



The Collector

Victoria Scott

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He makes good girls...bad.

Dante Walker is flippin' awesome, and he knows it. His good looks, killer charm, and stellar confidence have made him one of hell's best—a soul collector. His job is simple: weed through humanity and label those round rears with a big red good or bad stamp. Old Saint Nick gets the good guys, and he gets the fun ones. Bag-and-tag.

Sealing souls is nothing personal. Dante's an equal-opportunity collector and doesn't want it any other way. But he'll have to adjust, because Boss Man has given him a new assignment:

Collect Charlie Cooper's soul within ten days.

Dante doesn't know why Boss Man wants Charlie, nor does he care. This assignment means only one thing to him, and that's a permanent ticket out of hell. But after Dante meets the quirky Nerd Alert chick he's come to collect, he realizes this assignment will test his abilities as a collector...and uncover emotions deeply buried.

The Collector Details

Date : Published April 2nd 2013 by Entangled Teen

ISBN : 9781620612422

Author : Victoria Scott

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Angels, Demons

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From Reader Review The Collector for online ebook

Mary Lindsey says

What a blast. A fast-paced story told in a fresh, witty voice. Victoria Scott nails it!

Dante Walker is the kind of guy I wish I'd met when I was seventeen. And the kind of guy I'd kill if my daughter brought him home.

Kat Kennedy says

If you can't love Dante Walker then you're probably not going to love this book. He is cocky, flamboyant, arrogant, hilarious, and sassy. Luckily for me, I absolutely loved him. Victoria Scott has perfectly encapsulated the jerky, arrogant seventeen year old who thinks he's a straight up badass – and nothing is more satisfying than watching Dante Walker realize that not only does he have a sweet, kind side, but he's also a good person and a good friend.

The book basically went like this:

Dante would be all like:

And outwardly I would be like:

But then when I thought the book wasn't looking, I'd be like:

There's another character, Charlie Cooper, who I just loved. Mostly because, though Dante is so mean about her at the beginning, Scott wrote her with such empathy and compassion. Even while Dante was waxing poetical about how unattractive and what a loser she was, and even while she was acting like a loser, I still loved her. I think everyone who's been an awkward teenage girl could see part of themselves in Charlie.

Whilst the writing of *The Collector* was pretty good, it was the slang and dialogue that really got me. Basically, she nailed it. Nailed teenage guy with a great finesse. The plot itself is pretty cool if a little simplistic. Bad Collector dude spies innocent virgin girl. Shenanigans ensue. It was hard for me to grasp the greater moral aspects of the book, the struggle between good and evil etc when I spent the whole book going, "God, girl! Just ride that guy to O-Town already!" As the book progressed, I found myself rocking backwards and forwards begging her to not change. NEVER CHANGE, CHARLIE!

I guess this was the only aspect that I found a little less satisfactory than I would have liked. For me, where it really made up for it was the characters. The dynamics between Blue and Dante and Charlie. Between the Liberator and Max and Dante. Between them all. I just couldn't get enough of those awwwww moments.

And then it ended, and I wanted more. Especially more of teh sexy. Which meant I finished the book shaking my fist at Victoria Scott, saying:

Which is really just my way of saying, "I love you."

Trisha Wolfe says

This book is AMAZING! I'm too excited to give a full review right now, but I'll be back shortly to rock it how it should be. Mark it to-read. Now!

Oh, and I called dibs on Dante a year ago... He's mine.

Updated:

Dante is one bad mother. I fell in love with him from the first page of THE COLLECTOR. I knew going in that Dante would be a little rough around the edges, and Scott doesn't hold back with the true bad boy character, for which is extremely refreshing. He doesn't wobble, walking the line between good and bad, he's full-on and doesn't hold back. I found Dante's swagger and cocky-as-all get-out attitude humorous and deserving of sworn-worthy praise. But that's not all there is to him—he's forced to face some very hard choices, and grows through the story to reveal the amazing and lovable guy underneath all that toughness. This is what I loved most about him, the moment he realizes that he's fallen for the one girl who calls him out on all his crap, and he jumps into protector mode to save his girl. Charlie is a breath of fresh air herself, and she and her band of wonderful friends, along with truly adorable side characters, make this story one that won't soon be forgotten, and one that will linger with me while I impatiently wait for the next installment.

