



Embrace

Stacey Rourke

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Whether she likes it or not, eighteen year old Celeste Garrett has come to terms with being the Chosen One. She knew having a "normal life" would be tricky, between intense training sessions and epic demonic battles, but she didn't know at what cost it would come. That is, until a dear friend is harmed by the malicious forces hunting her. Now, she'd like nothing more than to retreat into a hermit lifestyle to prevent anyone else from getting hurt. But startling revelations, amazing new abilities, and mortifying moments in front of insanely hot guys won't allow time for that. Soon, Celeste finds herself surrounded by darkness and wondering who she can trust-if anyone.

Embrace Details

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Author : Stacey Rourke

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review Embrace for online ebook

Redheaded Bookworm says

I have so much trouble writing a review for a book that I like this much. I just want to scream, "READ IT NOW!" But since that doesn't really help you much, I guess I should give it a try.

Who do you trust when you're not sure you can trust anyone? Lots of exciting things happening in this one. So many twists and turns, I wasn't sure if I was sitting or standing! I was second guessing everyone in Celeste's life. Great new characters! I am totally in love with Caleb, and I even like Rowan! This book was even better than the first! Great Job Stacey!!!! Keep 'em comin'!

Melissa says

Rating - 5 Stars *****

The story goes so much more in detail than the first book in the series but not TOO much as to overwhelm you. Just the perfect balance. Immediately you are thrown into the story and it is AMAZING! Celeste is having a hard time embracing her calling as The Conduit, The Chosen one. It is one demon attack after another and it is all business with Celeste as she is unable to let her guard down, be human for a change. Her brother Gabe and sister Keni are doing just fine with their romance and daily life if you will. Celeste, not so much, that is until Caleb. Caleb, a fine piece of eye candy, will have Celeste doing things, she can not control. It is the Conduit inside of her. Can she trust Caleb, with not only her heart but her life. Trusts are formed and broken in this book. Rowan a demon sheds some insight into the dark army and forces at work. The dark army arises and a battle rages and everything Celeste, Gabe and Keni were called to do will be put to the test. The leader of the dark army will appear from the depths of darkness to kill the Conduit a.k.a The Chosen One.

This book is amazing! I was hooked from the very beginning. I wasn't sure how good the second book in the gryphon series would be since sometimes books in a series lose or lack a continuing or flowing story line. Embrace was action packed, filled with danger, demons, love, anger, trust issues, disappearances, all the parts a great book has. The way each and every Character had a special purpose, power, or like Grams! To keep everyone in check and be the teams biggest cheerleader. I can only say I am saddened by what happens to the spirit guide and the sacrifice that was imposed on Alaina. That was a shocker. I was entranced and felt like I was really fighting the battles with them, like I really knew the characters. Start out reading the first one in the series called "The Conduit" and then read this book, you will see how everything ties into one amazing story. I really feel connected to the story. The comedy had me laughing as well. Stacey Rourke brought the whole package with in this book. I would love for the story to continue into a 3rd book to tie up some loose ends that hasn't been answered yet and for the great story of the chosen one to continue. I truly could go on and on and describe the whole book, but I have to stop myself as I have to leave something for you to discover and take your own journey through the Gryphon Series.

Best Wishes,
Melissa

Author links:
<http://anchorgrouppublishing.com/Home...>

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13...>

Our links:

<http://twowomenandabookreview.blogspot...>

<https://www.facebook.com/TwoWomenanda...>

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (1/5/2018)! ?

Jane says

4.5*

ARC Release date :- June 1st 2012

Book two in the Gryphon series continues to follow Celeste and her siblings in their quest to save the world from demons who are trying to take over the spirit plane. Celeste is the 'chosen one'Kendall and Gabe her protectors, and together they soon learn that Barnabus; the demon they defeated in the first book was not the 'leader' like they were led to believe, instead he was actually answering to someone higher and the 'unknown' threat is still out there. Added to that there is a power struggle going on in the underworld and Celeste has to trust the 'untrustable' in her bid to succeed in her mission.

