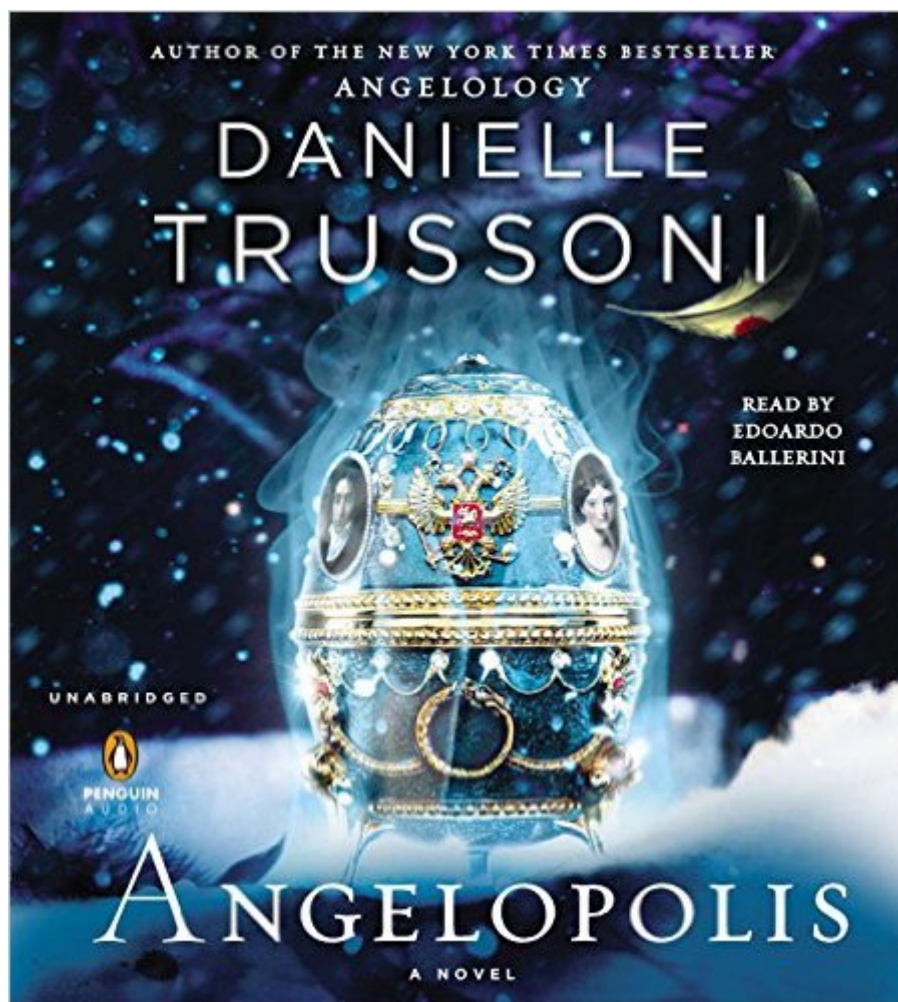


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Angelopolis



Synopsis

The sequel to the New York Times bestselling *Angelology* will thrill fans of Deborah Harkness, Justin Cronin, and Elizabeth Kostova. Hailed by USA Today as "a thrill ride best described as *The Da Vinci Code* meets *Raiders of the Lost Ark*," Danielle Trussoni's bestselling first novel, *Angelology*, wove biblical lore, the Orpheus myth, and Milton's *Rebel Angels* into a present-day world tinged with the divine supernatural. The novel plunged two endearing loners—art historian V. A. Verlaine and Evangeline, a beautiful young nun—into an ancient battle between a secret society and mankind's most insidious enemies: angel-human hybrids known as the Nephilim. Now a decade has passed since Verlaine saw Evangeline alight from the Brooklyn Bridge, the sight of her wings a betrayal that haunts him still. The Nephilim are again on the rise, scheming to construct their own paradise—the Angelopolis—and ruthlessly pursued by Verlaine in his new calling as an angel hunter. But when Evangeline materializes, Verlaine is besieged by doubts that will only grow as forces more powerful than even the Nephilim draw them from Paris to Saint Petersburg and deep into the provinces of Siberia and the Black Sea coast. A high-octane tale of abduction and liberation, treasure seeking and divine warfare, *Angelopolis* plumbs Russia's imperial past, modern genetics, and the archangel Gabriel's famous visitations to conceive a fresh tableau of history and myth that will, once again, enthrall readers the world over.

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Customer Reviews

In June 2010, I read *Angelology: A Novel* (*Angelology Series*) in virtually one sitting. After finishing

it, I would periodically check to see if there was a publication release date for a sequel. So, after three years of anticipation, I eagerly began the sequel. Unfortunately, I was a bit disappointed. Though I never felt lost in the sequel, it left me rather unsatisfied. The first book, in my memory at least, was a lushly written, layered novel that blended different periods in time with different narrative styles to create a unique debut. Trussoni blended historical fiction with the fantastic - and threw in a bit of a literary mystery, too, with some romance. The characters felt realistic and the plot unraveled in a delicate balance of action, prose and context that kept the pacing quick. The sequel felt completely different. It was not lushly layered, nor was it a fast-paced novel. There were a few scenes bursting with action, but they were spread out few and far between the scenes that comprised the bulk of the book: explanatory dialogue. Extensive, very detailed explanations fleshed out Trussoni's world in more detail, but the reveal of this added detail left a lot to be desired. By using her character's voices as the sole form of imparting information, their words served as information dump trucks vomiting out nothing more than lectures. Interesting lectures, yes, but it left little room for the characters to develop, grow or reveal meaningful relationships. There was little reminiscent here of the lush prose and interesting characters of the first book.

Like many of her fans, I've been waiting anxiously for the sequel to Danielle Trussoni's *Angelology*, which I thought was a great book. It had everything - a cool mythology, interesting characters, multiple locations, mystery, and very good storytelling. I wish I could say I enjoyed *Angelopolis* as much as I did the first book, but it didn't quite work for me. I'm not going to summarize much of the plot, since in a book like this giving anything away isn't fair to future readers. Suffice it to say that Trussoni blends the angel-human hybrid angels called Nephilim, Noah and the flood, the Romanovs, Faberge eggs, and various other angels in a surprising way. The book is entertaining and a quick read, but it lacks the layers and details of the first one, and is almost like an action movie in that it's always moving around to a different location. Some readers may like this; I can see why Trussoni chose to give this book a quicker pace in that it's important to keep the momentum of the established story going, but I prefer the slower pace and intellectual meanderings of the first book. Another issue here is that this book is setting up the third book, much as the next-to-last Harry Potter movie set up the last one, and this can be a problem in that it feels a bit like filler at times - putting things in place so they can be referred to later. There's a lot of chasing and running around. While that works in a movie, it doesn't always work in a book. In order to enjoy books like this - or Harry Potter, Dan Brown's books, or Star Wars, is you have to completely buy into the author's invented mythology. I find Trussoni's mythology fascinating and I like letting her take me wherever

she wants to go with it. That is her strength as a writer, along with her elegant style.

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