



## Promise

*Kristie Cook*

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**Promise** Kristie Cook

New Adult Paranormal Romance \*\* Mature Content \*\* ***Recommended for ages 16+ due to sexual situations and language***

First installment of award-winning author Kristie Cook's bestselling *Soul Savers* series.

Alexis Ames has a life full of promise... but not all promises can be kept.

When Alexis Ames is attacked by creatures that can't be real, she decides it's time she learns who she really is, with or without the help of her mother, who guards their family's secrets closely. After meeting the inhumanly attractive, multi-talented Tristan Knight, however, Alexis retreats behind her façade of normalcy...until she discovers he's not exactly normal either. Then their secrets begin to unravel.

Their union brings hope and promise to her family's secret society, the Angels' army, and to the future of mankind. But it also incites a dangerous pursuit by the enemy - Satan's minions and Tristan's creators. After all, Alexis and Tristan are a match made in Heaven and in Hell.

*1st Place - 2010 Royal Palm Literary Award - Fantasy (Published) by Florida Writers Association*

## Promise Details

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Author : Kristie Cook

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## From Reader Review Promise for online ebook

### LiteraryObsession says

\*\*If you haven't read Twilight, don't read this review. If you have, the spoilers won't matter anyway.\*\*

I wanted so very much to love this book. I read the synopsis on Goodreads.com and it seemed interesting. When the Kindle price on Amazon went to 99 cents, I snagged it.

My delight at the price, though, was where the happy ended.

This review may lean slightly toward the side of spoiler-ish, so stop reading now if you want. Then again, if you've even half a clue what went on in Twilight, you'll have no surprises in Promise.

The protagonist is a young girl who believes she's ugly as sin but who keeps getting told by everyone else that she's gorgeous. The self-loathing yet beautiful young girl moves to a new town and once there she meets a new guy who she is, of course, immediately attracted to. This guy is mysterious, slightly creepy, and (again, of course) drop dead gorgeous. Oh, and everyone else thinks he's bad news.

Guy's name is Tristan, which I admit is quite a bit nicer (in my opinion) than Edward. Tristan is constantly wanting to kill Alexis even though he loves her. He saves her from a potentially/probably fatal car accident, at which point she figures out he's not really all that "normal". No, people, I'm not just superimposing the Twilight plot over this book in some sort of confused daze...this really happens.

Now I could have forgiven this. Really, I could have, because Kristie Cook's writing is at least a bit better than Mrs. Meyer's. But she lost me with the craptastic "intimate" stuff.

Alexis practically throws herself at Tristan. In fact, she literally does. She begs him repeatedly to have sex with her, but of course he refuses. At one point she feels like she's losing him so her MOTHER drives her to his house, tells her to do what she has to do, and Alexis proceeds to strip naked and prostrate herself in front of him. Seriously, in an attempt to keep the guy she offers to give him her virginity if he'll only please, please, please, ohmigosh, not leave her. Argh!

I'm going to just stop here, because I literally can't find anything nice to say about the book except Ms. Cook's writing style trumps Mrs. Meyer's by far. Oh, and the concept was nice – the angel/demon lore was actually interesting and I'm truly sad that absolutely nothing awesome came from such promise. I suppose I don't have to say that I'll be skipping the sequel/s in this series.

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### Stina Madison says

Full review here:

<http://zodiacbookreviews.blogspot.com...>

Kristie Cook's Promise left me breathless. It's about true love, soul mates, good vs. evil, and everything in between. I was completely blown away and I wasn't expecting to be left wanting so badly to continue

reading non-stop. When I wasn't reading I was agonizingly wondering about what was going to happen next. I was even dreaming about different scenarios that could possibly happen from where I left off. And when I started reading again I was on the edge of my seat, my face practically smooshed to the screen. There were moments when I was practically bouncing off the walls with happiness, crying my eyes out, or holding my breath in expectation. I loved the story and characters so much I don't think there's anything negative I could say about *Promise*.

Alexis knows she's not completely normal (though she desperately wishes that she were), but her mother refuses to tell her anything about them and their family. Having decided that she's had enough of her mother's evasiveness, Alexis does her own research with little to no results.

On her first day of college, Alexis literally runs into Tristan Knight and sparks fly. Their connection is instantaneous and very strong. When Alexis' mother finds out about Tristan she's adamant that Alexis stay away from him. She refuses and after overhearing a conversation between her mother and Tristan she realizes that they know each other. After an accident leaving Alexis seriously injured and Tristan mysteriously unharmed, it's decided that she should be told the truth about herself, Tristan, and the world they're a part of.

