



Divine Temptation

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Maggie Brock has everything under control. Even her divorce, though painful at the time, registers only as a minor blip in her carefully constructed universe. Her life in Prairie Oaks has once again returned to a smooth, predictable pace...until an angel shows up in her bedroom.

The angel is just as bewildered as Maggie about why he's been sent to her, but their unsuccessful efforts to gain understanding of the mystery fade to the background as their relationship grows. Soon, Maggie's biggest problem becomes the angel himself, as her feelings for him develop into something less than saintly.

While Maggie struggles to keep her desires pure, a nefarious being lurks in the shadows of Prairie Oaks, watching and waiting for the opportunity to fulfill his ambiguous purpose. Preying on her conflicted emotions, the demon manipulates her at every opportunity, but the one to deliver Maggie directly into his hands is the last person she'd expect.

Divine Temptation Details

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From Reader Review Divine Temptation for online ebook

Lisa Sanchez says

I've been wanting to read this book for a while now, and was so excited when I had some time freed up to dive in.

I really enjoyed Ms. Elson's voice in Three Daves, and was equally impressed with her talent in Divine Temptation.

Simply put: this book was riveting. So different from any of the angel books I've read before, and thoroughly captivating. Maggie (the main character), struggles not only to find her place in the world after her divorce, but to maintain faith in God. She's extremely spiritual, but very lonely at the same time.

This is where her guardian angel, Evan comes in. I really can't give more details more without spoiling the story. I will say this: Divine Temptation will take you on an unexpected journey and keep you guessing throughout the entire story.

Excellent read!

Rumpled Sheets Blog says

Maggie Brock is divorced with two children.

She is trying to be a good mother, to do her job well. To just focus on those two things. But at the same time she wants to have a man in her life. A relationship with him.

She is strong, but at the same time she is fragile, vulnerable. She likes to have control over things.

By night she's dreaming about an angel. Fantasizing about him.

They both don't know why God has sent him to her. Evan knows that he has to watch over her.

Her feelings for him have become more deeper as same as his. But the relationship between angel and human aren't allowed.

Can she fight against the temptation for this divine being even if it isn't sane?

Faith. Angel. Love. Good against evil.

This book makes you to think deeper, to question a lot of things. To think things through. To question ourselves do we really have an guardian angel who watches over us and advises us?

I really enjoyed reading this book. It's definitely different from other angel books.

????? 5 ☆ read ?????

>>>ARC received in exchange for an honest review<<<

Jennifer Lane says

Deep and Affirming

Nicki Elson, author of the fun and flirty college romp *Three Daves*, heads in a different direction for this adult spiritual romance. I loved the realistic characters, the suspense, and the deep questions this novel provokes.

Maggie Brock is reeling after her husband Carl divorced her. Together they have a daughter Kirsten and a son Liam, and Maggie has to figure out how to proceed as a single mother. She takes a job as administrative assistant at her Catholic church, and tries to tolerate Carl's new girlfriend establishing a relationship with her children.

Nightly dreams of an angel visiting her bedroom intrigue her, until she awakes one night and realizes this male angel is *real*. Quiet, lean, and handsome, he invites Maggie to give him a name: Evan. It's not clear why God sent Evan to protect Maggie, but it is clear she is in some sort of danger. Eek!

Complicating matters is the arrival of a prissy, suspicious priest to oversee the workings of the church, aka the Monsignor. Maggie gets bad vibes from him. Is *he* the malevolent force Evan is supposed to thwart? When Maggie runs into the monsignor and he questions her, she keeps Evan secret.

For all she knew, the monsignor would attempt to incarcerate Evan E.T. style to study him.

Ha! Maggie struggles with her attraction to Evan, knowing God would disapprove of her getting it on with one of His angels. I have a little crush on Evan too, I must admit. Poor Maggie!

