



## Dark Halo

*Shannon Dittemore*

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*One halo brought sight to Brielle. Another offers sweet relief from what she sees.*

Brielle can't help but see the Celestial. Even without the halo, the invisible realm is everywhere she looks. It's impossibly beautiful—and terrifying, especially now. Because a battle rages above Stratus, Oregon.

The Terrestrial Veil is ripping, and demons walk the streets past unseeing mortals. Dark, sticky fear drips from every face, and nightmares haunt Brielle's sleep.

Worst of all, Jake is gone. The only boy she's ever loved has been taken by the demon, Damien. When she receives instructions from the Throne Room leading her to Jake, she unknowingly walks into a diabolical and heartbreakin trap.

Now she's stranded in a sulfurous desert with the Prince of Darkness himself, and he's offering her another halo—a mirrored ring that will destroy her Celestial vision. All she has to do is wear it and she'll see no more of the invisible world. No more fear. No more nightmares. No more demons. It's a gift. And best of all: it comes with the promise of a future with Jake, something the Throne Room seems to be taking from her.

Will Brielle trade the beauty of the Celestial and the truth of the world around her just to feel ordinary again?

## Dark Halo Details

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## From Reader Review Dark Halo for online ebook

### Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

The war between angels and demons continues in the final novel in the Angel Eyes Trilogy by Shannon Dittemore, Dark Halo. This is the darkest of the three and the best part I loved about this one is how Shannon spent sometime highlighting the series for those that may have grabbed this one without understanding a bit of the backstory or for those that have and it's been so time between novels, this is a nice reminder of where we left off in Broken Wings.

The novel surrounds Brielle and Jake, a couple fated to fall in love and then be placed in helping to aid in the battle against good versus evil that puts the lives of those most close to them in deadly peril. Brielle has been given a special gift though a halo that Jake gave her, which when worn, allows her to see into the celestial realm and see the spiritual world around her. Jake has been gifted with the ability to heal when he places his hands on those that are injured or dying, and together they are the biggest target the enemy is seeking to destroy. Jake and Brielle's angelic shield, Caanan attempts to protect and lead them in what they need to do to save the enemies attempt to take them from the town of Stratus, Oregon.

When the Broken Wings ended leaving the reader at the cliff hanger ending, a demon by the name of Damien had captured Jake from the safety of Caanan's wings while a heavenly war was raging over the skies of Stratus. Brielle could do nothing to save him but watch as they disappeared into the sky. The Sabre's, a group of twelve angels, whose worship has the capacity to tear through the terrestrial veil and allow the town of Stratus to see just what is harming their small town. Damien has been commissioned by the Prince of Darkness to capture and bring Jake and Brielle to him, and now he has managed to secure the first of the two of them. He can only hope that Brielle's love will bring her to search for Jake and thus secure the one true treasure the Prince of Darkness is seeking, to be able to gift her with the dark halo and give Brielle a break from the nightmares that continue to plague her sleep.

I received Dark Halo by Shannon Dittemore compliments of Thomas Nelson Publishers for my honest review and received no monetary compensation for a favorable one. Having read all three novels in this series, this was the one I anticipated reading the most. Shannon does an exceptional job at answering all the lingering questions that have popped up since being introduced to the first novel. I can even see the opportunity for future books in this series as well. I think she did a masterful job at showing just how deceitful the enemy can be when Brielle comes face to face with Satan and helps readers understand the subtlety he can use to twist his lies into what would appear as the truth. This is such a great series to offer young teens as an alternative to all the fiction flooding the marketplace with paranormal romances and for that reason I rate this one a 5 out of 5 stars. There is also a great discussion guide included for book clubs as well as a sneak peek into the novel Anomaly by Krista McGee.

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### Theresa says

THAT ENDING!! A full review will come, but I just have to say this book - and the entire series, honestly - was SO good! But this book. Everything about it tied everything together and was just so flawless!

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## **Ember says**

This was an amazing end to this trilogy! I still felt like there could've been a fourth book telling about what happens with Jake and Brielle. But other than that, I LOVED THIS TRILOGY!!! I didn't think I was going to like it this much! But I do! Anyway, READ THIS SERIES! Why I didn't finish this sooner, I have no idea.

Clean rating: Some violence, and some deaths.