What really stayed with me about Kristie's writing was the believability of the characters and the raw emotion leaping off the pages. Alexis and Tristan, Sophia and Rina, Owen and Stefan; all the characters felt so real to me. I felt as if I was right there with them, seeing everything so clearly. The emotion in this book affected me the most. I could feel their happiness, their sadness, their anger and hope. It's all so intense and real.

Alexis seems like a normal teenager at first, but we soon learn of her unusual ability to heal fast and her amazing strength (which usually only shows itself when she's really angry). Because of her peculiarities she's never had any friends (besides her mother, Sophia) and was constantly picked on. She wants more than anything to be normal, to have a normal life. She's smart and is an amazing writer. her ability to love is immense, but she fears opening herself up to someone and possibly being hurt and betrayed again. When she meets Tristan she falls hard for him, but she has priorities and doesn't let her feelings consume the rest of her life. She's someone I would love to know in real life.

Tristan is amazingly gorgeous. Before Alexis, he never felt he had the ability to love. He's loving and protective, but not overly so. He knows Alexis' strengths and doesn't mind handing a situation over to her. Tristan is also very talented in many things, mostly in design---architecture, jewelry, etc. His love and devotion are unmatched, and he would gladly lay down his life for Alexis.

Alexis and Tristan's love is so intense and passionate, it practically oozes off the pages. They seem to be complete opposites at first, but are more alike than they thought. I like that they got to know each other first before declaring their undying love for each other. There were secrets and doubts, but even after everything was revealed they still loved each other unconditionally.

There are many twists and turns, surprise revelations, and heart-stopping romance. This book definitely will keep you on the edge of your seat and the tips of your toes.

True love can't be more dangerous or bittersweet than a match made in Heaven and Hell.

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## **?I?E???? says**

Rated 3.5 stars

It took over half of the book for our heroine to wise up, once she got with the program, situations escalated from there. At 75% the book entered "I might read the next one" territory and by the end I decided I would.

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## **Lisa (A Life Bound By Books) says**

For more info and reviews please visit my Book Review Blog here - **A Life Bound By Books**

Kristie Cook is destined to take the self publishing world by storm with her first novel in the brand new Soul Savers series – Promise. Thrilling, action packed, with rich and endearing characters, mystery and a love story unlike most others, this book has all the key ingredients and then some to quickly become the book everyone wants to read.

Alexis and her mother are on the move again. When everyone including yourself thinks you're a freak because of your strange abilities and your mother doesn't seem to age, you tend to move around a lot. With starting college it's the perfect time to make a fresh start and begin again. Moving to Florida would be perfect, just no one was expecting it to be life changing.

Alexis is a strong level headed character and when Tristan enters her life you just know they are destined. I enjoyed watching their relationship grow into something epic. What's interesting is that this wasn't a love at first sight type of love, it was a love that grew from friendship which was a breath of fresh air. Alexis has her guard up and has good reason to and Tristan has some secrets as well. That's where the beauty of their relationship comes in. They took the time to sort through things and listen and learn about each other, to figure out that what they needed most might just be what the other is willing to give.

Tristan is fierce and loyal and has his own set of problems to deal with and he wants nothing more then to be a better person for not only himself but for Alexis and a whole race of people. He might have a lot of history to make up for, but wants nothing more than to do just that. The inner battles he faces are part of what makes him perfect to me. Knowing a character is flawed and watching their internal struggle to be better and overcome them is something that always draws me in.

With a war looming above Alexis, Tristan and everyone around them they must figure out a way to keep Alexis safe and keep their love secret from the evil forces at work. It's a war between good and evil with little to no way to stop it.

The story flowed easily from one page to another with the descriptive writing, strong characters that were easy to cheer for and a love story to leave your heart tingling - Kristie's Promise is a book bursting at the seams - with an ending that'll leave you wanting more.

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## **Stephanie G says**

When I first read the synopsis for Promise, I thought this would be about a battle of good vs. evil but I found

it to be more of a love story. Alexis and Tristan's relationship is different from most I read. They did not jump right into bed together or admit their undying love for each other after only 3 days. They give their relationship time to grow and allowed themselves time to get to know each other. I liked that their relationship was more than sex. There were a lot of dark and unusual secrets they had and once everything was out in the open, they still loved one another. They both had their moments of doubt and Alexis in particular frustrated me. It was almost too late once she finally fully commented herself to Tristan and I felt he more than proved himself to her.