Darkshadow says

Bir alttaki ilk tepkilerime bak?n bir de okuduktan sonra verdi?im puana. Bir ?ey demiyorum. Kitap ç?kt?ktan sonra bir iki laf daha ederim.

"He makes good girls...bad."
Oohhhh...

First:

Then:

And then:

Finally:

Wendy Darling says

I was intrigued by this after seeing all the rave reviews, but this story, style, and characters just aren't for me.

If you're curious about the book, I'd recommend downloading sample chapters when they're available--opening should give you a good idea whether you'll like the book.

Similarly hot guys, but with stronger characters and story, in my opinion: The Merrick boys in the Elementals series by Brigid Kemmerer.

Lindsay Cummings says

This book is freaking amazing. It's dark and hilarious all at once. Dante is a bad-A, (and if you don't think so, don't worry. He'll take your soul, and you won't be concerned about this book any longer..) Victoria Scott has an amazing, witty way of writing, and I am dying for book 2! and 3! and anything else she writes. Bring on the sexy to me, Mr. Collector. I'm ready to see you in the rest of this series.

Wendy Higgins says

I loved this book from the first page. It's so unique. Victoria Scott has taken all of the normal YA conventions and thrown them out the window.

First of all, Dante isn't just your run-of-the-mill YA bad boy...he's a villain. A REAL villain, who you often won't like in the beginning. But at the same time, you can't take your eyes off him because he's hot, witty, and just fascinating. And all the while you'll be thinking, "I can't wait to see this boy's world get rocked." It's a sweet journey watching his eyes slowly pried open. LOVED it. And Charlie? Sweet Charlie? There has never been a character like her. I love her so hard.

You guys are going to love it. Can't wait for it to hit the shelves next year! Get ready to laugh, swoon, and be taken on a mystery ride. Victoria Scott is an author to keep your eye on.

Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says

"Beauty's sister is vanity, and its daughter lust."
—Unknown

even though the first 30 % was ahmazingly irritating the rest of the 70% definatley deserved its 3 stars...

i LOVED DANTE and his POV..seriously. OMG WOW..

-----♥♥♥♥-----

EXTRACT : Taylor leans in even closer and lowers her voice. "I'll say and do whatever I want, asshole. And another thing, you better watch your step at Centennial, because I could destroy you and your mutt-faced girlfriend."

I throw my head back and laugh, long and hard. Then I lean in and whisper in her ear.. "You dont know who your fucking with princess, Aint no one do bad like i do. "

-----♥♥♥♥-----

But even though i loved him so much i cant say the same for most of the other secondary characters, except for well Blue... The way he loved Charlie seriously broke my heart..

wanting her ..and not being able to tell her was horrible enough...But to watch while the DANTE scope in and take the girl...Ouch, that must have hurt :(Oh blue ♥

RECOMMENDATION: If u loved or I can PROMISE that your gonna LOVE this..

But the ending seriously that was smashing..and that's exactly why it ended up giving it a full 4 .

will be looking forward to continuing the series in time.. :)

Victoria Scott says

Dante is making me give his book 5 stars. I swear, sometimes that boy gets on my last nerve. You girls can have him...and his bedroom eyes...and his killer smile...and his dangerous ways...and...and...never mind! Dante is mine!!! ;)

Ash Wednesday says

4 STARS and favorite-shelved.

Like a religious experience, y'all.

I kept thinking, this author must've at one time sat and said, 'hey, there's a thirty-something girl in the middle of nowhere with a constant hankering for snarky male leads it's painful... I'm gonna write a book just for her.' Then she cranks this one out and I've found my book soulmate.

Dante Walker is a soul collector sent by The Boss Man from hell to manipulate Charlie Cooper into sinning until he can collect her soul in 10 days. As Big Bads go, Dante is the biggest, hottest shit of a motherchucker of all and he knows it.

Annabelle laughs. "Oh, so you think you're hot, do you?"

"Girl, I got swag for days."

I've encountered a lot of YA heroes described as selfish, arrogant and egotistical but Dante just upped the benchmark: our homeboy went to Douchebag University and graduated with a major on being a Tool of the Trade because apart from that, he's also this side of misogynistic, hates cats (dafuq, Dante?!), and ugly people.

My eyes widen at the sight of her. This is the girl Boss Man is after? She looks like a porcelain doll... beat three times with an ugly stick.

