



The Soul Thief

Majanka Verstraete

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When sixteen-year-old Riley is injured in a car crash and sees a girl stealing a boy's soul, she's convinced she's hallucinating. But when she sees the same girl at the hospital later, she knows she wasn't dreaming. That's when Riley learns her secret heritage and who she really is: a halfling Angel of Death.

Riley must come to terms with her new reality and supernatural abilities, but before she can do this, girls her age start dying in mysterious circumstances. It's up to Riley to figure out why, what the innocent victims have in common, and what she can do to stop them.

The Soul Thief Details

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Author : Majanka Verstraete

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From Reader Review The Soul Thief for online ebook

Floryie says

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review

I had seen this title on a few blogs being reviewed and I was, at first, eager to get a chance to read it but later on, as usual I got struck with what I call the familiar books indifference syndrome. Yes, you read it right, sometimes I lose interest as I keep on seeing a book almost everywhere. Then I saw it at Enchanted Book Promotions and I requested it for review purposes and I am still kicking myself for NOT getting the book faster.

As far as I am concerned, the book cover is very good and it has captured the main "element" of the book. The blurb is also attention grabbing with the mystery associated with Riley and the deaths respectively.

This is one book which doesn't start slow but is at a flat out run from the beginning to the end. The story is well crafted keeping me immersed in the action of the characters. The plot is solid and has very few potholes. The story flows easily and there are no hiccups between the scenes. The book has all the markings of a good paranormal fantasy with the Angels and Reapers and add in suspense and mysterious deaths and you are in for a treat.

The characters aren't that many so I wasn't confused at all at any point in the story. The protagonist, Riley made a good impression on me with her adaptability and her loyalty to her friends. Mich was my favourite among the supporting characters while Leander made me wince many times with his indecisiveness. I think I almost got a whiplash because of his actions.

The beginning of the story is intense but then death is always intense, and moves onto a fast paced tale. The thing I liked about it, was that it was a well rounded book with the right amount of world building. The ending was kind of surprising because of the book's villain's actions and well the cliff hanger made me groan in frustration.

In short, this is a book every paranormal fantasy lover would enjoy with a smattering of romance and copious amounts of adventure. Now I am awaiting the next book with eagerness!

My one line review : A paranormal tale with a smattering of romance and copious amounts of adventure.

My rating : 5/5

My reread factor : 5/5

Floryie @ <http://thebookdrealms.blogspot.com>

Katarina Kovcin says

I got this book from the publisher via NetGalley in an exchange for my honest review.

WORLD STRUCTURE

Everything is set in one little town, Fairhaven, where supernatural beings coexist with humans, although they are secretive and they usually appear fairly normal to humans. Only supernaturals can recognize themselves. Fairhaven has an history of being a holy place, a place where supernaturals come if they wish to gather more power. I liked that part of the book setting. The world structure is interesting: we have the ultimate force, the One who created everything (you may call it God), Archangels, The Council (gathering of Angels of Death), Angels of Death and Demons. But other supernatural beings exist too: Vampires, Witches etcetera. The most interesting part for me was when Leander explained Riley how the balance between Heaven and Hell works, and what Hell looks like.

CHARACTERS

Riley, like any normal girl would, is having hard time accepting that she is a paranormal human being, but she continues to be herself – a confused 16 year old, who is simply trying to manage her school obligations while learning how to use her superpowers. She is caring, humorous and even sarcastic, which I found sometimes to be a little bit forced and unnatural. Still, she changed a lot in the book, all the tragic events really broke and bruised her character, and I have enjoyed in her growth a lot. It was painful (in a good way) and satisfying to see how she became a strong individual, prepared to fight for her life instead of wait for someone to rescue her. Riley's friends and her family were integrated very well.

Leander is Riley's Guardian and he is also an Angel of Death. He appears to be completely caring and worries a lot about Riley, but still he never comes to her when she is in danger. While author gave an explanation for that, I still found it illogical. But what might interest you more, is that we have a romance here. Riley develops intense feelings for Leander and I can completely understand that: he is beautiful, handsome, talented and wise. He has lived forever and saw it all. But when Leander admits he has feelings for Riley too, I somehow didn't find that coming naturally out of the story itself. I have no problems with her being 16 and him thousand (?), while I do get it why many readers would have complaints. But the rules of human world doesn't apply to the world of supernatural, and one has to comply to the rules of the book. We can't judge something by taking it out of context.

