



Shadow Wings

J.C. Andrijeski

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Archangel Raguel loses his wings... right as the world is about to go to hell.

Hunting a fallen angel bent on changing human history, Archangel Raguel finds a mysterious stone bearing a symbol in the midst of his investigation. Without warning, it throws him out of the angelic realms, abruptly turning him human.

He wakes naked in Gorky Park, in 1980s Moscow, wings gone and no ability to communicate with the other side. Picked up for public drunkenness and nudity, he asks for help of KGB Agent Ilana Kopovich, who is investigating a far more gruesome crime—the murder of a half-dozen children whose bodies were left mutilated in Red Square. Little does she know, the murderer she's hunting is the same demon Raguel wants.

Raguel asks for Ilana's help, and she quickly realizes she needs him. Together they must stop the demon before he commits his final crime and brings the world to the brink of war.

Shadow Wings Details

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Author : J.C. Andrijeski

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From Reader Review Shadow Wings for online ebook

Kristin says

The angel Raguel is suddenly a mortal human on earth after touching a skull key that appears in a Russian police interrogation room when the beautiful undercover KGB politburo agent is interrogating a pedophile a child murderer. Somehow he must find out what the demon possessing this man is up to before he kills his host and finds another. The only one who can help him is Ilana, the KGB agent.

This story reads like something between a Tom Clancy and Clive Cussler novel. It starts slow but is well worth the read. The pace and the feel of the novel are perfect for this communist era Russian spy novel. The language and pacing draws you into this world. I found myself reading with a Russian accent without meaning to. The details show a great deal of familiarity with the communist Russia police system. I learned things I never understood before about the purpose of the politburo. Very well researched and so well written.

There is also a touching love story. Raguel is an angel so this is not going to read like the Allie's War series. Quite the opposite but very appropriate given the time period, the subject matter and the characters involved. If you like spy novels with a love story, you will really enjoy this.

Keoki Ki`Ili says

World changing

This takes place during Cold War Russia, just before Gorbachev takes power. It's interesting to see how a political upheaval could have been caused by influencing a few people. Whether you believe in angels or demons it doesn't take much imagination to see how this could have changed our world. The author holds your interest and there is just enough realism to see this happen.

Shannon says

Love the new storyline with JC'S writing! Loved this story and can't wait for the rest!

Jodi Nichols says

This is the second book in the Skeleton Key Novella series that I have read and I really enjoyed it. J.C. did an amazing job with how well she described everything within the story and details! Ilana and Raguel were great characters and ones that you grow to love. Ilana is very skeptical at first with Raguel because he is a mystery for her since he suddenly appears after touching the skelton key and knows everything about her and she has never met him. She eventually learns to trust him and he helps her so much with the case she is working on. Raguel is such a quiet, softspoken character and maybe it's because of being an angel, but I really loved him because he was always there and made her comfortable for being someone she has never known.

I am so happy J.C. let me do an ARC of this story and I would have loved to see more for Raguel and Ilana. I am definitely having to check out all of her other books now because she has a great writing style and I loved it!

Tasha Driver says

JC has such an amazing style of writing and it really shows in this story set in 1980's U.S.S.R. during the Cold War. It takes an intellectual approach to paranormal fantasy.

The story begins in the Archangel Raguel's POV as he observes an interview that Ilana is conducting with a disgusting and disturbed criminal who is actually possessed by a conniving demon. This is where Raguel finds the key. He is transported from the interrogation and into the park, naked and wingless, in a human body. This happens in the sole chapter that is in present tense. I thought it was weird at first, but then I got that it was to portray a very sensory experience in real time (This is the first time that he feels cold temperatures and he is alone, cut off from the other angels.).

The rest of the book is in Ilana's POV. She is clinical but likable as a KGB agent. I absolutely love how a fantastical twist is put on the political events of that time period.

Scott Ryan says

2nd of the Skelly Key books I've read so far

This really feels like it could have happened in early 90's soviet Russia; (assuming you allow the fantasy elements!) - the wife was in Moscow around this time, twice, for 4 months the second time, and it brings me back to then, remembering her descriptions of Gorky Park. (Her research was in the Communist Party archives) And about the despair of people who didn't know what was coming.

This is really, however, about Ilana, and how she, with some help, (spoiler alert!), saved the world, really. Love JCA's books!

Mandy Parmenter says

Another great story by JC Andrijeski this time as part of the Skeleton Key series

I was given an ARC for this book in return for an honest review.

This book seamlessly weaves a classic Russian environment with a story of love, passion and corruption. There's Ilana and her upstanding morals (even though she understands and can play the corrupt parts of the system), plus Raguel who knows so much about her and her life even though she has never met him. We follow them as they get to know each other and solve a terrible crime.

The characters are very believable and I just wanted to know what next for them by the end of the book. Highly recommended - this is good for both existing fans and a good introduction for any new readers to JC's writing.

S.M. Johnson says

This is a great stand-alone novella from one of my favorite authors. It's an intriguing little mystery involving angels, demons, and humans - set in Russia during the Cold War era. I found the mystery and the actual story setting absorbing and fascinating.