'Embrace' definitely has a more complicated plot than 'Conduit'. The pace is faster and the theme is darker. There are new characters introduced and we have the added confusion of just who Celeste can and can't trust. The introduction of Caleb was an unexpected move and who he actually turned out to be was a bit of a surprise. His ability to hide certain things from Celeste seemed odd considering she is an empath and I was a little confused as to why she didn't use this power more often now her life was in so much danger.

The cliff hanger at the end of Conduit left me with questions about a certain character and I assumed everything would be revealed in book two, but this was not the case. I only got half an answer and there was little mention of him in this book. I found it extremely frustrating that I have to wait for the next book to learn his fate and that the cliff-hanger at the end of Embrace is even more nail biting.

Stacey Rourke has a nice and easy writing style that is made more enjoyable by the dry humour and witty & sarcastic comments. I like the natural dialogue and the 'real' feel that all the characters have. There were some plot turns that had me scratching my head but this didn't take away the enjoyment for me. I hope I don't have too long to wait for the next in the series and the answers that I am eager to find!

Copy supplied for an 'honest' review.

Have to say I loved this line from the book "Try throwing a verb in there, Alaina. Makes communication

more effective.”

Christy Sloat says

Stacey Rourke's debut novel 'The Conduit' is undoubtedly one of my favorite so far this year. So when she asked me to review the second book in The Gryphon Series, I of course jumped at the chance. To read a book before release, uh heck yes! So here it goes:

As if I hadn't already fallen in love with Celeste and her siblings in the first book, I am totally smitten now. They are just the funniest bunch of fictional characters I have ever read. Celeste with her witty one liners, Gabe and his ferocious hotness, and of course the ever lovely Kendall. I dove into this book headfirst and was pleasantly surprised with the impeccable writing of Stacey Rourke. She has pulled me into this world where these three exist and I don't want to leave.

In this version Celeste starts the whole dating scene. Oh my do I adore her suitor. The ever so handsome Irish gentleman, Caleb. I found myself drooling onto my Nook over Caleb. However, this book isn't all about sappy romance and hilariously funny banter, the action in this book is undeniable. Celeste is now being attacked by more evil forces who this time want to take over everyone she cares about.

I am officially loving this series! I love Rourke's writing, she is definitely a rare writing gem

Karen Toz says

Author Stacey Rourke has done it again! Embrace, the second book in the Gryphon Series is the perfect mixture of humor, action, and suspense. The story leaves off where book one, The Conduit, ends, although admittedly I wish there were more about the story of Alec. From what I hear, I will have to wait until book three for that.

In Embrace, Celeste, along with her siblings, spirit guide, and wacky grandmother are back to fight more demons – given away by their black eyes and puffs of smoke. As the Conduit, Celeste knows she has a job to do, yet she struggles with the knowledge that some of the demons may be acting against their will. Much of the story revolves around the battle between good and evil, consequences of who Celeste should trust and why, as well in her overall faith in humanity. There are some great new characters in this book, including the Dark Army Glee Club (doesn't every pack of demons have one?), the Evil Countess, and a possible new love interest for Celeste. Of course there is Alec, who Celeste continues to insist is a friend despite his newfound darkness.

As much as I loved the ending of The Conduit, I have to say, I loved the ending of Embrace even more. I cannot wait for the next book to see what happens! Keep the great books coming!

Rute Canhoto says

Crítica

Acabei de ler “Embrace” a 15 de Março de 2012 e dou-lhe 4 estrelas.

“Embrace” é um livro completo, em que nada falta. Tem toneladas de ação e romance de fazer corar, tudo temperado com uma boa dose de humor. Stacey Rourke esteve à altura do desafio da continuação de “The Conduit” e creio que este supera inclusive o primeiro volume, o que é bastante positivo. Fiquei ansiosa pela continuação!

Gostei principalmente de duas coisas. A primeira é o facto de que, desta vez, a Celeste teve sucesso na área amorosa. A rapariga bem que precisava de uma paixão que a distraísse! Ainda bem que as coisas acabaram por resultar para ela e o... ei! Não vou dizer o nome. Terão que ler para descobrir.

A segunda coisa que me agradou foi o humor com que certos aspetos foram abordados. Juro que quase rebolei a rir com certos episódios, nomeadamente as tentativas de Celeste para falar com rapazes. E, como se não bastasse ser desastrada, o facto de ser o “conduit” ainda lhe trará problemas por acréscimo. Foi super divertido ler este livro – arrancou-me umas boas gargalhadas.