Sophia is Alexis' mother and holds secrets to what Alexis' is and what her potential power can be but she is not allowed to tell. Their kind, the Amadis, do not come into their power until the ang'dora (change). Till then Sophia must keep secrets from Alexis. Even with all the unanswered questions, Alexis and Sophia are very close. I want to say that I didn't like Sophia because she wouldn't share any information with her daughter but I respect that she did what she had to do to keep her daughter safe and keep the necessary secrets until Alexis was ready.

The Amadis fight for good and heaven while the Daemoni fight for Satan and seek to destroy souls. This story line was interesting to read and easy enough to follow. I did like this book but I would have liked it more if the book focused more on this. I would have liked to know more about each side and what other creatures there are out there. The story wasn't very fast paced and I felt myself forcing me to keep reading at times. It wasn't bad just a lot of secrets revealed with not much action. This may not be the best choice for people who need constant action or sex to keep their attention.

Kristie Cook's Promise has an interesting story that carries surprises. The secrets that were revealed were my favorite scenes because I didn't expect them. This is the first in the Soul Saver's series. I do plan to read Purpose, the second book in the series which is scheduled to be out this fall. The ending left me wanting to know what happens next with both the characters and the story.

~Stephanie G

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### **Lauren (Sugar & Snark) says**

**SPOILER ALERT**

**(BUT IF YOU READ TWILIGHT YOU KNOW THE PLOT ANYWAY)**

- \* teenage girl moves to a new town**
- \* meets a gorgeous but mysterious guy**
- \* she is intrigued while other think he is a little "strange"**
- \* find out that the guy is "supernatural" after he saves her from being run over by a car**
- \* he is constantly fighting the deep seated urge to kill her**

\* **while falling in love with her (obviously)**

\* **after much coaxing he agree to have sex with her (obviously difficult because of the whole killing thing)**

\* **but only after they are married.**

\* **When they finally do the deed bruises and a broken headboard are the result**

\* **as well as an unexpected and unusual pregnancy**

While I was reading this book I assumed that the author was an over zealous teenage Twilight Saga Fan Girl writing her first novel. The book was a bit amateurish and obviously A LOT of the plot lines seemed VERY familiar but I kept thinking that with practise and maturity she could have potential. Then I got to the end of the book and read the authors biography and found out Kristie Cook is a seasoned author. And all I have to say is SERIOUSLY!

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### **Chrissi Jackson says**

I was very lucky to be chosen as an early reader of Promise. Kristie Cook has written a book that will appeal to everyone who enjoys fantasy, romance and mystery. Her vivid descriptions and well-woven story lines keep you glued to the pages to see what will happen next. I'm anxiously awaiting book 2 in the Soul Savers series!

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### **Autum Reimer says**

I first must say that I already knew how fabulous this book is! I just needed to reread to make sure I am ready for Devotion when it releases soon.

Now with that said I am going to attempt to tell you all why this is sooooooo amazing!!!

In Promise, Kristie does an amazing job of making her characters seem so real! Alexis is a fabulous female lead and Tristan....well what can I say. He's mysterious and sexy and completely irresistible!!! The relationship that forms between Alexis is awesome and it grows just as fast as Alexis in this book. And it's not like BANG! Done. Nope they literally let their relationship grow until they couldn't take it anymore! Now I am having a hell of a time trying to do this review without spoiling it for all of you guys so I will just say this.....READ THIS BOOK NOW!!!!!! You have to get this immediately and while you are at it.....You mise well get Purpose too because if you don't you are going to regret it!

5/5 Stars

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### **Katelyn says**

This is a story about difficult obstacles, true love, soul mates, secrets, good vs. evil and everything in between. Kristie Cook has created a world full of fascinating characters, interesting twists and stressful situations. There's also love that I could practically feel emanating off the pages, it was so strong I thought I was falling in love for a second. There were laughs, lots of tears and quite a bit of breaths that I had to hold waiting to see what was going to happen and how things were going to work out. Talk about your tension, whoa baby!