Evan provides this heavenly advice: *"Stop trying to control what you feel and just feel it. Trust."*

Meanwhile, ex-husband Carl woos Maggie back into bed. I wonder how common it is for divorced couples to sneak sex again? That happened in a recent read *Blue Shoe* but I enjoyed *Divine Temptation* far more than *Blue Shoe*. Maggie and Carl's sexy reunion leads her to think that maybe they can make it work again, until Carl bursts her bubble. Their ensuing argument is painful to read:

"You know what?" Maggie fumed. "Thank you, Carl. Thank you for reminding me of all the reasons we didn't work. You're absolutely right---we're so much better apart. Because you never ever did anything wrong. Ever. It was just mean old Maggie telling you things were wrong. I just made it up in my crazy, little mind, but really, you were perfect in every way."

I love the shades of grey in the characters. Maggie's no saint--she's just trying to do her best--which makes her imminently likable. I'm impressed how Evan comes across as both sweet and powerful, matching my view of divinity. Kirsten is a whiny pre-teen who pushes the limits like a teenager but needs those limits like a child, and Liam adores video games like Mario Bros. Maggie's friend Sharon is direct and funny. Even Father Tom and the Monsignor have their obvious faults.

The plot twists and turns, leading to a creepy showdown between good and evil. This is one of my favorite quotes from the story:

"You might not believe in the devil, but do you believe evil lurks in this world?"

Wow, that gets to me. I view God as a loving force, and at times I question the presence of hell and the devil. But I have witnessed evil in this world--no question.

You can tell how much this angel story affected me. I encourage you to let Maggie and Evan into your heart as well!

FaMo says

Books with brains and believable characters are what I best relate to, so hats off to the thought-provoking and realistic renderings in *Divine Temptation*. We essentially start in an average suburban town with a seemingly average heroine, which is easy to relate to and sets a lighthearted tone and engaging pace out the gate...and yet, that claw-footed creature of the book's opening lines remains a looming presence, whispering in our ear that something darker is to come--and it wouldn't be a Nicki Elson story if it didn't have that signature edge.

For as different as this paranormal tale is to the author's contemporary-romance debut, *Three Daves*, the common denominators are sharp wit, vivid description, and a main character negotiating the light and dark sides of human nature. We see a struggle with identity and temptation that isn't relegated to the coming-of-age years but which confronts anyone grappling with life change at any stage.

In this case, it's Maggie, a middle-aged divorcee and mother of two who is only human, so she inevitably trips up a little on her path to salvation...or at least her path back to dating. It's her weakness that makes her endearing and her strength that shows the divine in us all. But while this plot has a religious context (well, obviously it's going to...it's angels and demons, derr!) and Maggie is a deeply spiritual person, the theological questions stirred by her character's journey are not preached to nor imposed on the reader. Instead, they encourage some interesting reflection if not debate, to the point where I actually found myself underlining some compelling insights. There's also some skillful diversion to skew our speculations and set us up for a couple surprise twists, if you like your stories with a side of red herring. ;) Wow, is it refreshing they're still publishing books that make us think! And yet not all such can still be as accessible and quickly devourable as this one.

Making the leap into the paranormal genre in this second novel, Elson has certainly found her footing (and thrives) in the possibilities it opens for the dark side of her imagination. An exciting, sexy, and intricate tale, *Divine Temptation* brings the greater war between good and evil down to earth, conveying the simple truths of everyday life that keep our feet on the ground even when our heads are in the clouds.

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

Divine Temptation is an incredible read. Anyone who knows me knows I love angel stories. There is something about good VS evil that pulls you into a book. In this story Nicki Elson makes you question good

and evil. Can the devil really do that? Is God there watching us? Do we have a guardian angel who watches over us? Why is it the devil wants to make people miserable? Is it not enough he takes something from them but he has to kick them over and over again while they are down?

Maggie Brock is a mother of two newly divorced from her longtime husband. But Maggie is strong and she knows that this is only one little bump in the road and as long as she keeps her eyes on the prize and keeps trusting in God he will deliver her from this personal hell she lives in. Her husband Carl decided he did not love her anymore and moved on to another women leaving Maggie to care for their children. Her son is so adorable but her daughter at times got on my nerves because she was giving her mother a hard time.

But there is one bright side to Maggie and that is every night she dreams of an angel. But soon her dreams become a reality and her angel becomes flesh and blood and is there to help her out in her time of need. At first Maggie can't believe it but she soon learns to trust her angel she calls Evan. Maggie is also leery because she is starting to have feelings for her angel and she is not sure if she is supposed to have those feelings. I mean he is an angel right but she and Evan soon realize that evil is lurking around the corner and when Maggie comes face to face with that evil she will need Evan by her side to help her through it.

