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Sweet Peril: Sweet Evil Trilogy, Book 2



Synopsis

Embrace your destiny. Anna Whitt, daughter of a guardian angel and a fallen one, promised herself she'd never do the work of her father - polluting souls. She'd been naive to make such a claim. She'd been naive about a lot of things. Haunted by demon whisperers, Anna does whatever she can to survive, even if it means embracing her dark side and earning an unwanted reputation as her school's party girl. And all the while there's Kaidan Rowe, son of the Duke of Lust, plaguing her heart and mind. When an unexpected lost message from the angels surfaces, Anna finds herself traveling the globe with Kopano, son of the Duke of Wrath, in an attempt to gain support of fellow Nephilim and give them hope for the first time. It soon becomes clear that whatever freedoms Anna and the rest of the Neph are hoping to win will not be gained without a fight. Until then, Anna and Kaidan must put aside the issues between them, overcome the steamiest of temptations yet, and face the ultimate question: Is loving someone worth risking your life?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's book two in a trilogy, and you know what that means? The hero and heroine are going to be separated for some reason, right? It seems like that is what happens in every single trilogy I read ... I fall in love with a couple, only to have them fall apart for much of the second book until they finally find a way to make it work in book three. It can be heart-wrenching at times. Well, before beginning Sweet Peril I was worried for sweet Anna and her bad-boy (sort of) love, Kaidan. There didn't seem to be any way for these two to be together in the crazy world in which they live, and Kaidan seemed

determined to not allow his heart to guide both of them to certain destruction. So he left. And that is how Sweet Peril begins. Kaidan is all the way across the country in LA. Months have passed, but Anna is still in love with him and in a definite funk. With legionnaires watching her moves much more closely after the events at the end of the first book, Anna throws herself into her work as a drinking tempter. She goes from being known as the good girl to being known as the party girl. She has changed. Sort of. The reality is that she is still the good girl she has always been, but she is trying to make things work in a world where she is required to at least appear like she is tempting the people around her to drink alcohol. Seeing Anna like this was a little sad for me. I felt like part of her was being destroyed each time she worked for the Dukes to bring others down. I think that Kaidan agrees. To all of you Kaidan fans out there ... be aware that he is not around for much of the first half of the book. When he is, it is awesome, but for most of the first half of the book Anna is sent on missions with Kopano. They are travelling around the world to recruit possible Nephs allies to help them overthrow the Dukes and bring freedom to the Neph's. Kopano is in love with Anna. Anna finds herself mildly attracted to Kopano, but it is nothing compared to her feelings for Kaidan. Kaidan seems unattainable. Kopano would be an easier relationship. But Anna can't bring herself to feel that way about him. I was a bit worried that we were heading into love triangle territory, but it never quite gets there, thank goodness. I do love Kopano as a character, and I felt so bad for him at times in this story ... but I think things are looking up for him by the end of the book. Hurray! VERY mild spoilery ahead: I loved this second book in the Sweet trilogy. I will admit that there is a different feel to this book compared to the first book. For much of the book Anna and Kopano are sent on missions. We are introduced to other Neph's who are not so happy with their lot in life. There is a lot of angst about Kaidan and his apparent lack of feelings for Anna coupled with Kopano and his multitude of feelings for her. I felt like we were almost in a holding pattern, waiting for something to happen to light a fire somewhere, either between Anna and Kaidan or Anna and Kopano. Finally, half way through the book that fire is lit. And it was AWESOME! Kaidan and Anna had some great scenes together leading up to that point, but it was in the airport as Anna was leaving Kaidan that we finally got to see Kaidan come clean about his feelings for her. I LOVED that scene. After waiting a book and a half Kaidan and Anna were going to be together. Somehow. The truth is that they still face the danger from the Dukes who do not allow relationships among their children. If they are discovered, Kaidan and Anna will be publicly killed. Add to that the fact that they are actively plotting to overthrow the Dukes, and Anna and Kaidan are in some serious danger if the truth comes out. I adore Kaidan as a character. He has spent his entire life locking his heart because of his horrible responsibilities to his father, but Anna changes him. He wants to be good ... or at least better. This