There's a whole vault of snarky one-liners and comebacks that I started to fear it's going to be a binge of empty carbs and attitude (carbitude?) but there's a warm and touching story of self-love, forgiveness, kindness and acceptance somewhere in between that made me realize Victoria Scott is all up on my seriouslys.

Early reviews have forewarned that I'll initially hate Dante but I was drawn to him from the get-go. Okay that's putting it mildly, I'm totally, blindly, head-over-heels in love with this guy. He tugs all the right strings with his unassuming heart and twisted kindness revealed in the most unusual circumstances. Even without the evolution of his character from point A to point B, even apart from Charlie, even without Max (okay, maybe NOT without Max) this character totally works. It's his soft spot for geriatrics, his Bromance with Blue, his sob-story of a past... I feel like I can get pregnant just talking about how much I loved this guy.

Charlie held her own against the blinding awesomeness of the hero, which is a bit of a tall order because she can easily tip the scales towards annoyingly (view spoiler) pollyanna of a damsel but she came out in the end as intriguing and worth cheering on for. The secondary characters were stellar and their banter with Dante was delightfully organic that even on their own you can't help but be invested in them as the MCs.

I held out a star in my rating because the latter 25% just got a tad bit too heavy on the drama and the big reveal was a bit of a meh. But I can totally see this working for anyone else but me. The nitpicker in me had some qualms about certain aspects of the plot (view spoiler), but the LOLs it offered in exchange were enough to bribe me near-blind to them.

I can't possibly write a review as legendary as Dante (he be all "bitch, please") and I can't maintain the proper level of cool as I wait for the next book of this promising series. But as a first installment, yes the thunder was brought.

Review Copy provided by Entangled Publishing thru NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. But I also bought the kindle edition and will probably get the paperback because that's how I roll when I'm in-love.

There are words somewhere in my brain that I need to organize to coherent thoughts but suffice to say: loved it, fo shizzle.

[image error]

Pow!

(I've been reading straight for 10hrs, proper review once I regain some semblance of coherence)

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Given my recent history with hating the influx of obscenely douchey characters in fiction, I'm surprised at how I was more amused than annoyed with Dante. He owned his douchiness to the point of being completely over-the-top with the thoughts in his head, which made for a few laughs on my end. Several of his offbeat comments were quite funny and you could tell they weren't meant to be taken seriously, although a few times his intended sarcasm missed the mark. The "you have to only use one strap" backpack line reminded me of the scene from *21 Jump Street* in which Channing's character realizes this no longer applies. I guess someone forgot to inform Dante.

Anyway, back to the story. You see, Dante is living for himself. He's a soul collector. If he collects souls, he gets what he wants - flashy cars, unlimited credit card, hot chicks for days...

Man, it feels good to seal souls. Like eating a little slice of bacon.

Of course, a girl is always bound to come along and screw up every guy's dream life, right?

I could get used to having a sidekick gone rogue.

Charlie was supposed to be the opposite pole, but for the first half of the book she seemed like a kid sister and not really a love interest. I get the "moral" of the story, but hrrmmm...I'm not sure I felt the connection.

What am I supposed to feel? Guilt? Shame? No. I won't. I am The Collector.

That's right Dante - WRECK THAT GIRL. Oops, I meant - have fun trying to turn her bad.

Don't get me wrong. Charlie is a sweet girl. Saintly, even.

How can someone be cruel to this chick? It's like picking a fight with a chipmunk.

So the big, bad demon found that he had an inner protective streak. Alright, that is kind of cute, I have to admit. I guess it's a not all that far-fetched to see how a guy might feel something when he has a girl who is nice to him because she doesn't realize that he's scamming her, and she actually thinks he's a decent human being.

Maybe I was too hard on Charlie. Chipmunks are cute, after all.

But after reading the synopsis for book 2 - (view spoiler) And that's all I'm going to say about that.

Final thoughts : Fun book with a healthy dose of adventure. I expected some steamier moments given Dante's attitude, but he'll be back in book 2, so maybe we'll get there. I'll probably check it out.

This book provided from the publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

Rating: 5 big glittery seals (if you read this you'll know what I mean!)

The Collector is book one in the Dante Walker series by Victoria Scott. I was first introduced to Ms. Scott when I recently read Fire and Flood and immediately fell in love with her and vowed to go back and read this earlier series. And after I finished this first book I can say that I was most definitely NOT disappointed.

