Ebony, it's ridiculous. In the beginning of the book we see him get beaten up to death by someone who used to be his best friend and who he thought of like a brother. This dude ruined his whole life based on something that wasn't even true and almost killed him but Jordan still feels bad for him and doesn't want him to go to jail. I was pretty annoyed at this point because it doesn't make sense at all. Oh it's nice he is forgiving but justice is a big deal. The thing is he didn't even try to fight when Adam was beating him up. Does he have no sense of self-preservation?

Jordan does become a whole lot smarter as the book goes on and he actually seems like a real teen to me. The author doesn't present him as a tortured bad boy but someone with a bad past who is actually a nice person. Which is appreciated. What is not appreciated is the fact that the author spends so much time building his character just to throw in a love triangle and make his chances of actually getting the girl impossibly low. It makes no sense to me. I actually came to like Jordan. He made some stupid decisions but male leads like him in YA are kind of rare, he seems like a real teen but he isn't completely stupid or an ass for that matter.

I also hate how Jordan is smarter than Ebony. Ebony is his guardian angel for crying out loud, yet he is the one comforting her and trying to make her understand. It's like Halo all over again except its better. All I want is a book where for once the girl will be the one kicking ass and protecting the guy. Is that too much to ask? Is it too much to want a female lead who isn't stupid and isn't busy dreaming about guys?

The thing is the whole love triangle thing would have been a whole lot more bearable if both the relationships were developed, but none of them were. They are both based on some E.T. (for the lack of a better term) connections and none of the characters actually put in the effort to learn anything about each other. (Not counting Jordan and Thane's relationship).

Amber is really flat character. She was a major part of the book or otherwise I wouldn't have even brought her up. I mean she is supporting and what not but there is nothing else to her. There is no depth.

Thane. Now I liked Thane when it was just him and Jordan, when Ebony steps into the picture he just becomes a love sick puppy who forgets all about Jordan. It's ridiculous. I don't even know what's so special about her and I think Jordan deserves a lot better than a whiny little girl. Jordan and Thane probably had the strongest relationship in the book now that think about it. They actually get to know each other. Ooo I have an idea.. how about Jordan and Thane runaway together and leave Ebony to die? I can die happy.

WANTED: A MISSING PLOT

This book seems to be missing a plot. Half way through the book Jordan and Ebony have only met once and nothing else is happening. There is a lot of world building going on but **NOTHING IS HAPPENING**. Nothing happens until the last 1/4th of the book and by then I was bored to death. It's **SLOW**.

I think this book was only an introduction into this world and that exciting stuff is to come later on in the series but the last 1/4th couldn't redeem the book for me. It had the opposite effect. It made me despise the book.

At this point all I want is for the Evil Prince to kidnap Ebony and destroy her. I don't think I can read the sequels after what this book did to me. I'll admit to secretly wanting to know who she ends up with (if it's Thane this book was... I don't even know what to say because it was already a waste of my time).

All I really want right now is a good book and tons of comfort food and maybe a hug.

This review has also been posted on my blog

Initial Reaction

I think I am going to cry because I am so happy I finished this book.

This was so painful. SO unbelievable painful.

It wasn't even the angel stuff that bothered me but everything else!

I hate what happens with Jordan. I hope Ebony dies and rots in hell.

I need to go get meself some comfort food.

Louise says

I thought this was alright at the beginning, but the further I got the worse it became. The lectures that the angel gave jordan were so long and boring, and the storyline was so silly in places. Why would Ebony get into a car with some random guy she didn't know? especially when he was talking rubbish! he could have

been an escaped mental patient for all she knew!

I didn't like the love triangle either. I liked Jordan better than the angel, but the moment ebony saw the angel she was like - i love him! we're ment to be together! give me a break.

Ana says

3.5 Stars

“Oh no! Another angel book!” must be what you’re thinking. Yeah, well, angels are the new hype so... another angel book it is!

I actually enjoyed *Hidden* very much. It was short but wow, a lot of things (A LOT!) happen in around 350 pages. Action, character info, romance... This book never gets boring.

What I’m really happy about is that Ebony isn’t annoying as most of the main characters in YA are now. And *drum-roll* **THERE IS NO INSTA-INSTA-LOVE!** Why are there two “instas”? I can’t really say that insta-love doesn’t happen in *Hidden*. It happens and it doesn’t happen at the same time. It’s an angel book, guys, you guess what happens there.

