



# The Given

*Vicki Pettersson*

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**New York Times bestselling author Vicki Pettersson continues her breakout new supernatural noir mystery series as a fallen angel and a reporter team up to stop a drug cartel**

After learning his wife survived the attack that killed him fifty years earlier, angel/PI Griffin Shaw is determined to find Evelyn Shaw, no matter the cost. Yet his obsession comes at a price. Grif has had to give up his burgeoning love for reporter Katherine "Kit" Craig, the woman who made life worth living again, and dedicate himself to finding one he no longer knows.

Yet when Grif is attacked again, it becomes clear that there are forces in both the mortal and heavenly realm who'd rather see him dead than unearth the well-buried secrets of his past. If he's to survive his second go-round on the Surface, Grif will have to convince Kit to reunite with him professionally, and help uncover decades of police corruption, risking both their lives... and testing the limits to what one angel is really willing to give for love.

## The Given Details

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Author : Vicki Pettersson

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Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Mystery, Angels, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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## From Reader Review The Given for online ebook

### Jessica (a GREAT read) says

Finally read the conclusion to Vicki Pettersson's Celestial Blues trilogy and what an ending! I was expecting something of epic proportions with The Given, because it's a given with the final book! (LOL!) And Vicki definitely did not disappoint!

It's been six months since Grif and Kit split, so to speak. Learning that his beloved wife Evie is still alive, kind of put a crimp between them. Plus the things Sarge told Kit also was a factor. Things are a mess. Though, Grif still likes to keep an eye on Kit, as you saw from my teaser! It's not until Sarge comes to him, quite literally falling apart with an incredible offer. Kit's life is in danger and if he doesn't act quit, she will die. But the catch is that he has to go back in time by a few days, he must save her and solve his own decades long murder and also put a stop to the problems going about in the now. There's a lot to do and little time to be doing it. Grif's time on Earth is almost up, indefinitely.

Since it's been a long while since I last read the first two books, it took a bit of getting used to things again, but luckily not much needed to be remembered in detail. Vicki does a remarkable job of recapping the important facts and it sets us off on the new course.

When Grif was murdered, he was framed for things he didn't do. There were lies, diamonds, and all sorts of players involved. The mystery stretched pretty far back. And there was naturally a whopper of a shocker at the end! I'd like to say I saw it coming, I so didn't see it coming! But I love having that shock factor! To be so totally and utterly blown away by said revelation. It leaves you staggering and going omg!! Repeatedly!

The pacing to this one was great! There's always more than one mystery to solve, such as who killed Kit's father all those years ago. We finally get resolution to that as well! Pretty much every mystery or question that needed answering is answered in this epic finale!

I love the world here! Vicki did a tremendous job! Kit is still the go to Rockabilly girl and I love that about her! She's so fresh and unique. You almost forget what time you're in, and that's not a bad thing! I loved that Grif comes from Kit's favorite time period! It just makes them a perfect couple! And yet, fate is trying to tear them apart!

The Given is basically the perfect series ender! It has everything you want to see in a finale and I have quite enjoyed the series! Vicki is one of my favorite authors and I am happy to say that I have read all her books now since I've already read her newest release, Swerve, which releases today! My review can be found in my archives! And that was one thrilling read as well! Needless to say, if you haven't read any of Vicki Pettersson's books yet, you really need to remedy that!

Overall Rating 4/5 stars

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### Talk Books To Me says

Review by Brandi

5 Stars!

First, I would like to show my love for all the cover's to The Celestial Blues series! They are all so beautiful and eye catching that they are my favorite cover's to date! If I was not such a fan of Ms. Pettersson I would pick these up with just one glance.

Now, I absolutely adore this author and all her work and I have to confess she blew me away with the Celestial Blues series! It's so unique and her writing is truly perfection that I have been antsy to get the final book in this series. I was left a blubbering mess at the end of The Lost (book 2) with an ending that shredded my heart and I knew we would get an emotional story in The Given and boy, did we ever!

This book we get answers, redemption, and a HEA. I was not sure how that would be pulled off but it was done perfectly! I loved Kit with her Rockabilly lifestyle, bravery, and sass as a reporter. Grif is a true gentleman with class and intelligence. These two character's together are a phenomenal team that I only wish I could get more of their story! But as they say... All good things must come to an end!

It's highly recommended that you start with The Taken (Book 1) or you will be totally lost!

<http://talkbookstomeblog.wordpress.com>

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### **Talk Supe says**

"What will your sunrises look like if I'm gone? How will your days stretch out before you, and what will you do to fill in all of those years, all that time (without me)?" - Griffin Shaw, break my heart why don't cha!

