



Hand of Miriam

Eva Gordon

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On an archaeological expedition, Bayla Gideon, is widowed by a supernatural force and branded with the Hand of Miriam or Knowing Eye. Threatened by evil, she awakens the golem; a mythical man of clay, who protected the Jewish community over three centuries ago. The golem, Gesher, is surprised. Freed by a beautiful, enchanting woman. His desire is to return to the celestial spheres and regain his status as an avenging angel. Yet, Bayla challenges his mind, body and soul. Would he risk his return to the heavens for her? Besides, dealing with the otherkind, mad inventors and an unrelenting matchmaking aunt, Bayla is equally determined to resist her steamy attraction to the striking fallen angel. Thrust into a malevolent war, which includes facing Jack the Ripper, they must resist the magnetic pull toward each other, while protecting the world from encroaching evil.

Hand of Miriam Details

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From Reader Review Hand of Miriam for online ebook

Clarice says

Steampunk, Victorian, with a little mix in of Goth, Hand of Miriam is a mixture of novel I am personally not familiar with, but very much enjoyed reading. And it even added some supernatural with werewolves, vampires, wraiths, with the main points of interest being angels and demons.

Bayla Gideon is on an archaeological expedition when her husband dies and she is the only survivor to the freak storm that happens. During this time Bayla is branded with the Hand of Miriam, an all seeing eye that can sense evil and allows her to know the thoughts of others when left uncovered. Desperate to keep herself alive while creatures ranging from rogue werewolves to demons try to attack her, she awakens the Golem in the archives at her home and frees him from his curse.

In Jewish legend a golem is a clay figure brought to life by magic.

The Golem is named Gesher. He was a fallen angel that was made into a Golem to serve whoever awakened him. Because Bayla allows Gesher to destroy the very thing that awakened him, he is now able to change from the scary and imposing clay man into a more normal looking man, although he still has the hardened body of a warrior and has scars where his wings used to be. Because he fought the angel of death to keep a child from dying in a family that had already lost so much, he was stripped of his wings and sent to Earth as the Golem. However, there was the possibility of his returning to Heaven one day should he redeem himself. That was all good until he went and fell in love with the beautiful, independent, and head strong Bayla Gideon. Now he must make the decision to either stay on Earth with her or return to Heaven. Before it had been an easy choice. Now he found himself thinking he didn't want to live without her.

The Hand of Miriam had not only given her the power to discern evil where it was present, but also the gift of immortality, if she could keep herself alive. She was not immune to illness or accident. That is why she needs Gesher, but her feelings for the tall and crazy handsome fallen angel are causing her to want him to stay permanently on Earth. But she refuses to be the one that keeps an angel on Earth. Meanwhile, a serial killer is on the loose killing prostitutes within the city and someone is killing female vampires as well. The killer has been named Jack the Ripper and Bayla starts suspecting that perhaps even one of the Grigori, a secret society which even involves Queen Victoria and all things supernatural, might be the culprit. She has no idea just how deep it will go and just how in danger she is. Gesher has his work cut out for him keeping Bayla safe from those that would do her harm.

As I said before, this novel is a very different read from my norm. But if you like all things paranormal/supernatural, angels and demons type thing, then you should try this book out. With a hint of spooky and a hot fallen angel, it is sure to keep your attention. I do find it a very strange element to the story that Bayla has to keep her hand uncovered for the marking to work. And the fact that it can be fooled as well, it is just very difficult to do so. But the dirigibles, strange machines, and unconventionality of the story really work for it!

Patricia says

What a different and intriguing read.

Not only was I entertained by the authors bewitching characters but by the vast amount of knowledge I learned. Yes, learned. When reading a book if phrases or terms appear that I don't understand or know I pull

out my google app and learn the meaning. In this case I learned some Hebrew and Yiddish terms.

The author created a world of steampunk with the paranormal along with elements of religion. Not overwhelming but all the more intriguing. I feel in awe of Emmet and Bayla. I couldn't help but find both fascinating. Bayla with her strength in a time when women were nothing more than a means to children, cooking and a clean house. I was saddened by the loss of her husband. His character may have been short lived but made an impact on her character.

Gesher was all around a captivating creature. I can't articulate enough how much his story line had an impact on my love of this book. I can't in good conscience give anything away about him because there is just too much to share and I would not want to ruin even one moment of his presence in this book. Let's just say, he was the glue that pulled this whole story together. I will be following up on the next book in this duology.

Even with all that is presented here the book has a different feel than any other I have read and that just makes me more curious to see what else the author has out there for me to sink my mind into to. A fascinating read.

