



## **The Athena Effect**

*Derrolyn Anderson*

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Caledonia has been kept a secret her entire life. Despite her parents' disturbing fits, Cal is perfectly content, living at one with nature. When an awful tragedy tears her from their remote cabin in the woods, nothing she ever read in her beloved books prepares her for a world that she knows very little about.

Girls and motorcycles are what bad-boy Calvin's life is all about. Brought up in a raucous party house by his biker brother, he's free to do as he pleases, going through the motions on his final days of high school. Aimless, Cal stopped thinking about his future a long time ago.

When he is attacked by a vicious gang in a deserted cemetery, Cal is in serious trouble until a fierce girl appears from out of nowhere. She chases away three grown men to spare Cal a brutal beating before disappearing into the night like a ghost. He can't stop thinking about his mysterious rescuer, and when she turns out to be the weird new girl at school who goes out of her way to avoid him, he can't contain his curiosity.

He's never met anyone like her before, and the more he learns about the unusual girl who shares his nickname, the more he wants to know. Cal can't help falling for Cal, but can he keep her from falling victim to a dangerous enemy from her parents' tragic past?

## The Athena Effect Details

Date : Published August 29th 2012

ISBN :

Author : Derrolyn Anderson

Format : Kindle Edition 250 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal

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## From Reader Review The Athena Effect for online ebook

### Brenda Ayala says

Wow. I literally just finished the last page, and I'm astounded. I haven't come across a book I liked this much in a while. The Athena Effect is absolutely a book I will recommend to anyone and everyone. I was able to read this in exchange for an honest review, something I'm glad to do.

The plot given on the website is nothing compared to the actual book; it doesn't do it justice. Frankly, when I read the summary given on GoodReads I didn't think it would be something I would fall in love with. It's a general description of two teenagers from different walks of life with the same nickname. Cali is from "the country," and Cal is a "biker bad boy." The thing is, these descriptions don't fit either of them accurately at all.

I'm not sure if the description was purposefully vague, but I think it should reflect the actual plotline, which is this: Cali literally lives off the land with her parents, living with no ties whatsoever to the modern world aside from books. When her parents unexpectedly die, she's forced to move in with her aunt she's never met and discover a world far beyond her understanding. And she must hide her special ability from everyone.

Except Cal. He comes across it accidentally, and suffice to say that he's dumbfounded by a girl who is so unequivocally different than any other person he's ever met.

When a mad scientist (literally) hunts her down, their feelings are tested as well as Cali's determination and strength.

It's amazing. Truly. The novel was well written and fluid. There were never any moments where I was confused as to which Cal was being talked about, which is a triumph in itself. And I loved both Cals. Cali's strength is amazing, and I admit I wish I could do half the things she can do. Cal was heartwarming, in the way that he was trying to run away from his feelings about his parents. When Cali forces him to rethink his life, we see a transformation. Hence, heartwarming. Not to mention Jarod and Crystal. While they both have their faults, they are truly lovable characters and I found that I cared about them surprisingly more than I thought I would. The same goes for Layla. I ached for the childhood she could never have, and I wanted her to have the experiences of being a normal teenager that she desperately wanted. Even Michael was relatable. Poor kid was always shunned to the side, since he didn't have the same power that his sister Layla did. He was always an afterthought, that much was clear just in the short timespan we see him in the novel.

The plot is fantastic. It was well thought out and well articulated. My only complaint is that I don't want to wait for the second one. I am amazed this book doesn't have a bigger following. But rest assured, I will be whoring this book out to everyone I know. I personally am going to be anticipating the second book. I'm hooked.

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### ♥ Sarah says

#### 5 ELECTRIFYING, HEART SHAPED STARS!

My reaction after finishing this book:

*\*\*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

I can't believe there's such little buzz over this book! I couldn't have been more surprised at how much I ended up loving this book. After I was done reading, I immediately looked up more of the authors' works. I just had to purchase the *Marina's Tales* series on Amazon. I'm going to need to get my fill of good storytelling, before the sequel for this one comes out, right?