WRITING

The author's writing was gripping right from the first sentence. I loved it and I have read this book in one day, literally. She wrote great fighting scenes and she doesn't waste any time on backstories – everything is packed with action. And yet, the writing gets actually a bit worse from the middle of the book. There were some fake dialogues, unnatural reactions and a bit cheesy descriptions. I felt like I was reading a book written by two authors. Don't know what happened there. Overall, I was interested in the ending from the start, and although this book has some issues, it kept me reading and reading. I recommend it to everyone who wishes to read a nice paranormal YA fantasy. I will definitely read the second book.

Full review on <http://www.katarinakovcin.com/review-...>

? Garima ? says

The Soul Thief - I received a copy from netgalley in exchange of honest review.

It seems that the author likes all paranormal romance stories and tried to combine following series into one.

The original/main novel and concepts taken from it -

Twilight (The concept of supernatural, Gorgeous and several hundred years old very chivalrous hero, Italian restaurant, romance)

Vampire academy (The stupid girl falls in love with her trainer)

Vampire diaries (The entire setup of school friends and bad guys using friends to threaten the protagonist)

There are traces of some other supernatural romance as well but maybe I haven't read it all.

When I say original - I don't mean other authors have not stolen concepts from older novels but they managed to put something original on their own to create a new mythical world together which isn't the case with this one.

I guess there is trend going on, whether you take Twilight or Fifty shades of Gray - You take an inexperienced teen girl as your protagonist and then introduce her to this new fantasy world and write from her perspective. I guess it worked for most of authors, I doubt it will work here.

Also what I don't like is repeating same sentences over and over in novel so reader would be fed up by the time (s)he finishes half of the novel and starts rolling eyes when seeing any of following 3-4th time - it was so ridiculous and hilarious I went ahead and make a list, I hope you find it entertaining -

bile rose up my throat
mother of all migraines
butterflies in stomach
my body weighed a thousand pounds
I felt million emotions when looking at him
not *dating* dating
I sense a 'but' coming
sweet lips (of course his)

The only reason I selected this novel because of cool cover art - it looks pretty isn't it? An entire star for cover work!

As for story and character development goes, rest of another start.

Total score 2/5.

The only reason I managed to finish it off was it is fast paced and I got curious.

In a nutshell, you can't write a good novel from stealing concept of some other great novels...you have to come up with something original into it.

Having said that - best of luck to author for the rest of the series which I won't be reading :))

Kushnuma says

I received a free e-book copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

The Soul Thief is book 1 in the Angel of Death series.

Riley is a halfling Angel of Death, but she didn't find this out until she had an accident where she saw a girl stealing a young boy's soul. Riley is then told everything about the Angel's of Death and is assigned a Guardian Angel, who Riley can't help but notice is really hot.

I really enjoyed reading this book and I started liking most of the characters, even Myron. Also, the ending made me think about what might happen next and what to expect and now I really want to read the next one!

Emily Katharina says

****Full Disclosure: Like many of the books I review, I was very generously given a copy of this book in return for an honest interview. The generosity of the author/publisher does not affect my review****

Witches. Vampires. Angels of Death. These are just a few of the characters/paranormal creatures you'll be treated to in The Soul Thief, which will make it a favourite for paranormal lovers.

In The Soul Thief, Riley gets into a horrific car crash. During the car crash, she sees a girl steal a young boy's soul. Naturally, she thinks that she's hallucinating, or it's all a dream, but then she later encounters the same girl at the hospital who informs her that she is a Halfling angel of death. Afterwards, Riley tries to come to terms with her new identity (and the fact that her father isn't actually her biological father) all while going through intense training with Leander, a handsome angel of death who has already lived for centuries. Her training also means lying regularly to her parents and friends. However, Riley soon has even more to worry about when teenage girls who are around Riley's age start to die under mysterious circumstances, and Riley has to figure out why.

Majanka Verstraete certainly is a whiz at starting things off running. The novel opens to Riley's car accident, a powerful and intriguing scene that had me immediately captivated. The rest of the book continues much in this manner, moving from event to event, and not lingering in any one place for too long. For my personal taste, although I appreciate movement, I also enjoy having time to develop both main and secondary characters as well as develop the protagonist's stasis. In particular, I would have loved a bit more build up between Riley's accident and her learning that she is an angel of death, which would have given me a chance to feel out her personal and family life, and maybe get more acquainted with Riley as a character. However, if you like your books to move at a speedy, breathless pace, with every scene mattering a great deal to the plot, then you will find that this novel does that, in effortless style.

