



## Brimstone Angels: A Forgotten Realms Novel

*Erin M. Evans*

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**Brimstone Angels: A Forgotten Realms Novel** Erin M. Evans  
**It's a simple thing.**

Rejected at birth and raised in a village of tiefling misfits, Farideh expects a life without friends, love, or control over her destiny. Then she makes a pact with a devil named Lorcan, and everything changes.

**You'll have the power to do as you please.**

Lorcan promises all she ever dreamed of and asks for nothing in return. Her twin sister Havilar urges Farideh to resist the devil's sway. But Farideh's not so sure. Lorcan may be dangerous but the power he offers is exhilarating.

**Say you're mine.**

In the ruins of Neverwinter, Farideh's doubts get tangled up in a devilish snare six layers deep. A succubus playing human pawns against an otherworldly foe sees the twins as obstacles in her path. And Lorcan's monstrous sisters have their eyes on the city—and on Farideh. There's no time to question her pact with Lorcan—it will take every ounce of Farideh's newfound powers to get out of Neverwinter alive.

## **Brimstone Angels: A Forgotten Realms Novel Details**

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Author : Erin M. Evans

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## **From Reader Review Brimstone Angels: A Forgotten Realms Novel for online ebook**

### **Daphne says**

Great start to a new series in Forgotten Realms world. I enjoyed all of the main characters and look forward to the next five in the series.

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### **Jeremiah Mccoy says**

So, game fiction is often not awesome. Some like the books of Paul S Kemp are down right insultingly bad. Some are just good adventure tales with little depth. This on is more the later. It is a solid adventure tale with a likable protagonist and her family. The downside here is the Lorkin character. He is the devil that provides Farideh's pact. D&D has never made devils interesting. They are like devils from the heavy metal album covers. This book is filled with that and it is why this 3 stars instead of 4. That said, the Farideh and Havilar are excellent characters, flawed in human ways but still heroic. Their Dragonborn adoptive father is a bit one note, but still nice. This book is not going to win a Pulitzer or anything but I found most of the main characters likable and the action was good.

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### **Robert says**

Disclaimer-If you read the review and feel there is a spoiler in it, please let me know and I will remove that section. Also, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Thank you.

Brimstone Angels is the second stand-alone novel by Erin M. Evans. Her first is The God Catcher: Ed Greenwood Presents Waterdeep.

Brimstone Angels follows the misadventures of a Tiefling named Farideh who unwittingly makes a pact with a cambion and is exiled out of the village with her twin sister and their foster father who is a dragonborn. All this happens in the prologue. Now turned bounty hunters, they end up in Neverwinter where there are many plots unfolding. The levels of intrigue are deep and dangerous and through it all some subplots have Farideh learning more about herself and the connection with her sister and foster father, a devil who is “not really a bad guy”, and others that would lead to spoilers.

This book was excellent and very different from the norm that has been rehashed through the FR world. Not only that but it also brings all the elements of what has happened into one great story without the downfalls of those elements. What I mean is everything is there from the spellplague, a little bit of the spellscarred which is used very appropriately, and the Abolethic Sovereignty. The flow of the story is well done, though there are a few little grammar hick-ups but not enough to make it too annoying, and even transitions wonderfully from one event to the next. The pace is the perfect combination of action and exposition and keeps the pages turning. I am not one to read more than 30 to 50 pages a day and this one had me reading more than a 100 in the past 2 days. The character development is also nicely done and there is a good range of depth to the characters

Some criticisms:

1. I really only have one criticism and that is the fact that the devils and such from the Hells really seem nicer than I would have expected. There are some parts where the reader is expecting this niceness as the devils are trying to persuade for their own special gain, but at times I found myself actually rooting for them. Most just didn't seem as evil maybe as they ought to have been.

Some positives:

1. One of the things that really make this novel stand out is the lack of human characters. It is a nice change of pace and is pulled off perfectly.

2. The characters were a joy to read and I felt I could really connect with all of them. Ms. Evans really had their individualities nailed down and each character has their own voice and quirks about them.

