



His Salvation

J.R. Loveless

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The ADA Chronicles: Book One

In an attempt to atone for his sins and find some solace, ADA Agent Gabriel Romero helps other Deviants in need. But with threats from both sides—Normals and the Deviants who despise them—he finds it harder and harder to outrun his ghosts, especially after a difficult mission to rescue twin brothers held at an enemy compound, where Gabriel meets Alexander Ryker. Gabriel finds his new charge unexpectedly attractive, and that's a complication he does not want—one he thinks he doesn't deserve.

Despite the frosty reception from the stubborn agent who rescued him, sheltered telepath Alex feels an instant connection through the pain he sees in Gabriel's eyes, and he does everything he can to gain his attention. The realities he must face while mastering his ability are hard, but failing to learn to defend himself is not an option. Soon he'll need his newfound strength to convince Gabriel he deserves to live and love again.

His Salvation Details

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Author : J.R. Loveless

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From Reader Review His Salvation for online ebook

ttg says

2.5-3 stars. I came in to this book with a lot of interest due to my not-so-hidden love of X-Men slash fiction. This is an original story that's similar to the X-Men world, but instead of mutants, we have "Deviants", or those with special abilities (telepathy, telekinesis, managing electricity, altering molecular structures, etc), who are struggling against both a hostile reception from normal humans as well as fear of being weaponized by other Deviants. The story focuses on a special organization that rescues imperiled Deviants, helps them learn more about their powers, and aids them in restarting a new life.

What I liked: I'm also a not-so-secret fan of the pairing Grouchy/Kind, and so I appreciated the dynamic between the MCs here--older, more embittered Gabriel and sincere, kind-hearted Alex. Even though they both feel attraction for each other, the development is a slow burn since they have their respective issues to get over. (The "I love you" feelings came too soon for me personally though.)

What I also liked was that the author kept the pacing pretty quick with action dotted throughout, so I appreciated the fast pace and it definitely helped push me to finish and find out what was to happen.

What was hard for me:

- I'm not a fan of writing styles that utilize a lot of descriptive nouns, and that's a big part of the style in this book. ("The older Deviant, the younger man, the telepath, the larger man," etc.) That kicked me out a lot. If this style doesn't bother you, then you should be fine.

- Also, I'd recommend another round of editing since there were some inconsistencies that stuck out more if you read straight through. (One example: Early on, Alex worries that Gabe isn't interested and his twin tells him that Gabe would be a fool to not be interested in him. Then a few chapters later, Alex wonders if his twin knows that he's gay, since they never talked about it and then has another thought about that topic a few chapters later. Those were confusing since these different scenes/thoughts didn't seem to match and flow well.

- A lot of characters pop up in the story, which sometimes was hard to keep track of, and I felt like I was getting a lot of hints of the "future pairings," or who the future books will focus on. That's fine, but it sometimes felt off-putting when you're still working through this book's character arc.

That, and because it's a new series, it ends not on a terrible cliffhanger, but a lot of things are left in the air, including the safety of some side characters, and it's very much a HFN. I hoped there would have been more about Alex's training or better understanding of his abilities in this book, but maybe that will pop up in a future one? I'm not really feeling the other couples hinted here, so not sure if I'll stick around for the ride.

But if you like your m/m romance with special powers, and those points about style difference, etc. don't bother you, this book may be up your alley.

Pat Nelson says

I ABSOLUTELY LOVED this book. JR has hit another homerun with this one. She's combined angst, passion, action and very human. characters and rolled them all into a fantastic story. Buy it!!

Ambre says

This book is about a world in which psychic powers are hated and people who manifest them are persecuted. Gabriel is the damaged older man, who can't allow himself to love. Alex is the ingénue who is determined to break down his walls. A pretty standard trope.

Here is the thing. When you are developing a broken character, it takes skill to make him loveable as well. This author gives us no real reason why Alex "loves" Gabe, other than sexual attraction. Gabe really treats him badly, but Alex comes back for more, apparently just because Gabe is hot and turns him on.

So major failure there. Why root for an innocent and basically nice guy to end up with a jerk? Just because the author says so?

Second, "I don't deserve him" doesn't really cut it as a filler for an entire novel. It can carry a relationship a little way, but then it gets old. She deals with it by just switching positions. When Gabe starts to come to his senses, its Alex who puts on the cold front. So neither of them are capable of being considerate? Great.

Last, foreshadowing is a great literary device, but there is skill involved in letting the reader in on things without making the characters seem clueless. Weaker writers tend to overuse the easier excuses, such as "I won't tell him, I don't want to worry him," or "I have this feeling, but I'm going to ignore it entirely and then be surprised when it turns out to have been correct.". The thing is, Gabe is a paranoid and overly cautious person, but he does several really out of character things to allow the plot to unfold as planned. It made me go all roly eyes. If your plot is strong, it won't need people to screw up to make it happen (unless the character being a screwup is part of the plot).

