



Guardian

Heather Burch

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Vigilance.

The mission to safeguard Nikki Youngblood depends on the fragile alliance of two half-angel, half-human guardians, both struggling with intense feelings for the girl who has been assigned to their care. Mace, steadfast and deeply in love, wants to protect Nikki at all costs, while Raven's loyalty to Nikki finds him advocating for her independence and battling his own darker inclinations. At the same time, Nikki finds it harder and harder to choose between the two heavenly beings she may never have.

Dangers intensify, and tensions between Mace and Raven flare as the purpose of their mission becomes clear. Can their defenses hold up to master manipulator Damon Vessler and the powerful secret he holds regarding Nikki's heritage? Can anyone protect Nikki from her true purpose and destiny?

Guardian Details

Date : Published October 9th 2012 by Blink

ISBN :

Author : Heather Burch

Format : Kindle Edition 321 pages

Genre : Paranormal, Angels, Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance

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From Reader Review Guardian for online ebook

Brooke Banks says

I was just notified yesterday that I won this book in a First Reads Giveaway. I will read and review the first book as well. I will simply both reviews up at the same time.

Update 10/17 : I have received this book and I have two other ARCs to read before this one. However, I don't see it taking longer than a week at most to get it all done.

Update 10/31 : Finally, finished. I'll put up the review soon but it's not going to be pleasant or nice. I really didn't like the book at all.

Darleen says

» *Review can also be found on Orchids & Amethysts.*

Title: Guardian (*Halflings* #02)

Author: Heather Burch

Rating: 3/5

Thanks to Zondervan via Netgallery for accepting my request on reading this book.

Nikki's in danger. Everyone she loves is in danger because of her. Now she's on a mission with two boys who own her hearts. Torn between them and the tasks she is facing, Nikki has to make the right choices.

In the second book of the *Halflings* series *Guardian* everything felt a little too forced for me. The plot wasn't too obvious, so by the end I had to ask myself if there was a plot at all. Or at least one that made a little sense. I bet there was, but you have a hard time figuring out.

I really loved the first book, and this one disappointed me. I wanted it to be more real. Not as in "leave the angel stuff out", but in "oh my god, I can't put it down and I feel connected." It wasn't that for me. Even if series are a good thing, sometimes it should have only been one big, fabulous book. It can't feel too stretched out that way. (*It shouldn't*)

At some parts I didn't quite understand the character's actions. While I loved Nikki in *Halflings*, I kind of got annoyed by her in *Guardian*. Also, I wasn't happy with the pairing (*the couple*). I could (*and can*) see that Mace has some burden to carry, so why is he so nice? He has his bad mood moments, but he always end up being Mr. Nice Guy. I liked him better in book number one.

Main character number three, and the most awesome one as well - Raven. I am mad at him. He lost his coolness because of Nikki, and because of her decision he does something dumb and leaves the crew. I can't stay mad at him for long though and I loved the scenes that included him.

Maybe I focused too much on the characters in this review, but I can't say much about the plot. As I said, it takes some time to follow, but it was pretty exciting still. By the end, when readers get to know what's going

on with Nikki, you're shocked. I wasn't expecting that. You always thought you knew who and what she was. Then it changed.

So, once again: *Guardian* was not as good as *Halflings*, and though it didn't match my hopes and expectations, I still liked it, 'cause this is a good book series. I hope the third book will be better than the second, but I'm not thinking bad of this one. Looking very forward for book three now.

And I'm sorry if my review isn't that helpfull. I can recommend that if you read *Halflings*, you should read Heather Burch's second book in the series too.

Andrea Carrey says

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher, who provided me with an ARC for review purposes.

I did not realize when I requested this book that it was one in a series. Based on the high ratings I thought I'd enjoy the series, so I bought the first book in order to read this one in context. Somehow I managed to finish both. (I may've skimmed some scenes...)