Though this book is subtitled as A Neverwinter Novel, the reader does not need any background from R.A. Salvatore's trilogy and really this book could be read without any background info of the world itself. Any mention of the past I feel would only provide a reader with a reason to go back and read previous novels that deal with the Abolethic Sovereignty and the Spellplague. For those tired of the standard human fantasy and want a change of pace, I highly recommend checking this one out. For FR fans this one is great. I feel if Ms. Evans is going to continue writing books like this one and The God Catcher, she will not long find herself among the FR greats like R.A. Salvatore, Paul S. Kemp, Erik Scott de Bie, Bruce Cordell, etc.

Happy reading

-Dimndbangr

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### **Blue says**

Entirely subjective review:

This book just managed to check most of my favorite tropes, and while I objectively realize it's not the greatest thing out there, it still has:

- a bunch of strong and badass (and unapologetically evil) ladies
- two girls as main characters
- two tieflings (aforementioned) as main characters (and their dragonborn dad) (I really like tieflings)
- pacts with devils and 9 Hells business (that one certain devil is also apparently good looking, and I'm not the one to pretend I'm not at least a bit shallow)
- characters struggling to be accepted by society, introspecting, talking their issues out, siblings getting along, man it's just so nice and I love the smallest things, and it makes it easy to relate to characters
- characters learning (and struggling) to use their newly found powers
- quite fast paced, no time to lose
- a lot of DnD references as one would expect (I've taken up 5E recently, never played before, love every single one of the references and possible inspirations for my own campaign)
- various characters and races

It was nice reading about Neverwinter. The name always sounded cool, but I honestly had no idea, before this book, that it was actually a city. Or that a calamity had befallen it before. Or just about anything. There

wasn't much of Faerun shown, but it was certainly talked about and created the feeling of that vast fantasy setting we all seek and love in books.

One might not like the book for it's relative shortness, fast pace without some (too) grand plottwists and abrupt ending (though it might just be me binging the book?), but thank gods there are 5 more and I'm about to read them all. Thank you Erin Evans!

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### **Alex says**

Brimstone Angels is a great DnD novel. It has a number of great characters, some of which develop really well over the course of the book.

Farideh is an orphaned tiefling (devil person: horns, red skin, tail) girl who makes a pact with a rather charming devil after her twin sister summons him to cure her boredom in their lonely town of Arush Vayem. All Hells (\*wink\*) break loose as Farideh and her family are forced to flee.

The characters all have interesting and distinct personalities, some of which stray far away from morally 'good'.

Pro's

- Better than other \*cough\* Salvatore \*cough\* Dungeons and Dragons books.
- Interesting characters
- Avoids a lot of RPG character stereotypes and presents some moral ambiguity.
- Not a very long read

Con's

- Uses some DnD vernacular that may confuse readers e.g. Draconic and Infernal language phrases.
- I found the main character a little pathetic thus a little unlikable for a lot of the book. She eventually become badass though.

Bonus points. The main characters twin sister Havilar, is coincidentally very much like my DnD character Avalhae, an angry, glaive wielding, tiefling girl with a slice shit, ask questions later attitude.

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### **Samuel says**

I found this book to be much better than I expected! Don't get me wrong, I didn't expect Erin M. Evans to write poorly or to disappoint me in the technical sense... but I usually consider these types of books - those based on the D&D game, to be precise - to be a ton of fluffy, but usually poorly constructed, trite, tries-too-hard type of writing with mediocre characterization and meandering go-nowhere storylines. THAT IS NOT THIS BOOK. This book is awesome! So much more than I expected from the D&D genre!

The characters acted in a way that made sense for each of them. While the character growth was not off the charts, it WAS present and appropriate. The two main characters are teenagers, so some of the dialogue and interactions are very immature, but that is what I would expect from teens thrown into the situations described in the story.

The storyline made sense and each character had their own, unique motivation that was distinct to the character, even though some of them overlapped a bit. I do feel that, at times, the cultists of Asmodeus seemed more evil than the devils themselves, but that is possibly only because most direct interaction was between the main characters and the cultists and, with the exception of Lorcan, the devils only interact with each other. Also, the devils are schemers, so their evilness is a behind-the-scenes sort of thing (until the end) without direct interaction with the main characters. Meanwhile the cultists have direct interaction with the main protagonists, so you read/experience them doing evil things and they come off as more evil than the devils themselves. In my mind this is completely acceptable, so the "devils aren't acting as evil as I think they should be" is a moot point for me.