This is such a great story of good vs evil and what happens when you trust God and he saves you.

Carol Oates says

It's impossible to give an in-depth review of this amazing book without spoilers but I will try my best. This isn't the usual angel falls for the daughter of man story that fills the young adult shelves. (Not that I don't love them.) For a start, Maggie is a woman of faith in her late thirties. She's recently divorced with two kids and questionable self-esteem at times. Her life is the cliché, her husband had an affair and now she finds herself replaced by a younger model in the form of her husband friendly girlfriend at the same time she's facing her daughter about to enter the world of dating.

But it's not all bad. She has a job she enjoys as an office administrator in the local parish, She's got her own place, she has a fairly decent relationship with her kids and her ex-husband. So why is she dreaming about a beautiful young man appearing in the corner of her bedroom, a man she instinctually knows is an angel in human form?

Her angel is no help in that department. When the two finally speak, he doesn't know why he's there or why Maggie can see him. He only knows it's his job to protect her from an evil circling her and he wants to take her emotional pain.

There are some parts of the story I struggled with. It was difficult for me to identify with Maggie at times. She is a good person at heart, an unselfish person. She's open to forgiveness and has a strong faith. These are things absent in me. These are also things that made Maggie and her emotional pain seem real to me. She didn't come across as a cardboard cut out because she struggled with these things, but ultimately her innate goodness shone through. There was a moment of self-pity where she looked at what her actions might have done to prompt her husband's affair. This is my hard line and I wanted to shake her. Fiction books with a traditional concepts of a benevolent, all seeing, all knowing, perfect God can sometimes put me off reading. Those books where God= all good and Satan= all bad.

I make no secret of my complete lack of faith in a higher power. However, the God in Divine Temptation

isn't off-putting for a non-believer. On the contrary it's a believable God. Not in your face and not preachy despite the strong Christian themes. It's a little more shaded in that Satan was God's creation too. This complicated things for me because didn't this mean the good guys could be bad?

Evan is a complex individual. He's existed forever but in a way that's too difficult for a human to truly comprehend. His devotion to his heavenly father is absolute. To me, he seemed to possess an almost childlike innocence about the world while at the same time being extremely wise. Even in his more human moments of interaction, it is impossible to forget Evan isn't a human man. He has known loss and pain, something Maggie doesn't initially take on board. When this side of him is exposed it brings a new intimacy to the friendship. Evan is there for Maggie through the ups and downs of every day life as well as being there in moments of spiritual crisis, but not in an invasive way. Maggie makes her own decisions throughout. There is never a sign of Evan telling her what to do. Sometimes he advises, when his advise is invited.

From the beginning there are sinister undertones and a few clues to why Evan is there, but nothing Maggie can put together with any reasonable certainty. As a reader, I was never sure where the evil was coming from or if what I thought was evil was good in disguise, so I could easily understand how Maggie was confused too. There were moments I suspected absolutely everyone. So when the purpose of Evan in Maggie's life was revealed, I wasn't expecting it. The last chapters were both shocking and satisfying.

There is romance in this book and enough hotness to keep the reader on their toes. It's a love story but not necessarily romantic love all the time. There are all kinds of love and frailty, and all kinds of intimacy. Divine Temptation explores them all, friendship, parent and child, lover, husband and wife, sibling. All this is tied up with a unique perspective on the mythology of angels and other religious mythology.

On to the writing, the thing about Nicki Elson is she is not consistent as an author. In a good way. What I mean by consistent is every piece she produces is completely different but as enthralling as the last. Divine Temptation is another revelation to what this chameleon has to offer readers.

The descriptions are detailed but move along so quickly the reader can feel immersed in the location without being drawn out of the storyline. In particular the descriptions of Somme Park, the art gallery and the other encounters between Evan and Maggie are wonderful. Also, the subtle and yet insightful writing means quotes from the book are stuck in my head and never likely to leave.