So why didn't I love this book? First, the plot was a little shaky in my opinion. I was not drawn in enough by what was happening - I felt like the main characters (Mace, Raven, and Nikki) were the focus, at the expense of a thoughtful, well-done plot to carry them along.

I thought Nikki was a little too haphazard with other people's feelings - not that I thought she owed any of the boys anything, or that she wasn't entitled to be a little off her game given everything going on - but she was somewhat inconsistent, and I never knew what she was going to do, or understood the reasoning behind the things she did do, and it was quite disorienting.

And don't get me wrong, I adore the romance aspect of books, but this book was seriously all about the romance, and everything else (other character development, moving the plot along, etc.) took a backseat. There were a lot of scenes that were totally about the romance and had nothing to do with the plot, and it made the romance feel cheaper and more self-indulgent on the parts of the halflings as well as Nikki.

I also just didn't get very into either Mace or Raven. They had a couple of moments, but other than that they seemed incredibly immature, inexperienced, and self-centered. They weren't well defined, except as how they behaved toward Nikki. And as with all the characters in the book, we are told a lot about them, but never really shown it in how they act in the book (and thus are contradictory and unsatisfying). Also, they put Nikki above EVERYTHING, and that annoyed me. Life is bigger than the girl/guy you like! It made it hard to care about the bigger things going on.

Really, though, the main thing that turned me off was how choppy the plot and writing were. The style was very simplistic, unpredictable only by virtue of being poorly tied together and reasoned, and as a whole deeply disappointing.

Rachelle Cobb says

What I Loved

The suspense. The edge-of-your-seat quality. The fact that I couldn't let go of this book. It followed me to the breakfast table, to bedtime, to the cab of my truck where I read it before class.

Building on the magnetism of the first book, Burch has fully delivered with *Guardian*. Nikki is back in all her intense glory. Mace is more conflicted than ever. And Raven is taking his bad boy routine to a whole new level. You know how sometimes there comes a certain point in a novel where it feels like the author is giving the reader a breather?

There are none in this book.

And I loved that. Seriously, at one point I thought, "Oh, things are gonna slow down now." Nope. Train wreck.

Literally.

What I Didn't Like As Much

There was a lot of action and reaction, a lot happening, a lot going on, a lot to grab your attention. That was good, except the main undercurrent to all of it was the love triangle between Nikki, Mace, and Raven, which I found just a wee bit overdone.

But that's probably because I'm fully Team Mace and just wanted Nikki to figure that out already. =)

Why I Recommend This Book

If you're looking for a read that's fast, fantastic, and for just about anyone who likes romance + supernatural = conflict, pick up *Guardian*.

*I can't wait for *Avenger* to come out!*

Thank you to Zondervan for sending me a complimentary copy.

Hannah says

Nikki Youngblood just wants things to go back to the way they were before. Before her life spun out of her control. Before she was haunted by hell hounds. Before her parents were murdered. Before she heard of Halflings. Before she fell for not one but two of them...

Nikki can't help but fall deeper in love with each of them even though she knows it could cost them their eternity.

Mace is safe and dedicated. Protecting her against the evil that threatens her. Mace is what Nikki needs.

Raven is adventure and freedom. Giving her a way out of the cage she feels she's in. Raven is what Nikki craves.

They both know that falling in love with Nikki will give them a one way ticket to eternal darkness. But they're both willing to risk it for her.

Nikki wants them both, unsure who to choose. Unsure if she really even has a choice in anything.

Guardian by Heather Burch was awesome! It was a great continuation of Halflings. It answered a lot of questions brought on by the first book while asking for even more answers. Like the first book I was completely immersed in the book from page one. I was on the same wild journey as the character, and loving every minute of it! The only down side to the book was that it had to end. I was so caught up in the story that when I got to the last page I was like "What?!? That's it? It can't end here! I need more, what happens next?!" I can't wait for Heathers next book in the series, Avenger, to come out. All in all it was a great read!

