



Archangel's Kiss

Nalini Singh

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New York Times bestselling author Nalini Singh returns to her world of angelic rulers, vampiric servants, and the woman thrust into their darkly seductive world...

Vampire hunter Elena Devereaux wakes from a year-long coma to find herself changed—an angel with wings the colors of midnight and dawn—but her fragile body needs time to heal before she can take flight. Her lover, the stunningly dangerous archangel, Raphael, is used to being in control—especially when it comes to the woman he considers his own. But Elena has never done well with authority.

They've barely begun to understand each other when Raphael receives an invitation to a ball from the archangel, Lijuan. To refuse would be a sign of fatal weakness, so Raphael must ready Elena for the flight to Beijing—and to the nightmare that awaits them there. Ancient and without conscience, Lijuan holds a power that lies with the dead. And she has organized the most perfect and most vicious of welcomes for Elena.

Archangel's Kiss Details

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From Reader Review Archangel's Kiss for online ebook

Kate's Corner says

First time round I gave it 4 Stars now it is worth 5 Stars.

5 "We die..... We die together. That's the deal." Stars.

This book picks up shortly after the battle between Raphael and Uram. Where nearly both died but where Raphael used a loophole making Elena the first made angel in history. An angel with a mortal heart.

Elena spent the last year in a coma and has to adjust to her new life. A life where her friends and family will die as she is no longer mortal. Elena is at the Refuge to get used to her wings and gets the 101 on how to be an angel/hunter. But even in the sanctuary of the angels brings trouble and trouble is attracted to Elena and in this book, it is no different. My favorite character of the book was the Sam the "baby angel" But also Bluebell as fantastic character. Such a joy to read his mischief side.

I didn't expect the book to take place in the Refuge so much. But the story is well written. Ms. Singh knows how to write a story filled with suspense, action, steamy scenes and a battle of wills. That the angels/archangels do a lot for amusement and entertainment. There is always a price to pay.

We see how Raphael and Elena's relationship develops and how the connection that they have develops even more. Which I loved now even more. Reading it for the second time I was still thoroughly sucked into the story when I read it the first time.

Raphael and Elena have been invited to China by the archangel Lijuan to celebrate Elena's making. A ball is being held in her honor. Lijuan is evolving and she is becoming other. Which means nothing but problems for the Cadre. I personally think that she is going bat shit crazy.

Things that annoyed me where:

-Everyone still was tempted to kill Elena. This time it was fun to read.

-Everyone was saying having a mortal heart is a bad thing. Didn't bother me at all.

-Raphael is becoming too mortal. He's changing and that is what makes him even more appealing.

There were some things that I found to be repetitive. One of them being that of Elena's past. Yes, that still bothers me although this time I get it more and see how it connects to her present.

Felicia says

I'm kind of totally over the alpha-animal-male-hero and tough-chicks-who-wear-thigh-high-leather-boots kind of literature, so it's a testament to this author that I really loved this book. I mean, there's a bunch of hot

angels and vampires running around, this should be silly, right? But I loved the first book in this series and the second one was equally enjoyable. Even though this is definitely a romance book, and has a lot of genre tropes, I just always enjoy reading Nalini Singh. She's at the top of my guilty pleasures list. Her books satisfy my hunger for trashy romance and paranormal knife-wielding heroines. I can see her setting up other dudes in the series to find lovers in future spin-offs. And yes, I will be reading :)

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

More violence, more archangels, more intrigue, more sex, and new creatures to kill. Yay.

I think I liked this book better because Elena is more confident in herself and her relationship with Raphael. Sure, she's not sure what kind of relationship they have exactly, but just being in a relationship with Raphael seems to bolster her. She finally has someone not a friend who wants her and is there for her. Ever since the tragedy happened with her family, it seems like she's been adrift and has only a few friend she can truly count on. Having an endlessly powerful archangel that has your back can definitely empower a person. I really liked seeing her have a helpmate.

Raphael in the same vein, seems to enjoy being a helpmate and caring for someone. These archangels have so much power and are so old, plus living in violence, that a true relationship is a treasured rarity. I like that Raphael is all in on this and has become less austere. He's still hoity-toity, he is an archangel after all, but now he has more visible facets to his personality and emotes, and smolders. Rawr. Don't worry, he's still violent and all those other fun things he was in book 1.

New angels to meet! Lots of new angels and vampires in this book. The setting and plot take place in angel/vamp only territories and that brings its own set of problems. Elena is learning how to live in Raphael's works now and play the games of angel politics. She hates angel politics by the way, but she does enjoy still being able to use her Hunter skills and be a badass.