\*\*

Initially, I was a bit skeptical about getting into the story, simply because it was written in third person narrative. Usually, it's more difficult for me to connect with the characters if it's written that way. But, I realized that wasn't necessarily the case. **I guess it just comes down to good writing. If the writing is good, then it shouldn't matter if the story is told in the first or third person POV.** However, I still kind of had a hard time getting "into" the story, because it started off a bit slow/disorienting/confusing. But, don't let that deter you from reading. CONTINUE ON. It was well worth it.

First off, the characters are rich and multi-layered. The detailed character development was what impressed me most. **\*CALI**, is supposed to be this girl with "unique" special abilities, hidden away from the world, living in the wild with no electricity or modern technology. She loses her parents from a car crash, and has no option but to move in with an aunt she never knew she had. In the city. **Cali's transition from her sheltered life to city life is definitely colored with genuine heartwarming humor, and laugh-out-loud moments. At the same time, I loved how her naivety wasn't overdone; I never felt pity or embarrassment for her.** Cali was very easy to love, as she was innocent, naïve, funny, endearing, fierce, compassionate, and loyal (whew, that was a mouthful, I know, but it's true!). I often felt like I could totally relate to some of her fears, emotions, and insecurities, although I've never grown up without modern technology and lots of hot water.

Then, there's **\*CAL**. One word: YUM. Alright, so his character was a bit clichéd, insofar as the tattoos, motorcycle, and his "player" status. Simply put, he was unmotivated and unhappy – before he met Cali. One fateful night, Cali saves Cal from getting jumped (by his older brothers' sketchy acquaintances). After that night, everything changes. Cal's suddenly seeking her out in school, the hallways, the cafeteria, and after a few brief exchanges, he can't stop thinking about her.

I LOVED how their relationship slowly progressed. **It was heartwarming and realistic and beautiful and right.** Honestly, I couldn't help swooning at Cal's strength. He also took me by surprise, because although he did embody that stereotypical "bad boy" figure at first, it's quickly realized that he's so much more than he seems. **Both characters were really well fleshed out, and their chemistry/romantic connection was the highlight of the story for me, personally.**

Further, all of the other characters: The "creep," Jarod, Crystal, Cali's aunt, Lyla, Michael, Max, the Professor, RUFUS (yes, even the dog), etc. were all wonderfully entertaining/interesting/realistic characters that added to the richness to the overall plot. Also, I loved the prologue + epilogue.

Then, there's the: **sci-fi/ paranormal/ mystery/ thriller/ action aspect of the story.** With this, I was TRULY taken aback. I guess the description is kind of vague, in terms of the non-romance parts. But I loved it, and it was definitely a pleasant surprise.

Additionally, I had a hard time assigning this book into a particular "SHELF" because, *The Athena Effect* was a magical concoction, an intoxicating brew, blending bits and pieces of different genres, into the perfect

recipe of deliciousness. **I devoured the book in one-setting. It was that addictive.** Don't let the title fool you. This book will blow your expectations out of the water, and replenish your thirst for some good YA fiction.

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## **Alana ~ The Book Pimp says**

I received this book for free from the author in exchange for a honest review.

I'd go as far as 4½♥'s on this. It is technically a YA story, but I think this is one that adults can easily enjoy. This is a first of a series that I am eagerly looking forward to continue.

With all the auras splashing color everywhere, this book reminds me of a Skittles commercial, "Taste the rainbow!" In fact, if I had to sum up the book with one slogan, that would be it. I've forgotten what color contentment is, but I would be surrounded by a cloud of it. It was just plain different, definitely in a great way.

Bad boy LOVE .... the motorcycle and tattoos! There were a high amount of what seemed to be more stereotypical characters: the 'bad boy', the 'innocent girl', the 'lecherous step-father-like figure', and the 'mad scientist'; while on the surface not appearing as unique, the book adds just enough spin the break the most of the characters out of their molds. Cal/Cali is so strong and intelligent but simultaneously naive and ignorant. Hard combo to pull off, but Derrolyn succeeded!

There are mature themes and the book leads into a much bigger story. Almost odd jump - beginning with a off-the-grid country girl and then ending how it does. It's very an engrossing tale that I would recommend to others.

