



Precursor

A.J. Anders

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In the war against demons, Evie's father stands against all things supernatural, including the Surmata, a race of beings that want to coexist with humans while they wage their own war against the demonic race. Raised in the Resistance, Evie struggles to stay true to herself and not fall under her father's brainwashing.

With everyone around her a possible spy for her father, Evie's sole relief from camp life comes from her best friend Maximilian. When he introduces her to his friends outside of the Resistance, Evie discovers a whole new world and possibly a place to belong.

But forces inside the camp are determined to keep Evie in her place, even if it means destroying who she is.

Note: Previously published in the Falling for Them Anthology, now out of print.

Precursor Details

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Author : A.J. Anders

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From Reader Review Precursor for online ebook

Jaliza Burwell says

The title, Precursor, definitely matches up with what this story is, a precursor to the series. I read it when it was in Falling For Them Anthology and love it still. This book sets up the series, introducing intriguing characters, a different world, and adds in backstory with hints to what the future brings. I loved the MC and how she stands up to her father in her own way, refusing to fall into line for him. I love Max and hate the situation he's in. I want more on her prospective harem. I think that was the only thing I found missing was the relationship building between her and her future love interests. I'm not a fan of how it ended, but that's just because I'm not a fan of those type of plots in general but it makes sense to go in that direction and will definitely make the next book interesting.

I'm looking forward to the next book coming out and seeing what AJ Anders does with her characters and her world. Definitely different and I recommend giving it a chance.

Viktória Tóth says

Lately I got into reading and collecting RH books and that's how I found this one. It's a shorter first book, which was originally part of a collection. Usually, I don't read short novels, because well they are short and in my opinion they can't be detailed enough or I just can't get enough of the in mere 100 or so pages. However since this one became a series I decided to give it a try.

I think the world building and the characters are phenomenal and even the plot is promising but this book was mainly about setting the place for the events.

The premise of the story is so amazing even judging by the little that actually happens here. The ending of the book is a huge surprise if you ask and it's throws you a loop, however it only makes things more exciting.

The writing style is not the most alluring but it still quite engaging. Still there were moments where I thought it went into too much detail mainly when it came to describing places and it dragged the flow of the plot down a bit but the intensity of the plot and the personalities of the characters made it easy to look over. The main character, Evie, is likeable, she is a rebel, resisting her father screwed up views and finding small ways to show her defiance. She is unusually smart, kinda genius level; I mean at 17 she is finishing her masters at MIT. However I found it strange that despite her being rose in a 'military' camp and participating fight training since her early teenage years she is not really warrior type. She is attracted to the 6 supernatural from the first time they meet and it surprises her but the reverse harem element stays mostly a platonic thing yet.

I absolutely loved the men, the number of them, the look of them and their different but balancing personalities. I just know that the dynamic in this harem is going to bring great things in the future books. Precursor is a great first book, one that really makes you want to know more about the characters and get more involved in the story. I'm off to the second book and eagerly waiting for the third.

Collette Markwardt says

Precursor tells the story of Evie, a fledgling in the Resistance, a militia group led by her father that fights supernatural beings. But Evie disagrees with many of the Resistance's beliefs, especially their hatred of the Surmata, a supernatural race helping to protect humans from demons. In Precursor, we follow Evie's story as she befriends several Surmata males and tries to escape from under her father's thumb.

This is a great first installment in a new reverse harem (RH) series. I first read this novella in the Falling for Them anthology, and it was easily one of my favorites in that collection. Anders has crafted characters and a plot that is intriguing and makes you want to find out what happens next. Evie is strong but relatable, the villains are super creepy, and the cast of characters surrounding Evie (Max, Caleb, and the Shadewolf Kaveri) is varied and interesting.

That being said, there are some aspects of the story that are slightly problematic. The world building is a bit clumsy. It's not clear why there are demons on earth, why or how the Surmata have arrived, what role the Kosketti (humans corrupted by demons) play in the situation, or why the Resistance hates the Surmata. I think the fact that this is a novella rather than a full-length book prevents Anders from fully fleshing out the world in Precursor, but I also don't feel that this really interferes with the story. Hopefully, she'll explain more to the reader in the next book in the series. There are also some grammar/spelling errors and typos, but in my opinion they do not distract from the story.

All in all, this story does exactly what the first installment of a new series should do: make you want to read more. The story gets the reader invested in how Evie will navigate living with the Resistance while being friends with the Surmata and then ends on an amazing cliffhanger. You will read this and then immediately want to read the next book in the series.

Jennifer G says

I read Precursor as part of the Falling For Them Anthology. This is a well-written, unquestionably original Reverse Harem novella.

Evie is being raised in a military camp under her father's strict control. He is strongly anti-supernaturals and willing to sacrifice his own daughter to win the "war" for humanity. Evie has pretty much been cut off from everyone except her best friend, the mysterious Max. When he introduces her to his friends, Evie discovers a whole new world. This is her first chance to live for herself, but she's in even more danger now than ever before.