Lorcan might be a different story... but I feel like I don't know everything about his motivations, so the reasons why he treats Farideh the way he does in some scenes was a bit puzzling... but then again, I feel that his motivations are not entirely laid bare, so once again, I can suspend disbelief enough to enjoy the book a great deal.

As a D&D novel in the 4e era I could see the connections to the game mechanics, but not in a way that was intrusive or extremely obvious - i.e. it didn't break the flow of the story. Anyone not familiar with 4e will not notice the connections and won't "miss" anything, but those who are familiar with 4e will feel a sense of knowledge that is satisfying, but not in the way of book.

In short - this was one of the most refreshing D&D based books I have read, if not THE most refreshing. Thank you Ms. Evans, for bringing back the joy of the D&D novel!

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### **Cloak88 says**

Good Forgotten Real novel 3.5 stars

Brimstone angels is set in the Forgotten Realm of the RPG world of Dungeons and Dragons. The main character are two Tieflings twins (Human - devil mix, not evil, but distrusted because of it) and their adopted Dragonborn father. The story starts when one of the two twins reluctantly/ accidentally accepts a pact with a devil and are forced out of the village they live in because of it. What follows is their adventures and the live, quibbling, fighting and classic D&D scheming.

An interesting, Lore heavy novel with a bunch of fun characters and a good sister-sister dynamic between the two main characters. This novel is probably more interesting for those with some background knowledge, than the a casual reader would have. But other than that this is a good novel and a fun read.

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### **Drew Wilcox says**

This was the first book I have read by Erin and you can consider me a fan! This is very well written and Farideh is a great heroine! Picked up book two right after finishing this one.

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## **MorteTorment(Unofficial World's Fastest Reader) says**

What's to like:

- +Main character is a tiefling!
- +Magic is kinda cool
- +satisfying combat scenes
- +The fight at the end was pretty cool
- +The ending was satisfying.
- +The audiobook has some issues, but overall it's satisfying.
- +First time I've finished a book where the audiobook is performed by a woman!

What's to not like:

- The Nine Hells parts kinda wear out their welcome 2/3 though. Could have used some brevity here.
- No seriously, they really really start to drag, I had to take a 3 day break from the book because I was so fucking sick of them.
- The woman does the same voice for way too many of the characters with a rough personality, and it kinda took me out if it.

Overall it's a decently entertaining 6/10 experience, and it brought me out of a potential reading slump, which is fine.

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## **Brenda Cothorn says**

If you want to know about Tieflings, Devils, & Archdevils in the post spellplague world of D&D, then this is the book to read. I would recommend it to any gamer who is considering playing a Tiefling!

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## **Chelsea Bingiel says**

Erin Evans is the second D&D author I have read, the other being R.A. Salvatore and the first five Legend of Drizzt books. This one is okay, though I really couldn't get past how by-the-game her language and world is. I think Salvatore does a good job abstracting away features of D&D to create a rich world of magic and creatures without hearing the die rolls behind everything the character's do. The same cannot be said of Evans's writing. The potions really bothered me, having literal all-purpose healing potions was just too bluntly taken from the core game. Another thing that bothered me was the zero explanation of aboleths. I felt like they could really have used more description into the Sovereignty and the Chasm, I found some of this kind of confusing and wonder if it's expected that the reader has read other Neverwinter based D&D books before. Missing that really screws up comprehending the importance of the overall plot of Glasya...which has a twist in the end that seemed a bit of a stretch, and seemed to come to the main character's knowledge a bit magically (in a bad way).

There were some points I really did like, though, that made me want to finish this book. I liked Lorcan a lot and enjoyed the hell scenes, I felt his character was pretty interesting. Minor spoilers approaching so I can be detailed about his character...okay. The lazy, low tier devil of the hells stealing from his powerful mother, sneaking from his dangerous half-devil tattle tale of a sister, with this material plane alter ego of a powerful devil to his warlocks. I thought it was pretty fun to learn that his whole interest in Farideh is purely for

basically a hobby, something a half-devil like himself can do for prestige as nearly every pathway to advancement is barred from him give he's only half a devil. He's almost an old money, spoiled young adult kind of character - except in hell, for probably hundreds of years living like that. I loved how the plot evolved very nicely from his own selfish, sneaky actions totally spiraling out of his control to engulf him and our Torill heroes in this larger than themselves conflict.

