



A Good Year

Tara Fox Hall

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There's no heaven, like hell... Faced with losing Pandora Productions as well as her best friend Rebecca to the smarmy Paul, savvy film executive Debbie makes a pact with the demon Shaker, agreeing to bind herself to him as his human master in return for killing Paul and securing Pandora's future. Yet even as Pandora gains accolades and renown, Debbie's strong resolve begins to crumble under the weight of her actions. And the pleasure she finds in Shaker's arms is becoming more than sex. Is Debbie doomed to lose her heart as well as her soul to a demon who has only been waiting for the chance to claim both?

A Good Year Details

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From Reader Review A Good Year for online ebook

Leslie OBrien says

A GOOD YEAR by Tara Fox Hall was unexpected. To start, for me, the story didn't match the description. While, yes, it did, to a degree...there's so much more going on. As you read this story, which you will because you'll want to, keep in mind the questions: What would you do to save what's most important to you? How far would you go? How would you respond if you were having misgivings but couldn't stop?

As the description states: Debbie is fighting to save Pandora Productions and get her best friend back. In order to do so, she willingly engages in an unsavory act that backfires. So, she makes a deal with a demon, Shaker. What transpires is A GOOD YEAR, as Debbie is faced with making decisions to save her company while not becoming complicit in a series of unexplainable murders/suicides.

My likes/dislikes about the story are the same. I didn't like Debbie and a week after having read the story, I'm still tossed about it. Let me backtrack. Recently in a reading group, an author posed the question asking how we would react if the author intentionally wrote the H or h in a story as completely unlikable. Would we still read the book? The responses were mixed, as are my feelings on it. It would depend on the story. In this case, Debbie needs to be unlikable. As readers, we would be incensed if Ms. Hall wrote her any other way (as in, victim). The character needs to be ruthless, even if her misgivings permeate her thoughts.

At the same time, there's a budding romance growing. It is most definitely not one of those insta-attractions that permeate so many stories, this one grows at a leisurely pace and while we might want to think of it as unconventional, it really isn't. More importantly, we are left with the original question: What would you do?

This review was originally published by me at The Reading Alley.

Lori Vandenburg says

Different

This book was definitely different. Debbie would anything to keep Pandora. She had put all of her blood, sweat and tears into it. Then her friend and partner along with her husband turn against Debbie. She feels cornered. Then Shaker shows up. He is a demon, and helps her out with some of the messy work. Along the way she finds a new partner and friend. Together they start to build Pandora back up. Shaker is a demon that is now bound to Debbie. He saves her repeatedly and takes care of some of the ugly parts of the business. Somewhere long the way they develop a connection and become lovers. In the end the bond grows in an unexpected way. The book had a slow start, but picked up about a third of the way. If you appreciate older women and younger men or demons with human lovers, then you will enjoy this book. I received a copy of this book from Reading Alley in exchange for an honest review.

Jenny Twist says

What I love about this story is the idea that you could shout, "God damn him! Damn him to Hell!" and a real live demon to appears. What a great start to an intriguing plot. The thing is, having accidentally summoned a demon, what on earth do you do with him? I was grabbed from the first page

Tara Fox Hall is a writer of consummate skill. I have been following her for years and have never been disappointed.

Nancy Pennick says

I was surprised by how easily the main character accepted paranormal beings coming out of nowhere and into her world. Debbie had no prior knowledge of them, but when Shaker, the demon, appears after a few swear words from her, she is startled for a second then willing agrees to his terms so that he will help her. Debbie uses her demon to help her movie company grow and succeed. She doesn't flinch when he says he needs sustenance and it must be human.

Despite some of the evil deeds Debbie and Shaker commit, you can't help rooting for them. As I read the story my mind kept going back to the cover and I thought, "What does that have to do with the story?" Toward the end, I got my answer in a surprising and satisfying way. If you like a sexy world filled with demons and other paranormal creatures, this won't disappoint.

***This book contains explicit sexual content.

Beth Tilley says

This was my first book by Tara Fox Hall - I LOVED IT!!! Now I want to dive into all of her books. I enjoyed that the heroine was a little older and was going to get what she wanted out of life, regardless of the cost. Debbie teams up with Shaker and the demon community to make her career and life dreams come true. Tons of action, drama and great sex. 4 stars for spiciness.

Patty Mele says

It was an enjoyable read

Caitlyn Lynch says

One of the things I liked best about this book is the mature-aged heroine. In so much romance, and particularly paranormal romance, the female protagonist is in her late teens or twenties. Debbie, the heroine of A Good Year, turns forty-one during the book, and since that happens to be exactly how old I am too I found myself really identifying with her. Ageism is still alive and well in the world of romance novels and this made a really nice change.

There's an amoral charm to Debbie that had me really rooting for her, despite her making some fairly awful decisions during the course of the story. It takes talent on the part of an author to get me rooting for someone who's decidedly not a 'good person'. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I would recommend to anyone who likes something a little different in the way of paranormal romance and would enjoy a more mature heroine.

The only issue I have with it is that it is being marketed as Erotica, and in that category it falls a bit short of

the mark. There are a couple of love scenes that are not particularly long or explicit. I'd be marketing the book simply as paranormal romance. That certainly didn't diminish my enjoyment of the story, though. Five stars.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book for review through ReadingAlley.
