



The Angel of Elydria

A.R. Meyering , Kristina Zakhozhai (Illustrator)

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Alternate cover for this ISBN can be found here

At the crossroads, where dreams become nightmares, lies the world of Elydria...

It's not every day that a college student dies and is revived in a distant world far away from her small hometown in Oregon. But that's exactly what happens to Penny Fairfax. Penny soon discovers her near death experience awakened an ability to manipulate the dreams of others, permitting her to unlock hidden secrets from the past and create vivid illusions.

Trapped in Elydria with her English professor, Penny must navigate a world of gas lamps and glittering façades on the verge of collapse in search of the way home. Haunted by a malicious specter wearing an iron funeral mask, she learns that her gift of life comes with a high cost. Now, Penny must escape its wicked intentions, solve the mystery that is unleashing havoc on Elydria, and return home without meeting death a second time

The Angel of Elydria Details

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Author : A.R. Meyering , Kristina Zakhozhai (Illustrator)

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Download and Read Free Online The Angel of Elydria A.R. Meyering , Kristina Zakhozhai (Illustrator)

From Reader Review The Angel of Elydria for online ebook

Brenda Ayala says

This is a bit of a lengthy read, but one that's like a rollercoaster--There's lulls where nothing really happens, then it shoots back up to nonstop action.

There's a lot that I really enjoyed about this book, and a little that I didn't. The descriptions are fantastic--great world building is (obviously, you'd think) the building block to any story, and it just doesn't make for a good read if the setting isn't established. In this, we have four major settings that are described beautifully. Earth is a fairly easy one, I think. But Iverton, and Hulver, and that world between worlds aren't so easy, particularly when it has foreign creatures and religions. It's light-handed on the steampunk portion, but there's just enough. Of course, the magic is by far the most prevalent.

And really, the magic is the best part. The way the three different worlds are connected through magic is wonderful and clever. I liked that each world had a different way of interacting with the magic, and that Penny's strength came from being able to interact with it differently than the others in Elydria. Simon and Annette also had this, but for a different reason.

The plot is smart. There's so many different locales all packed into this one book, and instead of feeling like I was being ping-ponged around, it felt like a journey book. There was a great deal of revealing information, and the greatest thing is that even if it's a series it still felt like a complete story. One thing I really hate about series is when they leave one on a cliff hanger with no real reason, other than to make you buy the next book. With the Angel of Elydria, there's still a darn good story going on.

The only thing I really didn't like about the book was Penny's cowardice. I keep flip-flopping on this too--I like that she's a total coward because it makes her different than every other novel heroine. But I hate it because she abandons her friends over and OVER again. She left Argent, she left Simon, she left Annette to go flirt. There were so many instances of it that I couldn't really relate to her. To be fair, I haven't been in any of those life and death situations, but still. A little ability to hold her ground or at least make a decision on her own would've made me like her a bit more.

But seriously, there's not a whole lot I can complain about in this book. It's a great story.

Typos

I didn't start recording all the ones I found til about a quarter of the way in, but this is what I found:

p. 181: "it was a captivating to observe the ocean of people..."

p. 311: duplicate paragraph: "We're really here. We made it to Hulver," Annette breathed, gazing out in wonder...

p. 353: extra letter: "...grasping Annette for safety flopped l to his sides..."

p. 383: "You mean to say that it was that it was Nestor..."

p. 389: "She took walked out from the trees and into the meadow."

Jennifer Jackson says

it was ok i liked it

P. Kirby says

One of those books where it felt like I'd been reading forever, and yet, the percentage read number at the bottom of the page never moved.

Is this bad book? No. But it reads like the first novel of a writer who someday will write a truly engaging novel. The kind of novel that once upon a time, ended up in a drawer somewhere, a fond reminder of progress made.

I like the writer's voice and the world of Elydria, with its steampunkish aspects, is fun. But the story is overwritten, and often reads more like a travel guide to Elydria, than an actual novel. The beginning is great, with a strong sense of danger. But once Penny gets to Elydria, it falls back on the tired "journey to somewhere to find a something McGuffin-y" trope. There's a lot of wandering around, chit-chat, and more wandering.

Does the pacing pick up later? Maybe. But the first 30-percent was a dull slog. And...my To-Be-Read pile is enormous.

KK says

(More of a 3.5 ish, but I rounded up)

Note: I received this book from Goodreads's First Reads!

From the wonderful descriptions of the setting to the lovely and realistic conversations between the characters, the Angel of Elydria contains a plethora of things for all to enjoy. The plot may be generic and some characters are less interesting than they could be, but nonetheless, it is a pleasant read.