Ebony and Jordan’s first meeting is hilarious and cute. Ebony is stronger than most but she doesn’t know why in the beginning so she tries to hide it from others but when meeting Jordan, lets’ say that what she did would scare most people! But Jordan starts to feel attracted to her, obviously.

Now, without spoiling the book, let’s talk about another character. Ebony is, as the blurb says, a stolen angel, and an angel, Thane, came to earth to retrieve her. He tells Jordan what he and Ebony are. Even though he knows Jordan’s feelings for Ebony, he asks him to help him save Ebony from the dangers that are coming and make her believe in him. The all “heaven chooses who the angels marry” is a bit lame and kind of gives away the whole plot but that is what the author wanted so...

What happens in the end is a little too predictable and I think everyone knew what was going to happen. That was a little disappointing, but I liked the way it ended. What I wasn’t expecting was the little deal that Jordan made in the end.

“Three hearts, two worlds, one secret”. This tag line fits the book perfectly.

ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange of an honest review

Also on my blog: Chibi Reader

Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says

3. 5 Stars

Even aimed at the younger teen audience, I still found it entertaining and really engaging. Who *doesn't* enjoy smoking hot angels.

Becky says

I received a copy of this in the post from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Actually receiving this was a surprise, but an awesome one. I loved reading her 'Guardians of Time' trilogy as a teenager and I still have them on my shelves, but she disappeared and I wondered why, then I got this book and I was really excited. There was an accompanying note explaining her absence for the last 7 years and reading her story made me admire her all the more.

Anyway, I knew I wanted to read this as soon as I could, I had a feeling I would really enjoy it but I was also a little bit nervous. I am older now (obviously) and my tastes have changed quite a bit, what if it wasn't as good as I remember her writing being? Nevertheless I got stuck in and I am happy to say my fears were unfounded, I found myself captivated by the story and wanting to know more. The characters and their world grabbed me quickly and pulled me in.

This book is told in first person but from two different people. Chapters alternate between them but they do feature in each others chapters which adds an extra dimension to it all. Ebony has always been sheltered - her parents not letting her do anything, no going out, having fun, they even homeschooled her for a while, but now she is sixteen and wants more from life. She is thankfully now at school, but still not allowed to do things 'normal' kids are doing, but it's all starting to change.

I quite liked Ebony as a character but I found her story fairly predictable, I could see how things were linked and layed out - however I think that was at least partly deliberate. I did still find myself liking her - she has a noble heart and tries to think of others before herself, she doesn't break down when things go wrong but tries to carry on.

Then we meet Jordan, his life is basically the exact opposite - a kid gone through the care system with some bad memories and things that still haunt him, His story makes your heart ache and you can't help but want him to find happiness. I think he is probably my favourite character in this book. Even after all the rubbish he's gone through he still tries to help Ebony and make things right in the world. He has a strong inner strength and I just felt drawn to him.

As the blurb says, this is a story about finding the stolen angel, I've seen a few books recently focusing on angels and I'm never sure what to make of them, some I've read and really enjoyed, others I haven't but this one was well set up, had great 'history' to the story and was actually very believable as a concept and storyline.

There are quite a few characters but they all bring something to the storyline and help speed the pace and plot. There is a real sense of mystery particularly on Jordan's past and then both of their futures, it makes you want to read more just so you can find out more.

I had to read this in bits due to work schedule etc, but I found myself itching to get back to it when I had to put it down. This book was actually quite addictive and I didn't want to leave it.

The ending is a bit of a cliffhanger- it's obviously set for a sequel and I really want to know what will happen. I need more.

All I can really say is: Welcome back Marianne Curley, you certainly haven't lost your touch, and I am so pleased to have you back, Better than ever!

Becky says

This was a great book that got me out of a reading slump that I had been in since my grandma passed in

February. This is a book about angels, my first one. I have always been intrigued into how they deal with the concept of angels. This book has edged me to read more angel books.

This book is based around a girl called Ebony who does not know she is an angel. She meets a boy called Jordan who she feels drawn to. She is then swept into a world, that she knows nothing about until Thane shows up and tells her she is an angel. Throughout the book, she comes to terms with what is happening and has to make some decisions that could mean a completely different world to the one she is living. Which one will she choose? You have to read the book to find out.

Ebony was a good main character. She was a stubborn cold bitch sometimes but I suppose I would be too if I had to go through what she was going through. Amber is her best friend and she came to be one of my favourite characters. She would do anything for the ones she loves and in a sense I could relate a lot to her in the book.