To top it off, the prose is awkward. It is generally fairly grammatical, but there are a lot of odd phrasings and the dialog struggles. The writing doesn't add much to the story.

There are much better examples of this trope out there. Mary Calmes' "Matter of Time" series and Jordan Castillo Price's "Mnevermind" come to mind as very different takes but similar in concept, both less likely to cause roly eyes.

Absynthe says

I'm only about 2 chapters in right now, but the writing is kinda awful. Well... not awful. Just puts me in mind of a very new author. The writing is poor.

Paul says

Great book, but DON'T BUY IT. I am having the worst luck with series, book 1 is four years old and then NOTHING!

I didn't realise it was so old with no follow through and it was left on a cliffhanger GRRRRR. This had such potential as an excellent UF about an unexplained global genetic change, giving a hefty percentage of the population all kinds of psychic and, telekinetic abilities, to name a couple, they're referred to as Deviant's. Yeah it has bits and pieces from that genre that most people include but it's a waste of time to read as she does not even mention a whisper of continuing it on her blog, so to me that say's she has written it off. Meanwhile she has written a trilogy and a few stand alone's. I'm just SO OVER books being promoted like this **His Salvation (The ADA Chronicles, #1)** on here and personal websites ESPECIALLY when they're telling their readers about the ideas and cover designs for their next book and there's a white elephant in the middle of the blog's screen. This is my ULTIMATE pet hate because it's so unprofessional. Just say you've dropped it off a cliff so where not left hanging. WTF??

Maria (aka Fashionta) says

Reviewed for Confessions from Romaholics

Review at Confessions from Romaholics

A man haunted by his past and a young man being hunted for his abilities must find a way to heal one another's hearts and souls. Both are Deviants capable of unimaginable powers caught in a vicious war between the Normals and Deviants.

The Normals are just regular humans while the Deviants are humans who have unique gifts that manifest usually when emotions are under stress. The Agency for Deviant Assistance was created to help the Deviants learn to control their powers in a safe environment while teaching them how to survive safely and blend in with the Normal humans.

Gabriel can't help but feel the weight of this war on his very shoulders. He is a mercenary of sorts but also a Deviant who goes in to rescue those who have been captured or are being hunted because of their powers. With a team of trusted allies and close friends, they have formed a brotherhood mixed with both Normals and Deviants—showing that not all hate and judge what they don't understand. They work for Bryan Sorensen who started The Agency for Deviant Assistance after the deaths of his wife and son, all because a neighbor saw his son showing sign of gifted powers.

Gabriel is sent on a mission to save twins Alex and Jason Ryker, both level five Deviants who are just barely adults. They have been captured by Vincetti, a Deviant who is hell bent on destroying all those who refuse to follow and obey him whether they be Normals or Deviants. Jason is telekinetic while Alex is telepathic. After losing their grandmother, they find themselves on the run due to Jason inability to control his temper. Getting into the location where the twins are held is the easy part, getting out, though, is cause for concern.

The attraction between Gabriel and Alex is strong and emotional, even while Gabriel resists and pushes Alex away. There is an almost underlining connection between them that makes it impossible not to crave each other ... their powers sort of resonate when together.

But something or someone is manipulating everything and it's centering on Gabriel and his past. A past he is unable to forget, one that haunts his very thoughts daily. To get to Gabriel, Alex is being targeted. Once Jason and Bryan are kidnapped and The Agency for Deviant Assistance is forced to scatter, Gabriel takes the guilt upon himself, believing he is to blame for not being prepared.

Just when they have a plan in motion to save Jason and Bryan, Alex gets taken. But this time something is different. Who is really in charge of capturing all the Deviants? Will Gabriel be able to hold his promise that he'll come back alive?

I absolutely loved how J.R. Loveless pulled this all together, such a well developed story with a whole crew of character you can't help come to love. I couldn't put it down. Just when I thought I'd have a moment's rest, I was off again, as the story twisted and turned, whether it was battling the heated looks passed between Gabriel and Alex or rescuing other Deviants. The emotions from all the characters felt honest and real. The only thing I found I disliked was the death of one of the side characters. Why kill off a character I've gotten to know and like? It's not right! Other than that, I love it! I'm looking forward to the next book in The ADA Chronicles!

I give *His Salvation* 5 couples. Definitely Recommended!

Andrea says

His Salvation is the latest book in my search for a fantastic paranormal series. In this world there are the normals and the deviants. Normals are just what they sound like, normal humans. Deviants are people with special abilities. Nobody knows what causes them, nor can they predict who will develop an ability and thus become a deviant. Deviants are hunted by some normals who fear them as well as other deviants with hopes of controlling and harnessing their abilities. Most deviants are forced into hiding for fear of their lives if discovered.