Cecilia Dominic says

This is a delightful steampunk book full of supernatural surprises and a hunky angel/golem hero who goes through his own satisfying character arc. The book's highlight is definitely Bayla, who is a strong, independent woman in a time when those traits were considered undesirable. Having a heroine who is a widow is risky because it can feel like there's a love triangle with the late husband and book hero, but the author handles the tricky emotional balance with sensitivity and skill. Also, while I anticipated some of the plot twists, they came with surprises I didn't expect. I highly recommend this book and can't wait to read the next one!

Sharon Stevenson says

'Hand of Miriam' is the story of Bayla, a woman with a thirst for adventure who becomes a widow and is branded with a knowing eye while on an archaeological expedition. She is thrown into a world of supernatural danger, and awakens a golem as protection.

This is a really powerful read with a steamy romance at its heart. I loved the main characters, they were so vividly depicted and each held their own in the paranormally-infused steampunk setting. Bayla was wonderful as the heroine, so easy to sympathise with and care about. The story unfolded in a suspenseful way and is at times an edge-of-seat experience. The love story was solid and the chemistry between the two main characters was amazing!

I would highly recommend this book to fans of paranormal romance and steampunk novels.

Gypsy Madden says

Bayla herself is a sympathetic viewpoint as she tries to navigate the newly discovered paranormal world

around her, and understand her growing feelings for her larger-than-life glorious protector (though she did feel very similar to Alexia Tarabotti of the Gail Carriger books). I did worry that the golem, once turned into avenging angel, was perhaps a shade too superman perfect/invulnerable for the reader to worry about his or Bayla's safety. But then the romance became a wonderful distraction and the thrill of the Jack the Ripper legend got blended in as well (I adore anything that attempts to touch on the Ripper mystery!) And I always worry about stories that throw in religion, but rather than sound preachy or try to convert the reader (as so much Christian fiction tends to do), the bits of Jewish religion and culture thrown into this lends it an exotic air and a fascinating intrigue, adding to the flavor of the work (which I did find riveting, considering as a reader I really haven't run across paranormal stories with Jewish religion mixed in) without overshadowing the paranormal (or trying to stamp it out), and even adds to it, running with it hand in hand. The world itself did seem very borrowed from Gail Carriger's books with it's secret club of paranormal blooded people, but all of the Jewish aspects did feel like it set it apart enough, and Gesher (who I did dearly love with all of his innocence and protectiveness) certainly didn't fill the same shoes as Lord Maccon. But I would like to say that while I am comparing it to Gail Carriger's books and loved the characters in Gail Carriger's books, I did like the story in Hand of Miriam more than any of the Gail Carriger books because Gail's books seemed to get weighted down in all of their random details and different directions, while Hand of Miriam managed to remain reasonably streamlined and didn't get too hung up on tangents, red-herrings, and subplots.

The story is a wonderful romance mixed with paranormal swashbuckling adventure, with random steampunk elements blended in, very much akin to Gail Carriger's Parasol Protectorate series (right down to the equipped parasol). I would also recommend this to fans of Cassandra Clare's Infernal Devices series.

D Thomas says

Here is is finally.....

Hand of Miriam

A Bayla and the Golem Novel (book 1)

by Eva Gordon

This is the first Steampunk novel I have read. I have wanted to read one for a while now and jumped at the chance to read this one. I think it was a great look into the steampunk world for me.

The Hand of Miriam by Eva Gordon combines the steampunk world, Jewish Mythology and romance into a wonderful book that kept me wanting more.

I look forward to the next installment of Bayla and the Golem.

Amy says

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. This was my first book by Eva Gordon and I must say I'm impressed. The book was fast paced, tight, and engaging. The steampunk aspect was there, but wasn't plot-centric. More like a part of the environment. Exactly what you would expect of a book casually

mentioning things that are commonplace in the world. It made me able to concentrate more on the story. And the paranormal aspect of this story was intriguing. Someone who can see the evil within all men and a fallen angel trying to get back to heaven are two people you wouldn't necessarily expect to see together, yet for some reason it not only works, it sparks. I also found the Jewish aspect to the story fascinating. So many books about that period of time simply focus on Christianity and pretend that no other religion exists. It was refreshing to read a story that not only included a minority religion, but made the main characters a part of that religion. Also, since I have loved ones that practice that religion, it made me happy to see the details that made me remember my own interactions with the faith. I really enjoyed this book.