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### **Carmel (Rabid Reads) says**

#### **Reviewed by: Rabid Reads**

This series is a great way to switch things up if you're looking for something that's a little outside the paranorm, and it's also a trilogy which makes it not too daunting of a commitment. The supernatural elements are subtle, the mystery is complex and engrossing, and the ending is unexpectedly uplifting. I missed the rockabilly aspects that were at the forefront of book 1, and the story lagged a bit in the earlier chapters, but overall this was by far my favourite installment out of the three. Once the revelations start pouring in—there's no lack of excitement which helped catapult this novel into five star territory.

I enjoyed the Vegas old school mob plot line that's at the center of THE GIVEN. This component has been present to a lesser degree throughout this series, but really gets amped-up in this final book. Sin City has changed dramatically in the last fifty years, so it was interesting to see that in spite of the odds, some things have stayed the same. Old habits die hard, and even though the villains are rather elderly, that doesn't make them any less capable or vicious. If anything, the fact that this vendetta has endured for five decades made the truth cut extra deep.

Grif and Kit's relationship, both professional and personal, really came together in this installment. When I first started reading this series I wasn't sure how the romance was going to play out, but I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised by its conclusion. At times it seemed like Heaven was conspiring against them, and I couldn't help but wonder who's side the Pures were really on. Their motivations still aren't entirely clear

which I suppose was the point because God tends to work in mysterious ways, but at the end of the day this only served to reinforce the fact that true love conquers all.

The noir twister is well-written, difficult to predict, and thrilling to unravel. I loved the way that the story arc came full circle, literally. I'm all for tying up loose ends, but Pettersson takes that to a whole new level with this novel. Grif's life actually finished and began anew in the exact same spot which was pure genius! But, I wasn't overly shocked when the author revealed Evie's true identity which was mildly disappointing. I did however enjoy the surprise HEA because I honestly expected this trilogy to close on a sad note given its dark tone.

THE GIVEN is a stunning conclusion to an unusual trilogy that'll leave you wishing that it hadn't ended so soon.

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### **Michelle Leah Olson says**

Our Review, by LITERAL ADDICTION's Pack Alpha - Chelle:

\*Copy gifted by the author in exchange for an honest review

I truly don't believe that this brilliant piece of storytelling genius can be properly summed up and done justice by yours truly, but I shall endeavor to try...

I have enjoyed this series since book #1, but this installment had so much wonder, so much intrigue, so much surprise (OMGoodness the twists!!), heart, and action that it was all I could do not to be overwhelmed by all that it made me \*feel\*. And that, is the most honest telling of a truly remarkable piece of literature there is.

The Given picks up where book #2 left off with both Grif and Kit trying to find a way to live their lives without the other and still get the answers that they both so desperately seek. When a mysterious murder brings them back together, they have no choice but to confront their feelings while working together to solve the crime, and possibly, find out once and for all who actually killed Griffin Shaw. Unbeknownst to them, however, there are some heavy hitters in play, about 50 years of subterfuge, a whole lot of manipulation, and some crazy, dark secrets.

The CELESTIAL BLUES characters are ones for the ages. They're so well thought out and defined that they are hard to shake for days after the completion of a book, and will always remain in a special place of your memory even months afterwards. They're also timeless, and in 20 years, this book will still seem current. I am really going to miss them.

This world is unique and complex in its simplicity. What I mean, is that there aren't tons of different supernatural creatures, there isn't a crazy 'rule' system, it's just the Centurions, the Pure, and... life, as you and I know it. Sure there are some prophecies and things that are uniquely fantastical, but it's just so well developed, it feels like you could actually live it. And like I said in book #1, while I enjoyed the action, mystery and romance, my favorite part of the book was the underlying message - that life is meant to be lived, enjoyed one day at a time to its fullest, and that death shouldn't be feared, because dying means you were once truly alive. This was only strengthened by Kit & Grif's struggles & made more obvious by everything Kit \*is\*.

I am in love with this series and I can see myself reading it again. The noir elements were a draw for me

from the start and I couldn't have hoped for more personally with Vicki's mesh of all that I love - dark urban fantasy, mystery/thriller, and paranormal romance. Add in the stellar way that this series was ended, and I will recommend this book far and wide. I do, however, suggest that the trilogy be read in order. This book wouldn't mean nearly as much, or be quite as touching, without the backstory and arc developed in the first two books.

So, so good! :)

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### **Adrielle says**

I've really enjoyed this Rockabilly urban trilogy. Set in Vegas, Shaw comes back to investigate his own murder. I have to admit, I guessed the culprit half way through the first book.

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### **Amy says**

This was everything you could want in an ending. Faithful to the first 2 books of the trilogy, this book too had its own unique mystery but it also brought to the fore Grif's overarching mystery that launched the series and the relationship that grounded it. It sounds cliché, but this book did make me laugh and cry and scream and smile. Pettersson did an amazing job of showing the character growth that allowed for the relationship to evolve and that growth also pushed the storyline along. She seamlessly weaved the threads of Grif's past, Kit's past, and everyone's present together to build a magnificent story. Even when I started to guess at the players and the outcomes, Pettersson kept me doubting myself and questioning everything. And I never would have guessed the ultimate ending. I hope to see similar works from this author!

