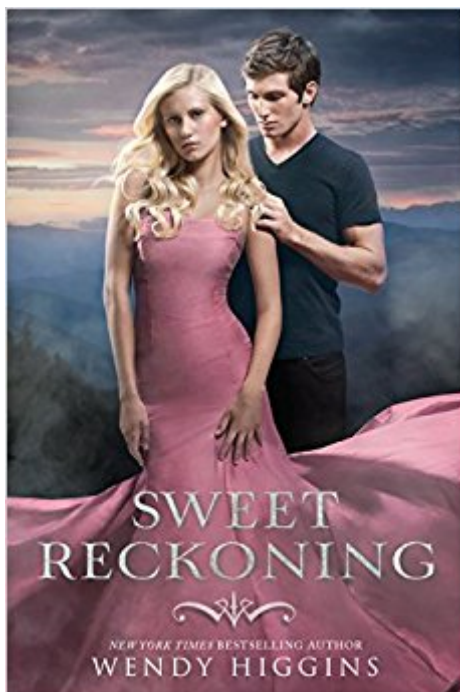


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Sweet Reckoning (Sweet Evil)



Synopsis

The third and final breathtaking book in the Sweet Trilogy by Wendy Higgins... * * * It's time. Evil is running rampant and sweet Anna Whitt is its target. Nobody knows when or how the Dukes will strike, but Anna and her Nephilim allies will do anything necessary to rid the earth of the demons and their oppressive ways. The stakes are higher than ever, and Anna is determined that the love she feels will be her strength, not a liability. But trying to protect the ones she loves while running for her life and battling demonic forces proves to be perilous--especially as faces are changing and trust is fleeting. When the Duke of Lust sends Anna's great love, Kaidan Rowe, to work against her, Anna must decide how much she's prepared to risk. In the most sensual and fast-paced installment yet, Sweet Reckoning brings all the beloved Neph together one last time to fight for their freedom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up - This third and final book in Higgins's "Sweet" trilogy finds Anna Whitt, daughter of an angel and Belial, the Duke of Substance Abuse, preparing to fulfill her destiny of ridding the world of demons and releasing herself and her fellow Nephilim from performing their various sinful obligations. Armed with a team of supporters, both Neph and human, as well as the love of Kaiden Rowe, son of the Duke of Lust, Anna's adventures take her on the road, ultimately winding up at the annual summit of Dukes in Sin City itself, Las Vegas. The journey forces Anna to face and

overcome her various urges, ultimately marrying Kaiden in a mile-high ceremony on a private plane and subsequently consummating their union (repeatedly, as it seems that every glance between the two of them is a smoldering one), as well as guzzling the contents of a hotel mini-bar in order to confuse Kaiden's father, Pharzuph, when he comes to test their "bond" (apparently, it is harder for a demon to detect when one party is drunk). The Christian message of good winning over evil and God's victory over the devil is more heavy hitting in this book than in the others, at times verging on cliché (when all else is failing in her final battle against the Dukes, Anna reverts to prayer to help confirm her victory); however, it is ultimately an appealing paranormal romance that will appeal to both secular and religious audiences alike.

—Joanna Sondheim, Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School, New York City

In this Sweet Evil trilogy finale, Anna Whitt—half guardian angel, half fallen angel—is preparing for college, and her relationship with Kaidan continues to deepen. Meanwhile, her ongoing mission to free earth of demons and their dark influence gains urgency as the demon Dukes intensify efforts to stop Anna from fulfilling a prophecy portending their demise. All comes to a head in Las Vegas, where Anna, now-husband Kaidan, and their Nephilim allies confront the Dukes and their minions. A brutal battle for their souls—and humanity—brings difficult dilemmas, loss, and sorrows but also a hopeful future. Featuring a mainly young adult cast, a contemporary setting, and an intricate mythology, this is a hefty but engrossing genre read, enhanced by Anna's first-person narrative, which incorporates suspenseful, light, and introspective touches. There are edgy elements—including some gruesome violence and Anna and Kai's sultry romantic interludes. However, ultimately, this features a strong Christian message of redemption and the power of faith and prayer. A series conclusion that will satisfy. Grades 10-12. --Shelle Rosenfeld