Com tantos elogios, perguntar-se-ão porque dei então quatro estrelas e não cinco. Simplesmente porque o início não me agradou muito. As lutas são uma constante nesta história e o início está repleto delas. Logo após uma no primeiro capítulo, segue-se outra na escola. Compreendo que esta tenha sido importante para a Celeste tomar uma decisão quanto aos estudos, mas a rapariga também precisa de respirar! Uma pausa ou outra não faria mal.

Seja como for, recomendo a leitura deste livro e ficarei à espera do próximo volume!

Review

I finished reading "Embrace" on 15th March 2012 and I rate it four stars.

"Embrace" is a complete book, in which nothing is missing. It has tons of action, and romance enough to make you blush, all mixed with a good dose of humor. Stacey Rourke was up to the challenge of the sequel of "The Conduit" and I think this one even transcends the first volume, which is quite positive. I look forward for the next story!

I especially enjoyed two things. The first one is the fact that, this time Celeste succeeded in the loving area. The girl needed a passion to distract her! Thankfully, things worked out for her and... hey! I will not say his name. You'll have to read the narrative to find out.

The second thing that pleased me was the humor with which certain aspects have been addressed. I swear I almost rolled on the floor, laughing hard at some episodes, mainly the attempts of Celeste to talk to boys. And, as if it wasn't enough to be clumsy, being the conduit will bring her problems in addition. It was super fun to read this book – it ripped me some good laughs.

With so many compliments, you might be wondering why did I rate it four stars and not five. Simply because I didn't like much of the beginning. The struggles are a constant in this story, and the beginning is full of them. After one in the first chapter, another one follows at school. I understand that this one in particular has been important to Celeste make a decision about her studies, but the girl also needs to breathe! A break would't hurt.

Anyway, I recommend reading this book and I'll be waiting for the next volume!

Holly Full Moon Bites Book Reviews says

May have slight spoilers.

Embrace, the second novel in author Stacey Rourke's The Gryphon series, follows our main characters from the last novel, Celeste Garrett, her older brother Gabe and their little sister Kendall (Kini) who in the first novel learned that they were superheroes.

More specifically they changed because an old oath made by an ancestor to the Gryphon—the Protector of the Divine—to serve and help fight evil. One day three of their line would be called upon when they were needed the most; the Protector, the Guardian and most importantly the Conduit. Gabe, the Protector, Kendall the Guardian and Celeste is the Conduit.

The Conduit is a link to the Gryphon himself which means Celeste gets a whole lot more than she ever imagined, while Gabe is her protector and Kendall her shield.

Add into all of this Alaina, a spirit guide to help train them, which Gabe has a particular eye for and you have a very interesting plot to say the least. Now throw in demons and a hot guy that can make Celeste purr and Alec drama, geeky demons, some other bad guy problems and you have a page turner that you will not want to put down!

As with the first novel in this series—Rourke made me laugh out loud though out the novel and I did not want to put it down—I, in fact read it in one sitting starting at 2 A.M in the morning.

Another thing this novel had in common with the first? The ending. Huge cliffhanger!

In the last novel Celeste learned a secret about her 'current' boyfriend (Alec) and the novel pretty much stopped and we were left with a huge question of what happened.

I thought the novel would pick back up around here, but in fact it did not, we actually have to read a good bit to find out what happened that day.

But while reading we follow Celeste as she hunts for monsters with her brother and sister. Just because they killed one of the lead men of the Army in the last novel, doesn't mean they have taken out the threat.

With this novel Rourke has managed to out do her previous book, making it suspenseful, funny, and mysterious also adding a sexual tension between some of our characters that was missing in the first novel.

I would recommend this novel to anyone, young-adult, adult, this is the kind of novel that anyone could become addicted to love. I can not wait to pick up the third book!

****I received a hardcover/paperback/eBook copy/ARC of this book for free to review from the author/publisher; this in no way influenced my review, all opinions are 100% honest and my own.***

Dominique Goodall says

Embrace by Stacey Rourke

Whether she likes it or not, eighteen year old Celeste Garrett has come to terms with being the Chosen One. She knew having a “normal life” would be tricky, between intense training sessions and epic demonic battles, but she didn’t know at what cost it would come. That is, until a dear friend is harmed by the malicious forces hunting her.