No less than one might expect from a favorite author, right?

If you like twisty plots and unusual mysteries, this is probably a book you'd enjoy.

Jennifer says

[A celestial stone appears in the interview and when Raguel to

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

From The Book Junkie Reads . . .

Angle. Russia. KGB. Pedophile. Murder. Skeleton key. All these things lead to one read that will take you on a trip to the 80s, Russia, and a KGB investigation in to the murders of several children in the middle of Red Square. The plot twist. The turns. The mystery and suspense. There was the intrigue of trusting someone you know nothing about but knows all about you. This was an enjoyable ride in the time frame. The characters draw you in and give you more to see with the words and the vivid descriptions.

There were a few words that gave me overkill, but the authenticity of the locale was amazing. I loved the setting and how well it was all set up. The minute attention to details in describing various things including procedure.

This ARC was provided via IndieSage PR via Kindle in exchange for an honest review.

Connie Hinsley says

A really good read

Russia in the 70s, a beautiful KGB agent, an angel turned human and a body snatching demon. All come together in a good story. Irina's angel, Raguel, turns human after touching an unfamiliar crystal. He knows he needs to help her stop a demon from changing world events. Quick moving and entertaining.

Alaina says

Meh?

Shadow Wings is one of many books within the *Skeleton Key* series. In this book, you meet Ilana and Raguél. These two characters were kind of interesting but a bit boring to read about. Everything that happened between them was a bit predictable. I guess the one thing that I liked was the smut even if it was some small scenes.

Now in this book, Raguél is an angel and Ilana is a human. Lately books with angel characters have usually been pretty boring for me to read. They will start off interesting but then just fall flat for me. I won't DNF them because I know that they will be easy to finish but I just want one book that has angels to sweep me off my feet.

Ilana and Raguél work together to find a human who has been possessed by a demon. Of course it takes them a while to find out who it was, I wasn't shocked when it was revealed by the way, and then somehow try to figure out how to stay together. If you've seen *Hercules*, animated film, and they give him the option to come home.. and he chooses me over family. Yeah that's what happens here HOWEVER once he dies he gets to go back to being an angel? Meh.

Overall, it was boring and predictable. I didn't really care for either character and even the villain was kind of a joke. I might try another book from this series.. but I have no idea when that will happen at this point.

Jeannie Zelos says

Shadow Wings, (*Skeleton Key*), J.C. Andrijeski

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: Romance, Sci-fi and fantasy

Skeleton Key Book Series

One Skeleton Key. Endless Adventures.

<https://skeletonkeybookseries.com>

One magical key.

The turn of a lock.

An adventure of a lifetime.

The *Skeleton Key* finds those who are brave enough. Curious enough. Crazy enough. It only needs an unsuspecting hand and inconspicuous door. Magic uncoils and where the door leads, no one knows. The one way to discover the truth is to step through into a world of the exotic and untold.

If you dare to dream the impossible...

Prepare yourself.

Unlock the Skeleton Key adventures

An intriguing concept, 28 different authors writing a story based around the same subject, the Skeleton Key. I love JCA's writing style so was keen to read this one.

I enjoyed the story, a lot, but it wasn't anywhere near the pleasure I have from reading Allie's War, the Morph books or the fabulous Black series. Ragueel is just not Revik!! or Black.... Those books have a much deeper feel, more intense and solid reading. Everything in this is good and easy to read but its kind of JCA Lite to me compared to the others.

Its a fun story, scary in parts thinking how easily the Russia described could be – in fact probably is – very much like the Russia in this book.

I liked the characters, the very moral Ilana, one of those people who do things because they believe in the rightness of them, not just because its a job, a paycheck. She believes in what she's doing, genuinely feels as if she wants to make her Russia a better place, but she's not blind to the corruption and the craze for power that some people fall prey to.

Then she meets Ragueel, and she's puzzled. He seems like a straight forward mental patient, but then he knows things about her he shouldn't and how does he? She's puzzled, doesn't feel he's the fruit loop others seem to be convinced of, and when he indicates he can help her with her quest to find the murderer she talks to him. What he tells her though though is something she finds impossible to believe..until she sees the key and its reaction to Ragueel...

A fun read, and one I enjoyed and would like to read some of the other stories when there's time...its always way though, isn't it – so many books so little time.

Stars: Four, an enjoyable read and it will be interesting to see what approach other authors take.

ARC supplied by author

Nage says

Amazing Satisfying Read

This was an incredibly satisfying read. Great story, plot, fast moving but not on a way that leaves gaping plot holes and misunderstanding. I thought the era would turn me off but boy it added so much to the story. The paranormal elements were refreshing and unique.

T. says

I downloaded Shadow Wings as a free book from Amazon. I'm a fan of Andrijeski's Black series, so I was happy to find this short story featuring an earth-bound angel. The unusual, really good plot had me wondering how the protagonists would win against the evil fallen angel who set them up using crafty manipulation. The story wasn't as complex as most of her full length books, but I still enjoyed this fast-paced read.

