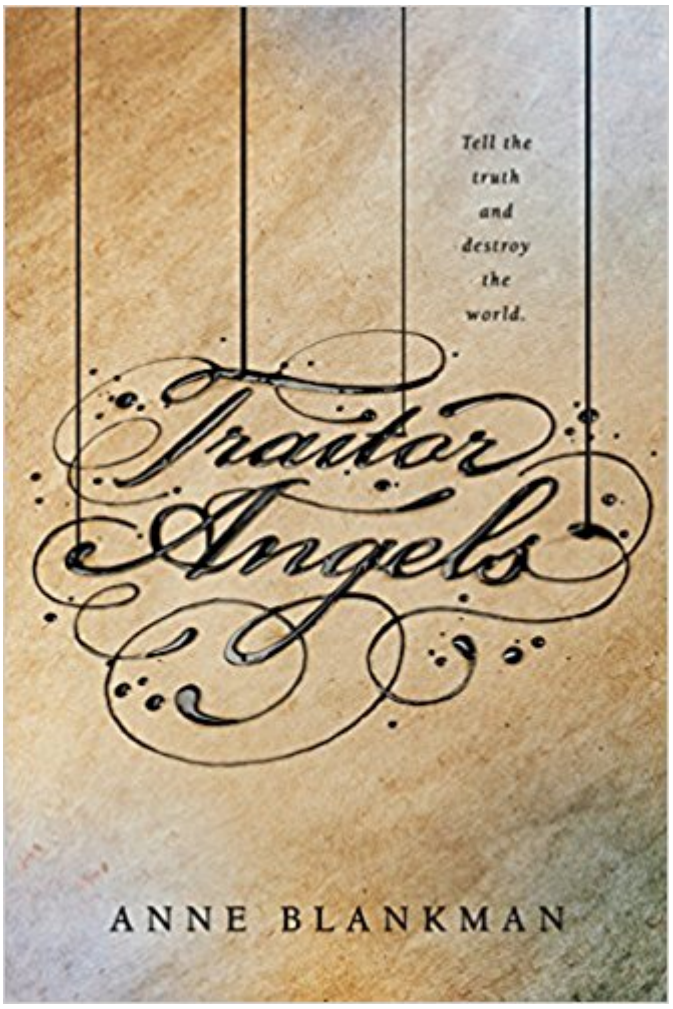
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Traitor Angels



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Synopsis

A romantic and exhilarating historical adventure about a girl who must unlock the secrets within Paradise Lost to save her fatherÃ¢â ¬â •perfect for fans of Revolution and Code Name VerityÃ¢â ¬â •from acclaimed author Anne Blankman, whose debut novel, Prisoner of Night and Fog, was a Sydney Taylor Notable Book for Teens in 2015Six years have passed since EnglandÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 worldÃ¢â ¬â •except by her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s training her for a mission whose purpose she cannot fathom.Until one night the kingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s men arrive at her familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s country home to arrest her father. Determined to save him, Elizabeth follows his one cryptic clue and journeys to Oxford, accompanied by her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 isÃ¢â ¬â •but can she trust him with her heart?When the two discover that Milton has planted an explosive secret in the half-finished Paradise LostÃ¢â ¬â •a secret the king and his aristocratic supporters are desperate to concealÃ¢â ¬â •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.

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-The mid-1600s is the setting for this Da Vinci Code-esque romantic historical fiction; a metaphysical revelation at the end, however, sours the story's magic. Elizabeth Milton, daughter of poet John Milton, has been raised uniquely for the time; she speaks multiple languages and handles a sword with flair. When the king's men come to arrest her father, Elizabeth is thrust into an adventure with a recent house guest, Antonio Viviani, a mysterious Italian envoy. The two travel to Oxford and London, deciphering cryptic clues from Paradise Lost and trying to uncover a dark secret kept by Milton and Galileo-a secret that could topple the English court and more. An unsought romance between Elizabeth and Antonio blooms amid the sword fights and court intrigue. But who can be trusted, and how far will the repercussions go once the riddle is solved? The book moves at a swift pace, even if set in a less than familiar time period. The romance between Elizabeth and Antonio is an obvious plot choice but enticing nonetheless. The secret of the poem, however, is quite far-fetched, which doesn't fit the rest of the novel. The characters and readers are required to make a fantastical deductive leap that feels out of place in an otherwise realistic book. While Milton's work might not be a hook for teenagers, the intrigue could sell this story, if not for the problematic end. VERDICT While the conclusion is unsatisfactory, purchase where there are fans of the Da Vinci Code who crave further adventurous historical romance.-Lisa Ehrle, Falcon Creek Middle School, COÃ Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Blankman weaves religion, science, literary genius, poetry, and romance into a mystery that, if solved, could turn the world upside down...Readers will love the journey.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))Ã¢â ¬Å“The in-depth characters draw readers in as each oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s complexity propels the plot to the next twist and turn.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))Praise for CONSPIRACY OF BLOOD AND SMOKE: Ã¢â ¬Å“Will leave the reader breathless with each unpredictable plot twist.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (starred review))Praise for CONSPIRACY OF BLOOD AND SMOKE: Ã¢â ¬Å“Blankman once again expertly crafts a powerful story full of mystery, intrigue, romance, and edge-of-your-seat terror and suspense.Ã¢â ¬Â• (School Library Journal)Praise for CONSPIRACY OF BLOOD AND SMOKE: Ã¢â ¬Å“Suspenseful and clever...The tight interweaving of GretchenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey with historical events lends a sense of the genuine-and results in the fascinating experience of following a quest readers know is doomed to fail.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews)Praise for CONSPIRACY OF BLOOD AND SMOKE: Ã¢â ¬Å“Bold and braveÃ¢â ¬Â• (Booklist)Praise for CONSPIRACY OF