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## **Dawn says**

One halo gave Brielle sight. Another one offers her relief. With a heavenly battle occurring in the skies about Stratus, Brielle sees the Celestial all of the time now. Especially since the Terrestrial Veil is being ripped in two. She longs for a chance to be normal and not see. Her boyfriend, Jake, has been taken by the forces of Darkness, and she will do just about anything to save him. When she encounters the Prince of Darkness himself, he offers her a halo that will take her Celestial vision and he promises a future with Jake, something that the Throne Room seems to be taking from her. But the Prince is an accomplished liar and manipulator. Will Brielle take his tempting offer?

This is the conclusion to the Angel Eyes trilogy. I loved seeing the battles between Light and Darkness. It reminded me so much of Frank Perretti's This Present Darkness and Piercing the Darkness books. I enjoyed watching Brielle grow in her faith in these three books. I absolutely loved Kaylee. I'd love to see her in her own book. While I enjoyed the entire series as a whole, I really enjoyed this one. I think it was my favorite of the three. I loved how the encounter with the Prince of Darkness showed Brielle's doubts and her longings.

I received this book for free from Thomas Nelson's Booksneeze program for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of young adult fiction, Krista McGee, Frank Perretti, Steven James.

Rating - 4 stars

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## **Zac says**

### **This is a review for the entire *Angel Eyes* trilogy**

This series was absolutely amazing. My mind was (and still is) totally blown away. I'd heard good things about it before, but I never really took it to heart. But now I wish I had. My copy of *Angel Eyes* sat on my shelf, gathering dust, for almost two years before I actually read it. \*shame\* \*head desk\* Better late than never though, right?

Okay, so here's the short version: The *Angel Eyes* trilogy oozes with uniqueness, gorgeous prose, flawless writing, and characters so real you feel what they feel, hear what they hear, see what they see (or rather, don't see). Shannon Dittemore has really outdone herself with this debut trilogy. Not to be missed, and highly recommended!

Now for the long version. I will be breaking it down by reviewing (somewhat) briefly each book individually. Okay \*rubs hands together\* here we go.

## ANGEL EYES

Whoa. \*grasps for reality\* THIS BOOK. I think it's my favorite of the entire trilogy. It just has the first-book adrenaline, you know? I said it before, but this book sat on my shelf for nearly two years before I read it, and that is one of my biggest regrets. I could have discovered this series **so much sooner !!!** Gah!!!

So, here we're introduced to Brielle, an 18-year-old professional dancer who's coming back home to Stratus, Oregon after a tragic event (view spoiler) Her life is crumbling around her, and emotions are on the fritz.

In comes Jake. The overly friendly and uncomfortably attractive guy who's really hot. But not "hot" hot. Heat literally pulses off his body. Brielle can feel it without even touching him. Why is he so warm?

Fast forward a little bit. A creepy guy named Damien (view spoiler) enters Stratus, Jake's guardian Canaan is an angel, and Brielle has obtained a glowing halo that makes her see into the Celestial, an angelic, heavenly realm. Things are getting pretty whacky. Then comes Marco (view spoiler). Now things are seriously ballistic. And the story is full-blown addicting from thereon out.

I found no flaw with *Angel Eyes*. It was, to me, about the closest a novel could get to perfection. I never wanted to stop turning the pages; my attention was always gripped the moment I cracked the spine till I closed the back flap. Encore! 5 stars to *Angel Eyes*.

## BROKEN WINGS

Fast forward about six(?) months. All is well in Stratus, in the Celestial, and in Brielle's life. Her and Jake's relationship has bloomed into something beautiful. Brielle hasn't loved anyone more in her life; she wouldn't trade what she had with him for the world.

Well, this book starts out pretty happy--and actually stays that way, surprisingly. Only a few bumps in the road (a mysterious woman that rubs Brielle the wrong way named Olivia Holt has come into town, and Brielle's dad is drinking again) keep this from being a fluffy read.

Then we get to about page 30. No, I'm kidding. **But seriously.** Gigantic angels called Sabres have come down from heaven, and they're tearing down the Veil between the Celestial (angelic realm) and Terrestrial (earthly realm). Their worship and song is beautiful, but what will happen once the Veil tears and the realms collide?

And to add onto that, Damien and the Prince of Darkness himself (Satan) are after Brielle and Jake for their supernatural gifts.

I really didn't care for the ending. A cliffhanger, but not an emotionally gripping one. It literally just left you hanging. Almost like this book and *Dark Halo* were originally one book, and were separated to make a trilogy. Hmm.

Altogether, I didn't enjoy *Broken Wings* as much as *Angel Eyes*, but it was still fantastic nonetheless. Dittemore's writing remained punchy yet musical, and the characters and situations felt real as ever. Bravo! 4.5 stars to *Broken Wings*.