Something that annoyed me in this book is the constant flashes of memory or PTSD that Elena has. It seems almost daily that something triggers a flashback to the terror that happened in her childhood. Gradually there are bigger glimpses, but it's never fully sussed out and that annoyed me. I hate repetition.

I <3 Illium, that silly blue angel. He's one of my favorite characters.

Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says

Second re-read: 09.09.16

I still like it. It's not as good as the first book, not even close, but still... It's good. Good enough that I know that I'll do another re-read in the future... :P

Re-read: 22.04.15

Choko says

*** 4 ***

A buddy read with the Wednesday UF Support Group at BB&B!!!

What ever happened to the fluffy, cuddly, benevolent Angels we all grew up believing in? You know, the ones whose pictures your spiritual aunt has all over her house, the ones that come out when a loved one goes away and we need the comfort their image gives us??? The ones that are supposed to be the messengers and enforcers of G-D's will??? I most certainly did not find them in this series of The Guild Hunter, written by the very imaginative and creative Nalini Singh.

The angels we get here are ancient, immortal, if not indestructible, have the required wings, can fly, and are eons older and stronger than any other creature on Earth, thus giving them the top spot of the food chain. So they rule all with an iron fist, sword, angel-fire, or just pure power, which emanates from the strongest of them - the Archangels of the Cadre of 10. Those 10 have split the Earth into arias of influence, and Raphael is the one ruling over the Americas.

We got acquainted with Raphael in last book, when he hired our hunter Elena to catch a maddened Archangel, who had devolved into insanity and blood lust. Raphael is a perfect specimen of manhood and Archangelic power. He is as far from human as it could get, although he has not yet crossed into the Ascension territory his Cadre companion, Lijuan, the queen and demigoddess of China... This woman IS the furthest away from a human or a living creature you can possibly get. She is becoming a pure representation of power and energy... - a very scary creature, merciless and incapable of anything close to a human emotion.... She is old beyond remembrance and only rumors of her childhood are spoken as myths among angel kind...

"... " ... "Do you ever worry?"

"Yes. Cruelty seems to be a symptom of age and power." He thought of Lijuan, raising the dead, playing with them as a child would with toys. "I look into my heart and see the abyss looking back at me."

"I won't let you fall." A fierce promise.

He held her close, his immortal with a mortal heart...."

This is the playground Elena awakes in after a year of recovery from near death, and finds herself a made angel and the talk of the world... See, there has not been an angel made, created by another angel, in the memory of those living. So she is the new curiosity, and in keeping with the angelic inhumanity, most of the powerful ones want to break her and enjoy the fall-out from her destruction - did I mention, those ancient creatures have very little that amuses them anymore - live couple of thousand years and I guess you would have problems staying entertained as well. After all, there are only so many times an angel can watch "I love Lucy" reruns before getting vexed from boredom ...

For some reason, Raphael finds himself in love with Elena and decides he wants her and he will keep her. Only she has something to say about that - he can not keep just making decisions for her, or fancy himself her Master and Owner... It has to be a willing give and take, and this is a very difficult task for the Angel, who is used to not work for anything, but just claim... Interesting situations ensue...

"... " ... "I'll give you my hunger, my heart," she said, fighting to retain her independence, and more—to build a foundation for their relationship that would last an eternity. "But my mind is my own. Accept that."

"Or?" The cool question of a being used to getting exactly what he wanted.

"I guess you'll have to wait and see."..."

So, on top of learning how to be an Angel, how to deal with her wings, how to fly (apparently this is hard

work!), and how to be in a relationship with a powerful Archangel, there is a string of terror and murders going around, as well as attempts on her life, and disturbing nightmares plaguing her daily and nightly hours.... And her Archangel can only keep her safe so far...

This is a very intense book and I would definitely recommend it to all UF and PNR fans! Some violence and sex, so maybe not for the very young... PG at least... I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book with my fellows at BB&B and I am forever grateful for finding them and calling this group a home!

I wish all of you Happy Reading and may you never lose your humanity!!!

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Ms. Singh has created an incredible, yet dark world here with the Guild Hunters. There is a mix of the sublimely beautiful and awe-inspiring and the deeply chilling and sometimes revolting. Although I prefer the traditional biblical angelic storylines, she has taken most of what I find alluring about angels and paired it with a storyline that features a race of angels who are sensual, primal, dark, and dangerous.