Alexis Ames has never been normal and she's always been somewhat of an outsider. Living and moving at the drop of a hat with her mom all over the country hasn't given her much of a chance to get a grip on her place in the world but she's hoping she'll be able to call Florida home for a while and add college to her daily routine. Fresh starts and clean slates being in the forefront of her mind, but let's just say she was going to be slightly disappointed. Little did she know that if she thought things were crazy before than she had no idea the spiral she was about to go down when she meets Tristan Knight.

Hello Tristan! Tristan is the ultimate guy, he's handsome, he's got manners and killer charm, he's always in showing up when you least expect him, and he's just pretty much all around perfect...or so everyone thinks. He's got his secrets just like Alexis has hers and it seems that they're not the only ones, sheesh there were so many people in this book telling so many different versions of the truth it's a wonder anyone could keep anything straight. But someone how Cook was able to keep things straight, clear and flowing effortlessly. Not to mention the fact that Cook writes romance and the build up that goes along with every budding relationship with the best of them and when big events start happening you didn't even realize how invested in the characters you were until its too late. I was taken by complete surprise and I'm still kind of reeling over how much I came to care about these characters.

Luckily I was aware of this being the first book in a series ahead of time so the cliffhanger Cook left me with wasn't a debilitating blow so much as a huge 'are you kidding me' moment, but I'm still hoping her second book in the Soul Savers series comes out sooner rather than later. Kristie Cook quickly became a favorite author of mine and I'm crossing my fingers that she doesn't crush me in this next installment because I'm not sure I can take the stress she creates right at this moment. These characters feel a little bit like a fictional family to me and I want everyone to live happily ever after, is that so much to ask for?

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### **Angi Wilson says**

OK so this is the forth 5 star book I've read in the last 2 weeks, I don't usually give five stars unless the book actually interrupts my everyday life and let me tell you something, I sobbed! This book kept me up late, made me put a movie on for my kids to do NOTHING all day and let the laundry sit in the drier after it was done. Not too many books have done that. I could not put it down. It killed me to sit in traffic doing nothing while I could have been reading this book. I recommend it to all my friends that like supernatural and romance, but beware I SOBBED, I didn't just have little teary tears in my eyes spilling over, I actually sobbed. It was sad and it's a cliff hanger.

Oh and I just added Tristan to my love list I call "boys in books are just better" i hope everyone enjoys it as much as I did.

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## **Tough Critic Book Reviews says**

First, I'm going to join the plethora of voices and say this book far exceeded expectations. I debated long and hard over the rating because I was afraid 3 stars might give off the impression that I don't highly recommend this book (because I do). It took a few chapters for the book to hook me, but after it did I was a goner. The only big issue I had was the dialogue between Tristan and Alexis; it was a little too unrealistic and cheesy.

I wasn't instantly swept away in the romance either; it took some time for me to have a true emotional investment in their relationship, but I eventually got there and once I did, I for sure wasn't leaving :-)

Other than a few minor issues, I couldn't be more pleased. Yes it does have some small similarities to other paranormal books, but it also has its own unique presence in the paranormal world. It has plenty of action, romance, and memorable characters; a true page turner.

Now addressing the "generic" *Twilight* accusations, I hate to break it to you people, but Stephenie Meyer didn't create the idea of abstinence until marriage (I'm pretty sure the Bible did that). And any SUPER strong man with supernatural abilities runs the risk of a little mass destruction when it comes to physical intimacy with a human. Damage control is kind of inevitable no matter what book we're talking about.

Trust me; the story is unique as it portrays the battle between heaven and hell, good and evil, angels and demons. The ending will knock you down and run you over a few times so my advice is to have the sequel waiting and ready. Great new series!

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## **Jennifer says**

I started reading Promise, due to all the book reviews I had read...

After a FULL day with family, I started around 9, by 10:30 my head was heavy and I had only completed a short bit....

I fell asleep, unable to concentrate any longer...

But by 1:30 I was awake, unable to sleep - with Alexis in my head and in my heart - I picked up Promise again....

Little did I know, that I would never make it back to bed...

Promise, is intense - in the best way possible - it shook me to my very core, it caused me to throw up...I had such emotions, they overflowed in me...I could not help it, I did not want to.

There are some books, some authors that - when they publish you know, from the very tips of your toes that you will do EVERYTHING in your power to get the book early, and if not, you will be the first in line, or

the first to order it where ever you can get it.

The Light of Asteria and Elizabeth Isaacs is like that, and maybe one or two others, but not many - and she's the first that comes to mind...

