

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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★ **The Trial of Fallen Angels.**

Kimmel, James (Author)

Nov 2012. 372 p. Putnam/Amy Einhorn, hardcover, \$25.95. (9780399159695).

As a successful lawyer with a loving husband and a beautiful baby girl, Brek Cuttler believes she's made the best possible decisions in life. After finding herself on a train platform in her favorite suit, with fresh bullet wounds and only the vaguest understanding of how she arrived, she starts talking to an elderly gentleman who manages to look like all of the trusted male figures she's ever known. She learns that the train station is Shemaya Station, a Purgatory-like space where souls await their final judgment. Upon being chosen to join the elite team of lawyers tasked with prosecuting and defending these lost souls, Brek learns that some long-forgotten pieces of her past, combined with the technicalities she prided herself on uncovering for her clients, hold the clue to her own salvation. In his first novel, Kimmel has created a thrilling and fantastic world, a heady combination of the movie *What Dreams May Come*, John Grisham's best work, and Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Sometimes dreamily lyrical and sometimes harshly realistic, Kimmel's authorial voice is undeniably compelling. Raw, tender, and intelligent, *The Trial of Fallen Angels* is a fascinating glimpse into the judgment of lost souls and recovered memories.

— *Stephanie Turza*