5/5/13: Re-read- I still enjoyed this thoroughly in my re-read, although I did find myself more sympathetic to the twins this go-round compared to my first reading. I really like the way the romance builds in a realistic way, and I felt the auras was done well. I could 'accept' the story very easily, and I liked that the characters were combinations of unlikely things. How smart Cali is compared to her 'street smarts' being dismal, for example. I will definitely read it again in the future when book 3 comes out most likely!

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## **Shelby \*trains flying monkeys\* says**

Romances aren't usually what I pick up first to read. I will read them but I've never been crazy about them. Every once in awhile I will go through a smoochie streak where they fit in.

I can't believe how much I enjoyed this book. Cali has been secluded her entire life up in the mountains in a small log house..so jealous of that. She hasn't been to school, exposed to peer pressure, or any of the normal childhood happenings. Her parents teach her not to trust the "outside world." After she loses her parents she goes to live with a step-aunt.

She is odd to start off with..she has mismatched eyes and is able to see colors of people's auras.

She meets local bad boy Cal and somewhat they become friends.

I loved how the author made us see things through Cali's eyes. The newness of the things around her was one of the biggest pluses for me in this book.

Pick this book up if you just want to smile. It's well written and moves smoothly along. Very much enjoyed.

*I am friends with this author on Goodreads. In no way did this influence my review.*

## Glory says

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**SUSAN \*Nevertheless,she persisted\* says**

Caledonia has special gifts. She lives a very sheltered life in a remote location. She is home schooled, spending all of her free time reading or in nature. After the sudden death of her parents, she is sent to live with a distant relative in the city. She is propelled into a world she is ill prepared for, High school, mean girl scrutiny, boys and her Aunt's lecherous boyfriend. As I do not want to reveal too much, I will stop here.

This book is an enjoyable read. The characters stayed in character and were relatable. The writing was fluid and captured my attention.

The Athena Effect is the first book in a series and I intend on reading more of this writers body of work. I recommend this book.

**Samantha (Book Lover's Cozy Cafe) says**

This is a book I would want to read over and over. It caught my interest from the beginning, and when I say it kept my interest, I mean it kept me up all night long I think I went to sleep at 7:30 this morning, with 91% read by the time I couldn't keep my eyes open any longer. Then of course I finished it up this afternoon. This is a cross I feel between Young Adults, and Urban Fantasy. It's a book that older teens and Adults of all ages

could enjoy.

This is about a girl name Cal (Caledonia) who lives with her parents in the middle of nowhere in Eureka. She was happy in ignorant of the world outside. But then her parents die in a tragic accident and she is sent to live with her aunt she never even knew about. She's overwhelmed by everything, cause not only is the world new to her, but she can see people's emotions. So she tries get through her day with her head low, disappearing into the world. Until she catches the eye of one seemingly bad boy named Cal (Calvin). Quinky dink on the names right, I think it's cute. But one night she rescues Calvin from getting beat up by some "ruffians". And from there, he was drawn to her, falling more and more in love with her each day. She made him feel alive, and made him look towards the future, and he showed her things of the world, loving the way she would light up with everything. They fell in love, and it was a great kind of love. Soul mate kind of love.

However, every story needs it's conflict, something that throws a wrench into things. Well of course this one isn't any exception. Come to find out the reason to why Caledonia is the way she is with her being able to see emotions. Her parents were part of an experiment that was supposed to messed with their genes, instead it messed with their heirs genes. So Caledonia, and this other girl Lyla both have two different color eyes and both can see and through emotions. Professor Teddy the one who has orchestrated the Athena project. He finds out about Caledonia and wants her so he kidnaps her. he's pretty weird making the children live in rooms made up like dollhouses and dressed them in like 50's styled clothing very odd. But Cali wasn't buying any of it. She wanted out, she wanted to get back to Calvin, and Calvin is trying to get Cali back. Well Calvin does find her, Caledonia climbs down a bedsheet to get to her love.