JeanBookNerd says

Heather Burch's Guardian, part two of the Halflings series, and deepens the developing plot with its classic love-triangle and startling twists. Although Nikki Youngblood would rather want everything to return to the way it was, she is in too deep and there is really no going back. She knows that her feelings for Raven and Mace could cost them their eternity, she cannot help her emotions from getting stronger towards them. She needs protection which Mace can provide, but she craves freedom that only Raven can offer her. It all comes down to the boys risking everything for Nikki even though they knowing that falling in love with her could mean eternal darkness for them. Nikki is uncertain which of the two she should pick or even if she has that choice.

Guardian is an amazing extension of Halflings. Readers will feel engrossed in its highly-captivating plot line. The descriptive texts that Heather provides her readers are an enhancement to the whole experience. It will feel like you are alongside the characters in their epic journey. The plot thickens with many of the questions from the first book being answered. It also opens up new questions that will certainly keep the intrigue level for this series high. The concept behind Halflings is 100% innovative and screams brilliancy. I sensed improvement from the first book and I can only imagine how Heather will take it up a notch or two for the next installment.

bird says

I was soooooo excited to get this book in the mail. I love Heather Burch's writing voice and I started reading Guardian the minute I got it.

Thing is, I got annoyed when I started it. The book had enough action to keep me reading, but it was mainly all about the love triangle between Mace, Nikki and Raven. I don't mind romance, but I did get a bit irritated with Nikki after awhile. She was selfish and a bit ...*dumb*.

She got herself into dangerous situations and the boys had to rescue her. She cried and spent a lot of time moping about Mace and Raven.

Um hello? I'm not anti-males-saving-the-day, but GIRL! Pick yourself up and deal with your problems! Forget that Abercrombie good looking halflings exist and focus on finding the answer to your problems!! *Seesh.*

Unlike *cough* certain books every single side character had their own personality. I LOVED Zero, Vine, Winter, and Will. The author did such an awesome job with them. She had me laughing at Zero's antics, just wanting to love on Vine because he is so stinken adorable, begging to find out more of Winter's backstory (*I have a feeling she will be pretty important in the third book*) and Will? Will is just plain awesome.

I hated that Zero, Vine, and all the other characters (*that had SOOOOO much potential*) were pushed to the side so Nikki could take turns playing with the hearts of Mace/Raven and make out with them every fifteen pages.

Yeah. I don't know what happened either. *Guardian* had some awesome lines, description, writing style, and scenes, but for the first half of the book I kept turning the pages and wanting to knock some sense into Nikki.

She didn't even grieve over her parents until around page 209? She sobbed over two boys instead? *Come on.*

Alot of people have said that they hated Raven's immaturity, but I could relate to him the most. He was human. He didn't try to be perfect. He made mistakes, he was a jerk, and he hurt Nikki, yet somehow I still connected with him and I wanted to hug him.

Maybe because I really am a great big softie after all who loves that anti-hero type characters...but....I thought he was awesome. So broken, so raw and while a bit stupid at times, I still wanted to hug, hug, hug him. (view spoiler)

Every girl seems to fall for Mace, but for some weird reason I just didn't fall for him. Maybe because I was in a glass case of emotion after I read Raven's POV....but...I still couldn't bring myself to love Mace. He was just Mr. Wonderful 24/7. *I cannot help it that I find the perfect characters boring. I like the people who are broken. Raven? Completely broken. Therefore I cannot help loving him.*

(view spoiler) That was awesome. I loved that Heather broke Nikki and tossed her around. It was good for her character and by page 222 I started to like her again since she wasn't thinking about whether Mace or Raven was hotter. xD

Then the author threw in the epic, epic, plot twist that I thought was well thought out. I was NOT expecting it at all so I danced because 1. it was epic and I always scream and shout when something epic happens and 2. no more love triangle for a few pages!! The ending was pretty epic.

