

Angel Time – The Songs of the Seraphim by Anne Rice.
Chatto and Windus 2009.

Not being a devotee of the horror genre I have never read a book by Anne Rice before, but the description of this, her latest, piqued my interest and I am very glad that it did.

The hero of Angel Time is an assassin, Toby O'Dare, who is deeply conflicted not just because of his 'profession' but because of his past. Torn between the two he seems to be rapidly losing control of his life but then he is saved by the intervention of an angel, Malchiah, who gives him the opportunity to redeem himself from self-destruction by travelling back in time to rescue a persecuted group of Jews in thirteenth century Norwich.

Clearly the plot of the book, which starts in a very contemporary America before catapulting back in time, requires something of a suspension of disbelief, but it is well worth the effort as Toby struggles not just to save those he has been sent to protect but also to try and make sense of what is happening to him.

As might be expected of a long standing best-seller writer, Angel Time is both well-written and pacy, and I enjoyed it hugely. According to the blurb on the back cover it is the first of a new series and I, for one, shall eagerly await its successor volumes.

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