Lena Corazon says

THE HAND OF MIRIAM is officially the most creative, inventive book I've had the pleasure to read in a very long time. It's most definitely genre-bending "gothic steampunk romance," with supernatural creatures, a secret society, serial killers, a fallen-angel-turned-golem, and one bluestocking widow caught up in the midst of adventure and danger.

Bayla Gideon, the main character, loses her archaeologist husband in a tragic and mysterious accident in the Egyptian desert. That same accident leaves her hand branded with a hamsa, a mark that allows her to sense evil intent. More importantly, it allows her to see otherworldly creatures... and allows *them* to see *her*. With vampires, rogue werewolves, and demons on her tail, she's in grave need of protection. She finds that in the form of the ancient golem, Gesher, who just happens to be a stunningly gorgeous, somewhat arrogant, but incredibly caring fallen angel.

There's a lot to love about this book: the complex world-building, the vivid characters, the forbidden romance that builds between Bayla and Gesher. What jumps out to me as one of the most original aspects of the book, however, is the use of Jewish legend and lore. Author Eva Gordon does an amazing job of drawing upon the story of the Golem of Prague along with other bits of Jewish culture and mythology. It makes for a unique backdrop, one that enriches the novel and provides a depth to Bayla and Gesher's relationship that I really enjoy.

The blend of steampunk and gothic supernatural mystery also works quite well here. There are dark, moody castles, dastardly people doing dastardly deeds, and a whole universe of otherworldly creatures, shrouded from the view of most humans. There is so much being woven together that it almost shouldn't work, and yet it does--lots of interconnected pieces, an intricate hidden world with a structure all its own.

And speaking of the characters--one of the things I really like about the hero and heroine are their flaws. Bayla is smart, courageous, and passionate; she forges ahead even after her life is irrevocably changed through tragedy and her newfound powers. But she has a nasty habit or two that sometimes cripples her judgment. And Gesher has contradictions of his own that he struggles with: arrogance and the desire to serve, the longing to return to heaven warring with his growing love for Bayla.

What else can I say? This was one of those books that I gave me the "full-immersion" experience, the sense that I was right alongside Bayla and Gesher throughout their adventures. I can't wait till the next book is published!

Tabitha (Lovely Books Blog) says

Read more reviews like this at <http://lovelybooksblog.blogspot.com!>

I've been meaning to read *The Hand of Miriam* for what feels like forever, so when I finally sat down to start this one I didn't even read the description and jumped right in. After only a few pages I was thrilled to discover this novel full of steampunk inventions, a unique cast of characters, and a fascinating story line. I was quickly drawn into the story and I only wish I had picked this one up sooner!

I was immediately fascinated by the the physical Hand of Miriam, which embeds itself in Bayla's palm, and Gesher, the golem. Though I've heard of both before I've never read a book about either of them and I loved being introduced to Jewish customs and stories. From werewolves, to vampires, and unsuitable suitors this novel had it all! *The Hand of Miriam* was a highly original novel and I loved reading about the stories and creatures associated with the Jewish religion rather than Christianity. I've never read anything quite like this novel, and I enjoyed every moment of it.

Though Gesher can't be with a human woman, or he'll be stuck on earth forever, he falls in love with Bayla anyway and the romance between them ranged from sweet to steamy and everything else in between. Because much of the novel is spent with the two of them hiding their feelings for each other and building up sexual tension the moment when the two of them finally admitted their feelings for each other was only all the better. Though Gesher could be a bit on the alpha male and domineering side I wasn't overly bothered by his attitude and it was obvious that he only had Bayla's best interests at heart.

The mystery involving Jack the Ripper kind of fell to the background in the beginning but it really took a strong lead at the end and I loved every moment of it. I used to absolutely love mysteries and I just don't read enough of them anymore. The murders were gruesome and though it wasn't particularly hard to figure out who was behind them I still enjoyed the ride to get there. The ending was action packed and I loved watching all the villains get exactly what they deserved and seeing Bayla and Gesher finally be together!

I was very impressed by the first installment of the Bayla and the Golem series and I'm excited to see where Gordon takes it next! I loved the action, the romance, and learning about a whole section of paranormal creatures and their stories. A great read!

*I received a copy of this novel from the author in exchange for a free and honest review.

Jennifer Ricketts (Donnie Darko Girl) says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review for my stop on the blog tour at Donnie Darko Girl.

I'm always craving more steampunk stories, and *HAND OF MIRIAM* confirmed for me that I haven't read nearly enough. This book blew me away with its creative plot, vibrant characters, and mix of Jewish mythology, supernatural creatures, and steampunk. There are several layers rich to the story which kept things intriguing and caused me to stay glued to my Kindle.