pull in him is so fascinating. But I have to admit, in this book I missed a bit of his internal struggles. Once he chose to be with Anna he lost a bit of his edge. Don't get me wrong. I was cheering him on all the way, and I am glad for his decisions in this book, but after the issues between Anna and him are mostly resolved, a great source of conflict in the story ended. What follows is A LOT of great Kaidan romantic moments. He is definitely AMAZING, but taking away that anxiety he had been dealing with for so much of the first book and the beginning of this one also ended up taking away some of the elements that made the previous book soar above a crowded field of paranormal romances. I still loved it, but it did knock this story down a tiny little bit for me. I have to admit, I expected the entire world to fall apart for Anna at some point during the second half of this book. Once she seemed to finally get the chance to be with Kaidan officially I was convinced that something horrible was going to happen to take this away from her. I thought that they would be caught and punished. I thought that one of their friends would end up being a traitor. I thought that someone would end up dead. So every scene was so stressful to me. Stuff does happen, but nothing as horrible as I was expecting. I'm going to have to go back and re-read this, knowing that. It will help me to savor the moments a lot more. In a way, I think that this really shows the power of Wendy Higgins's writing because as a reader I was feeling the same sort of day to day anxiety about the future as the main characters were. Very well written in this regard! This is a great addition to the Sweet trilogy. There is a lot that these Nephs are going to have to overcome in the finale. But Anna and Kaidan have each other finally. And they have a good and solid group of friends at their side (I love Blake!). I can't wait to see what happens next. Four stars!

Wendy Higgins's debut, *Sweet Evil*, was one of my favorite reads of 2012. I loved her unique take on angels and the way that she developed her characters especially Kaidan and Anna. So I was eagerly anticipating the sequel and am glad to report that, while it was not as mind blowing as the prequel, it was still an enjoyable sequel that really helps move the series story line forward. *Sweet Peril* takes place a couple months after the end of the last book and shows Anna trying to deal with the fact that she is now being watched by demon whisperers who are reporting her every move to the rest of the fallen angels (Dukes). As a child of the Duke of Substance Abuse, Anna is expected to inspire others to become addicted to alcohol and drugs or risk being killed for disobedience. But, as readers of the first book know, this duty is difficult for Anna who is one of the most genuinely nice YA heroines I've read about in years. I really enjoyed the way that Wendy Higgins has developed Anna's personality. She is a very sweet person who is easy to root for especially since she is basically being forced to be a bad influence in order to stay alive. The events of *Sweet Evil* and this

book have made Anna less naive than she was at the beginning of the series, but she still maintains that innocence that makes her so unique. I admire that she is willing to do almost anything in order to survive yet tries to keep her morals in tact. And Anna will need every bit of her innocence and kindness if she's going to deal with some of the revelations from this book regarding her future role as a Neph. And, of course, I can't not mention one of my favorite book boyfriends from 2012, Kaidan Rowe, son of the Duke of Lust. Kai is still as sexy and intriguing as he was in Sweet Evil, but readers (and Anna) get to see more of his personality especially in the later half of the book. I liked seeing the balance of snark and sweetness that Kai shows Anna and wish that there would have been more scenes with him. Kai and Anna's relationship is written so well that their scenes just make me turn the pages faster and faster. I have been impressed with the way that Higgins writes their tension. It is pretty hot for a YA, but I never felt like it crossed a line within the genre. Sweet Peril also allows readers to get to see more of the great side characters of the series. I particularly enjoyed the development of Kopano who is much more complicated than I ever gave him credit for. I applaud the author for not taking Anna and Kope's relationship too far into love triangle territory since I'm not a huge fan of that particularly plot line. Readers also get to see more of the twins, Anna's father, and Patti which I enjoyed. All in all, I thought this book was an entertaining and important middle book in the Sweet trilogy. It further develops the main players' personalities and helps set things up for what I'm thinking will be a pretty big finale. The future of the Dukes and the Neph's is pretty unclear at the moment and I can't wait to see where Wendy Higgins takes the series next.

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