When it comes down to it. Divine Temptation is simply a great solid read for adults, which will capture the reader's imagination from first to last page. It's perfect for those seeking subtle romance, a deeper exploration of human relationships or a meaty supernatural element. Highly recommended.

Kim says

Find this review and more on my blog...

I typically steer clear of books dealing with religion in any way, but am glad I made an exception for this one. Some of the theology was lost on me, but the story was still very much enjoyable despite that. The plot

was intriguing. I was absolutely engrossed in this novel, finishing it in less than a day. It was unpredictable and unique. This is the first book about angels that I've read that wasn't of the young adult genre. There was definitely a different vibe to it. There were so many different levels to this story. It was about faith, yes, but it was also about family and love, too. It was about the choices we make and where those can lead us.

While I had a difficult time completely relating to Maggie because we're in totally different places in our lives, I was able to empathize with her. I could feel her pain. She's a good woman. She loves her family and has a strong faith. But she's also lonely. I believe that loneliness is the catalyst for everything that happens in this book. She's looking for something - love, attention, affection - and convinces herself she's found it in the angel who came to visit her, Evan.

The characters in this novel were extraordinary. They were complex and well-written. They were believable. While I'm not a person of faith myself, I know a number of people who are and I could see bits of them in Maggie. Maggie was strong, yet vulnerable. She was a real woman with faults. Evan was everything I could want in an angel. While reading, you could feel how his sense of duty was in conflict with his developing feelings for Maggie, despite the fact that relations between an angel and a human are not allowed.

In this age of series (which I love, don't get me wrong), I absolutely appreciate that there wasn't a cliffhanger. Everything was wrapped up nicely at the end. I got closure and felt a sense of peace. It would have been easy to stretch this plot line for another book or two. I applaud the author for wrapping it all up in one book. This was the first of Nicki Elson's novels that I've read, but it won't be the last. I truly was impressed with her writing style and look forward to reading more from her in the future.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Midian Sosa says

So, here's the thing, I might not be able to give you a good review of this book.

As you might know, or not, I'm a youngster and it was just a bit hard for me to feel Maggie, because sometimes I just didn't get her.

But she is an amazing woman, that I know.

I loved this book, it's a great read, and it made me happy that I got the chance to read it, because it talks about something that it's really hard to keep, faith.

I loved the angel, c'mon, who woldn't?

"Free will is genuine, and often the choices people make lead them far from their intended path"

Truer words have never been spoken, if my mum didn't go into cardiac arrest, I would tattoo that quote to my back, I shit you not.

Ya know what I like about Nicki? She makes me feel like my neurons are not being wasted. Good good.

I would recommend this book to every person out there, even to those going through an identity crisis, again, Maggie is 38, I'm 24 and I really enjoyed this book!

Again, very well done Nicki, you're awesome!! :D

Love and Rockets! M.

Dede says

So... I don't know how to start this review. So many thoughts in my mind that I don't know how to begin. But, let start from the begining.

It is the first book that I read from this author. I saw the other books of her on Goodreads. I truly say that this is not the best book of hers. I mean, what i've read from the descriptions and the reviews. Some girl from my country read this book to and I see from her review that she love this book so much.

The first time, when I saw the cover I thought of a different story that i've read. I don't know... This year I search different story from different authors. But not in the million years I thought of this story. Is that kind of story when real meats fantasy. To much fantasy if you asking me. When I read fantasy storys I want that to make me believe that story. To be so real for me.

This book, this story...no. It nor make me believe. It make me thing of some story written just for someone to proof something. I don't know what to say. The story, the real part of the story was super awesome. I mean.. a devoured that part, those chapters.

I don't know. For me, this story...For the last chapter was a struggle to read. Some point I just want to finish reading to see the end. Just for that. I dint't like it.

The character of Maggie was awesome. I think is the only thing that a like about this book. She was beautiful, strong woman who her husband cheated her, but she still stay strong for her and for her kids.

The book has a powerful message for us. That, even when everybody turns there back to us, and live us alone, we are still not alone.

So, I don't say not to read the book. But this is my opinion.
Maybe you will like it.

Feather Stone says

Nicki Elson's reputation as an author is outstanding. I first read "Three Daves." Nicki's talent for drawing the reader into the story from the beginning is what I love about her books. But that's not all. She keeps you hooked to the last page.