After her husband's tragic death, Bayla awakens a golem - a fallen angel named Gesher - to protect her from the supernatural creatures threatening her because she's been branded with the Hand of Miriam and can detect them. She can "read" their evil intentions and prevent them from killing people. They obviously don't want to be kept from harming others and view Bayla as a threat, making attempts on her life several times.

Expecting a man of clay, Bayla is surprised when she summons the golem and he's in the form of an attractive man. Gesher is a fallen angel who has lost his wings, and if he wants them to be restored and go back to heaven, he must not become intimate with a human woman. They're attracted to each other instantly but must fight their feelings - Bayla doesn't want to prevent Gesher from returning to heaven. There's a lot of heat between the two of them, and I loved every minute of it!

There were moments in *HAND OF MIRIAM* where I fought the instinct to look over my shoulder because I had a creepy crawly feeling, especially when Bayla awakens the golem. An entire world of supernatural creatures exists right in front of humans, but they can't see it. Thinking about that creeped me out, too. Whereas some people might not like that feeling, it is one I relish when a book causes me to feel this way.

Bayla is my new favorite kick ass heroine. Though she's protected by the golem, she chooses to face down werewolves and the like alongside him. She has the desire to prevent any harm coming to other people and can do so with the Hand of Miriam though it is never easy. She's strong enough to hold back her physical desires for Gesher and is selfless - she doesn't want to be the cause of his downfall. I love her!

HAND OF MIRIAM is a novel not to be missed. With unforgettable characters setting out on unforgettable adventures in a steampunk world, there's romance, supernatural mayhem, Jewish mythology, and a plot that will leave you catching your breath. I'm looking forward to where the story will go from here!

Jasmyn says

Hand of Miriam is a great mix of steam punk and romance with just a twist of religion to keep it even more interesting. Bayla Gideon has been marked with the ability to sense evil with a touch. Bayla is unique from women of her time in other ways as well. She is an academic that loves to go on expeditions looking for antiquities. One of her late husband's great prizes is a golem. When Bayla's new abilities begin to lead to threats to her life she decides to give life to the golem, never realizing what his true history really is.

There is a huge storyline in this book - almost too much. It involves the presence of Jack the Ripper - only his victims aren't only human. He's been killing vampiresses as well (oh yes did I mention there are vampires, werewolves, ghouls, demons, all sorts of fun stuff). Bayla and her golem, Gesher, are out to try and find out just what is going on - madness ensues with lots of fighting and lots of Gesher saving the day. And all along the way they are slowly falling love - but if they follow their desires he will never be able to return heaven - major issue.

The story is how they deal with the baddies, resolve their love delimma, and end with a mostly HEA. It is a series so there has to be more to the story somewhere. The only downfall for me was there was one too many "endings". I thought for sure she had written a fantastic ending that I loved, loved, loved, and then there were another 50 pages and another ending that just wasn't quite as satisfying for me. I think the extra bit was important to the overall storyline though.

- See more at: <http://www.bittenbyromance.com/2014/0...>

The Book Breeze says

The world Ms. Gordon created in *Hand of Miriam* made it a fascinating read. As a lover of all things that are mystical, it was a pleasure to experience Bayla's world and Hebraic religious elements.

The one caveat I must make is that I'm an editor as well as a reader so my reviews may have a bit of craft notes if they disrupt my enjoyment of a book. *Hand of Miriam* had one that was especially noticeable, at least for me, in the beginning. From the point of Bayla's transformation (not too spoilery), I felt a distinct lack of transitions that caused me to feel as if things were being left out. Well, in a way, they were. That hindered my enjoyment and left me a fair amount of confused confusion reduced quite a bit but it was enough that kept me from fully enjoying the story.

However, if you are looking for a twist of the paranormal romance genre and like a lot of interesting things going on, I definitely recommend *Hand of Miriam*. I know I'll be reading the next one.

This review was provided by Abby Rose for her column in the April edition of *The Book Breeze*

Ulla Bisgaard says

Four stars for *Hand of Miriam* by Eva Gordon

This book was given to me for reviewing.

Category: paranormal/fantasy/historical romance.

Bayla is a young Jewish woman living in the 18th century. After becoming a widow she discovers that she has supernatural powers. These powers make her a target for many supernatural creatures who don't like that she can see them and read their thoughts. As protection she summons a golem.

Gesher is a fallen angel, who has been turned into a golem as punishment by God. Gesher promises to protect her from harm and also vows to earn his wings back.

Together they must fight evil curses, vampires, demons and shifters, in a quest to find their purpose in life. Together they also find love, but Gesher must choose between returning to heaven or stay with Bayla forever.