Now, there is a love triangle in this book so if you are not a fan of those, then you may struggle with this book. Jordan is the first boy you meet and from the start you are rooting for him. He is a mis-understood lad who gets blamed for something he did not do. I am looking forward to seeing where the next book takes him as he has a hard decision to make. Thane is the missing piece to the triangle and I was not a fan. He was a bit too cocky for me and big for his boots. Team Jordan all the way.

The other characters were also very well portrayed, you had a wide range of characters that each had their own little quirks. One thing I would say is that this book was set in a place where I felt there could have been some wonderful description of the places they were. It kind of made it hard for me to picture. Apart from that this book is great and grips you from the start.

I am looking forward to reading the next instalment.

María says

Marianne Curley is coming back in 2013. I care for little else right now.

EDIT 18/07/2012:

And we have the book cover, YAY! It's not what I expected, but it's white and pretty and I'm so excited.

EDIT 25/11/2012:

I found out the new cover for the UK paperback a.k.a the edition that I've pre-ordered from bookdepository a few days ago, and I thought I should let you know.

This one is so much yummy! And leaves me more excited than before.

REVIEW

Real rate 2½ to 3 stars.

I'm a bit disappointed. What I like the most about Marianne is her "time travelling stories". I don't know what to think about all this angel stuff, honestly. But it wasn't *terrible* just not my thing.

Aras Redan says

I really wanted to like this book. I can't even describe how much. I love Marianne Curley, I love her Guardians of Time trilogy as it is one of the first novels I've read and it is my definite favourite on my shelves. But no matter how much I tried, I couldn't get into 'Hidden'. It wasn't bad. Not at all. It was just okay, and unfortunately, I had very high expectations. In 'The Named', I loved every single character. They were all unique, different and loveable. But the only character in this novel that I really liked, was Jordan.

Jordan was funny and he was easy to warm up to, and I was definitely rooting for him more than for Thane for sure. Jordan was the only thing I loved about this novel. Ebony was bland to me, she had a personality and wasn't a Mary Sue but she didn't seem to have any other emotions other than sarcastic, disbelieving or just neutral, and the way she treated Jordan, was exactly like how you would treat your loved dog, it was kind of condescending, especially because he loves her. Thane was probably the least likeable character in the book. He was the typical Adonis, who has supposed to be sexy, sensitive, loving and just plain perfect. And that was exactly what he was. He was too good, he had no flaws, no insecurities and wasn't interesting or compelling in any way.

And now I talk about the love triangle: Nooooooooo.

Jordan loves Ebony, and initially I was sure that Ebony loved Jordan, believe me, it certainly seemed that way, and I was pleased I thought: Finally here's two characters that are drawn to each other when they first meet but don't love each other in the instant die hard way I read a lot and they don't start babbling on about how attractive the other is for ten pages. I was excited to read a developed romance.

Then came Thane.

He ruined everything.

Insta-love. Ebony and Thane set eyes on each other and it was Insta-love. And I thought: What just happened. Ebony claims that she started her life with him and that she feels she had to finish it with him and that's why she loves him. It wasn't a good reason at all, it didn't even make sense to me, it was insta-love. It didn't do it for me for a lot of books and it certainly didn't do it for me this time around. Needless to say, I much preferred Jordan but I know that it's not going to happen.

The plot wasn't that exciting, it was kind of boring and predictable and I didn't really enjoy it. I have a series called 'The Iron Fey' where I was really upset over the romance because I liked one guy better than the other but my guy didn't 'win' the love triangle. But that didn't affect my judgement on the book because I loved the characters, the setting, the action and everything else. But in this book the plot couldn't save the love interest from my judgement.

I'm really upset that I didn't like this book and unfortunately it defied everything that I liked about The Named. I feel like Marianne wrote this book to be like all the other Young Adult authors who are successful, but I loved The Named because of its originality and I feel like Marianne's creativity was lost in this novel.

Nemo (The Moonlight Library) says

This review was originally posted on The Moonlight Library

SUMMARY

Ebony is a sheltered, naïve sixteen year old who doesn't know she is really a kidnapped angel, hidden away in a valley while her real family searches for her. When she bumps into her charge outside a nightclub, the good guys finally find her, and now they have to convince her to return to Avena before the evil dark prince comes to claim her as his bride.

WORLDBUILDING

The worldbuilding was light on: there was no explanation of where angels come from or if they are related to God. While humans have free will, angels fall in love and marry, so they're not the traditional Christian interpretation of angels. Ebony is even raised as an atheist and has a hard time accepting that she is an angel.