Nicki Elson has several other attributes as a class author. Her writing style is phenomenal. The story carries

forward with clarity and a good pace. As I read each chapter, I was eager to read the next partly because I could not anticipate the characters' next move - and I had to know what happened next. I love that in novels. Nicki's plots have just enough complexity and twists that keeps the reader engaged without being confused or distracted by senseless scenerios.

Another quality of Nicki Elson's writing is that she expresses so much with minimal wording. The reader feels the depth of despair or passion immediately. And I do mean 'feel' it.

Divine Temptation is an excellent book. In this book, Nicki kicked up the tension to the point I was almost afraid to read the next line in some scenes. The beginning starts out so lovely with the emotional turmoil of the heroine. The setting is so clearly and efficiently described, I felt immersed into each scene.

The characters, including the angel hero, are vivid. I could even relate to the surprise entrances of the angel. Nicki's novel characters have baggage and surprise the reader with how they deal with some everyday issues, and shock when their personality shifts unexpectedly. Wow, I love surprises!

What I appreciate most in a novel is an ending that I cannot predict, endings that surprise. And Divine Temptation is in that category.

I will always pick up Nicki Elson's book. It's a certainty to be very enjoyable.

Yvonne Wood says

Definitely a 4.5. Read so many average stories lately and had this on my to read book for some weeks. This story not exactly what I expected but nice to read a well written story and really enjoyed it.

Trisha Wolfe says

It's been a while since I've read an angel book, and I'm glad for that. I think I needed to give myself some time off after so many were released in the YA genre, and the break allowed me the time needed to miss them and embrace a new take on angel/heaven/hell mythology.

Author Nicki Elson has done a phenomenal job creating a realistic premise, world, and characters. I mean, while reading, I honestly felt as if this story could happen—as if it may have already happened. It's just that realistic and that well written.

Maggie is a fantastic, true-to-life heroine. I love my YA. I devour YA. But I'm an adult. Sometimes that realization can be depressing lol, and I love to lose myself in stories about younger characters facing and struggling with their "firsts". Then there are times that I just need a book that speaks to me on my level, dealing with issues and battles that I face daily. Maggie was the perfect character for this need. She's down to earth, strong, and yet fragile. Having just gone through a divorce, she's determined to focus on her two children and her job, while also longing for a relationship with a man—something uncomplicated—but there's not much time for it in her busy, hectic life. I think what I loved the most about Maggie was her strength. She's strong because she has to be, for her kids, but she's not jaded. I really appreciated this. She struggles with the balance of it, because after going through so much hurt, she's found herself pushing men

away, just like she did her husband, in order to handle situations herself. She needs that control, especially over herself. She fears allowing those she cares for in, past her walls, and giving them the power to hurt her.

It's her defenses that angel Evan must help break down in order to show her what love truly is. Enter Evan: hot, amazingly genuine Evan. Maggie's temptation begins when Evan appears to her, and she fights the need and want to embrace this divine being as a real man—lose herself in him, and give into the emotions she's held back from others in her life. Their story is simply beautiful. And I'm trying so very hard not to give any spoilers, so I will only say that I loved, loved how their story ended. It was perfect and there were tears. I will say that if you're thinking this is just another human girl/woman meets hot angel story, kiss kiss; smooch smooch—you're wrong. I've never read another angel book like this one ever. There are no clichés, and the storyline is completely original. I was blown away and surprised in a very good way that Nicki took this story where she did. Again, just beautiful.

If you're worried about reading a book heavily centered on religion for fear of being preached to. Don't. It is centered around religion, but only because of Maggie's struggle with her faith. There are no hidden messages or preaching. The author did a wonderful job balancing religion and angel mythology without hammering the reader over the head with it. I never once felt that I was being schooled.

I can't say enough great things about Divine Temptation. It was exactly what I needed, a breath of fresh air, and a highly captivating and gorgeous read.

Detroitangel says

4 STARS This was something different. I truly felt immersed in Maggie's life and loneliness. When Evan comes to be seen by Maggie, her faith in God is somewhat questioned. It's not that she felt God and angels weren't real, but perhaps she wondered if God was still caring and aware of all the turmoil in this world, and in her life as of late.