Now, she’d like nothing more than to retreat into a hermit lifestyle to prevent anyone else from getting hurt. But startling revelations, amazing new abilities, and mortifying moments in front of insanely hot guys won’t allow time for that. Soon, Celeste finds herself surrounded by darkness and wondering who she can trust—if anyone.

Embrace follows on the story of The Conduit bringing to life the challenges which come from being The Conduit and holding with you the powers of someone very special...especially when you want to be just a normal girl. It’d be nice to go to work, go to college and date without confronting demons, but for Celeste, that’s not possible.

Her brother and sister are able to keep up their normal life (dating people met in The Conduit) but for Celeste, things aren’t that easy. Especially now when confronted with the Demon Glee Club. And yes, they do sing well, even performing for Gabe. Rourke has continued on with the puns that make you giggle, the situations that make you wince in sympathy as you watch Celeste trying to be a young woman- even when confronted with demons and a new guy who she really likes.

I love how Rourke continues on with the strong writing that is at once witty and vital to the storyline- even down to a lion wearing boxer shorts! That’s a visual you just won’t lose very easily, because even a week after reading it, I still occasionally giggle at the thought.

Sibling rivalry, a cheerleading gran and a bird woman all have one thing in common- they can make Celeste’s world a nightmare and make her want to groan. She learns more about her powers, the world and the darker world of the Countess- the bigger, badder demon who is trying to take over the world and twist it for her own cruel devices, even taking over the life of someone close to Celeste.

And just who is it leaving these scrolls on Celeste’s bed with the very cryptic messages she can’t even begin to understand?

Another 4.5/5 for Embrace, as I was disappointed by only one thing- the wait before I can read the next one!

Delphina says

After I read The Conduit, I pestered Stacey to get an ARC copy of Embrace. Yes, I FB stalked the poor woman. I actually had picked up a signed copy of the book while at a book conference, but I when I read her books, the highlight feature on my kindle gets used a lot. I just love her way with words. They have me in

stitches.

Embrace was even better than The Conduit, which is almost unbelievable, since it was made of amazing. This book continues the siblings adventures and adds a few new characters. There were twists and turns I should have expected, but did not want to see. There was adventure, mystery, a bucket load of romance, and more pithy dialog than even I could highlight. It was so stinkin' awesome I may have to reread it before the third book comes out in November. That is the one one problem with this book, I have to wait until November to read the next installment :(.

Julie says

Ebook: Embrace The Gryphon Series, Book 2

Author : Stacey Rourke

Fiction, Paranormal,

This review may contain spoilers

I was given this by the author for review

Summary: Whether she likes it or not, eighteen year old Celeste Garrett has come to terms with being the Chosen One. She knew having a “normal life” would be tricky, between intense training sessions and epic demonic battles, but she didn’t know at what cost it would come. That is, until a dear friend is harmed by the malicious forces hunting her.

Now, she’d like nothing more than to retreat into a hermit lifestyle to prevent anyone else from getting hurt. But startling revelations, amazing new abilities, and mortifying moments in front of insanely hot guys won’t allow time for that. Soon, Celeste finds herself surrounded by darkness and wondering who she can trust—if anyone.

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The Review

I loved the family dynamic in the first book of the series, The Conduit, in this book we meet them again Celeste, Gabe and Keni, and it’s no surprise but well I have to say it again, I loved it in this one too, The siblings got on so much better in this book, which goes to show, they matured abit with all the responsibility they have taken under their wings, We had all the same characters in Embrace as the first one, as well as some new ones, talking of which I loved “The Glee club” right up until near the end, The way they would pop up now and again, kept you on yours toes, I want Caleb, I want to take him home with me, Rowan Mmmm another I could take home with me, Gabe and Keni managed to have ordinary lives with boy friends/girlfriends but poor Celeste, just could not have a normal life, at least for a while, she feels separated from everyone around her, they get on with their lives, but for Celeste, things will never be the same again, This book was intricately weaved, so you never knew who was good and who was bad, with twists and turns in the plot that had me on the edge of my seat, It was so hard to work out until near the end, I Love a good plot line and this definitely had one, infact it had a few, The baddy in this was wicked crazy, definitely a worthwhile villain, I would love to see a little novella with keni’s life with Henry and Gabe’s life with ? I can’t say too much, spoilers and all that. I can’t wait for book 3, dying to know what or who, made Celeste scream, I hate cliffhangers, they really make me wanna go and find the author and stand over them until the book is finished, Please hurry up Stacey, I need my fix, I would highly recommend this book to anyone after a great story, 5.5/5 I know it only goes up to 5 but this deserves way more, We want book 3, We want book 3.