Heather Burch is an awesome writer and the Haflings idea is simply brilliant. I just wish Nikki had put away her permanent case of I-can't-live-without-them-syndrome and grown a backbone before the 200th page. Oh well. What's done is done and the book wasn't any worse because of it. In fact it ended on a really promising note! I'm fully expecting the next book to be action packed.

Guardian was an easy read that romance lovers will *adore*. Parts of it just weren't for me though, but I enjoyed it overall. People who like the first Haflings book, paranormal romance or Twilight will really like this book.

Thanks to NetGalley and Zondervan, who provided me with an ARC for review purposes.

Michelle's Paranormal Vault of Books says

Originally Posted at my blog here Michelle's Paranormal Vault of Books

I received this complementary ARC copy from edelweiss for my honest review.

Wow, let me start off saying this book is full of suspense and revelations that we get to discover. I do not want to spoil anything for anyone, so this review will not be as in depth as most are.

I will say, I still love Mace and Raven, and had a hard time with Nikki at times, but these times there seems to be a good reason that she acts the way she does. She does make some immature choices, which put her in that bad situation I mentioned.

Lets just say it puts her in those situations that I was disappointed in her for.

I really feel bad for Raven (he is a Halfling , half angel-half human) as he is in love with Nikki, and seems she is stringing the 2 guys along, As she chose Mace (also a halfling). Mace is perfect for her, but Raven is a good guy too, and feel I bad his feelings get hurt by Nikki. But Nikki also hurts Mace's feelings too, but not on purpose, she doesn't want either of them to be hurt. She also feels bad about how either of the Halflings can be damned for being with a human. It's exciting on the new developments we find out about though.

This book is even better than the first one (Halflings) as the first was more of an introduction to the series, still a good one, but all the characters grow so much in this book.

Here are some good quotes/teasers for you.

Kindle location 1471 (uncorrected ARC proof, it will change in corrected copy)
(Mace and Nikki, from Mace's POV)

*What had been an exploration became a caress. "And what about you boys? Are you Safe?"
Mace's wings stopped for a moment. "No," he said, and even he could hear the sadness in his voice. "I
wouldn't say that." Her fingers slipped away slowly. But instead of closing him off, she settled in by laying
her head against his shoulder, her ear against the throbbing pulse in his throat. "I would. I'd say I'm safe
with you, Mace. You're my guardian." She drew a deep breath, lungs filling with air, filling with him. On the
exhales she whispered, "My guardian angel."*

Mace is so sweet, and every girls dream guy! I mean, cerulean blue eyes, how gorgeous is that?

Another good part:

Kindle location 2564 (uncorrected ARC proof will change)

She thought she's already run the gamut of sensations in the course of this day, but the press of his mouth to hers created a new barrage of feelings. Her awareness heightened as she felt the shockwave rock his system. Mace deepened the kiss, barely, but somehow monumentally. And Nikki knew as soon as she pulled the breath he released into her lungs that there'd be no going back. They'd just crossed a line. She wouldn't apologize for this. It felt right be in his arms. To truly be his. How could she have ever doubted? He pulled away gently, but it felt as though they were still connected. Maybe they were. On some deep level that went far beyond feeling, it felt like their souls intertwined. And she didn't think any power on earth could reverse that.

So sweet, and one more for you, this is more of a short teaser for you.

Kindle location 5075 (ARC uncorrected)

Her eyes met Mace's across the lawn. He watched the gold in them darken, deepening almost to black. He staggered, grabbed Raven for support. She can't be... Will said it would be impossible to hide.

Interested yet? I bet you are. It's a great book, and if you have not read Halflings yet, go get it, then get this one when it's out. In fact, read Halflings, then read the free ebook 11:15: The Making of a Halfling and then read another new short story that's free called A Halflings Rescue. They are nice short stories, will give you some extra fun stuff.