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### **Karissa says**

I got a copy of this book to review through NetGalley. This is the final book in the Celestial Blues trilogy by Pettersson. I have actually been enjoying this series quite a bit more than Pettersson's Signs of the Zodiac series.

There are spoilers ahead from the first two books in this series.

Griffin Shaw has finally learned that his wife, Evie, is still alive and he hopes to track her down and finally solve the mystery of who killed him all those years ago. Unfortunately his obsession with the past is costing him his newfound love with Kit Craig the Rockabilly reporter. Grif is determined to solve his murder no matter what the cost. Then he finds out that the past is tangled indeed and he has to ask Kit for her professional help in solving this mystery.

This was a well done conclusion to this series. There is a lot of investigating, mystery, some paranormal elements, and some organized crime. Grif of course is an angel of sorts, he was sent back to dwell among humanity to be given the chance to solve his murder. But there is a time limit on how long he gets. There are some interesting revelations in this book about Grif's fellow angels.

However the main portion of the story involves Grif hunting down Evie and solving his murder. Poor Kit loves Grif and wants him to be happy, so she decides to help him track down his wife no matter the emotional cost to her.

I love Kit she is such a sunny character, but this is a rough book for her. She goes through a lot of depression and self-doubt and is left picking up the pieces. Of course, Kit is strong in her own way and she continues to pave her own way throughout. I love Kit's attitude and Rockabilly style.

Grif has had a blind spot the whole series for his wife from 50 years ago, Evie....he's been obsessed with solving his murder and finding out what happened to Evie. This is the book where he finally starts to take the blinders off and see what's right in front of him. I loved how Grif struggles with resolving issues from his past life versus embracing a new life with Kit.

The mystery is a bit convoluted but was well done. There was a lot of "she did it"... "No, wait...he did it"... "No...wait..someone else did it!" types of twists and turns. The whole thing got a bit serpentine and, at times, kind of confusing. There were a couple times I had to stop and read back about who was who in all the organized crime families. In the end though everything made sense and worked out. Things are tied up well for the end of this series. There were some surprising twists and turns.

Overall this was a decent conclusion to this series. The twist and turns in the plot got a bit convoluted at times. However, I really enjoy the way the book had a nostalgic feel even though it takes place in modern times. I also really enjoyed Grif and Kit as characters, they are very well done and have excellent chemistry together. This book was an interesting blend of paranormal, mystery, and crime. I would recommend to those who like urban fantasy and are up for reading something with a bit of a nostalgic feel to it.

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### **Melissa says**

This was probably my favorite book in the whole series. That is odd for me to say since usually the ending book is often my least favorite. In this book we finally get the conclusion to Grif's quest and get those answers we have been seeking since the first book. The book's flow was even and there was no competing mystery to solve.

There are several twists and turns that happen with Grif's mystery. You find that it is even more twisty than even Grif could guess. Several of the twists were not surprises to me, but some of the details were. I was happy for those details since they gave weight to the twists within the story. The end had our HEA that we crave and it was satisfying. This is the book I was waiting for in the series.

I give this book 4 stars and I recommend this one to those that like PI mysteries mixed with the paranormal. It is perfect ending for a series.

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### **The Book Tart says**

I love Vicki Pettersson's world building and complicated, well rounded characters I always fall in love with. The Celestial Blues series combines two of my favorite things, paranormal fiction AND Rockabilly. I dressed up and trimmed my Bettie Page bangs so I could spazz about my lovin' of The Given on video!

See?

<http://thebooktart.com/book-review/th...>

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## **All Things Urban Fantasy says**

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

THE GIVEN is a satisfying and touching conclusion to the Celestial Blues series. The main mystery of who killed Griffin Shaw occupies THE GIVEN surrounded by a plot that involves betrayal, organized crime, and murder yet at its center, it's a story about true love and finding peace with yourself. Both Grif and Kit have huge a journey of discovery about their own strengths and about living in the present rather than using the past as a shield. I never thought of the reasons behind Kit's Rockabilly lifestyle as anything more than a style she liked but realizing why she picked up that particular style actually revealed a lot about her past and inner conflict. I enjoyed seeing Kit work through her issues and finding out the truth about her father's death as it shows her strength and determination for the truth.

Throughout this series I had been failing at trying to figure out just who killed Private PI turned angel, Griffin Shaw and while it was pretty obvious in retrospect I admit I did not see it coming. I have to also admit that I was quite annoyed with Griffin for leaving Kit at the end of THE LOST to search for his murderer. Part of my annoyance was seeing how badly it affected the usually strong and confident Kit who is devastated and nearly broken in the beginning of THE GIVEN. Luckily Griffin slowly makes amends to me/Kit for his abandoning of her which is when the story picks up and these two crazy kids use their excellent detecting skills to unravel the the convoluted story of his murder. Coincidentally the murder neatly connects to Kit's father's murder in a fascinating way.

