



Unbound

Katherine Hurley

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As the growing conflict forces Logan to embrace his newly discovered heritage, he fights to control a power he has long kept buried—a power that threatens everything he has tried to make of himself. Desperate to spare Astarti yet another burden, he tries to hide his crumbling control, but she has long since learned to recognize a lie. As Logan becomes a danger to himself and those around him, Astarti must find a way to help him, even if he doesn't want it.

Unfortunately, Astarti has other problems. Good and evil wear ever-shifting faces, the right course of action grows increasingly unclear, and the stakes are only getting higher. In this final installment of *The Griever's Mark* trilogy, Astarti must decide, once and for all, what she stands for--and what she is willing to sacrifice.

Unbound Details

Date : Published January 21st 2016

ISBN :

Author : Katherine Hurley

Format : Kindle Edition 325 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, Magic, Young Adult, Fantasy Romance

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From Reader Review Unbound for online ebook

Molly Mortensen says

Age Rating: Older YA due to sex scenes. (Nothing graphic, just more than typical YA)

It took me a while to get into this one. I don't know if it was that I forgot too much from the sequel or what. It slowly came back as I read, but I needed a bit more backcap.

I loved the first two books, but I didn't enjoy this one as much. (Though it was a matter of personal taste, and not really the book's fault.) After what our characters have gone through, they're broken. Much of this book was dedicated to emotional stuff. It was well done, I just don't like that kind of thing.

The Bad:

Logan and Astarti's relationship is still rocky. They don't talk much and when they do, they fight. With everything else in the world terrible, I'd have liked some levity between them.

It's understandable that Logan still has PTSD, but I didn't enjoy his parts. He's still getting himself beat up, and losing himself in his powers.

They have so many opportunities to kill Bellos, but each time they stupidly let him live! (Yes, I know they have to be honorable and save someone, but how many more people died because Belos lived?)

The Good:

Though there was plenty of relationship stuff, we never went too long before something exciting happened. I've enjoyed the action scenes of this series and they just keep getting better! (The elemental weapons were awesome!)

There are quite a few minor characters and I like all of them! (Particularly Horik. He needs his own short story!)

Aside from the characters, the world building is my favorite part of this series. I didn't understand what the Ancorites were supposed to be, but the Old Ones were interesting, and a nice addition to this world.

Conclusion: I was satisfied how it all ended and I'll read this author again in the future.

Point of View: First Present (Astarti, Logan)

Predictability: 4 out of 5 (Where 1 is totally unpredictable and 5 is I knew what was going to happen way ahead of time.)

Source: Author Request

Christopher Derr says

Deep topics

These books resonated with me because of the angst felt by the lead characters. My brother is much the same as Logan - repressing his true feelings for reasons unknown, bottling anger to be released in raging outbursts. His solution will one day hopefully be the same as my brothers. Thank you for writing it so well.

Aeron Trahaearn says

OMG!! could you give me a more perfect cover?? Astarti saving Logan :D I am in love with this cover!!

I really feel like reading another book so I'll keep it short..

GP. FUCKING.BUY. THIS.DAMNED.AWESOME.BOOK!!! Trust me you need this series in your life!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Waaaaaaaaaaaaaait!!!! I just realised that I fell for a total good guy!! Logan is totally good!! not a bad bone in his body!! how did this happen?? *wonders*

Sarah Jackson says

I hate writing reviews

I very rarely even bother, but after completing Unbound, I want to give the author some encouragement.

The series, as a whole, was excellent. The world building, the powers, everything. Great imagination, and great detail. Her two character made me laugh, clench, and cry. I felt the struggle. Sometimes I wanted to slap them both. Sometimes I wanted to hug Astarti because she had no one to talk to. Astarti shouldered a huge burden with Logan. Her strength and restraint was incredible. Good job, Ms Hurley, on showing her fragility as well as her backbone.

The problems I had are issues that will resolve with time and growth as a writer. Her language, her conversations could get repetitive. She used the element of surprise and betrayal a lot. It feels like she got really excited about the story and crammed every thought into the story line. Her enthusiasm for her book really shines, but she just may need a steady editor to tell, "You don't need so many surprises" or "Not every battle has to be lost as a result of your main character being 'too slow' to react." Nothing that won't work itself out.

Katherine Hurley is a fantastic writer. I will read more of her in the future. I think her story building could be along the lines of Ilona Andrews, and I don't make that comparison lightly. It was incredibly hard to finish the series, to know it will end. I think as she grows more as a writer, the little things I've mentioned will go away.

Samantha Harris says

Very satisfying

I really enjoyed the last installment of this series. It's been so refreshing to read about strong characters who aren't too stupid to live.

I love the character development and how the main characters come into their own. They overcome so many obstacles, both internal and external.