Archangel's Kiss is definitely urban fantasy romance on the dark edge. Singh doesn't shy away from showing the savage acts of cruelty (even more disturbing by the casual manner in which they are committed) by these angels. I have to give it to her for that, because they are definitely not human by any stretch, and sometimes you read these PNR/UF books with paranormal creatures who are only paranormal on the surface, but all too human underneath. Not the case here, and anytime you think different, their ageless view of life, and the fact that those endless eons, and their unfathomable power gives them a view of right and wrong that feels decidedly amoral from a human viewpoint. Once again, I am put in the shoes of Elena, this time as a fledgling angel who is in over her head, when she used to be considered a very powerful human at one time. That is another level of authenticity of the world-building that captivated me. Singh is a master at painting the scenery with a careful choice of words that plants me right into a vivid, high definition landscape. I feel as though I am watching an awesome fantasy movie on the big screen with visions of incredible beauty paired with moments of chilling violence, and books that are written to stimulate my imagination to this degree always impress me.

Elena's character has a fortitude and a determination that makes for a satisfying heroine. Raphael is the combination of my favorite hero traits--possessive, dangerous, ruthless, and devoted--added to an allure of the otherworldly, unfathomably powerful that takes him over the top in the best ways. And yes, with wings, hard to resist. I can't do it, in fact. Throwing in the fact that he is the epitome of masculine beauty, he is the hero of my darkest dreams. Together, they are magic.

And yet, I found that I didn't get quite as enthralled with their romance as I was in the first book. I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Perhaps there was too much going on, with the storyline about who was mutilating and harming angels and vampires, the threat of the archangel Lijuan, who has become frighteningly far from natural in her angelic evolution, and Elena's unresolved issues of her past. Don't get me wrong. I did enjoy the romance. How could I not. Just not to the degree that I expected, based on the first book. I found that the angelic world-building and the fascinating and intriguing cast of characters almost overshadowed that for me. I felt as though I hadn't attained much more in their relationship progression from the first book. Yes, I do know that Raphael loves Elena, and that he is violently possessive over her. That she gives him a human

capacity for feeling he thought lost. That he'd give her the world. And I know that Elena loves Raphael more than she feels is safe, and that she worries about losing herself. I suppose I can see that she has made progress in the trust front, so that is good. And yet...I don't know, I guess I want more. Good news, there is another book with their story, so I have a feeling I will get what I want in Archangel's Consort.

Perhaps this would have been a five star book if I hadn't been so blown away by Angels' Blood. It makes me feel guilty not to give it five stars, but something in me can't be satisfied enough to give it that highest rating. However, it's definitely **4.5 stars**. I can't give it any less. I'm enthralled by this world, and that's a very good sign. Nothing less than I would expect from a wordsmith like Nalini Singh.

My casting choices:

David Gandy as Raphael

Emilia Clarke as Elena Devereaux

[image error]

Catherine says

Ever since I read the previous novel, Angels' Blood, I have been waiting impatiently for this book to come out. I was nervous about reading it though. Sometimes I'll love the first book in a series and then feel disappointed in the following books. That is definitely not the case here. It was definitely worth the wait.

In this book we get to see the vulnerability of Elena in relation to all the other angels in her new world. She's used to being the strongest person and now has to deal with being the weakest. I liked that though she tried to stand on her own she didn't fall into stupidity and refuse to listen to Raphael about her limitations as a new angel.

I loved watching Elena's interactions with the Seven and all the new angels she encounters in the refuge. I'm very interested in seeing more developments with the members of the Seven. I also liked how the author avoided making Michaela into a cardboard cutout villain. She's not wholly bad although she's not wholly good. She has vulnerabilities and weaknesses that throw her into an area of gray that Elena wishes she didn't have to see. It's much easier to hate someone when you don't feel bad for them.

The author did a good job of showing Elena emotionally vulnerable but still strong. It was her choice to allow herself to lean on Raphael and he recognizes and treasures it. I loved how he's learning that though he is powerful he can't force Elena to open to him. Trust is a fragile thing and he realizes that he has to toe the line or he'll break her. I liked watching him try to reconcile his own personality with the care the new relationship needs.

Speaking of breaking Elena, this book did a really good job with sexual tension. Because Elena is still so weak from the transition Raphael won't make love to her because he's afraid he'll break her. The tension was great and the payoff worth it. I also really loved the vulnerability we saw when Raphael couldn't leave Elena in silence. After her year in a coma and his inability to reach her mind he has some definite anxiety there. It was sweet to see.

I can't wait to see what will come with the next book. I'm so glad I found this series

Eon ?Windrunner? says

Hark! If 't be true thee has't not yet readeth the first 'r second booketh in this s'ries then begone from h're fr' spoileth'rs abound.