Dante Walker is a collector. He collects souls for the Boss Man that lives “downstairs!” Dante lacks nothing in the self-confidence department. He’s good at his job and he knows it. But his latest assignment is the biggest of his two year career. He has been given ten days to collect the soul of Charlie Cooper. If he completes this task, he will get to stay “above ground” for good. No more fiery pits of hell. And he has complete confidence that he will complete this task. His future depends on it. Charlie will be putty in his hands, or will she?!

Charlie Cooper is good. She has a pure soul. When Dante first meets her, she is not at all what he expected. She’s a tiny little thing and a total nerd. She has frizzy hair, walks with a limp and has crooked teeth. But as Dante gets to know her, he realizes that Charlie’s beauty is within. But, he cannot figure out what Boss Man wants with this girl. Still, no matter the reason, he is committed to getting Charlie to give up her soul.

“I like the sound the world makes,” says Charlie.

“But as I watch Charlie listen to her favorite station, I realize she has something most never will-peace.”

So when I first met Dante, I saw what he wanted everyone to see, a guy that is confident, cocky, and gets what he wants. But as I got to know him better, I fell in love with him. I saw the reason for his actions. And once Dante commits himself to something, he does not waver. At first it was to complete his assignment. But as he got to know Charlie his loyalties change. And when Dante falls, he falls hard.

“My heart throbs, and I know it’s over for me. I’m done. Putty in her hands.”

This book has everything, quirky humor, some heart pounding action, plenty of good guys and bad guys, and some of the sweetest moments. The two main characters won me over immediately. But we have plenty of

fantastic secondary characters as well. Dante's best friend, Max, Charlie's two best friends, Annabelle and Blue, and Valery who is a Liberator which is what the soul collectors that work for the Big Guy upstairs are called.

This is a fantastic first book for this series and I can't wait to see what's next for Dante and Charlie.

Steph Sinclair says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

Okay, let's start this review off with some straight-up trifax. On my own, it's possible I may not have chosen this book to read. That's not because the blurb didn't sound interesting, it's just that out of all the other YA sub-genres, Paranormal Romance is the one I have a very inconsistent streak with. Which is unfortunate because when it's done right, I fall in love with the story. My start with *The Collector* reminds me of what happened with *Obsidian*. I kept seeing it all over other's twitter avatars and hearing about it on a few blogs I follow (you know the drill), but somehow that simply wasn't enough for me to actually say, "Hell yeah. Sign me up." But that was a mistake because *The Collector* had me LOL'ing from beginning to end.

The thing about this book is that you are not going to like Dante at first. He's an anti-hero who will partly grind your nerves so bad you'll see red. He's the most conceited, selfish, slightly womanizer-ish, sarcastic little prick. And he knows this. Hell, he'd probably respond by saying:

But the thing about Dante is, that deep down he has a good heart. Throughout the story, we see his good growing stronger and stronger through his interactions with Charlie. When he first meets her, he's pretty mean to her. I mean, she's the sweetest girl and he's preying on her like a vulture. I just wanted to toss him out a window, for real. But thankfully, Dante has tons of character growth and becomes somewhat of a standup guy by the end.

That's not to say this is a perfect book. While the writing style and characters were all right up my alley, the second half did seem noticeably weaker than the first. I really think this may have been due to the Big Guy vs. Boss Man mythology. *The Collector* isn't preachy at all, if you're worried. But I did have a hard time believing that Dante's BFF, Max, didn't know how his Boss got kicked out of heaven. Another thing: there are only 6 Collectors for the entire earth? They must have been putting in some serious overtime.

Still, I really was enjoying myself so whatevs. I'll allow it.

The best part is Dante's voice. HILARIOUS. Scott created a very entertaining character who was really distinctive. When I first read the blurb, I thought it was a little ambitious:

Dante Walker is flippin' awesome, and he knows it.

All that sentence did is make me turn my head to the side and emit an, "O RLY?" But the thing is, that blurb

really shows the tone of Dante and the novel (unlike other blurbs that mislead people).

So here are 3 very good reasons why Dante Walker is flippin' awesome:

1. What up, gangsta?

I'm trying to think of the best way to describe this guy. The one thing that sticks out in my mind every time is that he's like a mini gangsta. Which, I guess, makes sense considering he does work for Hell and he calls his "employer" Boss Man. And seriously, all I needed was for him to start rapping.