This book will appeal to both fans of historical romance and paranormal. The writing style follows classic historical romance, but it becomes more interesting with the added paranormal creatures. It's a story where no one is who and what they seem and has several horror elements. In general an entertaining read.

Diana in SC says

4 stars overall, 3 stars story, 4 stars narration

Cool concept and plot but annoying characters

This romantic urban fantasy has a lot going for it: Jewish characters and culture set in a steampunk Victorian

England, a great plot, lots of great action scenes, psychic abilities, and an angel cursed to be a golem. The author incorporates lots of actual things from Jewish religion/culture: the hamsa symbol, the Golem of Prague legend, details of Sephardic Jews and their language, and an absence of heaven in the Christian sense of the word. The urban fantasy aspect was handled very well, but the romantic aspect fell short for me, with emotionally immature primary characters, repetitive thoughts, and disappointing bedroom scenes. I was on the fence on whether to give it 3 or 4 stars overall, but the fantastic action-packed final segment pushed it into being 4 stars, in my opinion.

I must go into further details about the romantic aspect of the novel. I read a lot of romance but also fantasy, urban fantasy, and steampunk fantasy. I don't think it is necessary in urban fantasy to have a romantic element, but if the author includes one, they need to do it well. Now, I like how in the beginning of the novel, Bayla was devoted to her husband and then was suddenly widowed. I enjoyed the idea that Bayla fell in love with her angel/golem bodyguard Emmet. It was great that the pair were mutually exclusive after they met (i.e., no cheating). However, I did not enjoy that for the majority of the book, Emmet and Bayla had the emotional maturity of 15-year-olds, when he is thousands of years old and she is a 24-year-old widow. Emmet was unreasonably jealous over nothing and was overly arrogant. They both constantly doubted their own feelings and each other's feelings for at least 60% of the book. That sort of melodrama might be expected in a young adult romance but not in a steamy historical romance. I got so tired of Emmet and Bayla's wishy-washy thoughts that I had to put down the audiobook at least 5 times. I had to listen to something else until I didn't want to strangle the pair anymore and I was too curious about the next plot development to stay away anymore. In addition, though the few love scenes happened at the right time in the story, I don't like the writing style of those scenes. I don't think the author had good word choices or thought things through very well. For example, in his mind, Emmet compares Bayla to a demoness. When he hates demons, how can that be a good thing? Also, they pledged to keep looking in each other's while they were doing it, but how can you keep looking in each other's eyes when you are kissing on the mouth? These are my gripes.

The narrator did a pretty good job. She was excellent at pacing, especially action scenes. I found her voice to be pleasant to my ears. Her character voice for the heroine Bayla was perfect in every way, especially the proper English accent. The narrator's other character voices were generally very good, except for that of the hero Emmet Gesher. The text indicates that Emmet has a deep voice, but the narrator could not achieve that. Sometimes Emmet's voice barely sounds masculine, and it does not sound sexy. Also, there were no pauses between chapters and no saying "Chapter 3", etc. These are the only two problems that I have with the narration.

I bought the ebook, but I received a free advanced copy of the audiobook from the author, and I voluntarily wrote this honest review.

Patricia says

First off this is the first steampunk book I have read. I didn't know that at the beginning so I was a bit confused. But as I started reading it I really got into the book. Its a mixture of Victorian, steampunk and goth . All rolled up in on sweet book.

Bayla Gideon is widowed on an dig and is branded by a supernatural force with the knowing eye. She awakens the Golem when she is threatened .

Gesher is a fallen angel that has been turned into the Golem because he disobeyed his fellow arch angel. He is awakened by Bayla and gets rid of the evil that is threatening her. As she allows this to be done. , Gesher

is turned into a more human looking man. instead of the clay man . Even though he is scarred where his wings were stripped from him and the gorgeous ripped body of a warrior. Bayla is attracted to him , and really who wouldn't be attracted to the battle scarred hunk of man standing in front of her. W Once I started this book I couldn't put it down. The steampunk aspect of the book had me so intrigued. Like I said this was the first book of this genre I have read. Eva wrote with such a command. It had me turning page after page well into the night. ill

Gesher return to heaven or find heaven on earth with the woman who has his heart. Will they both survive the outcome

The addition of the jewish lore in the book was another aspect that had my attention. It flowed so seamlessly and the characters were so driven and well written . Right down to their flaws. They both were flawed but it seemed to add to their attraction. So if you want to try a good steampunk book check out this book cause you won't be disappointed .