Elena wakes up from a coma and is thrust into a role she is unprepared for, that of being an angel. As if being involved with the archangel of NY does not come with enough problems, she has to now cope with being part of an entirely different race. Being an angel also comes with a sharp learning curve. Learning to fly. Fighting with wings. Angel history. Social Norms. Being born an angel means that they are taught these things from a very young age, however as Elena is a Made angel as opposed to a born one, she has much less time to master these basic skills. Unfortunately for her, she is on a bit of a countdown timer.

Firstly, someone is murdering vampires and angels and leaving death threats aimed at Elena with the bodies. Or at least, what is left of the bodies. Elena will have to help catch this killer before he catches up with her. She still has her "hunter born" skills, but for all other purposes she is a new born babe in the angel world and needs to navigate the shark infested waters with care to avoid becoming a victim.

Secondly, Lijuan, the eldest living archangel has taken an interest in her and that is a very bad thing. Lijuan... has decided to go over to the dark side, for lack of better expression coming to mind. After thousands of years of living Lijuan has become so far removed from everyone and everything else that she is not of this world anymore and I would venture to say, almost alien in her existence. The mild case of Thanatophilia she is suffering from does not help and could be devastating combined with her new power. (Some background on archangels - they seem to develop intrinsic powers as they age with the older angels being the most powerful.) Lijuan is so far beyond anyone else in the power stakes that there is no-one powerful enough to stop her from doing what she wants, even if it breaks all the rules that the angels govern themselves by. To her Elena is but a toy, easily replaced on a whim. Lijuan is not to be ignored though, as she is part of the cadre of ten and one of the most respected angels in existence. If not **the** most respected.

So, survival is the name of the game.

There is also of course quite a bit of romance. It is not secondary to the plot though, as a large part of the story concerns the still developing relationship between Raphael & Elena and how she fits into this new world and the hierarchy. Whilst it was one of my slight complaints in the first book that I wanted more story and less romance (No, I am a romantic at heart so I DO enjoy romance), that was only due to the worldbuilding that was fascinating yet very jealously guarded by the author and doled out in minuscule quantities. This book however reveals quite a bit more, so even though the romance is more prevalent, the balance was good and my fantasy monster was fed in due time and sufficiently.

Overall a worthy second installment in this series. I had a good time with the first book, but I enjoyed this

one more due to the expanded worldbuilding and fantasy elements.

Do?a says

Finallerime ay?rmam gereken zaman? bu kitaba ay?rd?m.Pi?man m?y?m? Asla :)

Jonetta says

The story begins with Elena awakening from her coma after a year, learning she's now an angel, mated to Raphael. As she works to regain her strength, Elena must also adjust to her new circumstances, including her new body form, relationship with Raphael and a host of new enemies. And, Elena's memories of her family's devastation resurface throughout the story, sometimes at the most inopportune moments.

I loved the story's honesty. Yes, Elena and Raphael bring the heat but when things cool down, they've got to figure out the routine of being a couple while learning to trust one another. His über alpha nature and her innate independence create friction as they jockey for position. It's not always happily ever after.

We also learn so much more about angel "law" and the politics of the Archangels. There's lots of intrigue and excitement as the "heartless" angels recognize an opportunity, which is to take advantage of Elena's weakened condition. She's Raphael's Achille's heel for the moment and they're lining up.

The narration worked for me as Justine Eyre has a sultry tone that befits both Raphael and Elena. Her character distinctions were wonderful.

This was an exciting and interesting story and I'm now even more committed to continuing the series.

katwiththehat says

This was a great continuation of Nalini Singh's guild hunter series. Elena awakes after a year-long coma having been transformed into an archangel by Rafael in order to save her life. But now she must learn to live and fight in her new body--and fly, which is something of a disaster--all while the danger of LiTuan looms, an ancient archangel who has been raising the dead and wants Elena to die.

I loved the continued romance between Rafael and Elena, and it was also great to see more development with the secondary characters. Nalini Singh has created a brilliant world of archangels and vampires, and every scene is richly drawn.

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

Loved this one, especially Raphael <3 he gets better with each book :)

Some of my favorite quotes:

““Do you think you have the right to give me orders now?”

The Archangel of New York, a creature so lethal that part of her feared him even now, lifted the hair off her nape, brushed his lips across her skin. “Of course. You are mine.” No hint of humor, nothing but stark possession.”

““I won’t watch you die again, Elena.” The Cadre had chosen her because she was the best, relentless in her pursuit of her prey. But then, she’d been disposable. Now, she was integral to his existence.”

“The old ones saw Elena as exactly that—Raphael’s creation, his possession. They didn’t understand that she held his heart, held it so utterly that there was nothing he wouldn’t do, no line he wouldn’t cross to keep her safe.”