As far as characters go, I enjoyed Riley. She's a very conscientious character, yet she has a wicked sense of quirky humour that keeps things from getting too serious. Leander at times veers toward getting a little too "pretty-boy," but he matches Riley's sense of humour and contentiousness with his own, which allows him to still be engaging. Secondary characters felt a bit thin at times, but this also kept the plot focalized on Riley and her strength as a character.

Plot-wise, this is a paranormal-lover's dream. Verstraete crafts an engaging and thought-out paranormal world, with no noticeable cracks. In addition to the angels, we also encounter other paranormal figures, such as witches, casters, and vampires, which is sure to make any paranormal fan happy.

Ultimately, The Soul Thief is a promising beginning to a series. While readers who prefer lots of character

development may feel a little overwhelmed by the speedy pace, paranormal fans who love a plot-driven novel with lots of supernatural goodies will love it.

Sandra Stiles says

This was an on the edge of your seat story. The action starts on the very first page. You think you know someone only to find out that they were not who you thought they were and things were not the way you perceived them to be. Told from the perspective of a sixteen year old girl, this book is sure to grab the attention of those who love YA books. Anyone who has loved reading angel and demon book series will definitely love this one. As far as I'm concerned, this is the best out there. Riley is one of those characters with plenty of flaws. Yet it is this flaw that lets us identify with her. She is motivated into action by her love for her friends, and her determination to protect them. This is what will lead her in all of her endeavors. The characters are so well drawn that I actually felt like I was sitting in the room eavesdropping on their conversations. There was no over the top voodoo type things that gave it an out of the world, hard to believe fantasy feel. Even the mention of vampires was explained in a realistic way, based on the context of the story. I have some students at school that I know would love reading this book. I will definitely need to buy it for my shelves at school and a copy to give away to those students I know would want something like this in their own personal library. I have a love hate relationship with series like this. As much as I love the book, I hate having to wait for the next book in the series to come out. I will definitely be looking forward to the next book in this one. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this book tour.

Emmeline (The Book Herald) says

I kindly received a copy of this book from Booktrope Via Netgalley in return for an honest review.

"The World exploded in a chaos of fire, debris, and noise"

I'll honestly admit, that a major incentive as to why i wanted this book was because of the cover! isn't it pretty!! *clears throat* Okay, let's talk plot!

*Riley finds herself in an earth shattering car accident.
People are dying in front of her, the world for that moment stands still.
That is until she sees paramedics trying to save the life of a child, but out of nowhere appears a girl.
That girl leans down and pulls out a shimmery essence from the boy.
Riley knows for a fact that it's the boy's soul.
Frantic she yells trying to stop it from happening, the girl looks at her in shock.
When Riley is taken to the hospital, the girl visits and abducts her to a place called 'the council'
There she finds out that her life was never what it seems.
She's a halfling angel of death, her duty is to collect souls and bring them to heaven.
However, she didn't expect the danger that would come from that duty.*

This book was nice! It was really interesting to delve into the world of 'angels of death' and of course there were other paranormal individuals like witches and vampires.

It wasn't the most original book i've read on angels, I'll admit that but it was still a pretty intriguing and action-filled book.

I did have moments of confusion, for example, the author made it seemed as though some characters were good characters and then out of nowhere, they're bad...I didn't even see why, or how and when that happened!

The story had some creativity and the writing was nice, i just felt like everything was going a little too perfectly for the character. I didn't really connect with any of the characters either.

There is a slight bit of romance in here, but it kind of goes nowhere. I have a feeling she'll like a bad guy or something, as the YA Heroines tend to do, like the nice guy? pffttt!

As a whole, it was a nice read.

Stay wonderful!