This was very nicely plotted and paced. I enjoyed the plot turns and was highly satisfied with the ending.

I just wish this author had more books out!

BookwormBritty says

Confession: I'm not finished with this book. Why am I reviewing a book I'm not finished with? Because I'm irritated, and I seem to be in the minority.

Here's the timeline as I see it: Astarti is enslaved, meets Logan. Logan is like able for a brief period of time. Things move at an odd pace, there's something keeping them apart but of course there are "feelings." He is taken before they have time to have any relationship at all, comes back in no shape to be in a relationship with anyone, and Astarti essentially becomes his caretaker/person responsible for bringing him out of this darkness. With almost no history at this point, very few good memories, and NO foundation.

I'm married to someone with PTSD. Let me tell you, love or no love, commitment or no commitment, it's been a bumpy ride. I appreciated the book's acknowledgment of that, but. BUT. They have barely been together. I was ALREADY married when this became an issue in my marriage, had memories of the time before then, a SOLID foundation, and it was STILL a struggle. Astarti had known Logan for like a couple of weeks, and suddenly when she is seeing nothing but the worst of him, a side of him that lashes out and hurts her, she's nothing but understanding and patient and blah blah blah?

Also, Logan irritates me so badly. I'm so bored of reading about how he's going to lose control and Astarti deserves better. He thinks about Astarti, but acts for himself. I'm not sure I'll even finish this book because I don't even want them to end up together now.

Don't get me wrong. There are a few scenes that I feel the tenderness between them, but the overarching relationship is so incredibly unlikely and frankly unhealthy that I'm not buying it on a whole. Then again, I know relationships with men who are "broken" have a huge following, but I like to see a little before that point to be worth it. (Outlander, Scarlett, etc., all had PTSD issues but not before there was love and relationship). Alternatively, I've seen where the person has it from the outset, and that can even work, but right at the start of a relationship just feels like a No to me.

In addition, I didn't really love the direction the plot/story went with the Old Ones and whatnot. I realize I'm

in the minority, but this has not been my favorite, and it's taking me a lot of slugging through to even read it.

Beryce says

Minimum syndical pour Unbound. Une romance mignonne mais sans prise de risque, une intrigue chargée de lourdeurs, un dénouement expéditif allégé de toute explication... tout cela n'aide pas à apprécier le dernier tome de cette trilogie. Sans être une grosse déception, ce n'est pas non plus la révélation que j'attendais. Pour faire rapide : c'est bof bof. Peut-être que je relirai *The Griever's Mark* un de ces quatre, mais la série, qui avait pourtant du potentiel, ne m'a pas laissé un souvenir impérissable.

Note : 2.8 /5

Chronique complète ici.

Sabrina says

Unbound by Katherine Hurley is the thrilling conclusion to The Griever's Mark Trilogy. Everything about this series has been quite unique and adventurous from book 1 all the way till book 3. The characters were well written, and the story line was something else. I would give Unbound a 10 out of 10 rating.

The thing I liked the most about this book, was that it was such a well balanced conclusion to the trilogy. It was nicely paced, and spaced out. There were some new elements brought to the table in Unbound, but nothing felt rushed or went unexplained. I also liked that every detail had a purpose or greater meaning.

Since the beginning, I have quite enjoyed the magic system that Katherine Hurley developed. It was a different sort of elemental magic system that I quite enjoyed learning and reading about. I think I especially enjoyed the Drifter's magic and the way you could Drift up weapons. That was a neat aspect portrayed.

SEE THE REST OVER ON MY BLOG BEYOND THE BOOK REVIEWS

Anca says

I rather enjoyed this series, more than I thought it would.

I really liked what Astarti developed into, and the relationship her and Logan formed. It was admirable how strong of a character she was, but certainly not flawed. The antithesis of her was Logan, and even how he dealt with his own issues. I also appreciated that Astarti wasn't portrayed as a savior, like so many other YA female MCers. She played her role well, but it did not become all about Astarti, she was different and important but I felt her role was more about balance than being a main hero.

Logan for me was a huge issue in book one. He was a love sick puppy that had me rolling my eyes. He however took a turn in Chains of Water and Stone and grew on me more and more by the end of the book. I appreciated that Hurley presented a broken and stripped character but also one filled with an immense

amount of pride. It gave him more substance than a boy who was smitten with a girl, and it only strengthened his relationship with Astarti when he had to let go and allow her to be his strength.

This series really digs at the core of a person. The good and the bad and finding the balance in that. In forgiving yourself and sometimes even letting go, because it does not help you progress. But also admitting defeat and in that moment putting away your pride so that someone else can be strong for you. And that our lives are driven by OUR choices and those consequences, whether those are good or bad and knowing we are not alone in them. The love story was a bit much for me at times, but it was also a beautiful reminder of what love can be. It can be all consuming and lustful, but it also about allowing the darker parts of ourselves to be opened and healed and loved.