“Because in all his centuries of existence, he’d never before taken a lover he considered his on every level. He’d kill for her, destroy for her, savage anyone who dared attempt to take her from him.”

““Teasing, Archangel?”

Teeth grazed over her lips. “Know this Elena—you’ll never wear another man’s knife.”

She blinked. “He wanted to give me a blade? What’s wrong with that?”

“Blades,” he whispered, “and sheaths go together. And your sheath will only ever hold my blade.””

Raphael <3 <3 <3 <3

Katie(babs) says

In the mood for a dark, intense and smoldering sexy read that may have you gasping for breath? Nalini Singh delivers this in ways you can't imagine with Archangel's Kiss, the second book in her Guild Hunter Novel series. The first book, Angels Blood introduced vampire hunter Elena Devereaux, who lives in an alternate New York City universe where angels rule and are things of wonder to bow down to and be very afraid of. Elena was ordered to hunt down a supernatural serial killer than ended up being an archangel. The seductive and dangerous archangel that rules New York City, Raphael, is thousands of years old and has decided that Elena will be his new sexual pet. They engage in a battle of wits and an almost disturbing sexual dance as she hunted for this killer while Raphael hunted her at the same time.

Angels Blood ended with Elena and Raphael killing the serial killer. Elena died from the outcome, but Raphael was able to save her. Now Elena is the first human in a millennia to be changed into an angel. Archangel's Kiss begins after a year, where Elena was in a coma, has now awakened and is recovering, hidden away for her safety at the Refuge, where angels are all around her. Human are unaware of this place and only the angel's vampire servants are welcomed. Elena, being hunter born is now an anomaly. She is very much like a new born, who's learning to walk, or rather learning to fly. Raphael is there to help her, but their relationship, which is very new and scary, could go either way. Elena has come to love Raphael, the superior archangel who owns her heart, but Raphael is so used to taking what he wants and to treat Elena as his equal and not as a pet or a possession makes things very unstable between the two. Plus, there's a possibility that Raphael could still kill her.

Raphael is close to amoral as you can get and has lived many centuries as both a ruler and treated like a god. He longs to engage in mind numbing sex with his new angel mate, but because she's still weak and his wild and brutal appetite could break her while they are intimate, he holds back. Raphael is quite the giver to the point where Elena may break any way because she's so frustrated because of the way his foreplay (Raphael uses his fingers and mouth to give Elena satisfaction). Raphael has an elite group of warriors, called his Seven, which is a tight-knit group of vampires and angels who protect Raphael against any threats and danger. And now their most important responsibility is to protect Elena from being killed by Raphael's fellow archangels, including Michaela, a very deranged and unstable archangel who despises Elena with a passion.

As Elena goes through angel physical therapy, she keeps having nightmares about her mother's and sisters'

brutal murders, as well as trying to understand why her father has turned his back on her. Also, one of the oldest archangel's still living on Earth, Zhou Lijuan, has invited Elena to the Forbidden City. This invitation is a trap because Lijuan is creating a new race of undead, an army, where she can truly be a god in every sense of the word. Then angels and vampires are being brutally murdered, even angel children. And because of Elena's special tracking powers, she'll try to find this killer who may be in league with Lijuan. Elena must watch over her shoulder because she's an easy target. And because Raphael's feelings for Elena sometimes confuse him, he may lash out and become something he doesn't want to be. As long as Elena can love and accept him for who he is, they can be together for all eternity.

Archangel's Kiss is an amazing, well written, awesome world building book that I couldn't put down. You can see how far Nalini has come with her writing and character building. She excels in writing such interesting characters, from Raphael who's an amoral hero who walks a fine line into villainy, to Elena who puts all other urban fantasy/paranormal heroines to shame. The secondary characters of, Illium, a happy go lucky loving angel, is one that needs his own story. Even the near psycho Michaela with her questionable actions keeps the reader on their toes.

There is so much going on with these pages. Intense is the perfect word when describing Archangel's Kiss. The sensuality between Raphael and Elena is explosive and Nalini explains things she didn't in Angels Blood. I really can't find any faults except for the fact that the religious aspect is glazed over in regards to these angels. It may not be a big deal, but I would be interested in knowing more about these angel's background, as in if there is a higher power ruling over these creatures and a Heaven and Hell, or they're just a special society that always has been around.

I would recommend you read Angels Blood first before Archangel's Kiss. It introduces the world and characters why they act the way they do. Sometimes, I question how a supernatural couple can sustain their love in a believable way for hundreds or thousands of years? Nalini has given us proof that this is possible with Elena and Raphael. I'm already anxious to read their next installment.