Well Max, The head of Professor Teddys guards, he had something up his sleeve, and after Cali escaped, he revealed to Professor Teddy that he wiped him out financially and has is taking the twins with him, and that he has his own plans for them. Which makes you think UH OH & YAY another book.

I cannot wait until then next book is out, this is a series I could really sink my teeth into.

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## **Ikelia 'Bookoholic Anom' Francis says**

It's been a few days since I finished this book and I'm still thinking about it, going over favorite parts I highlighted and telling my sister and friends that they need to hurry up and finish what they are reading so they can start with The Athena Effect.

Cali was raised in isolation in the woods by her parents and when her parents are in an accident she moves in with her Aunt, and is suddenly thrust into this new world. One night Cali comes across the schools "bad boy" Cal being brutally beaten by a group of men and intervenes saving his life. Since that night Cal is intrigued with the new weird girl from school that saves his life and has to know more about her, all the while Cali is trying to keep her ability of seeing the auroras of animals and people a secret. (I'm terrible of synopsis, but I think I summed it up with out giving too much away, LOL).

I loved that as Cal is showing Cali new things, she is helping Cal rediscover himself without even knowing it. Through all this new discover they form a friendship that forms into something more. Even though it seemed like it took forever for them to admit their feelings for each other, I actually like that it wasn't immediate like so many other books do. I could relate to being friends with someone and so badly wanting it to be more, but you aren't completely sure if that person feels the same way, and the mere thought of them not reciprocating your feelings is extremely scary.

I loved everything about this book. One thing I keep coming back to in my mind is how the book was written. Usually when there are two main characters, you have alternate chapters from their perspective so its back and forth, but in *The Athena Effect*, the author Derroyln Anderson has perfected coming from both the main characters perspectives without having to do the flip flop of chapters. It is all done right there in the scene and I never got confused as to which character the point of view was coming from. I actually think I prefer it this way than the flip-flop of chapters taking turns.

The book was a great read, and I will be reading it again, and I recommend that anyone who loves Young Adult/Paranormal books to definitely read it. You will find yourself thinking about this book long after you finish it. I went through some emotions while reading this book, a lot of the time; I felt my heart sink into my stomach and my nerves where all over the place at times. I can't wait for book 2 in the series. Sad that I read it so fast as I usually do with the books I read, I never want them to end because they are so good, but at the same time I didn't want to stop reading it.

A favorite quote from the book (which I find to be very true):

"...with a really good book you get something new every time you read it. Because...well...because you're a different person each time." ~Cali

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### **Meshanna says**

Well, what a surprise. I started this book at 8 last night and was done by 1030. I was a bit concerned about the storyline with both of the main characters having the same name. That did cause me some issues. However, after reading the book, it was such a non-issue.

All in all, this was a great book. The storyline was very thought out. There were just enough details to give depth to the story but not so much as to bog it down. I really can not wait for the next book.

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### **Judith (Judith'sChoiceReads) says**

#### **Goodreads Summary**

Country girl Cali has been kept a secret her entire life, raised in isolation by two very troubled people. Despite her parent's disturbing fits, Cal is perfectly content, living at one with the nature that surrounds her, and finding adventure inside the pages of her beloved books. When an awful tragedy tears her away from her remote cabin in the woods, nothing she's ever read has prepared her for a world that she knows very little about.

Girls and motorcycles are what bad-boy Cal's life is all about. Brought up in a raucous party house by his biker brother, he's free to do as he pleases, going through the motions on his final days of high school. Aimless, Cal stopped thinking about his future a long time ago.

Attacked by a gang of thugs while running an errand for his brother, Cal is in serious trouble

until a fierce girl appears out of nowhere to intervene. She chases off three grown men, sparing Cal a brutal beating before disappearing into the night like a spirit. He can't stop thinking about his mysterious rescuer, and when she turns out to be the weird new girl at school who goes out of her way to avoid him, he can't contain his curiosity.

He's never met anyone like her before, and the more he learns about the unusual girl who shares his nickname, the more he wants to know. Cal can't help falling for Cal, but can he keep her from falling victim to a dangerous enemy from her parent's tragic past?