Highly recommended, for all ages. This story is a new spin on the angel's books out there, not fallen angels, actual Half angels. It's quite interesting.

Summary from book:

Vigilance. The mission to safeguard Nikki Youngblood depends on the fragile alliance of two half-angel, half-human guardians, both struggling with intense feelings for the girl who has been assigned to their care. Mace, steadfast and deeply in love, wants to protect Nikki at all costs, while Raven's loyalty to Nikki finds him advocating for her independence and battling his own darker inclinations. At the same time, Nikki finds it harder and harder to choose between the two heavenly beings she may never have. Dangers intensify, and tensions between Mace and Raven flare as the purpose of their mission becomes clear. Can their defenses hold up to master manipulator Damon Vessler and the powerful secret he holds regarding Nikki's heritage? Can anyone protect Nikki from her true purpose and destiny?

Jamie Ayres says

Even though this one got off to a rough start for me (I felt it didn't start in the heart of the action enough), by about 20% through on my Kindle I couldn't put it down! There were so many twists, so many sweet moments between her and Mace (and between her and Raven as well). I won't tell you who she ends up with. I love them both, but I was a little disappointed with who she picked. I switched teams between book 1 & 2 though, and I may switch again in book 3 (maybe Nikki will too)! Anyway, it ended with a cliff hanger so I hope that book #3 is coming out soon! If you're thinking about reading the Halfling series, you won't be disappointed.

Vicki (The Wolf's Den) says

This review is for those who have read or are familiar with the previous book, *Halflings*, or don't mind knowing some **major** spoilers for it. *Guardian*, however, will remain spoiler-free.

Amazon ~ Powell's ~ Jan's Paperbacks

If *Halflings* had me torn, *Guardian* has me ripped apart. And not in a good way. Sure, *Halflings* disappointed me in some respects, but it at least still had enough to make me hope for improvements. *Guardian* managed to nothing but infuriate me chapter after chapter. But let me start at the beginning.

Nikki Youngblood has lost everything she knows and loves. Her parents were murdered. Her house was emptied by her mysterious godfather. Even her dog was slaughtered by hellhounds. All she has left to cling onto is her half-angel protectors, two of whom are trying to become a bit closer than protectors. So it just stands to reason that they all need a vacation.

Yep, no *Twilight* rip-off here; this love triangle is on the move. And what better way to solve angst problems than trapping eleven teenagers on a boat together? Obviously God knows what he's doing here.

Okay, all joking aside, there seriously are *eleven* teenagers on a private boat crossing the Atlantic for about half this book. During that time Nikki is both focusing on training herself in otherworldly matters and trying not to cause either of her love interests to give up their eternity for her. Add that to thrilling activities with the other Halflings such as shopping (with the girls Vegan, Winter, and Glimmer), homework (with Zero), and admiring the view (of Ocean, Sky, and Dash [characters, not scenery]) and she has a busy schedule indeed.

Nikki's emotional range for the majority of this book went from *Woe is me* to *I'm a horrible person*. The few times of happiness she experiences are always overshadowed by the fact that she's hurting her other love. That's right, she's still deeply in love with **both** Mace and Raven. But when she finally makes a decision between the two, she happens to overhear **everyone** talk about how she's damning him, and how selfish she is, and how it would be better if they'd never met.

And therein lies one of my biggest peeves of the book: the villanization of women. Yes, Nikki is being an idiot stringing along two guys, but they're allowing her to do so. Neither of the guys seems to have a problem with knowing they're both under consideration. But to everyone else, she's a whore and a temptress. During one of the eavesdropped conversations, they even go so far as to make this reference:

"God was the perfect father, yet Adam still chose sin."
"Yes. For a woman." [Location 2588 of ARC]

In one of the other overheard conversations, Glimmer, who has never liked her, makes the comment that if [Boy] is too stupid, then Nikki should be taking matters into her own hands and leave. Vegan and Winter stay silent, which Nikki takes as agreement. Once again, the blame of the matter lies not with the boy, but the inherently evil woman. Obviously Nikki, and her feminine ways have seduced the half-angels into romancing her. And if their minds have been overcome by her poison, then it falls to Nikki to do the right thing.