D. says

Let me start off by screaming ROURKE how could you! I really hope book 3 is coming out today. If not, after that ending I might feel compelled to throw eggs at your house. Just saying LOL! Stacey Rourke has yet again, spun another wonderful book. Between the sarcasm, humor, adventures in each chapter. You even have some purring going on. This book was certainly a page turner. I am sure that people thought I was a bit "loca" if you will. I would be quietly reading and all the sudden burst out laughing, eye rolling and/or snorting. Yes, I looked like a giant retard. The funny thing was I didn't even care. I was simply relishing in my read.

I am completely baffled when I come across books like this! There is no reason why, this book should not be in the hands of every YA, as well as OA. I myself literally enjoyed this story. I can not enumerate how many times, I have read reviews, that will offer one star to a book, not because it wasn't a great story, but the placement of a coma, spelling or etc.

Celeste, Gabe, and Kendall once again were awesome! Grams, is now the official cheerleader for the supernaturals. Now we have a completely yummy Caleb, in the mix!. Holy HOT plate. Caleb, I will not be able to elaborate on him, without ruining the story. I can say you will be utterly satisfied .We can talk about Rowan. I almost believe Rowan, will play a big part in future books. I foresee a love triangle get ready to transpire. I could be wrong, however I believe he will have a big role in the upcoming books! Stacey Rourke, has once again spun another great book.

I would like to add, this book is only \$2.99 on amazon, which completely amazes me. Buy Stacey Rourke's book, fall in love with her witting which is totally deserving. This is a book basket one for sure! Please take a chance on this Author. I think you will be glad you did.

Hugs to all!!!

Franjessca says

Review also posted on Book Lovin' Mamas

Excuse me while I contemplate how I'm going to get over the ending of "Embrace" and write this review. Stacey Rourke left me hanging again. I love cliff hangers, but the ending of "Embrace" was just mind boggling for me since I want to know who that is that made Celeste scream. Ahhh!!!

The torture of waiting since I will not be able to read the third book until I am done with my other review books that I need to read. I will be finding out though....very soon!

Celeste and her siblings our back and they are still dealing with the darkness. At the ending of "The Conduit" Celeste found out some disturbing news about one her friends who she was about to pour her heart out too...instead she had to break up their friendship.

Now Celeste is determined more than ever to kill who is out there to get her. She is the chosen one and she has to keep her self from being killed. Still being hunted...but now from a new enemy that is hiding in the dark.

Celeste ends up quitting school, causing a ruckus at home with her siblings and even gets herself in danger several times where she has find away out without her siblings. Celeste has decided to focus on her job at the cafe and focus on her training sessions with her guide and her siblings.

She never imagined a guy would come into her life so soon after Alec...and she also never imagined a second guy who appeared out of thin air, warning her about the new enemy.

Now she has two guys that she cannot keep out her head...well three if you count worrying about Alec still.

But can she trust the guys that meets and whatever happened to Alec.

Well...Celeste will find out in "Embrace" and she will have to decide what has to do after she sees him for the first time in months.

She also has to decide if she trust the guy who keeps telling her about her enemy and also trust the gang of demons who say they are sent to kill her, but cannot. Instead they want to be her ally.

What is she supposed to do...she's keeping her new demon friends a secret from her brother and sister and she's also keeping another secret from them.

Does she trust her new friends or trust what she's destine to do.

First off, let me just say, "Embrace" was a very hard to put down book. Every time I had to step away from the book to take care of something around the house, I would find myself itching to get back to reading "Embrace".

