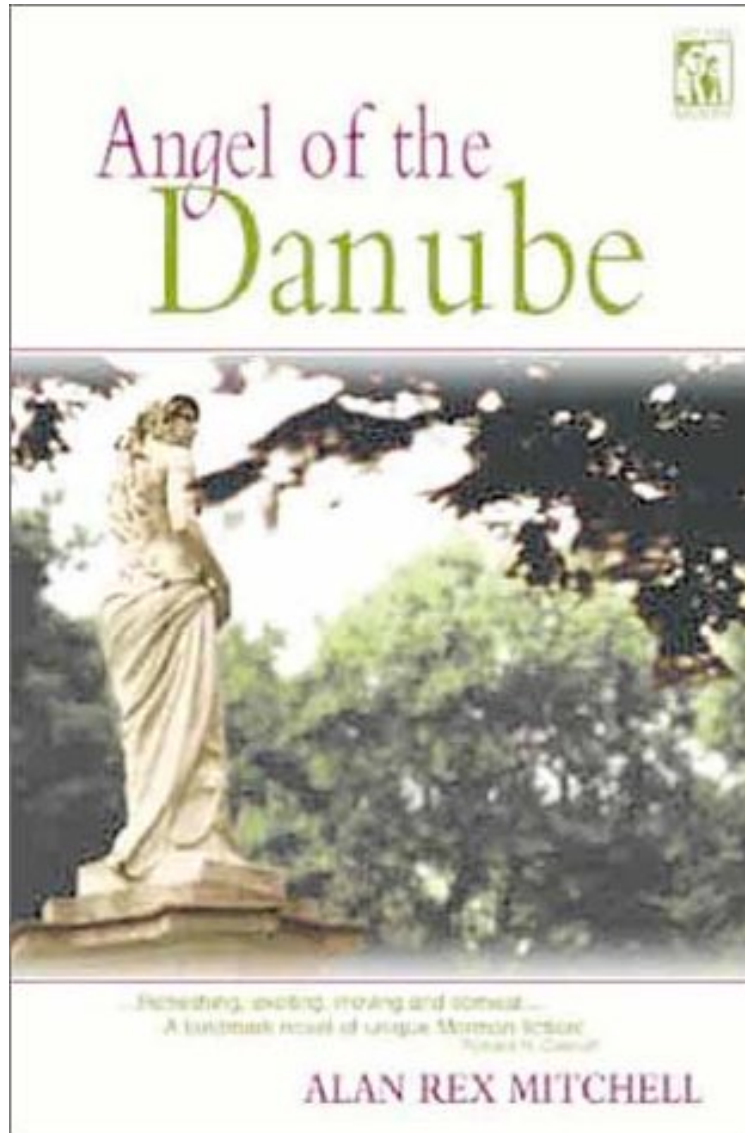


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Angel of the Danube

Alan Rex Mitchell

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Alan Rex Mitchell : Angel of the Danube before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Angel of the Danube:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Could Not Put This Book Down By Michael Hickman The cover of the book does not do justice to the hilarious missionary story of Elder Monroe who is serving his last 3 months as a Mormon missionary. So funny! So real! Missionaries are always portrayed as so spiritual so divine and sacred but Alan Mitchell strips that down so we can see the real missionary. I have seen myself so many times in this book that it

scares me. His homesickness, his lust for girls, his practical jokes, his annoyances in the mission field is portrayed so well that I felt myself lost in the book. This book brought back so many feelings and emotions that I fear that I will have nightmares of my mission again. Alan Mitchell does more than a great job in describing in detail what I could never describe but always felt as a missionary. This is a must read!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Little Novel, Big Impact

By M Nield

This book may not be award-winning literature (it could have done with another copy edit as well), but I read it for a university class and fell behind on my other schoolwork because I couldn't put it down. The book is undeniably hilarious, but has a deeply reflective side. It's a Mormon missionary tale, but Barry (the narrator-character) writes all aspects of the mission, including the difficult side that missionaries don't necessarily tell when they come home. The stories and struggles are reminders that LDS missionaries are still only 19 year old boys; at the same time, their triumphs and their lessons show their incredible growth and the process of learning we all go through. The constant use of the word "Dude" to refer to everyone, and Barry's well characterized voice, are so personable. While the quality of literature isn't outstanding, it's more than believable as the journal writing of a 21 year old. The book may be best appreciated by a Mormon-cultured audience, but could also be a very relatable to anyone who's met an LDS missionary, anyone who's served a proselyting or humanitarian mission for their own church, or for anyone who struggles with finding and keeping direction in life. Would recommend this book to anyone.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Richard H. Cracroft's review

By A Customer

A unusual, often startling but wonderfully refreshing Mormon missionary novel. Angel, which promises to be to Mormon missionary fiction what God's Army is to the Mormon missionary film, is a moving and comical account of a young man's successful search for spiritual wholeness amidst an (Austrian) world of rejection. Tracking Elder Barry Monroe's spiritual odyssey through the Austria Vienna Mission is something like tracking Huckleberry Finn's discovery of his and Jim's humanhood, and even more like following Henderson on his comic journey into the heart of Africa in Saul Bellow's Henderson the Rain King. In fact, in Alan Mitchell we may have discovered our Mormon Saul Bellow. Writing his missionary journal in California-hip dialect (Mark Twain did it almost as well in Huck Finn), Elder Monroe, who calls everyone "Dude," is wacky and comical and essentially serious as he stands atop his bedrock Mormonness and calls the nonplused Austrians to repentance. Writing from what is obviously his own sound faith in the power of the gospel to change and improve lives, Mitchell has hung a rich and literarily satisfying coming-of-age novel upon an infrastructure of Austrian folklore and the ups-and-downs of Mormon missionary life. The result is a landmark novel unique in Mormon fiction that will delight everyone-except, perhaps, the Church Missionary Committee (Angel of the Danube will not become a supplement to the white Missionary Handbook). The rest of us will enjoy this fresh, original, thoroughgoingly Mormon, albeit wonderfully unorthodox treatment of the First Principles' pattern of the journey to belief. Hurrah for Alan Mitchell's rich contribution to Mormon letters and positive and affirming answer to the question: "what is left to be said, in fiction, about the life of a Mormon missionary!"

Richard H. Cracroft
Nan Osmond Grass Professor in English Brigham Young University

A winner in the first Association for Mormon Letters Marilyn Brown Novel Award competition for 2000, this is "Mormon literature's answer to Saul Bellow's Henderson the Rain King, according to Richard Cracroft. Barry Monroes enters a spiritual adventure painted rich in missionary culture, Viennese hospitality, and folk legends that bring him to face the most important mission of his life.

About the Author Alan Rex Mitchell has written fiction, poetry, economic, and doctrinal books.