### **My Thoughts**

I was positive there wouldn't be any more Indie author reviews coming from me this year, mainly because of life being hectic, and also because the waters between bloggers and self-published authors had long since grown troubled. After witnessing many others bear the brunt of insult or heckling because of conflicting views and opinion, I was in no hurry to put myself in any such position. So I closed up shop, blocking out self-published authors along with their books. In this case, I'd have to *really* like the book, from an indie author, to review it on request.

And wouldn't you know it? I really liked *this* book.

The author, Derrolyn, is a very sweet lady. Heck, I just called her a *lady*, which should tell you something! She was very humble when requesting this review, explaining that she knew how strained things had become, and also that she would still like me to consider *The Athena Effect* for review. When I told her that the review might come a little late, she was cool, and very accommodating to my circumstance. How could I say no?

The premise of Derrolyn's novel first struck me as being intriguing, a girl with strange abilities and a love interest with a similar name? It was all very interesting and I went to work on it almost as soon as it was downloaded to Tookie, my kindle. This is almost an embarrassment to admit, if it wasn't so incredible, but the book grabbed me, and I lost against the sheer force of *The Athena Effect*'s awesomeness. There is solid plot, ingenuity, humour, romance and a peculiar brand of uniqueness about Derrolyn's writing that I am sure will see to it that she, along with this series, goes very far.

The prologue kicks things off with a strange man and woman, both gravely malnourished, and running from something. It is revealed that the woman, Jenny, is pregnant, and both she and the man, David, are in desperate need of help, and a ride. They end up receiving assistance from a kind, sympathetic trucker who agrees to take them north...~~yes, very mysterious, I know,~~ but the real story begins a few years later with Cali, Jenny and David's daughter; she was a treat. Being a girl raised completely in the woods with hardly anyone but her parents, Cali is in all respects, a wild child. The girl blends like a ninja, hunts as well as any samurai, and generally keeps to herself. Except for one thing... Cali is fairly learned. Meaning, she has most probably gone through more books than me.

\*Blinks\* What, Grey's Anatomy is a *book*?!?

\*Sarcastic face\* *See?*

Despite her lack of exposure to the outside world, she is still a brilliant young woman, capable of survival

and superior intellect; I had to respect that. Cali is an intelligent and deeply thoughtful heroine. Her parents have always prohibited contact with the outside world and generally go to town only for the most necessary of errands. When most girls are grieving over which prom dress to pick, Cali can sit back and *read*. How cool is that? Very, if you ask me, but of course things take a major 360 turn when her parents are found dead, victims of a motorcycle accident.

Cali is left alone, and used to turning to her parents for direction, she now stands aimless. There is no foul play suspected in the occurrence of their deaths, her parents have long been victim to terrible seizures, horrible hallucinations, and Cali believes that they ran into a semi-truck while undergoing one of these seizures. Almost as soon as their funeral is through, she is on a bus, bound for the city and her Aunt Angie's house. Cali is still a minor and will have to live with her new guardian until she is of age to make her own decisions legally and hopefully return to the cabin in the woods, the only home she has ever known.

This is the first time we get a view of Cali's visibly strangest quality, her eyes. She later describes the condition as heterochromia, meaning she has two different eye colors, one blue and the other green. Couple that with her heightened awareness of people's feelings, an ability that allows her to read their "colors" and ultimately emotions, and you *know* this girl is different. Although almost oblivious to her differences, she embarks on her adventure to the city a little hesitant, but ultimately just curious. She will have to have her wits about her to confront the dangers awaiting: the man her parents spent the better half of their lives running from, and her aunt's major creep of a boyfriend, Phil, who means a lot more harm than good. There are challenges at every corner for Cali; the girl can't ever seem to catch a break. My heart ached for her.

Imagine not knowing how to interact in modern society, or never having to deal with the numerous constraints that govern daily life before, how would you cope with being suddenly thrust into such a world, expected to adjust quickly and following a tragedy such as your parent's deaths? I couldn't do it. It was a weird perspective, reading of someone who knew so much and yet was unaware of what is commonly taken for granted as basic etiquette.

