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Angel Manor (Lucifer Falls Book 1)



Synopsis

A beautiful house with a dark and deadly secret. When Freya inherits her mother's childhood home, she sees it as an opportunity. A chance for a new life with her best friends, as they convert the crumbling mansion into an exclusive hotel. Instead, they'll be lucky to escape with their lives. As the first hammers tear through the bricked up entrances, a dark, terrible and ancient evil stirs beneath the house. An evil that has already laid claim to Freya and her companions' souls.

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Customer Reviews

Nuns, haunted houses, sacrifices to stem the flow the ancient evil lurking in the dark recesses of the world. Sounds like a top notch read doesn't it? I'm a big fan of haunted house stories, and I am deathly scared of Nuns, so on paper this should be a book a book that chilled me to bone. Sadly this was not the case. There is a decent story burried somewhere in this book, a story that would probably be better suited to a novella or a short story. As it stands the story feels protracted and laboured. The authors over reliance of phrases like "shot a glance" quickly get weary, not every look has to be something, sometimes people just look at things. Phrases like "Necks being broken to

impossible angles," "and A shudder ran through her spine, and she picked up her pace, not stopping until she reached the library." Just don't help the narrative flow. If she was really far away from the library and with the neverending picking up of pace that is implied in that sentence, at what time would she reach terminal velocity. As stated above sometimes things just sometimes people just run. A good writer doesn't have to constantly fall back on poor metaphors and similes. Stilled dialogue that has the Nuns sounding like silly schoolgirls - "We could save thousands of lives by sacrificing but a few. Sister Anne and I have studied the texts, and we're pretty confident we can do it tonight even. We made all the preparations, just in case you changed your mind. The sacrifice required is relatively small compared to..." doesn't help the story either. I can forgive a lot of this, as English isn't her native language, but there comes a point when bad writing is just bad writing.

I love a good haunted house story. Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* remains one of my favorite novels and one of my favorite films (the original, of course). I was thrilled to finally read *The Shining* recently. It's a classic for a reason and one of King's best (and better than the film, in my opinion). And then there are the sillier haunted house films that I love, especially *House on Haunted Hill* (again, the original). So, I was somewhat excited to receive a free copy of Chantal Noordeloos's debut novel *Angel Manor* through LibraryThing's Early Reviewer program. Haunted house plus scary nuns? Sounds good to me. And the general plot is decent. Our protagonist Freya inherits a large, old house from her aunt and goes to check it out with her best friends Bam and Oliver. They have plans to turn it into a hotel (it's that big). But Freya is skeptical. Her aunt was disturbed, living here her whole life, and the house drove Freya's mother away, terrified of it. Should they move in and rehab the place? Not if you've read the prologue. All kinds of demony business has happened in this house over the years, and now that there's fresh blood on the property (literally), it's ready to do more. With a set-up like that, and a pretty decent beginning, I was really disappointed that the book didn't follow through. Noordeloos's writing starts fairly strong, and for the first half of the book, the story's compelling, but it lacks a mature voice and suffers what seems to be common with first novels, in that the writing loses its punch as things go along. The story's also an odd mix of soap opera and grotesque horror set pieces and it has trouble maintaining a balance between these elements.

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