Maggie struggles with the choices she felt were thrust upon her after her divorce. She tries to shield herself and her children from ridicule by moving their lives a bit further from where they were. She felt a bit off kilter until Evan appeared, her own guardian angel. Good thing that he showed up, because evil beings had Maggie in their sights as the perfect instrument-- a woman who had Faith and waivered on Belief.

Susan Swiderski says

The first time divorced mom Maggie "wakes" to see a man standing in her bedroom, she thinks it's a dream. After all, she IS lonely, and he IS terribly easy on the eyes. A real hunka-hunka angel sent to her straight from heaven. But the dream theory gets blown to smithereens when he keeps reappearing, not only in her bedroom, but in fleeting glimpses out in public, as well. Turns out, he really IS an angel, an angel who's not only surprised that she can see him... and talk with him... and touch him... but who has no idea why he's been sent to watch over her. One thing he's sure of, though, is no matter how attracted they are to each other, that whole angel-human love affair stuff is seriously frowned upon by Upper Management.

Elson spins a fascinating tale that examines classic conflicts like good vs. evil and faith vs. doubt, and she does so in a fresh and thoroughly captivating manner. Her characters are real and believable, facing real-

world difficulties regarding love, friendship, and forgiveness, as well as other-worldly difficulties with angels, demons, and evil possession.

I read this book when it was first released, and thought I'd written a review on it, but if I did, the review isn't here anymore. SO, I read the book again yesterday to refresh my memory, so I could write a new review today.

I'm glad I did. I enjoyed this book as much... if not more... the second time around as I did the first. First time, I was enthralled by the story. Second time, I still loved the story, but was better able to appreciate the writing itself. What can I say? This is a reeeeeally good book. (It's... divine!)

Cafebiblioart says

This is a story about love, friendship and most of all faith. These are things we are familiar with. This is the story of a real woman who comes very close to losing it all.

I am not going to tell you that this is the best book I've read so far, but I will tell you that you should definitely read it. Even though I found it quite hard to get past the first quarter of the book I kept reading it until the end because I received this book from Omific in exchange of an honest review and I always try to keep my promises. I am quite glad that I finished it because it is a great read. This book is completely unpredictable. I almost always know what will happen in a book after reading the first chapters, but this time I was wrong in my assumptions. I think most of you will think the same things I did, but I promise you that you will be pleasantly surprised.

The most striking feature of this book is its plot. The story-line is complex and unique, but most of all unpredictable which is a huge plus. I am certain at all of you are tired of reading the same things over and over. Don't fear, this book is truly different.

The book contains a reasonable amount of characters which is very good. I personally do not enjoy books which have only three up to five characters not those who have a few too many. The main character is Maggie which I couldn't help myself but adore. Maggie is a normal divorcee, she is someone I could connect with. She has dreams and fears just like everyone else. We need more down to Earth characters just like her in books. She is not flawless, she makes mistakes, she is human, she is real. I believe that it is really important for us to read about characters like Maggie so that we don't forget to appreciate real women and find role models in them and not in someone who doesn't really exist or in someone who is more plastic than flesh.

I must say that I enjoyed even the villains, which is a bit disturbing...you will understand more after you read the book.

The book is extremely well written despite the fact that it lacks that certain something that pulls you in, that makes you unable to stop reading the book. The author is clearly a really talented writer and a cultivated person.

The cover is beautiful, simple and elegant, but I believe that some might mistake the book for a cheap romance novel. As I said many times before, even though we should not judge a book by its cover, many

times we cannot help ourselves. This is why I think that authors should pick their covers carefully.

In conclusion, I recommend this book because it talks about important aspects of our daily lives and it shows us that we are not alone in our struggles. This book reminds us of the importance of friendship and faith.

You won't regret reading it!!! Don't forget, not everything is what it seems!

From me: 3.7/5

Favorite quote:

"It's true that angels are less prone to temptation," he said softly, "but when we give in, the betrayal is at a higher magnitude. It's nearly unforgivable because it's not in our nature, so it isn't weakness we demonstrate. It's willfulness, which is much worse."