Oh, please. I'm all for girl power, but there's only so much for which Nikki can be held responsible.

But speaking of the guys, here's how they hold up in this book. Mace is still head-over-heels over Nikki. He may have feigned trying to cut back on courting the human, but he's back in full-swing here. From close-quarters maneuvering to giving gifts, he's one love-sick puppy. That is, until he thinks Nikki has made her choice and is now his property.

I kid you not. Once Raven is out of the picture, and Nikki is supposedly his for the taking, he gets super pissed off at every independent decision she makes. She decides to try training against a hellhound without his supervision (but other Halflings) and he flies off the handle. She goes out for a motorcycle ride without him, and she's being reckless. She gives someone a goodbye kiss, possibly for forever, and he tells her she needs to "Stick to the rules" before storming out. Even rag-doll Nikki realizes that's going a little far.

But it's okay because Mace is instantly sorry that his actions had repercussions and totally wants to accept Nikki for who she is now.

And then there's my boy, Raven. Raven comes off as a little douchy-er at times, but other times he's just as deep and romantic as ever. I'll admit, his attitude of '*you know you love me, and I can wait for you to figure it out*' ground on my nerves. I remembered his cockiness, sure, but for him to tell her that to her face was just a turn-off.

I mentioned that Raven left the picture, and spoiler-ish, yeah he does. There's this huge event maybe halfway through where Nikki reaches out to Mace first/more than Raven, so he decides enough is enough with this mushy stuff, it's time to get some real work done. It's a little more complex than that, but you get the gist. He's still torn with the darkening of his soul and this quote really sums it up:

Raven cared about the society of one: himself. At least he had until Nikki. She'd changed him—both destroyed and remade him. There was a soul beneath his flesh. It had been a cold and shriveled empty place until she ignited it. Now it burned, and the awakened fire might kill him—if, of course, he wasn't already dead. [Location 2017 of ARC]

Love has reawakened his hope to keep fighting the darkness, but at the same time that Love would condemn him to the darkness.

Which leads me to my greatest disappointment of the book: the twist. It wasn't completely out of the blue—I could see evidence for it in both the last book and this one—but instead of sucking me in, it was more of a let-down for me. Also, the explanations for why it was a surprise to absolutely everyone, including the semi-omnipotent ANGEL, read more like weak excuses than plausible reasons. No me gusta. *

And did I mention there are also villains in this book? I mean, we know about creepy Damon Vessler (though, it seems no one EVER informs Nikki—bit of an oversight?) from book one, but apparently there are also Halfling hunters. Yes, apparently there are people who know about the existence of Halflings, and are trying to capture them with titanium. Also, these hunters know the Halflings are based in France and enjoy attacking innocents there whenever their plans are foiled. Want to know more? Too bad, 'cause there's no more information about these people.

Add in the constant female bashing, the disappointing twist that shouldn't have been, and sloppy writing including the Halfling hunters and two random instances of Vine narrating, and by all rights I should not be continuing this series. I shouldn't, I really shouldn't.

...But I will.

For two reasons: 1) I still like Raven. Like, really like him. And 2) Nikki post-twist interests me. There's such a huge, HUGE change that I feel like I'm reading a completely new story. I don't know that I'm looking forward to the next book, but at this point I'm intrigued enough to give it one last try. Oh, and did I mention it ends with a cliffhanger? That might have something to do with it as well.

Overall, I was disappointed with *Guardian*, but I think most fans of *Halflings* will continue enjoying the series. Most of the issues I had with the book were simply continued from the previous, so if you didn't mind them there, you probably won't notice them here. No language or sex to worry about, but it does have violence and dark overtones toward the ending. Based on the violence and the nature of some situations, I'd recommend it for high school and above. For someone already invested in the characters, this book will be impossible to put down.