Before I began reading, this was by far the portion of the book I feared the most; I didn't know how well it would be executed, hesitant at the thought of having to endure some bimbo, doe-eyed character. To think that such an individual with apparently latent TSTL symptoms might have been let loose upon the fictional world to 'ooh' and 'ah' over every pothole and sewer drain made me cringe, but to my delight, Derrolyn knew exactly what she was doing! Cali embodied newness, an endearing naivety. The idea of her, the character, struck me as being completely authentic. Also, the coupling of Cal and Cali, two protagonists with very similar names, was another aspect of this novel I loved, loved, loved! These concepts were like toss-ups, gambles in a world of contrived cookie-cutter cut-outs and they paid off. It was different...an innovative, brilliant combination and I adored it.

For fear of accidentally ruining anything, I will keep the following details pertaining to Cal and Cali's romance to a minimum. Let me say though, that they were both very good together. Cal is set up as the bad boy biker and player extraordinaire. Cali kind of takes him by surprise because she isn't fazed by his show of machoness. Quite frankly, she can see right through him, and under the leather and flair, he's just a boy with surprisingly earnest feelings and a good heart. They would do anything for each other, and watching their affection grow was by far my favorite part of the journey.

This quote from the book takes place as Cali sits at the bus station, waiting for Angie to arrive and pick her, it is a beautiful peek into their relationship:

“She watched the one named Cal as he sauntered back to his bike. It was a bigger, more powerful looking motorcycle than her father’s; she’d never seen one that looked like it before. She tried not to stare, but she’d never seen anyone who looked like him before either.

He was tall, taller than her father, clad in dirty blue jeans and a black leather jacket that fit snug across his broad shoulders. His hair was dark, like his eyes, which were fringed with black lashes that made them stand out even from a distance. She’d never seen a really good-looking man before, and she watched him, fascinated.

He walked with a confident swagger that belied the anxious chartreuse color he was radiating. Like everyone else at the bus station, he was troubled. He reached into his pocket for a pair of mirrored sunglasses, slipping them on to hide his arresting eyes. She watched him straddle the bike gracefully, without putting on a helmet. He revved the engine and sped away, going much too fast.

Beautiful idiot, she thought.”

And there’s even more to come, the book expands really well on its initial themes, and while some were mature, dealing with suicide, obsession, depression, etc. the book is a stand-out of epic proportions. It didn’t feel self-published, and ultimately, I am glad to have given *The Athena Effect* a chance; this novel certainly deserves to be read by everyone with a strong interest in science-fiction and romance. Personally, I would categorize *The Athena Effect* as being more of Mature YA/New Adult in genre simply because there are sexual situations and it feels a lot more grown up than most YA fiction, but in a good way! There is an ease to which things play out and plenty of heartwarming scenes to keep readers gripped. There were instances I felt my periphery melt away; it was like watching a really sweet movie. Basically this book has a little bit of everything, humour, action, romance, and a sci-fi twist that most readers will love, everyone should read this.

**4/5 stars**

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### **Sheri says**

The Athena Effect is a sweet, engaging story. It is the story of Cali, 17-year-old girl raised isolated from the big, bad world. She is perfectly happy with her life, until tragedy strikes. When she is thrown into the real world, she must find a way to acclimate herself and find a balance between the life she knew and the life she must now learn to live.

The characters in this story are great. Cali is sweet and innocent, a bit naive, perhaps too much so at times. All she really knew of the outside world was what she had read about in books. Despite her innocence, or maybe in spite of, Cali is strong and independent and will do whatever it takes to survive the cruelties of the world. Cal is the ultimate bad boy; you know - the one all the girls fall for just to have their hearts broken. I know, sounds cliché, but it's really not. The author adds enough twist to the story to make it unique and incredibly enjoyable. I honestly had a hard time putting it down. The story flowed very well and was written well. The author did a really great job of making her characters come to life, so much so that you could feel

their emotions build with each turn of the page.

The names may be strange, but the story is a must. I will definitely be looking for the next book. Hopefully we will find out what happens with Layla and Michael!

Favorite quote:

"Because with a really good book you get something new every time you read it. Because...Well...Because you're a different person each time."