-The Book Herald

Tweet me @thebookherald

Cindy says

“Yeah, well, that’s not on top of my ‘to do’ list.” I let go of his hands and dusted off my jacket. “Can’t we skip the whole ‘collecting a soul’ thing? It’s almost the weekend. I don’t want any other emotional ordeals before I get a few days’ rest.” Leander opened up his mouth as if he was going to say something, and then shut it again. “What?” “It’s that girl’s funeral, right? Tara?” Way to ruin my good mood. “Yeah. That’ll be enough emotional turmoil to last the entire weekend.” “All right, then. We’ll wait until after the weekend to collect a soul.” “Thanks.” I smiled at him, and when he smiled back an army of butterflies gathered in my stomach. Keep it together, Riley. He’s your mentor. This is like falling for your teacher. Not done. “You know, I will miss reading your thoughts,” Leander teased. “especially when you’re thinking about me.” “Do you have to be so obnoxious? You probably hear about how handsome you are every day.” I ignored the warmth rising to my cheeks and turned away from him, focusing on the floor instead. “It’s been a while. Besides, I’m just joking around.” “How come we can’t hear human thoughts?” I tried to change the subject. “Smooth move, Scott.” He winked at me. “Humans think on a different frequency than we do. Think ultra-violet rays or radio frequencies.” “And this counts for all supernatural creatures?”

“I don’t want to bother you,” I said. “So I’ll be on my way.” I yanked my arm out of the vampire’s grip. “Not so fast.” He reached for me again, this time pulling me closer to him. His breath smelled foul, of blood and flesh, and I wanted to throw up. “We’re going to have some fun first. It’s been a while since we’ve met one of your kind,” he said, sniffing my scent. The others appeared around me, closing me in. “Your blood will be delicious,” one of them predicted. “Always is.” “A mix of human and Angel. I haven’t tasted something so fine in four centuries.” I fought the panic welling up in my throat but it was useless. I could only pray Katie wouldn’t come looking for me and fall victim to this group of morons as well. Leander, if you can hear me, I’m in danger! I’m surrounded by vampires, and they want to turn me into supper. Please help. HELP! I hoped the mental message reached him in time, but until it did I had to stall. “What are you?” I asked, hoping

that playing dumb would buy me some time.

"I see," I said, stuffing my mouth full with another pile of pancakes. "These are delicious." "Thanks. If you like these, you should taste my pasta. When you live several centuries in Italy, you'll know how to make your pasta." I grinned. "Can't wait." Leander stayed quiet. He didn't eat, but after a few moments he put his hand on my knee. "I'm really sorry, Riley," he said. "I should've been there to protect you. That's my job. I can't imagine how scared you must've been." "Well," I said, my voice as hoarse as if I'd smoked a pack of cigarettes, "I was more surprised than scared. I didn't have a lot of time for that." I couldn't pull my gaze away from his hand, still lying on my knee as if it had become part of it. Butterflies exploded in my stomach. "So you forgive me?" Leander asked. "You were busy," I told him. "It's not your fault."

Riley is a 16 year old girl who was in a car accident and while waiting to be taken to the hospital saw a little girl who stole a boy's soul. Riley believed she was seeing things. At the hospital again she saw the girl and knew then she wasn't dreaming. The little girl grabbed her and took her to the council who told Riley she was a halfling Angel of Death. Normally they would kill halflings but she was given a chance.

Can Riley learn how to be Angel of Death? Or will the council decide she is too dangerous and end her life?

This book was given to me in exchange for an honest review.

When I was first asked to review this book I was skeptical but once I started reading it I could not put it down. I know if I just had an accident and I saw a little girl steal the boy's soul, I would have thought I was crazy or had brain damage. Man that would have scared me to death. The story flowed and kept you interested in what was going to happen next. The things Riley saw and learned would have freaked anyone out but she handled it well. It was a page turner and an excellent story. Cannot wait til the next one in the series!!! BRING ON THE NEXT BOOK!!!

FOUR ANGEL OF DEATHS

Bri says

What I liked: There's actually a variety of paranormal creatures featured in this story, something I was surprised about because normally I don't see that in paranormal books. It was refreshing to read about the other creatures in this world even though the focus was mostly on Riley and her learning not only about her heritage but trying to figure out what is happening to the girls who keep dying. It's very action packed and didn't linger too long on anything, moving quickly and also showed the characters with flaws about themselves which I really liked because it helped me understand and connect to the characters better. I liked Riley as a character, she was humorous at times and Leander was a good balance for her character and I enjoyed having him in the story as well.

What I didn't like: I think that she learned that she learned she was an Angel of Death (or at least a halfling) way too early in the book. In just minutes from starting the book she learns and I certainly thought there would be a lot more build up to that reveal, but was disappointed by it. It was also a little speedy to, and I would have loved to see how her life was before the fact she learned she's a halfling so I could have felt out

Riley's character a little more to try and connect to her better.