Approximate Reading Time: 6.5 Hours

Disclaimer: I received this ARC from Zondervan via NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

* Due to formatting restrictions, I had to leave out a couple hidden spoilers from this review. If you are interested, you can read the unedited review at The Wolf's Den.

sara says

OHMYGOODNESSGRACIOUS!!!! i need this book now. i'm dying inside waiting for this book. hmm my moms a librarian can she get it for me? :OOO i need this boooooook!!!!!! *dies* xD

Booknut says

The next book in the Halflings series packs a punch, that's for sure!! Now, for my gif-by-gif analysis:

At the end of the last book we were all like:

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Because OMG there's a LOVE TRIANGLE.

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Noble as ever, our heroine - Nikki - decides to stay strong and not lead on either guy:

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But then Mace is all like:

Uploaded with ImageShack.us

And Raven pretends he doesn't care, but every time he sees Mace and Nikki together he's all:

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But Nikki's cool - it's not like everytime she sees either of them that she does a slow-motion turn or anything...

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Or that she gets herself into life-threatening situations or anything, so she can get rescued at the last second...

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Or that every time she and Mace lock gazes you can just hear this song playing in the background:

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Not to mention Raven and his Hot 'N' Cold act. He's all "Why doesn't she love me like she loves Mace?" "Why doesn't she get that I care?!"

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And after numerous make out sessions, heart-stopping revelations and plenty of intense gaze holding...we finally find out the BIG reason why everyone wants Nikki. And I was all like:

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Everyone wants Nikki - ha! It sounds like a TV show..."Everyone Wants Nikki". Or maybe "Why the hell is she constantly surrounded by guys that look like male swimsuit models?"

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I liked this book. Don't get me wrong! But I couldn't stand Nikki for half of it...or more than half. Mainly, because she's so...so...careless with love. She acts like "Hey, guys fall over themselves for me everyday and I should just throw their love away in a self-sacrificing manner again and again and again." Why Mace and Raven put up with her I don't get. Because in REAL life, if you push a guy away again and again and again...HE WILL LEAVE. He gets the hint! But I guess Mace and Raven are blessed with angelic patience :D

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And the cliffhanger?

Really?

Another one?!!

And just when I wanted it to be a NICE, HAPPY ending?

WHY?!!

collapses on top of computer and sobs

I'm an emotional wreck.

Really.

I can't take much more.

No gifs can describe these feels!!

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WHY MUST CLIFFHANGERS EXIST?!

sniffs And it wasn't even an actual cliffhanger! But it still annoyed me because now the love triangle will **STILL BE THERE** and nothing is over!!

I shall now slink off to my bed - and NOT dream of angel boys, juice boxes, ships, shipping, motorbikes or dolphins...

S.H. says

What I Loved: To be honest, I wasn't really that overly crazy about *Guardian*, but The last 4 chapters of *Guardian* were awesome and fully redeemed the series for me. But...I can't tell you what ***AWESOME BIG THINGS*** happen in the last couple of chapters because they contained **HUGE SPOILERS**. Also, the writing was just as great as always, despite the plot seemingly being m.i.a.

What I Didn't Like So Much: *Guardian* started out extremely slow, for me. I mean, it literally took me 5 chapters in before I even got remotely interested with the story at all. Also, the plot, which was excellent in the first book, was utterly lost and drowned out in a sea of emotionally confused characters who, weirdly enough, were happily entwined in a disappointing love triangle. Nikki didn't really seem to care about anyone other than herself either, which caused me such grief throughout the book.