I have to say, though, in the end I'm just not a huge fan of a lot of the good guy characters. Our own Brimstone Angels spend a lot of time squabbling, wrestling with the constant struggle of loving your sister but taking her for granted, being jealous of her, etc. etc. Brin was the flattest character to me - Tam gets less attention but I think was more interesting. Mehen I had trouble buying as a father...for some reason the love for his adopted daughters to me felt quite forced.

I saw a lot of potential starting this book, but in the end I'm not so sure the writing and character's grew as well as they could have. I may try the second book - authors do get better the more they write. But maybe not.

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## **Travis says**

Brimstone Angels by Erin M. Evans

Brimstone Angels is a stand-alone novel set in the Forgotten Realms universe of Dungeons and Dragons. However, the novel does tie into R. A. Salvatore's Neverwinter Trilogy, along with having ties to other events in various recent series set in the Forgotten Realms. The novel will also tie into an upcoming Massively Multiplayer Online game that will be set in Neverwinter. Erin M. Evans has written a novel for the series Ed Greenwood Presents Waterdeep titled The God Catcher, as well as contributing a short story to the Realms of the Dead anthology titled "The Resurrection Agent". Brimstone Angels was released in November 2011 and was published by Wizards of the Coast, LLC.

After unwittingly accepting a pact with a cambion, Farideh realizes that she has made a huge mistake. After the town she grew up in learns of her unfortunate pact, Farideh, her twin sister, Havilar, and their adoptive father, a dragonborn named Mehen, are forced out. Thankfully, they find work as bounty hunters, but Farideh realizes that she still doesn't fit in, and it doesn't help that the cambion, Lorcan, keeps popping up. As the trio track a bounty towards the ruined and rebuilding city of Neverwinter, Farideh may have found a way out of her pact, or at least a way to control it. The only problem is the powers in Neverwinter has their own plans for the devastated city, and Farideh, Havilar, Mehen, and Lorcan find themselves in the middle of it all.

### Criticisms:

1) References. Brimstone Angels has a lot going for it. There's great characters and an interesting plot. However, there is one problem that doesn't pop up until close to the end where there seems to be a slew of references to events outside the story thrown out for the reader to try to digest. The story at this point becomes bogged down with references to the Abolethic Sovereignty, current events in Neverwinter, and some other references that may go over a new reader's head. This wouldn't have been a huge issue, but the amount of information given in such a short time span is overwhelming. It does take you out of the story, for a short time, and make you wonder what exactly is going on.

### Praises:

1) Characters. There are a few things that make Brimstone Angels a phenomenal book and it all starts with the characters. Every single character in this novel is wonderful. Not only are they developed, they go beyond that. They seem like real people in their actions and motivations. You don't see that much depth to characters in stand alone novels. The most impressive thing about the characters is that none of them came off as cliché. They didn't rely solely on one note personalities, defining attributes, or paper-thin motivations. The characters are so vivid that talking about them would cause this review to go on for a long time, as well as cheapen the experience of meeting these characters. Needless to say, everyone in this novel is just phenomenal and is a joy to read about.

2) Story. Another thing that makes Brimstone Angels work is the story. The story takes the typical "save such-and-such" and puts it in the background, and focuses more on being a character-driven story. The plot on its surface is about Farideh saving Neverwinter, but it never felt like it was about that. Instead, the characters seemed to drive the plot, leading it all the way to its conclusion. Everything the characters did had a direct impact on the plot and made sense. There never felt like there was any deus ex machina to help move the plot along. Instead, the characters felt totally in control, or at least as much as they can be. It all was logical with how events unfolded. Everything just worked with each other to make the plot work.

3) Settings. Brimstone Angels has some very interesting settings. Each place that comes up feels real and seems to have a life of itself. While Neverwinter is an interesting locale with all the events surrounding it, the most interesting setting is the sixth layer of Hell, Malbolge. The Hells seems to only be talked about and rarely seem to take a large role in Forgotten Realms novels. In Brimstone Angels it is prominent and paints an interesting, and frightening, picture of the layer. The amount of details and descriptions for Malbolge makes it easy to picture, in all its horrific glory. The same can be said about Neverwinter, with the amount of detail, but Malbolge just seemed more interesting. With Neverwinter, it feels like you were taking in the sights of the city with Farideh. But with Malbolge, it felt like something entirely new and exciting. All in all, the settings really helped in bring Brimstone Angels to life.