BLOOD AND SMOKE: Ã¢â ¬Å“Heart-stopping dramaÃ¢â ¬Â¦brilliant storytelling and characterization.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Romantic Times)Praise for PRISONER OF NIGHT AND FOG: Ã¢â ¬Å“IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m in awed envy of the daring with which Anne Blankman plunges into her difficult and sensitive subject matter. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s terrifying and incredible to think how much of this story is true.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Elizabeth Wein, award-winning author of CODE NAME VERITY)Praise for PRISONER OF NIGHT AND FOG: Ã¢â ¬Å“A nail-biting visit to Adolf HitlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s inner circle in the early days of the Nazi partyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rise to power.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Jennifer Armstrong, author of In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer (with Irene Gut Opdyke))Praise for PRISONER OF NIGHT AND FOG: Ã¢â ¬Å“Completely engrossingÃ¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly (starred review))Praise for PRISONER OF NIGHT AND FOG: Ã¢â ¬Å“An interesting perspective on a well-trod era.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews)Praise for PRISONER OF NIGHT AND FOG: Ã¢â ¬Å“Haunting and captivatingÃ¢â ¬Â• (School Library Journal)Praise for PRISONER OF NIGHT AND FOG: Ã¢â ¬Å“A winning gambleÃ¢â ¬Â• (Booklist)

Traitor Angels comes off as a historical Da Vinci Code, with Elizabeth Milton racing to find clues in a scavenger hunt devised by her father, about a secret coded into his masterpiece, Paradise Lost. She has been living a modest life with her blinded father, his new wife, and her three sisters, when one day an Italian scientist comes knocking. Soon after, their king sends out people to apprehend her father; she escapes and with the aforementioned Italian, sets out to figure out what secret was so damning that the king would be involved.On the journey, there is less hunting involved and more introspection. Having been raised a Puritan, she sees a new way of life and thinking when hunting with the scientist by her side. Antonio, though a Catholic, also reveres the natural philosophy that guides the world, in his mind. When they realize the secret, he doesn’t shy away from the potential truth but shows her how it could be beneficial to the world. She, however, wants to save her father first, and can’t immediately care about the truth. Her journey is from being a simple daughter to a person who wants to realize her dreams, who wants to study the natural world.While the story itself is quite good, and makes for an exciting read, the writing couldn’t complement it well enough. Often, I would find myself skimming over paragraphs of needless exposition and description, even though they seemed slightly important in the former case, simply because they were superfluous. There was a lull towards the middle of the book in terms of pacing, and I was tempted to stall and pick up another book to get over it. In conclusion, I enjoyed it but I felt it could have been better edited, to lend more urgency to the plot and create the atmosphere which this book should have.

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blogTraitor Angels by Anne BlankmanPublisher: Balzer + BrayPublication Date: May 3, 2016Rating: 4 starsSource: eARC from EdelweissSummary (from Goodreads):Six years have passed since EnglandÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢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 worldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â•except by her fatherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢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 heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s training her for a mission whose purpose she cannot fathom.Until one night the reason becomes clear: the kingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s man arrive at her familyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s country home to arrest her father. Determined to save him, Elizabeth follows his one cryptic clue and journeys to Oxford, accompanied by her fatherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s mysterious young houseguest, Antonio Vivani, 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 isÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â•but can she trust him with her heart?When the two discover that Milton has planted an explosive secret in the half-finished Paradise LostÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â•a secret the king and his aristocratic supporters are desperate to concealÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â•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 fatherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|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! I picked it up because I've had success with Blankman's books in the past; Prisoner of Night and Fog and Conspiracy of Blood and Smoke were fascinating historical fiction novels. I knew that this new books was also historical fiction, but for some reason, I had thought it was set during the Civil War! I hadn't read the synopsis, otherwise I would have known better. Clearly Michael Shaara's The Killer Angels was on my mind (great book, by the way). Anyway! Traitor Angels is set in 1667 England, and it deals with John Milton and Galileo Galilei.Elizabeth Milton is the third of four daughters of John Milton, a now-blind but once-notorious poet of England. Her father has always treated her differently from her sisters; she can speak, read, and write in many different languages, and she was well-taught in swordplay and self-defense. But most differently, her father trusts her to help him write Paradise Lost (she writes what he dictates). One day, all of her father's training comes to good use: her father has been arrested by the king's men. Elizabeth and her father's strange houseguest Antonio Vivani race across England to uncover her father's carefully hidden clues and secrets, in hopes that whatever he hid might be bartered to the king for his freedom. But what Elizabeth and Antonio discover is