## DARK HALO

Book 3. The finale. As soon I cracked open the spine, I could my heart strings being tugged. This was it. The ending to the trilogy I'd read throughout the summer. It was very bittersweet.

*Dark Halo* picks up right where *Broken Wings* left off. Jake and Brielle have been separated--Brielle in Stratus, Jake taken by Damien to the Prince of Darkness. Brielle is heartbroken, desperate to have her true love back. Her faith that's grown so strong throughout the series is dwindling. She's losing hope. What if she and Jake were never meant to be together after all? (view spoiler)

But then Brielle receives instructions from the Throne Room (the place where all instructions, etc., comes from in Heaven) that lead her to Jake.

So Brielle and her best friend Kaylee (who I've failed to mention up to this point it seems) hit the road, intent on rescuing Jake.

But they're walking right into a trap. Now Brielle is stranded in a desert with Satan himself. And he's offering her another halo--a mirrored ring that will destroy her Celestial vision.

Will Brielle trade the beauty of the Celestial to taste the feeling of being ordinary again?

Okay, enough summary. This was probably my least favorite book in the trilogy (but holy hot sauce, definitely my favorite cover! I MEAN LOOK AT IT!). There wasn't anything wrong with it, I just prefer it least overall. Maybe it's the grimness of the story? I don't know. It was still a marvelous book.

And the ending. Well, more like the last 50 pages.

## PERFECTION.

It really was. The way everything came together (view spoiler) was just mind blowing, and the way everyone came out redeemed...it was beautiful.

And the way Brielle (and the others, kind of) defeated Satan was so emotional, so inspiring, heroic, and beautiful. How many times have I used the word "beautiful" in this review? Probably way too many, but that word alone just sums up this entire trilogy. Outstanding! 4.5 stars to *Dark Halo*.

Okay, so now I just want to briefly sum up some of my favorite things about all three books.

- The writing. Obviously.
- The humor. So many times I snickered or busted out laughing. Shannon has a great sense of humor!
- The characters. Again, obviously. But rather than Brielle or Jake being my favorite characters this time (though their journeys were both so, so beautiful), Kaylee takes the spot as my favorite. She grew so much throughout the trilogy, and she is *hilarious!* I love her so much. Everyone should have a friend like Kaylee.
- The faith. I don't even know if I should call it that. Spiritual relationship sounds better to me! It was so real. So inspiring. They way all the characters grew in or discovered God...it was like it was happening right in front of me. GAH! THIS SERIES, GUYS!

So. Overall? This is a trilogy I'll be reading over and over again. My only regret is not reading it earlier. Then maybe I could've enjoyed it more! I give all three books my highest recommendation. I hope you all

read this trilogy one day!

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### **Tito says**

Oh so incredibly good. This was a really great book to end off the series. And there were a bunch of twists that I definitely wasn't expecting, and they threw me for a loop. I honestly wish with all my heart that this series didn't have to end, but following the characters on their journey was worth it.

In this book, we're introduced to some new characters, and I wasn't really sure who to trust and who not to. In addition, there were some really tense moments that had me flipping the pages, and there was a great balance of action, romance, and faith.

When thinking about it, what I think I loved the most in this book was the character growth and development. I think there were some really insightful conclusions that were made, and one of those conclusions was concerning Brielle and Jake's relationship. Specifically in the second book, I noticed that Brielle put a lot of emphasis on being in a relationship with Jake, and at times it seemed like her entire future hinged on it. That slightly bothered me, but I didn't really read much into it but was definitely talked about more in depth in this book.

This is one of the best series I've read in a really long time, and it's a keeper for sure.

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### **Krista McGee says**

Oh my goodness! I did NOT want this book to end. What an amazing finale to an amazing series. Exciting plot, well-developed characters, and Truth is woven together so beautifully. Every page is like a work of art. I LOVED this!!

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### **Jill Williamson says**

I've been dying to read the conclusion to this series, and I'm so glad I finally got the chance. This is book three in the Angel Eyes trilogy. The first book, Angel Eyes, and the second, Broken Wings, were both amazing, and I couldn't wait to see how it all ended.