Robin (Bridge Four) says

“The longer you live, the more mistakes you make. And the more sorrows you carry.

Nalini Singh (NS) has given us an unusual world with Angels, Vampires and maybe some new big bad coming our way. It is interesting and unusual. Most of this story I like Elena has her new life as an Angel and the Consort to an Archangel but there is so much to learn. One does not simple get wings and learn to fly in a day.

What I Enjoyed:

Elena is a little more timid that she was in the last book but I appreciate that she has to grow into this new role. Just because she is changed into an Angel it doesn't mean that she knows how to be an angel and just walking around with Wings is harder than one would think. Plus just because you have those wings doesn't mean that you automatically get the muscles that make them work. A lot of this book is Elena learning how to deal with a very aggressive Raphael and how to be an Angel If that means going to school with the other young angels so be it.

Illium was also a character I really enjoyed. He is freaking adorable and might even have a little crush on Elena. But do not worry it isn't in a love triangle kind of way. It is simply that he will take care of her if Raphael is unable to accomplish the dead. However Elena is learning that there are some certain etiquettes that shouldn't be overstepped if you are an angel.

“He wanted to give me a blade? What's wrong with that?”

“Blades,” he whispered, “and sheaths go together. And your sheath will only ever hold my blade.”

I also liked the plot line for this book and how someone is trying to mess with Elena. They are working really hard in the background to create dissention between different Archangels and trying to break apart long standing peace. If Elena doesn't find the culprit fast it looks like more and more people will be hurt or killed.

I like the building relationship between Raphael and Elena. It is a growing thing and doesn't happen all at once. But even though they are so far apart in age each has had an experience in their childhoods that shaped them and maybe is one reason that they found something within the other.

“Fathers and mothers,” she found herself saying, “leave their mark, no matter if we've known them a lifetime or only a day.”

What Annoyed Me:

It isn't much but there are some issues. There is a lot of repetition of the '*Come here little hunter...Taste*'. Which is finally revealed but it takes multiple flashbacks to get there and that line runs through the story A LOT.

Also a ton of characters are introduced. Yes I get that they will be important later and some even get their own stories but man did I really need to meet them all in this book. I can't even count the number of characters that were introduced with just a sentence or two to let you know that they have some deep seated past haunting them and I'm sure eventually will get a story of their own. It would have worked better if just one or two were focused on a little more so I could care about them. As is it is all a blur.

And the last nitpicky thing I have is how many times Elena mentioned any of her girl parts tingling or something like that. Even when they weren't getting hot and heavy her parts were wet, tingling, heating up etc....etc... I could have done with less of that too.

Still overall the world, characters and story are interesting enough that even though I liked the first one a little more I see good things for this series.

Angela says

September 2016 Re-read - Buddy read with Maru, Aly, and Sarah: I'm always caught up in the story that's unfolding in Nalini Singh's books - and that hasn't changed here. Though I am getting a little less ... accepting of all the sexy times going on. I don't know, it's just not my thing. I skim and skim and skim those sections. And I can't blame Elena for being attracted to Raphael, but I want more story and less obsessing

over him. I'm not complaining, really I'm not. I love these books, a lot. I just had to point it out because it's something that's changed in my personal reading tastes.

I do love how their relationship progresses. I like that it's not easy and that they're learning how to be together, how to be a couple. I also love the storyline.

And I'm really glad that we get back to New York, and Elena's circle of friends, in the next book.

Original review: I think I start every single review I do for Nalini Singh's books exclaiming how much she manages to impress me, how great it is, and how much I love it.

This one is no different. Archangel's Kiss proves, once again, that Nalini Singh is a master at writing. She deftly weaves multiple storylines together, builds interest in supporting characters, and gives yet more depth to Raphael and Elena.

Archangel's Kiss picks up a little over a year after Angels' Blood (the first full-length novel in the Guild Hunters series). Elena's spent that time in a healing coma, and has just woken as a newly Made angel. One who doesn't know how to be an angel, and has to learn everything - even those things she once knew, like how to fight.

And she must learn quickly. The other angels, and archangels, have taken an interest in her. She's like a shiny new toy. One that someone is anxious to see how quickly they can break, hoping to take their place with the Cadre by that show of power. Refuge, a safe place for the angels, is suddenly no longer safe as attacks begin to happen, one after the other. Circling the threat closer and closer to Elena.

Then there's Lijuan. The eldest of the archangels has taken a deadly interest in Elena, and is throwing a ball in her honor at the Forbidden City in Beijing. While rumors of her making the dead walk as living flourish, there's danger in accepting, but even more in refusing. Because this is not a social gathering to congratulate Elena, it's all about power. Testing Elena's and Raphael's, and Lijuan showing hers. Making it an invitation that can't be refused.