Often it seemed as if Nikki didn't mind dragging Mace and Raven's feelings through the mud at all. I mean, I honestly just wanted to shake Nikki for stringing along Mace and Raven the whole time. And I wanted to shake Mace and Raven too, and tell them to man up already! Honestly, what kind of a man would just stand there and let a young woman give them a proverbial "heart beating" and not care if she chose the other guy over himself or not!? Seriously!? No guy I know would stand back and let the young woman they truly love rule the situation, AND their feelings, and then just let the young woman calmly walk away with their ripped-to-pieces-heart in her hands. No, that would never happen in real life. If the romance in the story was more like that of a real romance Mace and Raven would've fought over Nikki and would've ultimately taken charge in the midst of the complication (ahem, love triangle) themselves and not just let Nikki run over them like they were pitiful beaten down doormats or something.

That said, I ***normally*** do like a healthy dose of romance, or even a well done love triangle (think Christine/Raoul/Phantom...because those men were manly and didn't let Christine jerk 'em around!!) in a story, but the whole Nikki/Raven/Mace love triangle had me sick to my stomach, frustrated beyond belief and quite baffled most of the time.

Honestly, I wanted to know more about Damon Vessler, the Hell Hounds, the Demons, Nikki's abilities as a Seer and the Omega Corporation, more than I wanted to know about which halfling-of-the-moment wussed out and let Nikki string them along for the I-just-can't-decide-between-you-two-hunks train.

I think this book relied on romance, and not the glorious plot set up in Halflings, a little bit too much this go around. So, here's to hoping that Avenger can shake Nikki, Mace, Raven and the others up a bit more to the realms of believable romance and reality.

Okay, rant almost over.

In spite of everything I am still looking forward to reading Avenger to see how the story plays out. I mean, the last 4 chapters truly blew my mind, so I have to read the last book now, you know? I really wish that the way the last 4 chapters had read would've been the route that the author would've taken with the entire novel. If the book would've lost the cheap romance I certainly would've given this book a couple more stars, but as it stands I only "kinda liked" the book and would give it a 2.5 star rating.

I'm Recommending This Book... If you read Halflings, the first book in the Halflings trilogy, and you want to see the story through to the end then you'll most definitely want to read this one too.

*Zondervan's Z Street Team gave me the privilege of reviewing an ARC of this book for FREE. Thank you, Zondervan!

Tracey says

When I read Halflings, I thought the illogical jumps in the time/space continuum were me being scatter brained or a bad copy of the book. Well, what are the chances of the same issues occurring in Guardian, apparently quite high, or else this is the worst case of writing/editing I've EVER seen? I refuse to read anymore in this series. The Twilightesque love triangle is so overplayed I lack the words to properly describe it. Quite frankly, the whole story wreaks of a Twilight rip-off with "angels" instead of "demons".

Pauline says

Guardian is the second installment of the Halflings series. I found that out when I received this ARC, so obviously, I had to read Halflings and thankfully, I liked it. But I liked this one better!

Guardian is action-packed. A lot happens to Nikki who doesn't know who to turn to anymore. She tries to improve herself and work on her abilities but Mace is overprotective and Raven is always in her face. She's in love with one and she's attracted and attached to the other. So, of course, it complicates things even more and her life just doesn't need the added pressure.

Plus, she meets new Halflings; three new guys and...three new girls! Are they going to be friends or rivals? Frenemies maybe? What about all of the above?! Jealousy seems to be a theme in Guardian. That and revenge. And we all know where revenge leads...to trouble.

Nikki learns about herself, what she's capable of, who she is and it would be good if it didn't blow her mind. Her life is a lie. Her feelings are treacherous. Honestly, anybody would go cray-cray at this point but she's

strong. She won't always make the right choices but at least, she tries to deal with her stuff and to find her place in all of this.

The story is well written and interesting. It's quite smart actually. It keeps improving and I didn't feel lost at times like when I read Halflings. I connected more with the characters. You understand Nikki even when she screws up. I just wanted to tell her near the end to just chill and stop self-hating but, what do I know about being Nikki Youngblood?!!!