The Angel of Elydria started off with a relatively intriguing first chapter, but combined with the next few chapters, the book failed to really capture my interest completely. Not to mention how over-used the beginning seemed to me: we have the unsuspecting main character who turns out to be a chosen one, of sorts. I was not particularly amused. But once the plot really got going? Well, that's a whole different story...

Setting: The book is primarily placed in a steampunk world. Meyering astounds me with the her detailed descriptions of each town, each house, and well, just each location that she introduces us to. That was what caught my attention first. While reading and thinking about why I was so immersed, the first thing I thought of was the setting. Everything seems so alive and vivid in her writing, and I could almost see the places in my mind's eye. It is definitely a piece of art.

Plot: As I said earlier, the plot was not a particularly strong point to me. It's a relatively typical story about a special girl who is transported to a different world. It's nearly been done to death.

Characters: Penny is a tad witty and a perfectly relatable character. She is angry and disbelieving at the beginning, and very reckless at that. But who wouldn't be, considering the situation? She is a classic college student, I would think.

Hector is... awkward. Some would say this is an endearing quality of his. I liked him after reading hundreds of pages, because of all the exposure to his character. But generally he did not stand out to me, which is a pity since he's a major character.

On the other hand, we have Simon, who is awkward because he is such an obvious flirt! I was glad that being a flirtatious magician wasn't *all* his character, and we saw plenty of him. I wasn't much of a fan of him either, to say the least.

Annette and Argent were wonderful, though! I expected Annette to be the typical, stuck-up girl--which she kind of was, in some ways, but her darker side (view spoiler) was much appreciated. Her banter with Argent was lovely as well! And Argent himself is pleasantly mysterious and sarcastic, although the later sorrowful development changes that a bit (but still, it's a realistic reaction!).

But overall, I was intrigued up until the end and was wonderfully content when I finished! Fans of light-hearted fantasy should give it a go.

Breakdown:

- + Fantastic descriptions of setting and world-building.
- + Quite decent writing.
- + Some lovely characters like Penny, Annette, and Argent.
- Generic plot.
- Some major characters were not developed as much as I would have liked (Hector, Simon).

Laura says

This girl deserves a publishing deal. A lucrative one. Fantastic fantasy for the teens market in particular. Not normally my cup of tea and there are a lot of errors (one every page or two), but has potential deserving 5 stars.

Cheryl Sanders says

You must read this exciting fantasy about a young lady and the friends she makes along the way. The lands they travel through offer them exciting and dangerous adventures. I was surprised and excited at the direction the story line was going. The final destination of this unlikely group of friends is unexpected!

What an entertaining book! It reminded me of a Harry Potter-esque type of story. Not the story itself but with the different worlds, magic, strange creatures, and people. Brilliant story-line though! The story was a little

bit drawn out but it was still really good. I definitely look forward to reading anything this author writes in the future. Thank you A.R. Meyering for writing such an amazingly creative story. I can't wait to see what's next!

Misha says

I won this book from the giveaway off of Goodreads.

I loved this book! It was a fantastic read, and I could not put it down until I was done. I highly recommend it to many of my reader friends. Penny is a wonderful character, and the story is very well written.

Katie Jennings says

The Angel of Elydria is at times dark, funny, magical, and emotional all rolled into one incredibly extensive and epic novel. I spent many, many hours devouring each page, lost in the vast world of Elydria and the complex concepts of magic, worlds and angels that Meyering created. The mythology of this story is so creative and serves as a solid backdrop to the cast of quirky main characters. Penny is your typical awkward 20 year old who blossoms under the weight of danger that greets her upon arriving in Elydria. Hector, her young college professor, saves her life and joins her in this new, daunting world. I loved his character the most, as I felt there was so much emotion and pain behind his intellectual, awkward appearance. His home world was destroyed in the very first scene, so we have a glimpse of why he suffers so silently behind his mask of bravery. Simon, the oddball magician had me laughing out loud throughout the book with his aggravating antics. The left corridor, Simon! The left! Annette and Argent were both fantastic late additions to the cast that blended perfectly with the main trio. Part of me desperately hopes these two have a romance later on, but that's up to Meyering.

I absolutely loved the steam punk style settings within this book as we see different countries within Elydria inhabited by humans and goblins alike. Everything was unique and incredibly well thought out to give this whole world such a real feeling. I especially loved the moths and of course Humphrey!

I can't wait for the sequel to this book to find out what happens. It reminds me of how I felt after finishing the first Harry Potter book and hungering for more. Fantastic!

Samantha Boehnke says

Great read

Great read, good story, can't wait for more. I would recommend to anyone who loves adventure and magic. Hope the wait is not too long for the rest of the story.