While the story was set in the real world, there were numerous references to other realms and dimensional teleportation portals the angels use to travel between those realms. One of the things I did like is that only people who can fly can travel between the portals, so until Ebony grows her wings, she's stuck on Earth. The other thing I liked was that the setting was so clearly Australian. It was cool to see an angel battle in the Australia bush.

CHARACTERS + RELATIONSHIPS

The relationships really took the cheap and easy way out: Ebony and Jordan have this special 'bond' courtesy of being Guardian Angel and charge, while Ebony and Nathaniel (Thane) have a special bond because they are destined to marry. There was no building of these close bonds, they just suddenly erupted into being. Similarly, Ebony's best friend Amber was her best friend long before the opening page, and although I liked seeing Amber being protective towards her best friend, I just kind of felt that she was there so Ebony wasn't surrounded by masculine energy all the time.

WHAT WORKED/DIDN'T WORK

The romance failed. Jordan seemed to think he was in love with Ebony while everyone thought he wanted Sophia. Thane was creepy but after her initial hesitation (because trusting Thane right away would have been weird and lacking conflict) she seemed to trust him, and he was always picking her up and carrying her places like a good damsel in distress.

Adam Skinner's situation didn't ring true: for attempted murder he's released into custody and then somehow becomes the pawn of the evil guy who wants Ebony – this evil guy, who could not have known about the animosity between Jordan and Skinner.

The plot didn't exactly wrap up some loose ends, leaving it open for the sequel. And certain worldbuilding rules such as 'There is NO WAY the bad guys can break into this fortified, protected, magical space' quickly turned to 'Oh noes, the bad guys have breached our defences!'

While the writing was generally a bit clumsy, leaving me to wonder at motivations and introspections, the plot kind of seemed like it was written by a teenager – the beautiful, naïve, innocent but secretly powerful girl being chased by her true love, her new male BFF, and the evil guy who just wants to bone her. Kind of reminds me of House of Night, with Zoey Redbird and all of her 'legitimate' boyfriends.

Also, I have an issue with the blurb. It says:

“She's growing more beautiful by the day, she's freakishly strong, and then there's the fact that she's glowing.”

Now, in the book, nothing indicates that she is becoming more beautiful every day – there is a reference to her being taller and curvier than Amber, and that she's suddenly grown boobs, but nothing about her daily increasing beauty. We see one instance of her being strong, which is when she knocks Jordan into a wall but we hear much more about how she's an uncannily fast runner and skips gym class. And not once do I recall an instance of her glowing apart from when she healed Jordan. So I kind of feel like the blurb was a little misleading.

OVERALL

While I was reading it I just kept reminding myself that it's written for teenagers and trying to imagine that I was the kind of teen who liked to pretend I was the main character in the book I was reading. Maybe that way I would be charmed by the hot angel and his also-hot nemesis, fighting over me *swoon much?*

Lucy Powrie says

DNF REVIEW:

I received this for review from the publisher via Netgalley

I must first of all say that I did not finish this book, through choice of my own, so my review will not be a reflection of the entire novel, only the part that I did read.

I had high expectations for Hidden, mainly because I know a few people who had really enjoyed it but, sadly, this wasn't the case for me. Maybe it's because I had such expectations that I didn't like it, but I guess we'll never know.

From the start, it is evident that Ebony is different. Even she knows it, but she doesn't know why. Why can she run faster than everybody else? Why does she have violet eyes? Why does she have the ability to heal? These were questions that were answered fairly early on in the book so the reader isn't left guessing, something that I really liked about the novel.

Narrated by Ebony and Jordan, both of our protagonists, we got to see this book from a multiple perspective. I liked that because it meant that we got to see a larger part of the story rather than a tiny part if there were only one narrator.

I haven't read a lot of books featuring insta-love but this is one of the few that I will be adding to my insta-love shelf. I've now found that insta-love bugs me and I won't be reading another book with insta-love featured in it for a long time.

I loved the concept of this novel and, although I've read quite a few books with a similar plotline, this one

had many unique aspects.

I found the characterisation very poor and wanted to scream at Ebony and Jordan on numerous occasions. Jordan irritated me more and more as the book progressed. This was one of the reasons why I put the book down. Whenever I pick up a book I want to be able to relate to the characters and feel something towards them, whether it be sympathy or hate for an antagonist. I didn't, however, feel any of those things for either Ebony or Jordan.