Overall Review: While I found a few things I didn't really like with the story, overall I enjoyed the book and and interested in seeing where the characters go after the way the book ended, in a way that makes me ask questions about what's in store for the characters in the future.

Recommend?: It's a good read, and if you enjoy the paranormal genre I think you will like this!

Raven and Beez says

[Note: I received a free copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review]

I'm going to be honest- I HATED THIS BOOK! I hated it so much oh god! I should have DNF'ed it but NOPE being the idiot that I am, I read till the end. It was an absolute waste of my time!

deep breaths

Now that we have successfully established my hatred for this book. Let's delve into the why's.

I hate in bullet points

1. This book disses Twilight but I honestly cannot compare it to anything else.
2. How on earth don't people realize that calling another woman (or even yourself!) a b***h isn't feminist at all! STOP DEGRADING YOURSELF AND OTHER WOMEN! It just invites other people to do the same
angry snarling
3. Riley doesn't seem to UNDERSTAND anything! The problem is not that she is a teenager. The problem is that she has no brains! We see and know the same things as her yet we see the situation in a better light than this infuriating character.
4. And the storyline!! SO PATHETIC AND CLICHED! A.K.A Girl sees something, girl finds out truth about herself by seeing the thing, later finds out someone in her family knew all along! Hence, girl being a little shit about everything and whining about all things known to mankind. AND OBVIOUSLY ONLY THINKING ABOUT BOYS WHEN HER SITUATION IS SO FREAKING MESSED UP!
5. How is popping into your room to check up on you at random times without your permission NOT THE SAME as Edward watching Bella sleep?? PLEASE. NO.
6. BOYS ARE NOT IMPORTANT! As a young teenager, when I used to read books like these (a.k.a Twilight) I thought they were, but now, when I'm at the end of my teenage years I've realized that the books that said so were liars! If I found out I was an angel of death, falling in love or even having a crazy infatuation (as that is *exactly* what happened with Riley no matter what crap she spouts about being in love) would be at the bottom of my list of top 2154646354454846 things that need my attention!

7. Leander: "You're really scared of getting stalked."

Me: REALLY?? REALLY LEANDER?? I WONDER FREAKING WHY!!

8. When Katie (Riley's best friend apparently, you wouldn't know by the amount of hate that seems to be between them) finds out the truth about her "boyfriend" (who is of course the one and only guy after a thousand other guys who were clearly not worth her time *eye roll*) She is hurt instead of terrified... WHAT?! I mean, that person (view spoiler) PLEASE. And she begs for his life?? DO YOU HAVE ANY BRAINS KATIE?? (And to anyone who is going to complain about me having spoiled this piece of what apparently is a plot twist, people of Earth... believe me when I say that anyone and I mean ANYONE could have seen this plot twist coming miles and miles away. It's probably the oldest plot twist and the most used plot twist in the history of plot twists.)

9. Sometimes the statements Riley makes, make her seem so immature and 2D and NOT REAL. For example, at one point her friends try to stop her from killing the said boyfriend of Katie (His name is Myron by the way) and she says to us (the reader) "**Can't they just shut up and let me kill him?**"... I don't think I NEED to say anything anymore.

10. "**I felt a pang of anger. I was the one who was going to sacrifice my life to save hers. Yet she acted all pissed off towards me.**" I mean, EXCUSE ME if I'm wrong but is she your best friend OR NOT?!?! And nobody is *asking* you to "sacrifice your life" for her. YOU decided it yourself! I honestly cannot describe how *stupid* she is.

11. When Leander speaks to her in front of her friends, she literally doesn't give a shit about what her friends say. There is actually a scene where she just ignored what her friend was saying and started talking to Leander.

12. WHAT ABOUT RILEY'S WINGS?? WHERE ARE THEY?? If they aren't there then WHY AREN'T THEY THERE??

13. She always seems to feel a "pang" of something or the other.

14. At the end she realized that her "infatuation" (which she calls love) was over because "she didn't feel butterflies anymore"... I swear I could kill her.

15. The souls that angels take go to Heaven and the ones reapers take go to hell? So basically it's a race to take souls?? So what about bad people and good people?? What shit is this??

16. Leander had no flaws. And that pisses me off because I need characters that are flawed. WHO ON EARTH DOESN'T??

17. Riley pisses me off because she says that she doesn't like Leander anymore because he is too selfless?? FREAKING KILL YOURSELF RILEY!!