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## **Darth J says**

\*I received a free copy of this book from the author, and the below is my honest review.\*

*? And when we first came here  
We were cold and we were clear  
With no colors in our skin  
'Til we let the spectrum in ?*

Cali is an unusual girl. Not only did she have very little contact with the outside world until her parents died, she was born with unique traits such as the ability to both perceive auras & manipulate them and heterochromia iridis (2 differently colored eyes).

*? Say my name  
And every color illuminates  
We are shining  
And we will never be afraid again ?*

"Cali" is actually short for Caledonia. She used to go by "Cal" until she meets Calvin, who also goes by "Cal". Romantic hijinks and puns ensue from this because "what are the odds that they both go by the same name, amirite?" In order to just clear up this confusion, she now just goes by Cali.

*? And when we come back we'll be dressed in black  
And you'll scream my name aloud  
And we won't eat and we won't sleep  
We'll drag bodies from the ground ?*

Due to her sheltered upbringing she is both naïve and unjaded. Her education came from her brilliant parents, books, and foraging around in the forest. Although she may seem like some frail girl from the boonies, it would be unwise to underestimate her surprising knife skills.

Overall, I thought it was a promising entry into a series. I was an unexpected fan of the author's *Marina's*

*Tales* books and I can tell her writing has only gotten better with time. The Athena Effect is fast-paced thriller with an interesting and refreshingly original protagonist. Read it!

Lyrics: "Spectrum" by Florence + the Machine

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### **Dianne says**

You know how, sometimes a book “just clicks,” we’ve all read at least one, hopefully more, right? Not only did **The Athena Effect** “click” with me, it deadbolted the lock to my heart with a story of a young girl thrown into a world she is completely unfamiliar with and the aimless, damaged, bad-boy who she saves in more ways than one. This is NOT just another angst-filled teen romance filled with paranormal aspects, genetic mutations, sci-fi, and a battle against different evil, honest! (Actually, the angst quotient was pretty much non-existent!) It is heartwarming and beautiful as Cal and Cal (Caledonia and Calvin) slowly develop a relationship that will test the limits of love and even their very lives.

Was Calvin a stereo-typical bad boy? Yes, most definitely, but as his story unfolds, and he shows his “true colors” to Caledonia, you see the damaged boy who has lost sight of his dreams. Is Caledonia a typical naïve girl who is the by-product of genetically altered parents? NO WAY! This girl is compassionate and wise beyond her years. Her innocence is only to the new world around her, the sights, the sounds, all of the people are a new discovery for her every day! She has an inner self-awareness that allows her to laugh at her own lack of knowledge of everything from slang to hot water from a faucet to condoms! One thing she does know is the difference between good and evil, right and wrong and the emotions people try to hide on the outside. This is a beautiful love story, well told and full of characters that come to life, guided by the skillful hand of author Derrollyn Anderson as she gifts us with her ability to tell a tale that crosses genres just enough to please even the most diehard YA/Paranormal/Sci-fi/Romance fan!

I must thank the author for the opportunity to read and review **The Athena Effect**!

Publication Date: August 29, 2012

Number of Pages: 228

Genre: YA/NA Paranormal Romance/Sci-fi

Age Recommendation: YA/NA on up!

My Rating: 5 Stars

Available at: Amazon / Barnes & Noble

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### **Nemo (The Moonlight Library) says**

**FREE on Smashwords with coupon code REW25 until 8th March! GET IT. GET IT.**

Just because I consider Derrolyn Anderson a friend of mine, does not mean I have not approached the reading of this book impartially. I am quite relieved to be able to give this book 5 stars, even though Derrolyn has assured me that even if I didn't like the book she wouldn't let it affect our friendship. In fact, so assured am I in Derrolyn's own awesomeness that I feel quite comfortable revealing that when I first saw this book, I wasn't interested in reading it. The cover looked like it was from the eighties and the blurb made it sound like just another romance novel.

