

My current WIP is an Urban Fantasy/Paranormal with strong romantic elements. It focuses on a woman's journey toward self-discovery. It's the Hero's Journey so often quoted by Joseph Campbell, but it's from a female perspective.

In my story, the heroine's antagonist is one of the Lord's warring angels - from the kingdom of the Thrones. I've researched the history of angels and their kingdoms, and decided to use the Catholic canon. In the mid-13th century, Thomas Aquinas straightened out the confusing mess of angels and their Orders, and included his version in his *Summa Theologica*. His interpretation generally remains the official dogma to this day:

### Angelic Kingdoms

#### 1st Order - Perfection

**Seraphim** - Angels of love, light and fire

**Cherubim** - Record keepers and holders of all knowledge

**Thrones** - Bring heavenly justice to earth.

#### 2nd Order - Illumination

**Dominations** - Regulate duties to other angels

**Virtues** - Messengers. Do miracles on earth and bestow grace and valor.

**Powers** - First line of defense against demons

#### 3rd Order - Purification

**Principalities** - In charge of nations and cities and protector of religion.

**Archangels** - Messengers bearing divine decrees.

**Angels** - Intermediates between the angelic kingdom and earth

My story IS a fantasy, so while I'm studying mythology and religious history, I'm stretching my imagination and creating another world in which goddesses and angels exist alongside humans. When writing fantasy, it's important to bring in history, to make my new world plausible for the reader to enjoy.

My antagonist is a Throne and is scarred from his stay in the Void - a notorious angel prison. His name is Sama-el, and he's known as Sam Black when he takes human form. My angels are not the fluffy, cherub, harp playing kind! They have terrifying powers and will use them to protect their kingdom and their Lord. They also have conflicting emotions and flaws, as do humans and goddesses! While it's near to impossible to kill an angel, every one has an Achilles Heel...a fatal flaw. My characters are never perfect...