18. Katie pisses me off because at one point she loves Myron even though he is a (view spoiler) and the next moment she hates him. WHUT. IS. DIS?

19. Riley wants to be selfless AND selfish AND she is messed up OH GOD! I hate this book so much more than Twilight.

20. "**We aren't *dating dating***" Kill me.

Lots of love for you guys and hate for this book,
Raven

Nancy (The Avid Reader) says

I received a free copy of the book from the author for my honest review.

Riley is just a sixteen year old girl with some great friends and family. She finds out that she is half human and half angel. She has a hard time dealing with it and finding out that her mother may have cheated on her father and he is not her real dad. She realizes that her mother could have been raped and she didn't cheat on her dad but she is upset mainly because the man she grew up with thinking he was dad and now finds out he is not hurts her so much. He has been a great dad to her and has spent a lot of time with her where some dads don't do this they leave the kids to the mother to deal with especially if they are a girl.

After finding out that she is half angel she has no idea what to do how to handle it. But she is assigned a mentor an angel to teach and train her about who she is now and what to do. This angel is all hotness and when Riley meets him her chin drops to the floor and her tongue comes out and slaps her brain out.

But she gets herself under control as much as possible that is. Her angel, Leander tells her that she is an angel of death and her job is to help people's souls make it to the right place. Leander also helps her with her new powers that has just awoken.

Riley has three great friends who are always looking out for her; for her own safety and because they care about her a lot. They all care about each and will do the same for anyone of their friends. All of her friends are great people but like all of us they each have their own little perks. They are always trying to get her to dress up a little especially when they go out but Riley is just a plain Jane kind of girl and clothes and make up is just not her thing. But Katie is all for her dressing up more but when she starts dating this guy at first she won't let them meet him. She wants to keep him all to herself but after she has been going out with for a while she decides that it is time to let her friends meet him. But she tells Riley to dress up a little bit but not too much because she is afraid that her boyfriend will see Riley and fall in love with her. She doesn't know Riley as well as she thinks or she would know that Riley is better than that and know she wouldn't take her boyfriend away from her. undoubtly she thinks Ryley is way prettier than she is or she wouldn't have this hang up about Riley over dressing around her boyfriend.

Now her friend Michelle is different she knows and pays more attention to her. She knows that Riley has changed and confronts her about it. Michelle is very determined to find out what is going on with her. She cares about her very much and wants to keep her safe.

Riley has a lot on her plate right now with just finding out who and what she is along with everyone and everything else in her life that is happening now. Someone is going around killing teenage girls. Riley and her new angel friends are going to help her find out who is killing these girls and why.

I loved reading *The Soul Thief* and learning about the angels of death and the reapers. I loved the comparison and the difference of the two and how they balanced each other out. Riley was a great person and I loved how plain Jane she was. I especially loved Michelle's personality and her attitude as well. I loved how she could read Riley and could tell right away if she was sad, sick or hiding something. *The Soul Thief* is a must read for anyone who likes reading about angels, reapers, vampires or just about any kind of paranormal creature you can think of.

EndlessReading says

Firstly I want to thank the lovely author for kindly providing me with a copy of "*The Soul Thief*" to read and review for this blog tour.

This is the first book I have read of Majanka, but I'm fairly sure it won't be the last.

Riley is a 16 year old girl who was involved in a car accident, whilst waiting to be taken to the hospital she saw something out of this world, a girl stealing a boy's soul. Yep, you heard right... This in itself sparks the beginning of Riley's journey at finding her true self and her heritage. She is one of those characters with plenty of flaws, Yet it is this flaw that lets us identify her.

Can Riley learn how to be Angel of Death?

Or will the council decide she is too dangerous and end her life?

The characters are so well drawn that you actually feel like you were sitting in the room eavesdropping in on their conversations.

The story flowed and kept you interested in what was going to happen next.

Melissa Simmons says

The Soul Thief is the first book in the Angel of Death Series by Majanka Verstraete. From the moment I read the synopsis I just knew I had to read this book. It sounded like a kick-ass television show that would collect a cult following in no time and I was not disappointed when I started reading.

From the very first scene, I was pulled right into the story. It's told from the point of view of the main character, Riley; a 16 year old girl who survives a horrific car crash and then witnesses something even more disturbing mere seconds later. The action starts there and never really ends and the story simply flies by. It was impossible for me to put this book down once I picked it up. I had to know what would happen next but at the same time I didn't want it to end. I absolutely loved every moment.