But unlike Jamie Kennedy from *Malibu's Most Wanted*, Dante is *cool*. Know why? Well, that brings us to the second reason.

2. Check my swag, yo.

And I'm not talking about that fake wannabe stuff. Sure Dante's a bit full of himself, but he backs that shit up. Because he possesses one thing I think it was incredibly smart of Scott to include. It allowed me to like just a small piece of him until his redeemable qualities showed up.

"Girl, I got swag for days."

And then Dante says things like "fo' shizzle" and I start thinking that he's secretly one of Snoop Dogg's love children.

Park it like it's hot, Snoop!

3. His relationship with Charlie and the gang

Charlie and Dante are the most unlikely PNR couple I've ever encountered so far. I really didn't expect sparks to fly between the two because their first interaction began with Dante turning his nose up. He considers her undesirable, "unpretty", a waste of his time and good charm, etc. Charlie's beauty is something he doesn't understand at first and tries convince her a change is in order. Fortunately, Charlie's lovely qualities have an effect on him and he not only starts to develop a conscience, but feelings for her. He sees how much her friends love her, how despite her background she made something better out of it. It causes him to really look at his own life's actions.

I'll never understand the friendships Charlie has. Friendships where it doesn't take cash or hookups, or saying the right things to stay in the circle. No, Charlie's friendships are different. She tries to protect her people, and they in turn protect her. They accept each other's imperfections and support one another. My friends weren't like her friends, which makes me wonder if I ever had any at all.

I loved seeing his character develop.

And then you have his interactions with the other characters. Scott really brought everyone to life with her wit and charm. I kept bookmarking my favorite quotes until I realized I was damn near highlighted every other page. She spread her awesome out evenly and it resulted in hilarious dialogue, a lot of the times between Charlie's best friend, Annabelle, and Dante.

"In this trunk," she says with a serious face, "is God's gift to women."

"Chocolate?"

"No."

"Midol?"

"What? No."

"Tampons?"

"Stop guessing," she says.

Reading *The Collector* was like listening to a great rock CD. There are songs I love more than others. There are songs where I find myself singing along. There are ones that make me laugh and the ones that pull at my feels. And let's not forget the slightly annoying ones with the lead singer screaming into the mic. ;) But every last one of them is memorable. I think *The Collector* will appeal to a lot of readers, especially those with an awesome sense of humor. Even the reluctant ones like myself.

ARC was provided by the author. No favors or monies were exchanged for review, but wouldn't that be awesome?

More reviews and other fantastical things at my blog, [Cuddlebuggery Book Blog](#).

Komal Mikaelson says

I can't find the energy to write another scathing, negative review this week. So, this is just a..gif review.

The Story

Dante

Charlie

The Love Story

Conclusion

This was a read along with Basuhi. You can read her review here. She has done a much better job of *hating on the book* :D

Mitch says

I'm gonna learn how to be flippin' awesome... oh wait I already am XD

And later...

I must say, I had a hell of a time following Dante Walker. Here's the kind of guy who can insult cats and old people in the space of a single breath, and if what I'd just said doesn't spark at least *morbid* curiosity, well, then *The Collector* is probably not the right book for you. But besides the easily offended, for the rest of us looking for a little edge to our black comedy, it's always refreshing to see a character so *unapologetically craven* .

I know, I didn't think there could be anything new to the done to death paranormal romance between the good girl and the bad boy either, I think I'd rather gouge my eyes out than finish another one, but Victoria Scott turns the genre on its head with *The Collector*. In retrospect, it's so easy, as any Troper would know - Evil Is Fun while Good Is Boring after all, but unlike even those other paranormals written from male points of view, Dante Walker actually is the epitome of unabashed egomaniac. Who knew all that this genre needed was a little shock to the system in the form of one guy who knows how to put some swagger in his step and just exudes overconfidence? I'll be honest, some of what he's thinking is a bit uncomfortable to read about, sometimes because it just flies in the face of good taste, sometimes because it's just too much of a male stereotype (aka 'is this what women really think of us guys?'), and even sometimes because it's just too true, but hey this is the book that turns the genre on its head after all, and who better to parody every single other male lead than Dante Walker? I'm ok with it, and plus, also means he's not boring. Never boring.