Archangel's Kiss held me in a sort of thrall from the first word, to the last. We see Elena training with Raphael's Seven to get her up to speed, and work closer towards that first flight. The details in every page painted a clear picture of how the angels live. From their shirts, to their houses, to the beauty of flight. The action and mystery of the plot sped the story along, compelling me to not put my Kindle down until I hit the last sentence. There were many light moments to offset the growing darkness that surrounded and threatened them, including fields blooming in winter, a class with angel-children, and playful teasing with Illium. And, of course, there was the not-so-light heat and chemistry between Elena and Raphael. The sexual tension that builds between them is mind-blowing.

Nalini deftly delves into the relationship of Elena and Raphael, showing the gradual growth and trust build between them beautifully and realistically. Their respective histories begin to unfold for us, and them. There are the horrors that hide in Elena's mind, even from her, and Raphael's past complete with the secret of his parents. Both of them were in unfamiliar territory, but they worked through it. With each other. And for each other. I can't think of anything more romantic than that.

Raphael said that Elena would intrigue him through eternity. I think it's safe to say that this series will intrigue me for just as long. I'm fascinated with the world, and the characters that populate it. I feel as though

I've been given the gift of seeing the world Nalini's created, and it's left me breathless for the next installment.

MelaDWolf says

I'm in love with this book :)) Review to come

Maya says

Third re-read: Jan 6th 2017

First read: Dec 29th 2013

I still love this book and the whole series. I don't know how Nalini Singh does it but she always sucks me into this amazing world, where angels fight for a life of (mostly) peace and amazing adventures. I love Raphael and Elena, they are one of my all time fav characters and couples. They simply know how to capture my attention with how the balance out their relationship and how they work together as a team. Also the secondary characters are to die for. Especially Bluebell, Sarah and even Dimitri. I'm such a huge fan of this author and the worlds she creates. This sequel picks up right where the first book ended. The plot and twists are perfect, the action, romance, depth and so much more, just awesome!

I didn't want to read this second story because I simply don't have enough time for other books that I need to read, but dang, it's just really such a good story that I cannot stop reading it. And you know how it is, you say that you will then finish this second book but the reality is that I'm already reading the third book and it's driving me insane, I'm so weak when it comes to this series. *sigh*

But that only means it's awesome! And every PNR fan should read it!

Sarah says

1st Read - May 2011

2nd Read - March 2013

3rd Read - September 2016

Original Review

When Elena wakes up after a year long coma she is like a different person, her new abilities will only make her stronger in the long run but for now she is even more vulnerable than she was before. Raphael has taken her to the Refuge so she can continue her recovery but his enemies see her as his weak point and seek to destroy her. When mysterious murders start to occur it is Elena who has the ability to track down the killer but can Raphael keep her safe?

I loved the first book in this series (Angel's Blood) and was glad I already had a copy of Archangel's Kiss so I could continue Elena & Raphael's journey immediately. I had high expectations for this book and Nalini

Singh didn't disappoint me, if the rest of her books are as good as these 2 then she will be added to my list of must buy authors. This series continues to straddle the lines between paranormal romance and urban fantasy, the beginning of Archangel's Kiss was definitely more focused on the romance and then the action kicked into gear for the second half and left me breathless with anticipation. If you're a fan of either genre then I'm sure the series will have enough to keep you happy, my only recommendation would be to make sure you read the books in order but you should definitely read them!

I love reading about Elena and Raphael and their relationship develops really nicely throughout the book. Raphael can come across as possessive and jealous but Elena also brings out his more caring and sensitive side and he is starting to learn that he can't force Elena into things, she has to choose to do them. Elena isn't used to having anyone to rely on, we saw in the first book how her father had rejected her after the deaths of her mother and sisters so know that she has had to stand on her own two feet. Although she is physically weaker than those around her she still shows great strength of character and refuses to show her fear. I was glad to find out more about her past and the events that lead her to become a Guild Hunter and I loved seeing her slowly learn to trust Raphael and start to open up to him.

The world Nalini Singh has created is rich in detail and easy to picture, although her angels are hardly the benevolent creatures they are usually portrayed as they are fascinating to read about and we learn a lot more about their hierarchy in this book. Archangel's Kiss is a romantic, fast paced read that will have you hooked from the first page and leave you desperate for the next instalment. A highly recommended series but make sure you start with Angel's Blood!

2nd Read

I've really enjoyed my re-read of the first 2 Guild Hunter books. I never got past this point last time so I'm excited to read the rest of the series :o)

3rd Read

Rereading the entire Guild Hunter series with Aly, Ange & Maru so that we're ready for the release of Archangel's Heart in November.