There is so much to love about this book, I don't even know where to begin honestly. It was jam-packed full of awesomeness--action, suspense, intrigue, paranormal beings, the bonds of friendship, and some romance,

too. The writing flows fast and helps you become engulfed in the drama unfolding in the pages. I read until I could barely keep my eyes open and then when I got to the end I yelled out loud, devastated that the author was leaving us hanging without knowing what Riley would do next.

The characters were well developed and flawed, which I love. It makes a story that much easier to get lost in, in my opinion. I loved Riley and her friend Mich, especially--I thought they were a great example of true friendship and the strength of that bond. Leander-Riley's guardian angel and potential love interest- was sweet, protective and mysterious in turns but mostly I found myself wanting to kick him. A lot. He's immensely likable, but he has a little trouble making up his mind about things sometimes. No spoilers here, read for yourself and see what I mean!

I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves a good YA paranormal adventure story. The Soul Thief is one of the best books I've read recently and I say you should grab your copy today.

****I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review****

Aoife says

3.7 stars

I received a free digital copy from the author/publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest feedback.

Riley thought she was an ordinary 16-year-old girl until the night she's involved in a terrible car accident and she sees a girl collecting a young victim's soul. Suddenly, Riley finds out that she's a member of the supernatural world. She is a halfling, the product of an Angel of Death and a human being and she's not suppose to exist. Riley is put under the guidance of Leander and she discovers how to be angelic, and tries to find out more about the mysterious deaths of teenage girls in her town.

The concept of the book is really good and the plot itself is fast-paced and quite informative. I really enjoy the world that the author has created. The hierarchy of angels and the strange rebellion that happened reminds me a little bit of the TV show Dominion, which isn't a bad thing. Riley took things pretty in stride I felt, she didn't really have a lot of freak-outs until her gran had a talk with her. Overall, I found her a pleasant character though perhaps a little bit too 'Mary-Sue', Hopefully, she'll step up the game in the second book in the series, which I think she will. I also hope we will have a better look at more creatures and even angels in the next book as, while they're mentioned in The Soul Thief, I wish we had a few more character of different species - seeing as they actually exist and all.

The major problem I had with this book though was the relationship that occurred between Leander and Riley. Now, when I was 16, I definitely felt like i was really grown up. Now that I'm 23 however, I realise I was still a baby! So the fact that Riley and Leander, who despite looking like he's in his twenties, is actually probably like over a thousand years old, started a romantic fling.....EW! If Riley was 18, or on the cusp of 18, this would have been okay. But 16? Nope, don't like it at all. It's probably one of the very few times I've read a book and really not shipped the relationship!

Overall, I enjoyed the book and where it's going and I'll definitely pick up the next one!

Ashley says

Rating: 2.5/5

(I received a free ecopy of this book from the publisher, Booktrope, via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.)

Minor spoilers

Riley has lived a normal 16 years, but everything changes when she's involved in a dangerous car accident. After the impact, she witnesses a teenaged girl hovering over a young boy and claiming what appears to be his soul. The only thing is, nobody else could see the girl - only someone who is at least part Angel of Death can. She's taken in front of the Council and told she is a Halfling, half human, half Angel of Death. The angels aren't fond of Halflings since one led a revolution long ago, so Riley is worth quite a lot to the enemies of the angels, and she always has to watch her back.

I thought this was quite a good book. No, it wasn't fantastic and it wasn't original, but I still found it entertaining. I liked how everything was easy to understand, and the characters were enjoyable and they felt real. I found the plot interesting, and I've read several "halfling" type books where the protagonist is half human, half something else, and while I didn't think this one was as good as some of those, I thought the whole half-angel thing was interesting. I haven't seen one of those before.

While it was a good book, I still thought the writing was a bit bland. Everything was written in a very straightforward way, and the dialogue felt a bit forced in places. The way the characters spoke seemed unnatural and unlike how actual teenagers speak. I also found the story predictable and I saw who the villain was before the reveal, but I didn't mind all that much. The biggest improvements I would make is making the writing flow better and to add more suspenseful elements to the story.

Overall, this was a pretty decent book which featured a half angel, half human protagonist, which is something I haven't seen before. While there were a couple things I thought could've been better, there were also a lot of things about it that I liked. If you enjoy angel books or are interested in the whole halfling sort of thing, give this book a try. It's a pretty quick read so even if you don't love it, it doesn't take too long to get through.