If this book has a weakness though, it'd be Charlie Cooper. So she's Dante Walker's weakness (get it?), but that's not what I mean, not really. I'm fine with her being pretty much the stereotype of the good girl, down to the not even a peep when Dante shows up in her room uninvited (her room! her room!!), but umm personally I thought the reasons why Boss Man and Big Guy targeted her made her a bit too super special in my book. Sure, it fits the overall plot of why a big shot like Dante would hang out with little old her, but, yeah, reason why Charlie's so important in the whole grand scheme of heaven versus hell thing could've used a bit more tweaking. Although she's a good character - mostly as in she's a good person though, cause Dante is obviously the star of the show and she's stuck with second fiddle syndrome. But the tradeoff though

is Charlie sure has some funny friends and family, include a horny grandmother, a cool best friend in Annabelle, and Blue, who is way more than just the best male friend displaced by the new bad boy, because he's actually somebody who gets a really good character arc, courtesy of Dante and Blue's own choices towards the end of the book.

Speaking of Blue, he really goes to show that *The Collector*, while fairly predictable in some respects, is also very surprising in others. Dante's voice loses some of his edge as the story progresses, but I chalked it up to him developing that annoying thing known as a conscience. A sign perhaps, that while Victoria Scott put a lot of fun into this, she also knew how to exploit the serious moments, so I can't say this is not a book without depth. Yeah, it's mostly fun and games in the first half, but only because there's character arcs to be had in spades in the second half, both of the expected and the unexpected varieties. A lot of things I'd normally check off as predictable, Dante being the jerk with the heart of gold who Charlie sets on the path of redemption is easily gleaned from the summary, best friend and fellow Collector Max and his relationship with Liberator Valery is fairly transparent too, much of the ending pretty much as well, actually worked here despite not coming out of left field, because again, depth, that and character development. I for one totally guessed the stuff between Dante and his parents for example, but the scenes between him and his mother in particular are still really good for what they do, setting Dante up for where he needs to go. Or Blue again, how could I complain about the ending when he gets the sort of character development that makes me actually respect both him and Dante in the end?

So I didn't actually learn how to be flippin' awesome from reading this, but I sure as hell still had a great time. Victoria Scott sure knew how to pile on the fun, but leave room for some predictable, yes, but still surprisingly effective character development that made these characters, well, *characters*. Hey, if Roger Ebert can get behind *Bad Santa*, I can definitely get behind *The Collector*.

Giselle says

Gah! I'm torn on this one and is probably more of a 3.5. On one hand, it's endlessly entertaining with great humor and character dynamics. On the other hand, Dante's conceited personality was sometimes a little too close to the "jerks we're supposed to swoon over" line to which most know by now I'm not a fan of. He's also the type who I could see talk about himself in 3rd person (he doesn't in the book though thank goodness, but... you know the type)--though this side of him is mostly amusing. Yes he does grow and change throughout the story where we see he has a heart underneath his shallowness but... too little too late, maybe? I wasn't going to fall for him by that point. Plus it happens after Charlie is well near perfect so I'm not sure how much credit to give him in the end. I saw a few comparing him to Daemon from *Obsidian* but I'm not so sure. Daemon loves to push buttons for sure, and he is a jerk, yes, but Dante talks about girls' looks sometimes that, I don't know, it got under my skin. I mean, the whole plot surrounds him trying to get Charlie to change until she is "finally" pretty and in turn he gets her soul. Don't get me wrong though, I do not hate on Dante--please stop throwing those tomatoes!--I just like him differently than I was meant to: I like him as someone who makes you laugh because he says and does things that shock you in hilarity (who doesn't love a good dose of political incorrectness?), not as someone to swoon over romantically. I also loved his voice throughout this story, I loved that it was his POV and not Charlie's--great change of pace--though what I loved the most was his humor; while some of it does come close to being offensive, his ability to make me laugh out loud deserves some props!

Besides Dante, we have a great cast, here, who are all charming in their own ways. Charlie is neither pretty nor popular, and the friends that she has are real; caring and loyal. I found this refreshing. These side

characters are just as vibrant as the main supporting role. Blue is especially intriguing with a personality you can't quite decipher at first. He surprised me in a lot of ways and I came to care about him a lot. As for Charlie herself, I found her quite sympathetic as she's faced with an opportunity that most girls would die for at her age, where self esteem hangs low and looks seem to be the most important thing. I also liked how she was just a normal girl; not the most popular nor a complete loser, she was simply average. Sure she has a quirky habit or two (Skittles FTW), but overall Charlie is an every day kind of girl that I found much easier to relate to.