The ADA, the Agency for Deviant Assistance, helps deviants learn to control their abilities as well as creating new identities and new lives in the hope that they can lead somewhat normal lives. I immediately liked this world. The idea of deviants vs. normal and deviants vs. corrupt deviants fascinated me. It was everything I was hoping for. Gabe is the leader of an ADA team sent in to rescue Alex and his twin brother from the facility in which they are being held prisoner. Gabe is tough and jaded while Alex is sweet and innocent. I loved the contrast between them and was excited because I saw how they could be great together.

Then I started to get irritated. The point of view kept switching from Alex to Gabe and then back to Alex. It was interesting at first but I got tired of reading the same sequence of events again, just from different perspective. I also lost interest in Alex about halfway through. The sweet innocence was cute at first, but once the action picked up, Alex moved into my “too stupid to live” category. I couldn’t even like him by the end. I found myself hoping he would get killed in a battle. That pretty much destroyed any interest I had in the romance between Gabe and Alex.

Even though Alex annoyed the hell out of me, I still loved the world. I also know this is an author I normally enjoy. I will be reading the next book in the series for those reasons. Hopefully new characters will make all the difference.

James Cox says

Great start to the series. I really liked the characters!

Jane (PS) says

I had trouble keeping focused on this story. I liked the idea of this story, but the execution wasn't enough to maintain my interest.

Vio says

Okay well Gabe and Alex, were not the most endearing couple I've come across. This is one of those times where the paranormal world created didn't work out. I was a bit lost with the multiple characters that appeared, they were hard to keep a track of, I felt like I was bombarded with too much at once. I doubt I will read the next book in the series, it wasn't an enjoyable experience, and there is a bit of cliff hanger.

Karen Wellsbury says

And another Scuttlebutt one.

His Salvation is set in a world where those with special abilities, such as telekinesis and telepathy are called Deviants. Deviants have become hunted by Normals, who generally appear threatened by Deviant abilities, and ADA (the Agency for Deviant Assistance) exists to protect Deviants at risk. While this sounds terribly X men-like, and to a degree is, Loveless takes the story off on a different tangent.

Alex & Jason are twins who have been raised on a farm, isolated and remote both geographically and emotionally, they are both level 5 Deviants, the highest power level that there is.

The twins are rescued from a kidnap situation by ADA, headed by Gabriel (Gabe) a man with issues, and a powerful Deviant himself.

Gabe is tasked with helping Alex develop and control his abilities, which he finds hard to do as he is strongly attracted to him.

The combination of the open and vulnerable with the more experienced and grouchy is a tried and tested romantic combo, and worked well here.

Running in parallel with the romantic element is the suspense- Vincetti, a Deviant who appears to be able to control others, channeling their power, is targeting the twins for some reason.

There is a plethora of secondary characters who help to set the scenes, assist in the world building but also open the storyline up to several, unexplored, off shoots.

The introduction of another rescued Deviant, Isaac, mixes up both the romantic angle and the suspense, and soon both strands are heading towards their denouement. On the way there is a birthday present, bad dreams and some romantic and sexy times, as well as a suspenseful twist or two.

Loveless' style is fast paced, and there is a lot going on, and while there is a HFN ending it's certainly open enough for sequels. On the negative side the writing does rely quite a bit on nounification, so there is a lot of references to the older/ dark haired/ younger/ pale skinned Deviant, which I found a little wearing. While it isn't completely original, (think gay X men with a bit more umf) there is more than enough divergence to keep you occupied and interested.

Secretly Reading says

Originally reviewed for The Book Vixen

In a Nutshell: I want to stamp my feet and scream because I loved the world building and one lead but the age difference between the leads was nearly disgusting and prevented me from finishing the book.

What I Liked: This is X-men on steroids. I love the world building with Deviants and Normals and the social war between them. The agency Gabe works for is called ADA, The Agency for Deviant Assistance, and is an underground railroad of sorts for Deviants who've been hurt or exploited. I loved this set up and was super excited that it would be a series set in this world.

What I Also Liked: Gabe. I loved the tortured and bitter Gabe. He's a soldier but internally he's a seething mass of loneliness, hunger and desire. He protects his team and cares for them in the only way he knows how. He was a romance hero to die for and I feel in love with the character.