Celeste had so many inner and outer demons to work out in this book and I felt terrible for her. There were several times I wanted to slap her brother and sister for her, for being so cold towards their sister. I also wanted to slap Celeste around sometimes too because she could not judge who was the bad guy and who was the good guy. She also tended to not think, but act too quickly. She should have told her brother and sister from the beginning on what was happening around her.

So many new characters were introduced in this book and may I just say I cannot choose who I love more now...Caleb or Rowan (you'll have to find out about them by reading the book)...and I still have mixed feelings for Alec after this book. What the heck is wrong with him and WHY?!!

Stacey Rourke definitely kept me on the edge of my seat in this book and this by far is the best book...probably until I read the next one. I just loved the action in this one and of course the secrets that came out. (Mainly about Gabe...and his new love interest...LOL) Poor Celeste...had no clue.

I recommend this book to anyone who loves reading young adult and loves a little bit of paranormal and fantasy. You'll definitely enjoy the Garrett siblings even more in "Embrace". You'll also fall in love with some of the male characters. *sigh*

Oh...just remember...Stacey will leave you hanging at the end of the book. At least I know "Sacrifice" released on Smashwords and I can go buy it and read when I have a chance after I am done reading other books. It's going to take a miracle to hold me back from reading it though. I need to know what is going to happen next.

Sandy says

It was 11:30 last night when I finally clicked off the lights and that was after 50 pages of “only one more chapter” since I picked up the book yesterday morning. As I lay in bed after finishing the book, I was taunted by the cliff-hanger Stacey left me with on the last page and I knew that sleep was not imminent immediately. The suspense was just killing me but I had to keep it under control, as I knew my sleeping spouse beside me would not appreciate a midnight wakeup call to talk about my newest demon-crazed obsession.

Stacey really had me hooked in this sequel to *The Conduit* as the siblings are getting their new talents under control. Gabe and Kendall seem to enjoy their new positions and powers but Celeste is having issues dealing with hers. She is not taking full advantage of her talents. Her powers feel more of a curse than something to embrace so there seems to be a power struggle going on inside her and with the world around her. Something has to give here before trouble strikes. Celeste is also dealing with issues of trust which had to do with her relationship with Alec so therefore, she trusts no one. The scrolls with the mystery messages arrive and Celeste tries to decipher their messages which are like a philosophical fortune cookie. These messages along with her family help Celeste deal with her many issues and that is a wonderful thing as there are many demons that surface in this novel in many different forms that they must confront. They all want Celeste and she must be strong to survive.

This story just keeps getting better and better. The sarcasm and little jabs at humor are just one reason that makes this book so enjoyable but when you add the cast of characters and the amount of action which is nonstop, you have one terrific novel. Just when you think things might calm down for the siblings, another twist is thrown in and you are taken for another turn which you never expected. I cannot say enough about this book except you have to read it, you will not be disappointed.

I was given a free copy of this book for an honest, unbiased opinion of this book.

Valerie McQueen says

Review of *Embrace* (Gryphon Series #2) by Stacey Rourke

FIVE STARS!!!! ABSOLUTELY PERFECT!!!

This book was provided free by the author in exchange for honest literary review.

So Celeste has now gotten some crazy cool new superpowers. She's finally got to enroll in college and get a start on the rest of her life. Things should be great, right? Not really. Her last boyfriend showed his true demon side so she has sworn off dating. It seems no matter where she goes there is this huge target on her back for seekers to find her. Talk about a troubling time as a teenager!!! While Gabe and Kendall have been able to find inner peace and balance since coming into their powers, Celeste feels none of that. Then it seems no one around her understands how lonely she feels or the pressure she constantly feels. Sounds deep right? NOOOO. LOL This book is as filled with humor as the last. I had to stop at times just to stop laughing so I could see. The author mixes humor, surprise, love, and action in a perfect recipe. This whole series has been above amazing. From the dark army glee club to the werelion in starwars boxers.....u will love this book from all angles. I read so much sometimes I have to think about what to review so I don't sound the same.....my problem here is that there is so much I want to say, but I don't want to spoil your fun!!!! So please this is a must. Top five of all indie authors I have ever read!!!!!!