more dangerous than one man’s life - it could mean the end of society as they know it.What a twisted tale! Well, not "twisted" like one typically means it, but it certainly was tricksy! One of the things I liked the most about this book was the endless clues and puzzles and word games there were in this book. John Milton is known to be a great poet, and his words are his weapon (I think Antonio said something similar, in the book). I love puzzles and games and tricks and clues! Elizabeth and Antonio are clever, and Elizabeth knows her father and his work better than anyone, so it was fun to watch the pair work through the clues.Elizabeth is so incredibly intelligent. Milton’s daughters were known to be uncommonly well-taught, and Elizabeth is no exception. She knows many languages (read/write/speak/understand), and she knows swordplay very well (to the point where she keeps knives strapped to her arms at all times), and she has a keen interest in astronomy. Elizabeth is clever and strong and very brave. She does not hesitate to go after her father, to find some way to free him.Antonio was sent to meet John Milton by his master (a Duke in Italy), and he is caught up in the search with Elizabeth when John is arrested. Antonio seems like a strange foreigner at first, but it becomes clear that he is noble and determined to help Elizabeth, and not just because his master sent him. Antonio is kind and quietly protective, but he lets Elizabeth be and is not a seventeenth-century sexist pig. I suppose this is anachronistic, but hey, I like Antonio a lot, and I am letting this slide.Robert Crofts is another very important character in the story. Elizabeth and Antonio meet him on their way to finding her father’s clues. Robert is in a position to help them more than they can help themselves, and his assistance is pretty necessary. Robert is exactly what I expected, and I felt for him! I liked his intended, Lady Katherine, very much.There is so much history in this book! Galileo Galilei’s work and theories are discussed in this book, and it is one of his works that is what Elizabeth and Antonio end up seeking. I love how meticulously the author does her research, and interlocks so many historical events! She has all the dates and events lined up really well! This story is set just before the Great Fire of London in 1666 - I love how Blankman leaves nothing out! Such great foresight. Or plotting. Or just pure brilliance. I am in awe!This book does have a religious theme to it, or perhaps a theme that somewhat discredits or refutes religion. In 1666, Christianity was dominant in England, and people like Galilei were considered heretics for even postulating ideas that seem contrary to the Church’s teachings. Antonio is an atheist, it seems, and Elizabeth starts to question her steadfast Puritan beliefs. Religion is pretty important in this book, but then, it can’t NOT be, given the time period.The story was so exciting! It seemed like there was never a dull moment. There were all sorts of action scenes, and balls, and betrayals, and moments of panic, and I enjoyed it all.The romance is not a huge part of the book, but it is there! No love triangle. Watching Antonio and Elizabeth fall for each

other is sweet and subtly swoony, though not slow-burn. These two are cute together! And they're both wonderfully smart, so I think they're a great pair.Overall, I think you can tell that I was pleased with this book! It's definitely my favorite of Blankman's three novels. It's a great standalone, I recommend it!What I Did Not Like:Hmm, I don't know that I can think of anything at the moment. I'm not giving the book five stars (I liked it but it's not a new favorite), but I don't have complaints, I think!Would I Recommend It:You don't have to like historical fiction to like this novel! In fact, you don't need to know anything about the 1600s, or John Milton, or Paradise Lost, or Galileo Galilei. It helps (history nerds unite!), but not necessary, as Blankman does a great job of keeping readers educated on what they need to know to understand what is going on (i.e. the context). This is a great story, and an exciting one! I love stories that deal with clues and puzzles and finding something.Even if you didn't like Blankman's debut duology (or maybe never read it), I'd recommend this book; it's completely different from her debut duology! Less nail-biting, scary, etc.Rating:4 stars. As I said, definitely my favorite of Blankman's books! I'm excited to see which time period she'll write about next. She's done the 1900s, 1600s... the possibilities are endless!

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 squeeing 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. And GAH again.The premise of Traitor Angels is so promising that Blankman's execution suffers even more in comparison. Instead of offering a thrilling literary and historical ride, the reader is stuck plodding along with unconvincing characters who do ridiculous things for indiscernible reasons. I'm not sure I'd go so far as to say Traitor Angels makes a Hell of Heav'n, but it certainly lands itself squarely in a very dull purgatory.

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