Brielle can see the Celestial realm, and there's a war going on, right in her hometown of Stratus, Oregon. Angels and demons are fighting to the death over the souls of men. It's a terrifying sight to see. And it's even harder now that she and Jake have been parted. He was taken by Damien, so Brielle keeps watch over the trunk in Canaan's room for word or clue from the Throne Room. One clue leads to another, which leads to another. Jake and Brielle both have mysteries to solve. What happened to Ali? Who was Jake's father? How is Olivia involved in all this? And how was Brielle's mother connected to it all? Their investigation leads to all the answers in a satisfying conclusion. Loved it!

I so enjoy Shannon Dittemore's writing, her characters, and the way she tells a story. I'm sad this was the end, and I can't wait to read whatever book she writes next. This trilogy was fascinating, and I highly recommend it.

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### **Henrietta says**

The third and last book in the series, *Dark Halo* offers a satisfying ending to the Angel Eyes trilogy. Both Brielle and Jake have some tough decisions to make and I'm just glad that they have some good friends to cheer them on when they feel fearful and uncertain. I like the empowering message in relation to how all things originate from the same source and therefore even the most evil ones can't escape the desire to have access to something bright and beautiful offered by the Creator. While I'd prefer a much braver Brielle, her flaws feel real and I appreciate her character growth throughout the series. I like Jake and it's wonderful to see him putting his gifts into very good use in this installment. It's quite an unexpected surprise to find out about his family secrets and when I finally see how choice/ consequence plays out, I start to understand the significance of the halo. Life may not always be difficult but when challenges present themselves, it's up to the individual to make the best use of the situation. If you'd like to be inspired, read the Angel Eyes trilogy. Personally, I've learned a few things to help me face my own weaknesses, and I feel grateful for the opportunity to have read Dittemore's work.

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Originally posted on LeisureReads.com.

A copy of the book was provided by publisher for review purposes.

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### **Michelle R. Wood says**

I do not usually care for angelic warfare novels OR teen romance, but the author won me over to this series with her excellent prose, great characters, and a surprisingly powerful story of growing into a more mature faith. Angel Eyes I liked in spite of myself. Broken Wings inspired both hope and appreciation, and so I was chomping at the bit by the third book.

*Dark Halo* not only proved a worthy and enjoyable sequel, it lifted the series as a whole to make it one I would recommend to all readers.

In this concluding novel of the Angel Eyes trilogy, teenage protagonist Brielle is reeling from the battles of the previous books. She's stronger now, with a heightened sense of faith and purpose, but the stakes are raised as her boyfriend Jake is held hostage by the Prince of Darkness himself. The cliffhanger from last time implied that Jake may face a most perilous temptation, one that could shatter everything they hold dear. But deception is always at play with demons, and Brielle soon learns that it's her own weaknesses that could destroy them both.

By all rights the reversal of the cliffhanger (one built to over the course of two books) should feel like a cheat. But author Shannon Dittemore really is that good: she completely changed my preconceptions as a reader, even down to my anticipation of this novel's plot. I'd forgotten, as the characters did, that deceit is the ultimate weapon of the enemy, and this novel's devil is no cartoonish caricature. He's sly and subtle, ferocious and fearful, the most metaphorically True depiction of Satan's power I have experienced in a work of fiction (perhaps supplanted only by Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*).

Brielle's voice continues to be the strongest weapon Dittemore employs in selling the plot's twists and turns. All the characters are at the zenith here, even secondary ones that in lesser hands would crowd a full tale. Instead, everyone's stories unlock meaty theological realities, the bedrock that grounds this supernatural journey. *Dark Halo* shows the roots of temptation forming in our lives from the inside out, reminding us that sin is a personal responsibility we must accept if we are to truly repent.

Perhaps the ultimate triumph of this novel is that it doesn't overreach. The characters, while growing in maturity, are still teenagers with real life problems. Rather than treat these issues as banal distractions from the deeper fight against evil, Dittemore guides teens to realize that these are the stuff of which such battles are made. Satan is not meant to be defeated by us; instead, we're to let God win that war in His own time, while we are used by Him to serve others.

Nowhere is this clarity in perspective greater than the relationship between Brielle and Jake. What romance, supernatural or not, allows the characters to face the idea of not being together, even to accept such a separation if it means bowing to God's will? Furthermore, what book would dare actually hold the characters to such a proposition even after the main climax is over, not dangling marriage as a prize to be won but a commitment to be pondered and not entered into lightly? These two individuals grew as people first, as a couple second.

There are a very few bumps in this well-hewn road, especially with one secondary's tragic backstory that at times felt tacked on. But such a critique is minor compared to the treasure these books ultimately offer readers. I highly recommend the entire series for any and all who wish to be encouraged, convicted, and inspired.

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