What I Didn't Like: Forewarning! I will now act like a petulant child, stomp my feet and scream, WHY!? Why would the author do this to Gabe and readers? Why would she make Gabe's love interest be a nineteen year old innocent who's literally just off the farm when Gabe himself is 35 years old? He cries constantly and acts immature. He's often called "kid" and "teenager" by others and his boy is described like that of a pubescent boy. What the h-e-double-hockey-stick was the author thinking to make this child be a good partner for the mature Gabe?! What does he offer Gabe other than someone he needs to babysit? I read seventy percent of this book in hopes that Alex would mature but it didn't happen and when they finally have

a sexual encounter Gabe calls Alex “kid” during the sex and post-coital—DONE! Not finishing this book when it straddles the line of perverted.

IMO: I'll still try book two of this series since I love the author and the world building but it's on a short leash if the May/December format is a series staple.

Lisa The Novel Approach says

In the world that J.R. Loveless has created for us, there are Normals and Deviants. Deviants were once Normals, but years ago they seemed to evolve. People of all ages, from young to mature, started to develop talents. Some become overly strong, some had telekinesis, and some were telepaths.

As more and more Deviants came out, the Normals became scared. This led to murders and some of the worst oppression the country has seen since the containment camps of WW II.

Eventually some Deviants and Deviant supporters founded the ADA, a safe place for Deviants to live and learn about their talents. The agents of the ADA would be sent out to rescue those Deviants that had been cast out by their families or held captive by people with less than honest plans for their abilities.

Gabriel Romero is an agent of the ADA. When his newest assignment comes along, he realizes this one might just hit a little too close to home. Not only are the Deviants he is rescuing a pair of twin brothers, just like him and his twin, but they are being held by the man Gabriel holds responsible for the death of his twin.

Once he rescues Alex and his brother, Gabriel is terrified to realize that he feels a strong attraction to Alex. When Gabriel realizes that Alex is attracted to him as well, he does his very best to push the younger man away. After the events that led to his brother's death, Gabriel feels he doesn't deserve any happiness in his life, and he does his very best to make sure he doesn't get any.

Alex has never been on a date, let alone tried to seduce anyone, so when Gabriel pushes him away, he just tries to do his best with his training and spend as much time as possible getting closer to Gabriel. Slowly the two of them end up close, but Gabriel doesn't want to let Alex in, and that leaves Alex vulnerable when a mole enters the ADA and puts them all at risk.

When they are attacked in their one safe place and Alex's brother is kidnapped, Gabriel and Alex set out on their own and end up having to find shelter at a safe house. While there, Alex's lack of control of his powers leads to another kidnapping, and Gabriel is going to have to face his past if he is going to save them all.

I absolutely loved this story. J.R. Loveless has created a fun little universe full of these wonderful characters that you can't help but love. It was difficult reading Gabriel's story and seeing how he put everything that happened in his past squarely on his shoulders. Once he began to let go of his guilt, he began to see the opportunity for a future. On the flipside, Alex has nothing in the world except for his brother. He lost his parents when his abilities manifested, and the aunt that took him in recently died, so when he finds himself falling for Gabriel, he wants to keep the man close. He will just have to find a way to convince Gabriel to take a chance on him.

This story was not only a great love story, but there was some edge of your seat action and the potential for a few more books. I would definitely recommend this book, and I hope the author will revisit the ADA and it's

agents in the near future.

Tamarrion Lash says

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Caroline Brand says

When humans started developing powers the world very quickly divided into two.

Normals are the people who remain the same, don't develop some sort of 'freakish' power, and become afraid of the unknown. Deviants are those that develop into something else, their powers manifest, they become hunted and afraid. All the Deviants want is to be left alone to live a peaceful and normal life but they are hunted and killed like animals.

With the lives of the Deviants under constant threat an association known as the ADA is set up to rescue, train and teach. Gabriel Romero leads a team within the organisation. He is an extremely powerful Deviant that refuses to let people into his life as he lives with the pain, anger and regret of his past. A past that seems determined to give him no peace and follow him around.

When twins Jason and Alex, a telekinetic and telepathic, are kidnapped by a notorious and rogue group of Deviants it becomes Gabriels teams mission to rescue them. For the first time in 5 years Gabriel feels something when he meets eyes with Alex which in turn leaves him feeling raw and exposed and doing everything he can to avoid further contact with the man.

Fate throws the two men together as Gabriel is ordered to take on the role of training the young man and help him manage his powers. The more time the two men spend together the stronger the bond but Gabriel seems intent on fighting it, believing his past is too dark to taint such as innocent as Alex.

The rogues want the twins back and someone from Gabriels past is doing everything he can to ensure this happens. When the twins are kidnapped for a second time the truth will finally be relieved and Gabriel has to face his past once more.

This was fast paced, exciting and I really enjoyed it. It is reminiscent of the X-Men in many ways. As the title alludes to this being the first in a series I am looking forward to the next instalment as the hunt for Bryan

and the rescue of more Deviants continues.