This book was such an enjoyable tease. It starts an intriguing story; what we know of the characters is appealing. It leaves you desperate for more!

Charity says

What a fantastic read! Evie, our main female lead was such a strong and amazing character to read about. Really enjoy how friendships come first in this book before romance, making it not a total instant love thingy. Plus, the main girl actually have normal (well, I guess not really "normal" in a human sort of way, but normal as in personality wise) guy friends that she hang out with.

Really enjoy the boys personality and characters too so far. Can't wait to meet Jaoel in the next book(hopefully), since he is the only member of the Shadewolf Kaveri that we haven't met yet. And am definitely excited to get to know all the other boys better in the next book. Recommend for reverse harem lovers to read.

Marie says

Rating: 4/5

I loved the book, I enjoyed reading it and I can't wait for the next one! To be honest, it took me a couple of days to actually read the whole book. I keep picking it up, read about a sentence or two and then putting it back down, not because it was hard to get hooked into but because I was in a reading slump. It was like that for my other books. When I finally got over my reading slump, I regret not reading it sooner.

The first couple of pages is a little bit intense that makes you wonder what's happening, how it escalated to that situation and just makes you want to turn the page. This lost a star for me because I did feel like it was a bit rushed and some events weren't really as detailed compared to others. That aside, I feel like the reason why this felt rushed given that this is a relatively short book and the first of the series was so that the next installment will focus on how their relationship will grow and how Evie herself will grow as an individual.

Simone says

I give this book a 3.5/5 stars! I enjoyed reading it, there weren't too many confusing bits, and the story is genuinely interesting.

A.J Anders made an excellent attempt at a reverse harem book that has a substantial storyline and a good setting. My one complaint about this book is the initial scene. I'm not too sure if it was necessary for the story, since there weren't more "training" scenes, but the world-building done in the scene was necessary. The actual reverse harem, for this first book in the series, is more about introducing a couple of them slowly so the reader gains an understanding of their personalities.

In total, I love the story (and the boys) in this book, and can't wait to hear more about the world A. J Anders made :)

Runningrabbit says

KU

I really enjoyed this, it's essentially an urban fantasy which is something a bit new. I'm looking forward to book two.

Claudia Owens says

I really enjoyed this book and am already anxious for the next one! The story line is right up my alley: strong female lead, supernatural, a bit of a dystopian vibe, and RH to boot. AJ Anders did an amazing job setting up a new world and helping her readers get sucked right into it, giving us background information in a way that felt natural rather than forced.

I do agree with a few other reviewers that I wish it was just a tiny bit longer. We got a nice solid intro to camp life and Max, and the nature of the end of the book means the accelerated pace at the end makes total sense, I just wish we'd gotten to know some of the other characters better in the middle. At this point I solidly know two of her guys' names, but not much about them at all, and could maybe name 2-3 others, but I'm not even sure how many there are, or how many she's met. They're blurring together a bit. I have faith that the characters will be more fully developed in the following books, and that they do have distinct personalities, I just wish I'd gotten to see them a bit.

Siri says

This book was waay to short, but still alright

Leigh says

Good beginning of the story, left us with questions regarding several things and a couple theories that I want to know the answer to - will continue reading. It was a little short, so I don't have much by way of impressions except that I like how the characters are beginning to develop.

On to book two.

Kathleen Bruce says

It started off slow, getting us familiar with this new world. For a novella and a start to this series it was really well paced and I loved Evie! Her father is in charge of a militia that's against all things supernatural, including if not especially the Surmata. Though they're actually the good guys fighting off the demons and protecting the human race. So you guessed it her dad is a major hole. The militia is a hard life but at least Evie has Max, her best friend who also hides a secret from the Resistance but Evie knows. And through Max she gets her first real introduction to the Surmata

There is a start to this being RH with at least 2 of the guys. The problem? The Surmata are incompatible with humans. I can't wait to see where this new series takes this! I absolutely loved it!

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

Alexandra says

I really enjoyed the world created by the author in this book. We meet Evie who is 17, living in a Resistance camp ruled by her father. It's a harsh, violent life that she has had to endure since the death of her mother when she was a child. There is a battle between humans, demons and the Surmata (supernatural beings) going on at this time. She meets through her friend, Max, his five bond mates and forms a friendship with the Surmata men without her father knowing. Her father opposes anything to do with the Surmata and there would be serious consequences if he ever found out. There is a Resistance soldier interested in Evie but she resists his advances despite her father pushing for her to accept him. She's betrayed by persons close to her and receives help from her friend, Max, which have some consequences. Fantastic start to a series and eagerly waiting for the next book.

Melissa says

This book was AMAZING. I could not put it down, it really does suck you in once you start. I am curious to see how Evie's story will go, especially with the guys. There were parts of the book that really left me questioning what would happen next, lots of twist and turns with the plot. By the end of the book it left me wanting more because of the cliffhanger. I can't wait for book 2 to come out soon.

Em says

2.75 stars