Now I have another author that I feel that intense connection with, Kristine Cook created an amazing world - full of details, but while doing so, she created characters that took my breath away, they offered so much more of themselves than "regular" characters for me...they offered a soul, and Alexis whose stronger than I could ever be, even on my best day - and Tristan a guy who stole my heart and my love...

This book is written for older teens or adults, not my "normal" genre but it's a MUST read...I loved it to my very core...

Full review to come soon!

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### **Meredith says**

Kristie Cook has created an intoxicating world with a cast of characters that are deliciously addicting. Originally, I expected to walk into a world of spiritual warfare. I was wrong and I was right in this assessment. It is a war. A war of love. Where other paranormals glide past the reasons love exist, Ms. Cook handed it to me on a silver platter. And I devoured it. And I wanted more. Rich in characterization, this story follows the not so normal Alexis Ames. Like nomads, she and her mother have spent Alexis's life wandering from town to town. For Alexis, being different means that people talk and it's hard to keep her excuses and lies believable when she doesn't even understand what she is or why she's different in the first place. In a seaside town in Florida, Tristan Knight enters her life and everything changes. While her secrets become harder to keep, their budding love becomes an uphill battle. Of course, Alexis has no idea that what she's trying so hard to keep from Tristan is the very thing he needs the most from her. As the blurb on the back cover says, "They're a match made in Heaven and Hell."

Watching these two fight for love was an absolute joy for me. The descriptions are breathtaking, the characters so addicting. And the love story? Well, it's priceless. I highly recommend this book!

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### **Aydrea says**

So I have had this book sitting on my TBR pile and wow I wish I had read it sooner! So I thought this was a YA book because the MC Alexis is 18/19 in the book. But it is definitely for a more mature age range. Just to go off topic for a second there should be some sort of group or whatever for college age range or something because it isn't really YA or adult. But anyway moving on.

I really liked the MC Alexis she was easy to relate to and someone I would love to have as a friend. I loved her character growth throughout the book. I intrigued to learn more about what Alexis was and I hope that I will learn more in the next book because it is still a little vague. Then there is Tristan, who was very swoonworthy (omg)! He was also very sweet and he and Alexis make a great couple. I loved that their relationship wasn't instant love (even though there was instant attraction) but took time to build and seem

like a real relationship (although in the end it may have been a bit rushed in my opinion). They had their own issues and problems and their relationship wasn't perfect, which is what made it so interesting to read about. The basis of the book is their relationship and it gets quite sexual, which is why it is for more mature audiences. But basically they are a great couple and fun to read about. There were some great secondary characters as well.

Learning about Alexis & Tristan was a favorite part of the book for me and I thought it was really interesting. I hope the next book delves deeper into what they are. There were some great action scenes towards the end that I loved, the pace really picked up. The ending made me want to cry and to also read Purpose ASAP! I definitely recommend the book if you like the epic star-crossed lover aspect as well as the paranormal. Oh and there are similarities between this book and Twilight, but they definitely are not the same. There were even some indirect references (and those similarities) in there, that I assume were ironic, that made me laugh! Overall I loved Promise!

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### **LeAnn says**

This book definitely caught me off guard. I didn't expect to be totally consumed by it and I was pulled in from the first word. I could not put it down until I had read the last sentence, thus losing precious sleep.

This is an epic love story but is written in a whole new way. It has many similar elements to other YA fantasy novels but the author took it one step further and introduced a new world which I had never delved into before. I was introduced to a new "species" of supernatural- soul savers, and soul destroyers, each long time enemies fighting in a battle over mankind, with the main couple caught in between.

The characters were very well developed and I liked how much the main girl's (Alexis) mother Sophia was involved. Most YA novels seem to forget about the parents of the children but Sophia played a major role.

Alexis is a strong, independent woman, who has had to overcome trust issues and feeling comfortable in her own skin. With the help of Tristan, her soul mate, she is able to overcome her inner demons, only to have him snatched away far too soon for her liking (or for the reader).

Tristan (swoon) is every woman's idea of the perfect man, except he too has his inner demons to fight in order to be with Alexis, but his persistance and unwavering loyalty conquers in the end.

I admit, this book made me cry at certain parts, especially the end, and I am so thankful I was able to start reading the sequel immediately after. I can't wait to see how their story ends, and I really hope they have a happy ending.

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