I don't think I'll be reading anything else written by this author because I think I'm slightly too old to be reading this thing. It felt forced to me and I wasn't comfortable with reading it. I do understand, however, why it may appeal to other people.

This book was sent to me for review by the publisher via Netgalley

Zemira (Kylo Ren fangirl) Warner says

Jesus Christ! Please strike these characters from Heaven! Please, I beg of you.

I've never read a Marianne Curley book before but a lot of people seem to love Old Magic so I thought, what the hell, Hidden has a pretty cover and the blurb sounds decent even though most angel books turn into fails, at least for me they do. So... I. Read. IT!

I read it after dropping it two months ago. It was so painfully stupid. The characters! My God! The insta love is in warp speed. And it happens twice. Please, take your time so it sinks in. It happens twice! This girl feels this insane attraction and 'love' for two guys. She is such an immature brat. She disobeys her mother and gets into more trouble at every turn. Oh. I can just feel this headache thumping inside my head. It's pounding more and more. And the mother is not any better than her daughter. It's probably genetic. Just picture yourself being 15 or 16 and telling your friends how mean your mum is for not allowing you a lot of things. Picture her being stupid, because there is no way a mother can be smarter than her child. No way. Sounds familiar? There you go! I'm sure we've all done it once or twice. But we aren't smarter than our parents, at least not till our boobs stop growing.

Who wouldn't be pissed off if s/he had to deal with this type of ridiculous characters and storyline in general?

I wanted to like it. I even put it on my wishlist so I could order it. I'm glad I waited and wasn't blinded with the pretty cover.

Amy (Turn the Page) says

I've been waiting eight years for Marianne Curley to write another book. So I'm kind of gutted that when it

finally arrived, I meandered through to 40% before deciding to put it aside.

Marianne Curley was one of my favourite authors growing up. I love Old Magic and her Guardians of Time trilogy and have read them all several times, though not for many years now. I have to wonder if I'd still love them as much if I picked them up for the first time today. Would I have the same trouble with them as I did with *Hidden*?

Perhaps *Old Magic* also followed a trend at the time it was written — but at the time, it wasn't like any other book I had read. It was a perfect combination of my favourite things: magic, romance, the good guys fighting the bad guys and a strong historical feel.

Well, not much has changed — I'll still pick up any book that promises those things — but I'm also far more aware of what's out there now. I know what's popular and what's been done to death and I know what I'm personally bored of, or turned off by, in YA. I'm (slightly) better read. And *Hidden*, sadly, is just too generic for me to muster any interest in it. It feels lazy to me. I got practically half way through and nothing stood out. It feels like the same story that's been circulating the paranormal YA bookshelf for a couple of years now and I couldn't help but compare it to more powerful writers I've come across since I last picked up a Curley novel.

Perhaps it was unfair of me to even request to review *Hidden*. I had strong misgivings just after reading the synopsis. Frankly it sounded like a book I'd hate. But I so wanted to be surprised.

Instead I was bored. *Hidden* fails to invoke any sort of tension or intrigue. The character's were uninspiring, cliché and just plain forgettable. Ebony's only attributes are that she is clumsy and awkward and has unusual, striking eyes and an unnatural strength. Jordan falls for her at first sight. He has a mysterious, tragic backstory, one he's intent on punishing himself for for most of the book. With his typical bad boy image, Jordan is misjudged by the entire town, while Ebony is universally (we're told) loved by it.

The dialogue is awkward and jarring. Ebony is (apparently) extremely intelligent, but comes across instead as condescending, not to mention completely unrealistic. It's very difficult to take a sixteen-year-old protagonist seriously when she says things like:

'Today, my beautiful friend -' I lean forward to pat Shadow's elegant neck and whisper in his ear — 'you will have a chance to stretch your long Arabian legs and we will fly together as if you have wings.'

Or one who talks to her parents like this:

'Someone blackmailed you into silence! What happened to your brains? This man didn't want you to expose his crime so he could go on selling more stolen babies.' ...

'What about the non-belief system by which you raised me?' ...

'I promise you both it won't change our relationship, but you know me. You raised me to accept nothing less than facts substantiated by a second source.'

Jordan's dialogue, on the other hand, mostly consisted of:

'It's brilliant, man' ...

‘Just be straight with me dude, and we’ll get on fine.’...

‘Get out of here!’...

And,

‘No shit’.

There’s also some seriously clunky info-dumping, whereby two angels explain the entire back-story, and everything we need to know about their kind, to Jordan in one overly long conversation.

