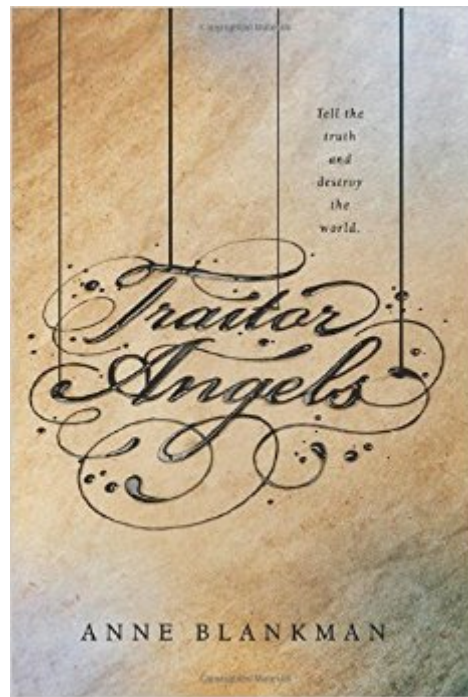


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Traitor Angels



Synopsis

A romantic and exhilarating historical adventure about a girl who must unlock the secrets within *Paradise Lost* to save her father—perfect for fans of *Revolution* and *Code Name Verity*—from acclaimed author Anne Blankman, whose debut novel, *Prisoner of Night and Fog*, was a Sydney Taylor Notable Book for Teens in 2015. Six years have passed since England's King Charles II returned from exile to reclaim the throne, ushering in a new era of stability for his subjects. Except for Elizabeth Milton. The daughter of notorious poet John Milton, Elizabeth has never known her place in this shifting world—except by her father's side. By day she helps transcribe his latest masterpiece, the epic poem *Paradise Lost*, and by night she learns languages and sword fighting. Although she does not dare object, she suspects that he's training her for a mission whose purpose she cannot fathom. Until one night the king's men arrive at her family's country home to arrest her father. Determined to save him, Elizabeth follows his one cryptic clue and journeys to Oxford, accompanied by her father's mysterious young houseguest, Antonio Viviani, a darkly handsome Italian scientist who surprises her at every turn. Funny, brilliant, and passionate, Antonio seems just as determined to protect her father as she is—but can she trust him with her heart? When the two discover that Milton has planted an explosive secret in the half-finished *Paradise Lost*—a secret the king and his aristocratic supporters are desperate to conceal—Elizabeth is faced with a devastating choice: cling to the shelter of her old life, or risk cracking the code, unleashing a secret that could save her father . . . and tear apart the very fabric of society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog
Traitor Angels by Anne Blankman
Publisher: Balzer + Bray
Publication Date: May 3, 2016
Rating: 4 stars
Source: eARC from Edelweiss
Summary (from Goodreads):
Six years have passed since England's King Charles II returned from exile to reclaim the throne, ushering in a new era of stability for his subjects. Except for Elizabeth Milton. The daughter of notorious poet John Milton, Elizabeth has never known her place in this shifting world "except by her father's side. By day she helps transcribe his latest masterpiece, the epic poem Paradise Lost, and by night she learns languages and sword fighting. Although she does not dare object, she suspects that he's training her for a mission whose purpose she cannot fathom. Until one night the reason becomes clear: the king's men arrive at her family's country home to arrest her father. Determined to save him, Elizabeth follows his one cryptic clue and journeys to Oxford, accompanied by her father's mysterious young houseguest, Antonio Viviani, a darkly handsome Italian scientist who surprises her at every turn. Funny, brilliant, and passionate, Antonio seems just as determined to protect her father as she is "but can she trust him with her heart? When the two discover that Milton has planted an explosive secret in the half-finished Paradise Lost "a secret the king and his aristocratic supporters are desperate to conceal "Elizabeth is faced with a devastating choice: cling to the shelter of her old life or risk cracking the code, unleashing a secret that could save her father and tear apart the very fabric of society.
What I Liked: I knew little about this book before reading it, but oh how I enjoyed it!

To say I was excited to read Traitor Angels would be an understatement. My precise reaction was something along the lines of "Paradise Lost/Da Vinci Code YA adaptation? YES, PLEASE", only with more squealing sounds and some bouncing. Unfortunately, my hopes were dashed by the second chapter when, in a fit of wild anachronism, John Milton's daughter Elizabeth sneaks into the inn room of a stranger who she fears has come to harm her father, trusting to her wits and the knives she straps to her forearms each day to protect her. (In case you're wondering, the wrist scabbards were where my heart died a little inside.) Thankfully for Elizabeth, the stranger winds up being Antonio Viviani, the attractive student of an old friend of Milton's, and he's arrived just in time for the Miltons (sans Elizabeth) to be carted off to jail by the King's Men. To save her father, Elizabeth must work with Antonio to discover the secret buried in Milton's greatest work, Paradise Lost. Sounds like exactly the kind of great good fun fans of Dan Brown or James Rollins would adore, right? Except it's not fun. The clues are so unchallenging that the author feels the need to remind us constantly that only Elizabeth could possibly unravel them, and most of what we actually

get that pertains to Paradise Lost is the main character transcribing it from memory after her father's written copy is destroyed. (Don't even get me started on the realism of that.) And while Blankman's bibliography indicates that she did extensive historical research for this book, she apparently chose not to apply any of it to her heroine, who remains ridiculously modern in her behavior, despite our being forced to read her endless internal struggles over letting go of the Puritan beliefs she's been raised with. Gah, I say.

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