#### Side Notes:

1) Infernal Pact. It's nice to see a novel focusing on how warlock pacts work and it's interesting to see how they develop as time goes on. I also found the interactions between Farideh and Lorcan very intriguing and something that seemed to be missing from other warlocks that I've read. Just having Lorcan directly interact with Farideh felt different and unique.

2) Abolethic Sovereignty. After reading Brimstone Angels, I felt like I finally began to understand what the Abolethic Sovereignty is about. Kind of. It's still vague, but now I understand that it's supposed to be vague.

3) Cover Art. I really like the cover artwork for Brimstone Angels. The characters look great and exactly how I pictured them while reading. Farideh and Havilar look fantastic. You can almost see the cocky attitude that Havilar has and Farideh's worrisome nature. Also, it's a nice touch to have Farideh's eyes the two shades, silver and gold. Most covers may overlook this fact, but I'm glad it's noticeable here. The character that steals the show on the cover is Lorcan. He just looks awesome, and that's the best way to describe it. Also, there is a noticeable feeling of action going on. Just looking at it makes you pumped up to start reading the novel. It's one of those covers that you'll just enjoy.

#### Overall: 5/5

#### Final Thoughts:

Brimstone Angels can be summed up in one word; phenomenal. Everything about the novel felt right. Even the problem with the slew of references doesn't bog it down for too long. It's noticeable, but it doesn't affect the overall enjoyable experience you will have by the end. Characters are phenomenal, the story is just wonderful, and the settings are vivid and exciting. Everything works and makes it one of the funnest books I've read this year. If you want an enjoyable, character-driven novel, definitely pick this one up. If you don't want that, still pick this one up. There is a reason Erin M. Evans is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors, and Brimstone Angels will show you why.

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### **Shadowdenizen says**

One of the better D+D novels of the last few years, and certainly far better than the execrable drivel that Salvatore is pumping out with his Drizzt novels of late.

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### **Kerri says**

Forgotten Realms can at times be a daunting read. With all the all fantasy and words that aren't typical to the layman's vernacular, it can be an overwhelming experience at times. I am a huge fan of fantasy novels, and had taken a break from my latest tryst with Forgotten Realms (was entirely too emotionally vested to some characters, which left me traumatized at its finish). I had decided to try once more to fall in love with the characters presented to me in this world, and ready myself for heartbreak.

Erin Evans brought me back and reminded me why I loved this setting, and loved reading these books. She introduced entirely believable characters that one can relate to. It is sometimes difficult to relate to fantasy novels as I don't have experience finding demons, devils and the such, but I can relate to the real life concerns of being a young, lonely girl unsure of herself and her future. She paints an excellent picture that connects you to all the characters in her book, even so much that I loved to hate some of the lesser appealing characters in the novel.

This book is excellent for a new reader to the Forgotten Realms/ Neverwinter series. You don't need the background of this world to understand her writing. Its a great starting point, or a great continuation if you are already involved in the books.

I also enjoyed the fact that this story followed a pair of Tiefling sisters and their foster Dragonborn father. It was a different flavor from my typical drow filled readings. The pacing of the story was excellent and the way she tied in different aspects of the world happenings into her story was perfect.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Fantasy novels.

Just make sure you have the time to read - you won't want to put it down.

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### **Sean Twist says**

Shared universe books often take an undeserved rap for being 'inferior' to original works. While many of them are quickly written and exist only to make a buck, there are those rare books that show that the author made extra effort to create a story that stands on its own, regardless of commercial origin.

Brimstone Angels is one of those books. Evans gives depth to the characters and spends time creating some great interactions between them, while still working in the sort of epic storyline one would expect from a Dungeons and Dragons story. The amount that she cares shows.

One could be cynical and say this is a better book than it needs to be, or we could just be thankful that some

writers insist on careful craft in all that they create. Erin Evans is one of those writers.

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