I can't believe how much I'd forgotten about the earlier books and I'm appreciating the foreshadowing so much more this time around. Nalini is another author whose books just get better and better every time you read them.

Navessa says

Okay. Before everyone freaks out, lemme expl-

Hey! Be nice!

Just LISTEN for a second! Look, I'm not happy about this rating either okay?

OKAY???

I wanted to *love* this book. I really did. Hell, after reading the first one in the series I even *expected* to *love* this book. Obviously I didn't get my way. What the hell happened? Where the hell did Elena go?

WHODAFUQ is this TSTL Mary Sue body snatcher that's taken over her?

And WHEREDAFUQ did the intriguing plotline go?

And WHYDAFUQ is Raphael so disgustingly masochistic and self-sacrificing?

This is this book in a nutshell:

Unnecessary sexual Tension

Purple prose involving the words fur, diamond, sea, sapphire or luscious.

“*Drip.*

Drip.

Drip.”

Hint at a potential plot line

Cat fight

Detailed description of a hawt dude

Elena acting TSTL

Ancient angel secrets

Daddy issues

Hypocrisy

Cheesy conversation between male and female lead

REPEAT TWENTY FUCKING TIMES UNTIL IT TURNS INTO THIS:

More unnecessary and obviously calculated sexual tension to keep readers from losing interest.

Purple prose involving the words fur, diamond, sea, sapph-SONOFABITCH, I GET IT! You smelled someone but would rather be infuriatingly repetitive instead of saying: “I smelled Raphael coming.”

“*Drip.*

Drip.

Dri-” SONOFABITCH, I GET IT. You have PTSD and clearly need to seek counseling.

PLOT LINE? WHAT PLOT LINE???

Is that another female? DIIIIIIIEEEEEE!!!

AAAAARRRRRGGGGGHHHHHH

So.....I'm not sure if it was my mindset, my high expectations or actually the book itself but right now I'm willing to chalk this up as second-book-blues and try to continue the series. Please oh please let it get better.

Jilly says

I guess I'm a sucker for amusing banter. Especially when I love both characters and the world that these books are set in.

"The only way to learn to fly, is to fly." He pushed her off the edge of the cliff.

...

"That's your idea of teaching? I could've been splattered from here to Manhattan!"

"You were never in any danger." His eyes gleamed with laughter. "That's how young angels learn to fly..."

"You push babies out into thin air?"

"How do you think birds learn to fly?"

"Okay, push me again."

Raphael, is that you?

If this book doesn't make you want wings and to fly, you must have some serious phobia going on because the descriptions of flying, and how Elena feels about it, are just captivating. Every angel's wings are described beautifully and in detail. There are so many scenes involving their flight and they are just gorgeously written. I have total wing-envy at this point.

This would be my luck!

Basically, I found myself smiling as I read most of this book. The relationship between Raphael and Elena was really endearing. He is not human, and doesn't "human" very well, but he fell for one and is learning how to make her happy. But, I like that even though he is adjusting to her, he is not changing so much that he becomes weak. I hate when you have a great alpha male character who suddenly becomes a big ol' wuss when he meets the "right girl".

He'd fed ambrosia into her mouth, changed her from mortal to immortal, given her wings - wings! - all because of love. For her, a hunter, a mortal...no longer mortal.

...

"What do I call you? Husband? Mate? Boyfriend?"

he shot her an inscrutable look. "You can call me Master."

Yeah, good luck with that one, Raphael! It will be a pretty cold day in hell when she calls you that.

But, the real problem is that Elena is the first angel that has been made by another angel through this connection. This makes her the new and interesting thing in town. All of the other angels want to check her out and see what she's like. And, since they have little humanity in them, they are curious as to how easy it would be to kill this new angel. Just like a bunch of cats who found a new mouse to play with, the angels are eyeing her like a feather on a stick.

these angels play pretty seriously with their mice!

The biggest cat is one of the oldest archangels who is so old and powerful, she is raising a zombie army just for the hell of it. She finds Elena so "interesting" that she decides to throw her a welcome party - and to test how strong she is while she's at it. So, Elena needs to get up to speed quickly so that she doesn't get killed, and she isn't a huge liability to Raphael. (Plus, picking a gown. What does one wear to a zombie/angel ball where there will be multiple attempts on your life? You don't want your ass to look big while you're running in terror. Am I right, girls?)

The last thing I need to mention is how awesome all of the other male angels in Raphael's group are. There needs to be stories involving these guys. They all have seemingly cool backstories that I need to hear.