The book is also incredibly fun as well as fast paced. I was not bored once. However, I did find some of the story building belonged on the "things you should look over" side. Like how there is only 6 collectors for the whole world (and they all seem to hang close to each other, location wise), or the explanation behind Charlie's importance which, as it stands, I'm not convinced would result in such monumental effects. As for the romance, it was very sweet although a little fast--not insta-love fast but not so far off either.

With that said, I really did enjoy myself completely while reading this book even if I was expecting more from all the rave reviews thus far. Mostly I feel like it's a story we have all heard many times before: Someone goes to do a job, but is unable to because he falls for the person who should be his victim/prey/target. *shrugs* Will I recommend this to friends? Sure! Will I still remember what I read in this book in a year's time above all others? Not so sure. Either way, if you want to be amused and charmed by a hot dude who's full of himself, by all means this one is not to be missed! ;)

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An advance copy was provided by the author for review.

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

Emily May says

3 1/2 stars

What's up, people. Name's Dante.

This was fun. Anyone up for some mindless fun? Then you should definitely drop into Dante's world. He's ridiculously gorgeous, he's sexy, he's dangerous... damn, the tagline says it all: *He makes good girls...bad.* But this book is also funny enough to balance out that huge dollop of cliché bad boy. I don't quite know how to describe this book and I agree with Wendy Higgins when she describes this as "unique", which I certainly didn't expect to. For one thing, the use of "Collectors" is new to me and brings something delightfully refreshing to the urban fantasy genre. For another, Dante himself is unlike any other character I've read about.

Dante is several different things all at once. He is a villain. As in a real, unapologetic, kinda misogynistic villain. But that's okay because no one's pretending he's the good guy, he gives it to us straight from the very start. He doesn't meet plain old Charlie and just fall madly in love with her for no reason anyone else can see. In fact, his first thought is:

“My eyes widen at the sight of her. This is the girl Boss Man is after? She looks like a porcelain doll... beat three times with an ugly stick.”

and his second thought:

“Her wavy hair falls to mid-waist, and I think how she looks better this way. From the back.”

He's such a dick. But a funny one. I found myself simultaneously laughing and cringing the further I got inside Dante's head. Like this quote:

“Dante, this is Annabelle.”

No. No way. That name is reserved for females with grace and elegance, not this girl. This girl is... beastly. “Annabelle,” I say. “It suits you.”

I do like that this book is told from the point of view of a guy who genuinely doesn't care. Who is a little evil and doesn't give a damn who's life he ruins while he's just doing his job. Everyone loves a good villain, don't they? Especially one who's funny and happens to look good naked. But that's where I think this book started to let me down in the second half. Because I preferred villainous, doesn't-give-a-damn Dante over the Dante who was madly in love with Charlie. Because the things that made his character so unique started to fade when he became little more than just another love interest.

The story? Dante is a soul collector straight from the fiery pits of hell. He places "seals" on the souls of humans when he catches them engaging in sinful activity; the bigger the sin, the bigger the seal. But now he's been sent on a mission to collect the soul of a girl named Charlie. In order to do that, he must make sure she sins enough so her soul is ready for collection. And Dante Walker has no problem getting women to sin. But as his influence on Charlie leads her further down a path of wrongness, Dante finds himself questioning what he's doing for the first time. And as Charlie becomes more important to him, he starts to wonder if he can really damn her soul to hell.

I have to reiterate the fact that I love this whole "soul collector" idea and would like to see it explored further. But I didn't love the novel's romantic turn. I also found it hard to believe in the development of Dante's feelings for Charlie. It was gradual enough, that wasn't the problem, but Dante's disgust for everything about Charlie in the beginning - her looks, her clothes, her behaviour, her attitude - didn't seem like something that could be turned into attraction. Pity, maybe. But not attraction. I just couldn't put the two of them together in my mind... perhaps it was general chemistry which they lacked? But it didn't work for me.

I do recommend this book for those looking for something light and funny, but I think readers who are not big romance fans should be aware that the second half becomes far more romance-y than the first was.

Lola says

What's up, people. Name's Dante.

Dante is a name you will not soon forget. Not because he's incredible or prodigious or fascinating. He is, however, a person with charms and that eventually grows on you. I'm in fact feeling the same exact thing for Rumpelstiltskin from Once Upon a Time, and we can agree that he, as a person, is not to be quite admired.