Elli says

The World of this story is unbelievable innovative. I like the magic, although I am not sure that I can call it like that, the characters with their deep and authentic profiles and the social criticism that I read between the lines.

It was really impressiv that one cannot only understand feelings and thoughts of the two protagonists Astarti and Logan, you can really feel and think like them. However, in this last book of the trilogy it was a bit too much of thoughts and to less of action. Sometimes the doubts of Logan got on my nerves, because it was a returning cycle. With Astarti it worked much better.

The ending was round and in its essence really impressiv too, but unfortunately it was written boringly.

There was no excitement.

All in all a good ending but the realization could have been much better.

Stacy Gallina says

Nice closure

This book was full of intense moments and of course evil Belos will be involved. There was much closure and answers, which made this last book perfect in its ending. Astarti and Logan both look inside themselves and find who they really are.

Kimm Reilly says

This story sucks you in

From the moment I stumbled on to the first book in the series I knew I had found something special. Having finished the story I can say it was even more than I thought it could be. With realism the characters grow, question themselves and fight their way to the truth: the choice is theirs but the impact affects everything and everyone around them.

Its not just a coming of age story, or a romance, or an epic war story; its a life lesson. With an almost overwhelming ferociousness the author digs into who people are at their core, how bad and good - right or wrong- are two sides of the same coin and how much evil can be justified for the greater good.

Yes there is magic, ancient Gods and a whole vaguely familiar world but the story, so light on the surface, twists deep into who we allow ourselves to be; petty, disdainful, prejudiced and looks at the lies we tell ourselves to justify those failures.

Our heroes, like all of us, must learn that it is their choices that make them who they are. Their circumstances may have been moulded by others, their actions may once have been controlled by those in power but now their choices are the only thing with the power to save, or destroy, them all.

Taniqua Cary says

Oh man. I couldn't wait to get my hands on this last book and it completely delivered for me! I felt everything Astarti felt. The author made sure of that! She was such a strong MC and grew so much throughout this series, I loved it! Poor Logan, I got frustrated with him occasionally but that's because I don't have the patience and compassion Astarti does. He really suffered in the second book and it was still in here also and had no idea of how to deal with what he was going through. This book kept me anxious waiting to see what would happen next and had next to no downtime! It was perfect for me and hopefully will be for everyone else!

Airwreckah says

Great series. Engaging and enjoyable.

Burgandy Ice says

Everything is out of control before this story begins and the lines between who is right and who is wrong and how far the leadership on all sides is willing to go just blurs. I can't talk about this book without spoiling something in the previous two, so beware.

I thoroughly love this dive into the grey area of real power. The leader of a city or people group has big decisions to make that will effect so many others. There is no answer that is purely right or a choice that will result in no death, so who is willing to go the furthest for their cause? Who will be able to live with themselves afterwards?

Anyone who has had some authority has bumped into this, but the author expands the idea until thousands and hundreds of thousands are effected. The stakes are too high for anyone to back down. In fact, the one who is willing to risk the most seems like they will have the only chance at success.

Yet somehow Astarti and Logan maintain themselves with honor. In fact, they learn to let go of bitterness that could infect their decisions even though it is a painful process, like prying fingers one at a time off of the only control they feel they have. My favorite scenes are the ones where they open up to each other and allow themselves to trust and let go. I'm not sure I've seen bitterness and letting go of it so well portrayed anywhere.

Very realistically, the bad guy turns out to be human (or close enough) all along. The fathers who hold too much of the power are also vulnerable and I held my breath with the world waiting to see what they'll decide.

You shouldn't get to read this one until you've read the first two. It's only fair. And this one's worth reading, so... there you go.

If I found fault, it's only that everything explodes right off the edge of reality this story balances on. Somehow the author made me feel that zipping along energy lines or riding tree/wind currents was completely natural. My neighbor may be able to do it and I just didn't know it. But when it gets to the flow of time and creation of everything... that feel of "this is real" slipped through my fingers. I lost my personal grip and was left watching the big light show. Everything was grand and awe-inspiring enough, I just didn't feel as sold on all of it and I was quite committed, believe me. I don't want to take anything away from it because all the pieces were necessary for that scene, THAT scene... you'll know when you read it. There's one scene that is THAT ONE and it's only possible because of all the nearly-unbelievable other stuff. In the end, worth it, totally, but I do hope that Katherine will take the time to drag my emotions through all the dirt again in future books.

Oh, yes, I'll read anything Katherine Hurley writes, by golly. I'm sold.

4 Stars for this one and the series all together may stay at 4 or grow to 5 if I find I cannot help but return and re-read it. No doubt the reading experience would be completely different now that I know... just the way I like my library. Complex and satisfying.