Anna Neal says

This book surprised me. I got it for free for some reason on Amazon and decided to read it on a whim. The book starts off in a modern setting and then expands to unknown worlds. The main character, Penny, is plucky and fun and comes across as very average which I like. I like the world(s) Ms. Meyering has created. Ms. Meyering also has a real flare for being truly disturbing. Grotesque abominations, some weird puppets and eerie dreams really struck a chord. It was hard to read before going to bed. I also liked the hint of romance and love triangle.

I took away one star because there were some parts in the middle that I thought dragged on a bit. Perhaps more editing was needed. Or perhaps I just need a better attention span. Also, it's a bit of a cliffhanger which enrages me.

The art work was very original and interesting. I think the cartoon style of it changed the tone dramatically. I think without it, it would have been much darker.

Great read, I will buy the sequel.

Peggy says

The Angel of Elydria(The Dawn Mirror Chronicles Book 1)

I really enjoyed this it was interesting to see how all the different people came together to help each other on the quest to get all the story to come together in the end. I am looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

InD'tale Magazine says

This enjoyable fantasy is quasi-comparable to The Land of Oz, with good and evil angels replacing witches.

Read full review in the 2015 Holiday issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Ben Mariner says

I'd like to preface this review by saying that I had won this book in a Goodreads giveaway. I was pretty excited even though I'd never heard of the book or A.R. Meyering because I never win anything. I appreciate the free copy, however, that fact is not going to sway my overall review and feeling for Meyering's work. I do feel, though, that I will give this book a bit more of an in-depth review than I normally do since it was given to me for free, presumably in the hope that it will spread the word.

Now that I've made it sound like I'm going to tear this book apart, I'll tell you how I really felt after finishing *The Angel of Elydria*.

I flip flopped back and forth on the rating to give this book. One day I would predict giving it a solid three, the next I would be leaning towards a four, possibly a five. There was just something about this book that was subtly entrancing. I couldn't wait to finish the chapter and put the book down, but I also couldn't wait for the next time I'd pick it back up and continue. I'd get bored and then something awesome would happen and make me angry at myself for getting bored. It was actually pretty odd.

Penny Fairfax is one of the most interesting characters I've read in a while. The story started off kind of portraying her as the typical heroine of recent YA fiction who can barely take care of herself if not for the presence of a strong-willed, handsome hunk to protect her. Then you get into the real nitty gritty of the story, and Penny gets her feet wet in the new world she finds herself. She almost instantly becomes a badass in her own way. Strong but timid, independent but trusting. The thing about Penny that I loved the most was that there were a lot of strong romantic under currents between a couple of the characters, but they never swept her away and turned her into some babbling child who can't function on her own.

Hector was another vastly interesting character for many the same reasons Penny was. He acted as Penny's protector, but knew exactly when to let her do what she had to do. The fact that he was almost unnaturally intelligent was another refreshing change of pace from the typical male lead in a YA book. Again, the romantic tension between Hector and Penny was almost intense at times, but they never moved past calling each other friends. Hector was another badass...again, in his own ways.

There isn't much to say about Simon other than the fact that he was hilariously awkward. He was a pretty central role, but never really came into his own in the story. He always played a bit of a support role and I'm hoping he gets a bit more spotlight in the following books because I loved him.

Annette was...interesting. She was kind of like Simon in the sense that she never seemed like more than a support character, but again, she was pretty central to the story. I could never quite connect with her for whatever reason but I never disliked her for any reason either. I'm interested to see where she goes from here.

Finally, Argent. Weird name, awesome dude. His crass, sarcastic personality was a perfect compliment to the group. He didn't play a huge role in the story since he came in so late, but he was a very welcome addition. The marionette thing was pretty cool as well. I can't wait to see what his role in the story is.

Let's get to my overall feeling of *The Angel of Elydria*. Meyering described Elydria in such a way that it was almost impossible to not imagine it as one of the most beautiful places you could possibly see. Even the goblin city of Hulver was beautiful in its own dirty, grimy, Gobliny way. There was so much depth and history lurking around every corner that it was easy to get lost in the streets of Iverton along with Penny and her "entourage". Like I said before, the overall story did drag in some spots, and left me a little bored, but it didn't take long for something to happen to get me back into the action. I was just about to want to slap Penny in her face in the last chapter, but well...I'll leave that to the reader.

In the end, I gave *The Angel of Elydria* a four instead of a five because there was just something in there that left me straying away from the narrative. Possibly nothing even specific. Just a general feeling of, "I'm bored, let's get on with it." Those moments were fairly few and far between, though. As a writer myself, I know it can be quite difficult to create a world completely out of nothing and introduce it to a reader without it feeling dry and boring. It was a truly great story, and I'm very excited to see where the next book takes us and what kind of trouble Penny & co. are going to get into.