Hidden just isn’t for me. I expect it will go down well enough with the thirteen to sixteen year-old demographic this book is aimed at, and at the end of the day, there’s nothing wrong with that. I went through my stage of inhaling those kinds of books then too. I’ve just outgrown them.

I don’t think Hidden will reach the same popularity as other books in the genre have over the last few years. It’s too late, too tired, for that. But I wouldn’t be surprised if Hidden has it’s share of readers who enjoy it, just as I enjoyed Old Magic ten years ago.

Regardless, of how I feel about this one, Curley’s earlier books will continue to have a special place on my bookshelf. Hidden however, won’t be joining them.

Many thanks to Bloomsbury and NetGalley for making Hidden available for review

Zuzana Mariana says

I want to start by saying that I am a fan of Marianne's books. Or perhaps more of the concepts that she presents in them. The way she does it isn't always the best.

This book is better than I remember it to be, though. The first half is actually really good and sometimes even funny - it did manage to get a few laughs out of me. The plot itself is good, too, mirroring Lucifer's fall and giving us what might come after it. *Hidden* does have one big problem though - its characters. We have two POV characters and that is Marianne's standard formating which I usually enjoy. One of them is really well written, funny, believable and relatable - the other one is the main character. Don't get me wrong, Ebony isn't a bad character from the start, at worst she's a bit bland and is establlished as this "I'm not that special *but* there's something about me" character - but almost every YA heroine is build this way so I guess it's ok. She's trying to find herself and her body is changing in significant ways which is actually a great theme for young people. But all that is thrown out of the window as soon as she has a chance to get some answers. Nathanael is an enjoyable character too - in the first half of the book. His relationship with Jordan is probably the most significant relationship in the book altogether and it's nice seeing them grow fond of each other. But it all comes down to the moment when Ebony a Nathanael meet. I know they're meant to be, Marianne worked with this concept of soulmates before, but this time it just doesn't do it for me. It doesn't work. There is zero chemistry between them, Ebony doesn't trust him, she closes off and as I mentioned she doesn't want the answers, not really anyway - and the fact that his eyes are really pretty can't save that. But when they spend five minutes all alone, she loves him. And it's cringy. And while I always enjoyed Jordan's POV more, at this point I wished I didn't have to go through Ebony's chapters. Fortunately the antagonist is around the corner and we get some action and Ebony is presented with a tough choice. That isn't that tough really, I would go with Luca without hesitating. But I mean... the sound of your loved one's voice (whom you

love for like an hour by now) is worth sacrificing the chance to see your parents and having peace on Earth for one thousand years.

The last chapter is intriguing enough to leave us waiting for the next book though and *Hidden* itself leaves many questions to be answered too, which is great. But it's very easy to outgrow this book. It's a YA novel that takes a bit of that adult part out of it (although it gives us mentions of sex and some swearing and neither of these things were so distinct in Marianne's others books) which is not a bad thing. I'm sure it resonates with its target audience much better than with me, much better with the young than the adult - and I don't think I will come back to this book again.

Suzanne says

While I've been feeling quite fed up with angel books lately, when I was offered this one for review, my interest was piqued. It's a different take on angel lore. There's no God or Devil, or Heaven or hell. But a King of Angels and a Dark Prince who reside in different realms. The concept of how the Dark Prince came to be is pretty similar, with the Dark Prince creating an army and waging war against The Angel King. There's a realm where the angels reside, a realm where mortal souls go after they die and The Dark Prince's realm. But the treaty that ended the war, allows the Dark Prince to wander the earth and collect souls.

Ebony knows she's different. She's faster, stronger and has better senses than any of her friends. She's never sick and when she gets hurt, she heals really quickly. She's had an extremely sheltered upbringing, even having never left the valley where she was born. At age 16, she's really had enough of this, which causes a lot of arguments between herself and her mother. One night, after she's sneaked out to a club, events occur which cause her to confront her parents once and for all when she gets home to find them waiting for her.

I found this book to be well written with really enjoyable characters. It's written from the POV of Ebony and Jordan, and I instantly liked them both. They are both really different people, with very different upbringings but they are brought together by events that are unbelievable to both of them.

Thane and the angels were great secondary characters. While we spend very little time with some of them, I still found it easy to like and build interest in them. There isn't much romantic interlude here, but what little there is, I did enjoy. And there's an action packed battle that had my heart pounding in my chest.

In my opinion, *Hidden* was a fast paced page turner that I didn't want to put down.