Celestial Blues has always had a nostalgic feel to it, blending the past seamlessly into the present. The conclusion of THE GIVEN is wonderfully fitting for Griffin and Kit's journey to finding peace and getting second chances at love and life.

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## **Eleni Konstantine says**

4.5 stars

A good ending to the series.

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## **OpenBookSociety.com says**

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/th...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Heidi

\*Beware of Spoilers\*



the-given-celestial-blues-vicki-petterssonIt's been six long months since Grif and Kit went their separate ways. And, both have been miserable in their own right. But the Host is getting tired of waiting for Grif to find who killed him and take his rightful place in the Everlast. He is given a prophecy that he must fulfill before the 51st anniversary of his death, and it's approaching fast! He will reunite with his greatest love to accomplish it, but will it be enough? He's running out of time to solve the mysteries of his past, finding out who murdered him, and what exactly happened to his wife, Evie, now that he knows she didn't die that horrible night. But does any of that even matter when he faces the possibility of losing his beloved Kat for good?

I was pretty sad at the end of the previous installment of this series, *The Lost*, and I really didn't know where it could possibly go from there once this fated pair went splitsville. But I got so excited when I read the synopsis of *The Given*! And, let me tell you that this book did NOT disappoint! It had everything I could have possibly wanted: greed, mystery, intrigue, betrayal, and even a little romance thrown in for good measure!

I am a bit sad that this series stops here though, but with everything tied up so nicely, there is really nowhere else for it to go. And, I think if Pettersson tried to extend it, that the quality would drop because there is really nothing else for us to learn, nothing else for these great characters to achieve or discover.

Kit and Grif were great as always! I loved how they finally found their way back to one another, but all the time they lost in those six months apart did make my heart ache a bit when we discover just how little time Grif has left on this 'mudflat'.

I've had a sneaking suspicion about Evie's involvement in everything that happened 50 years ago, but I never could have guessed just how immersed in it she was! We saw a much uglier side of her than I ever expected.

There was also many twists and turns with the other players involved, showing you just how ugly greed can really turn a person, and leaves you asking the question: What WOULDN'T you do for money?

I'm thankful that Pettersson has taken us on this fun ride, taught me about the rockabilly lifestyle, and introduced us to a great love story that I won't soon forget! Also, the covers have been amazing and powerful, I love how Grif's wings are always in the shadows! And, as I'm sad it's over, I know that it couldn't have ended more perfectly!

"Love isn't just worth remembering and saving. True love is what saves us all."

\*Please note this review is based off an advanced copy that the reviewer happily received free in exchange for an honest review. Everything is subject to change before the finished copy is released including the quote included in this review.\*

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## Adam Neve says

Finally answering all the questions that were asked in the first book, *The Given* is definitely the strongest book in the trilogy. There's nothing truly shocking about the revelations in this book, but they tie everything together into the kind of satisfying conclusion you want from a paranormal romance.

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## Debbie says

Griffin Shaw, Centurion angel, literally just got word from above that his time on the mortal plane is numbered. He's left unsolved too long the 50yr old crime of his and his wife's murder and will now pay the ultimate price. Worse than losing his mortality is finally realizing his one true love is not his wife Evie, but his beautiful crime-solving partner, retro-diva, Kit. With a lot of luck and some divine intervention, maybe just maybe he can solve the case and still get the girl.

Katherine (Kit) Craig's survived many tragedies but losing Grif was like severing a limb, when he shows up after months away she must decide whether to break his bones or jump them. And as much as she wants to continue the pity-party she knows deep in her Rockabilly heart that what she really needs is to pick herself up by her vintage peep-toed pumps and be the glass-half-full-girl she really is, help Grif solve this one last case. And have faith that love really can and will conquer all.

Of course that is if they even survive.

Pettersson's finale in her Celestial Blues trilogy is amazingly awesome, heartbreaking, uplifting and funny all at once. Her Bogey-ish, Maltese Falcon-ed, emotionally charged, intense narrative left me breathless, in tears and tearing through the pages, both wanting to get to the finish and lamenting the end. Her un-heavenly hero and retro heroine are awesome, unique, humorous, heartwarming, heartbreaking, and believable in fantastical circumstances and both inherently good. Her love story is timeless and unforgettable; her love scenes are befitting an angel and his earthly doll. And as her story comes to a close her genius in storytelling is more evident than ever, her remarkable characters will stay with me long after the story is finished, her morality tale is perfect and I can't wait to see where she takes me on our next journey together.

The novel is the last of the trilogy and for maximum enjoyment and understanding they should be read in order.

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