Warning! This review contains minor spoilers for earlier books in the Sweet trilogy. I really like this series and am both excited and sad that Sweet Reckoning is the conclusion. The pace of the series has really picked up lately and it is obvious that the end is near. While this book was not my favorite of the trilogy, I still thought it was a satisfying installment. The last time readers saw Anna and Kai they were trying to find allies among the other children of the evil Dukes in order to complete a plan to save them all from an eternity of torture in hell. Unfortunately, one of their main allies was murdered and now they are scrambling to keep their actions a secret while figuring out their next move. Anna is still trying to maintain her cover as the daughter of the Duke of Substance Abuse

which is becoming more difficult as the other Dukes begin to suspect her. *Sweet Reckoning* allowed the author to show how much both Anna and Kai have grown over the series. Anna is still a genuine and slightly naive young lady, but she has proven that she can be just as tough as any other YA heroine when the time comes. Her positive outlook is always refreshing to read about and never seems preachy to me. Kai has still maintained his sexy bad boy personality though it is muted a little thanks to his relationship with Anna. I do wish we had gotten a bit more of the conflict he feels while maintaining his cover as the son of the Duke of Lust while still being in love with Anna. The relationship between Anna and Kai is, obviously, very strong and the author portrayed this nicely. I will admit that there was one development in regards to the love story of which I wasn't a huge fan. But, I can see how it worked with the overall storyline. They both are great characters that work well together despite their different backgrounds and childhoods. One of the strongest elements for me in this series is the side characters. Anna and Kai's fellow Nephews like Kope, Ginger, Marna, and Blake along with Anna's best friend, Jay, all play big parts in this installment which I loved. These characters are well-developed and designed to be very important in Anna and Kai's story. I also enjoyed the emphasis on friendship in these books. In terms of the plot, there wasn't a ton of parts that surprised me. But, I was entertained and had a hard time putting the book down when I had to go do real life stuff. I do wish there had been a bit more action in the conclusion, but, overall, I was happy with the way that everything was resolved. While this was not the best YA paranormal series I've read, I did enjoy the ride and look forward to seeing what Wendy Higgins does next. I definitely recommend the Sweet trilogy for readers who like nice girl heroines, bad boy heroes, and a unique twist on the angel/demon myth.

I was torn between two books to review today but I had to go with *Sweet Reckoning*. I have waited so long for the third book in the series that I wanted just as long to read it. I didn't want it to end! But I am glad I did because as sad as it was to read the final book it was amazing. I kind of wish there was another to stretch the story further just a little. The series as a whole had me on the edge of my seat wanting Anna, Kai and friends to make it. The theme of the story centers around good vs evil and how good can win even though there are many temptations out there. We are introduced to Anna in Book 1 *Sweet Evil*, discovering her true identity and being introduced to another world entirely. *Sweet Evil* introduces the main characters and sets the story line for the rest of the series. *Sweet Peril* Book 2 has Anna and friends in motion to try and stop evil from creating sin within humanity. And of course book 3 *Sweet Reckoning* everything kicks into full gear and the action starts. I read this book in one sitting and was pulled in immediately. We see Anna where

Higgins left her in Book 2. She now has to deal with getting ready for the rebellion. She is more aware of her power and intuition and has definitely grown from the beginning. What happens in the book totally took me by surprise, I cheered, and felt pretty much every emotion possible. The ending was priceless. I really couldn't ask for a better ending to the series and this will be on the top of my book hangover list for sure. I love how in Book 3 Kaidian and Anna have more moments together, but I kept feeling like something was going to come out and catch them and ruin it all. The moments between the other characters are great too, emotions run high but it creates the right amount of drama needed for the scenes. Higgins has a way of creating magic in her books, her writing flows easily and sucks you in. The series has a religious undertone but it's not preachy. It balances well between dark and light and like I mentioned before there is a fight between those who want to be free, to love and to make the world a better place. It definitely was not cheesy. There are more mature scenes in the book that were not in the previous books so it may not be ideal for the younger readers. Overall the series was fantastic. I will miss reading about the Anna, Kai, Blake, Ginger, Marna, Jay, Kope and Z. I wonder if Higgins would do books based on the other characters that would be amazing. So go and check out this series since it is now complete. These are very easy reads for the long weekend. You are sure to fall in love!

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