I am The Collector.

It's not as bad as it sounds. I'm kinda like Santa Claus. We're both jolly guys with a passion for frosted cookies, the color red...and sorting souls.

And he sure has an interesting sens of humour.

It's not the most well-written book on earth, that is evident but, still, is that *always* necessary, in order to enjoy a read? It was pleasant enough and it definitely did not bother my reading experience. Also, I a little expected it, since I've read *Fire & Flood*, by the same author, and was not impressed. At all.

This, though, was better than that dystopian story. Not only did it include multiple riveting characters, but it also had this light and credible nonetheless ambience that will only help you connect with the characters better and get invested in their story.

I look like a movie star and move like an athlete.

It's okay to be jealous, to covet me.

Now I'm not saying that the characters are perfect, because either they're flawed or stereotyped. It's just that they all had this suitable characteristic that added some pigment of originality in each one of them. Charlie is undeniably stereotyped to the max. Yet, she changed and grows and it won't matter anymore. Dante has in fact a character development as well, surprisingly. His personality did not bother me though so, even if he wouldn't have ended up having one, I would not have made a scene out of it.

"You know why I'm the best collector? Because I know how to play games. I play to win. Understand? I do whatever it takes."

The setting is not very peculiar: it takes place in Alabama as well as in some high school Dante enrolls in, in order to get closer to Charlie, whom is his assignment that will, once fulfilled, get him a promotion. Which he wants. Real bad.

The plot itself is quite simple. It has a spark of originality but you will certainly predict some events here and there. It wasn't a problem for me, since I mostly focused on the characters and their reaction to every single thing, they and I wonderfully clicked. And were really the ones making me enjoy this book.

I wish I could recommend this to everyone but, of what I see, this does not have a high rating average. So, I guess you shall decide if Dante is the kind of main character you would appreciate reading about—for entertainment, this is not what you probably call a 'serious' book. Have a lovely time meeting Dante!

Navessa says

This was me waiting for this book to come out:

This was me at the beginning of this book:

This was me at the end of the book:

I suppose I should start at the beginning because I'm having trouble sorting out my thoughts here. Based on the blurb I'd read I expected this book to be intense. I didn't expect it to be funny but surprisingly it was, at least in the beginning. The story opens with Dante in New Orleans and we get a peek into his mind. He's self absorbed and overconfident. Hypothetically that arrogance would annoy me. In actuality I thought it was done with enough humor to make it charming and the fact that he could admit to his weaknesses (fear of cats, which he describes as having "creepy little teeth and finger blades") brought him back down to earth for me and made him likeable.

Onto the story. I loved the premise. I thought it was a fresh take on the whole heaven/hell, angels/demons paradigm. I loved the fact that Charlie was a "Nerd Alert". She's your typical teenager caught smack dab in the middle of her awkward phase, complete with acne, glasses, frizzy hair and poor fashion sense. She also has a huge heart and the potential to affect a lot of people's lives with her vision of a more charitable future.

I was so excited for the dynamic between these two because Dante is the type of boy most teenage girls would throw themselves at and Charlie is the type of girl that most teenage boys don't even see. I wanted Dante to *see* her, to see the beauty beneath her skin and fall in love with her quirky personality, her ever present smiles and her huge heart. Sadly, things didn't quite happen the way I wanted them to.

I think everything started going wrong for me when Dante was able to convince her she needed to be beautiful. After that, I frowned a lot. I started having more issues but I won't go into them because they'd be spoilers and I want to let people form their own opinions.

I just...ugh. This book had **so** much potential and I just felt like it didn't live up to it.

Sarah says

Done. I could only wish I could go shopping like Dante. Wait, what?

Review to be posted. Promise!

UPDATE as of March 30, 2013.

Guess who's reading The Collector right at this moment.

Gueesssss whoooooo?!

Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!Me!

All those sexy dances have paid off.

Thank you Netgalley and Entangled!

HOLY SMORGASTASTIFAB!

Oh dear...DANTE,

There goes my pants...

and my shirt..

I am now lying in my own puddle of sweat and nerves...

I shall pose for you to entice you

and sing for you..

and dance dance dance for you

Just promise me SEXY TIMES AHEAD

Cause

For you and you alone.

XO,
Sarah loves