How wrong I was. Derrolyn approached me before we were acquaintances on Goodreads to ask me if I wanted to read her book. When I glanced around on Goodreads and read some other reviews I decided that yes, I did want to give it a shot. I'd been burned by self-publishers and cold callers before, so I was a little hesitant, but I saw that some friends of mine whose judgement of quality literature I trusted and whom I could also trust not to up the rating just because Derrolyn's a giant sweetheart had rated the book highly. I was eager to read it, especially as my favourite novel of 2013 was a self-published novel.

I have told you all of this because I want my relationship with Derrolyn to be transparent, and I am also trying to convince you that this novel is genuinely good. I know a lot of friends and family of writers often rate their books 5 stars, but this is the first time I have given 5 stars to someone I consider a friend. I have pretty high standards when it comes to technique, and I don't have time for shitty writing. I fully believe this novel deserves my 5 stars, and now I'll tell you why:

Cali has been brought up in the wilderness with only her unwell parents for company, and when they unfortunately die she is sent to live with her flaky, distracted aunt and creepy boyfriend, and attend school for the first time. There Cal meets another Cal, a motorbike enthusiast bad boy who only cares about his next female conquest. When Cali saves Cal from a brutal beating, he takes an interest in the weird new girl with the heterochromatic eyes and the mysterious ability to tame wild animals. The two begin a tentative romance, compounded by the fact that the man responsible for Cali's parents' illness is now hunting for her and will stop at nothing to claim her in his weird experiments.

Like I said above, the blurb did not draw me to this novel. It doesn't mention that Cali can see and shape auras so I thought it was just a regular contemporary young adult romance. Upon reading I found that I was completely immersed in Cali and Cal's story and read late into the night. I have a particular love for contemporary novels with a hint of the paranormal, which is how this book was reading, so that worked out well for everyone.

I loved watching Cal grow from the cocky, arrogant playboy to a concerned, mature, responsible young man, and I adored watching Cali kick all kinds of butt and navigate an unknown world without losing her integrity or dignity and keeping her wits and intelligence about her. Cali's naivety was never used to comedic effect or made her look stupid, which I approved of, and her initial rejections of Cal were both refreshing and organic. I found their romance to be incredibly sweet and one of my favourites to watch develop. There was no insta-love and it progressed very genuinely. They didn't lose their shit over anything and their insecurities were all familiar to me. I could tell just how much the author adored her own characters, too. They were lovingly described and lovingly developed.

I found the writing for the most part utterly enjoyable. There were some issues with dialogue punctuation (a particular pet peeve of mine) and I did notice the gaze shifting to objectify Cali rather a lot because she's so wonderful beautiful and wonderful and unique and did I mention wonderful? The prose and narration was strong and the use of third person omniscient, while not my favourite point of view, worked in this novel. I found the whole thing absorbing and page-turning and I was frustrated with having to perform the simple acts of going to work and sleeping rather than reading this book.

Overall I recommend this to readers who like either (YA/NA) paranormal love stories or (YA/NA) straight contemporary romance, as I feel it has the best of both worlds. Unfortunately I believe the reason this book isn't more widely read is because the blurb doesn't really sell its awesome potential, so you'll just have to take my word on how much I enjoyed it.

*Thanks to the author for providing a copy of this book for an honest review.*

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## **Jennifer says**

I don't give 5 stars to many books, but this one is so good I had to. I really enjoyed this book right from the very start. Something about it just immediately drew me in. The main character Cal is just...I love how sweet and innocent she is, and that she helps all the animals, though she is also tough and can look out for herself. I just immediately loved her and wanted everything to work out okay. There are plenty of things in the story that from another author I would find cheesy and too much (like Cal and Cal) but somehow it was sweet and perfect in this story. It was one of those books that while I want to read it as fast as I can to see what happens, I actually read it slower than usual so I can savor every moment of it. I started reading it in the evening, stayed up way too late reading, and then once I got too tired couldn't get to sleep as I couldn't stop thinking about what might happen. I was really relieved that it ended well - it seems like I have read a lot of books recently where I was loving it and then they mess everything up with a horrible ending. Not this one. It is just a sweet romance that thankfully did not have a love triangle involved!! Definitely give it a read if you like YA romances - it is one of the better ones.

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