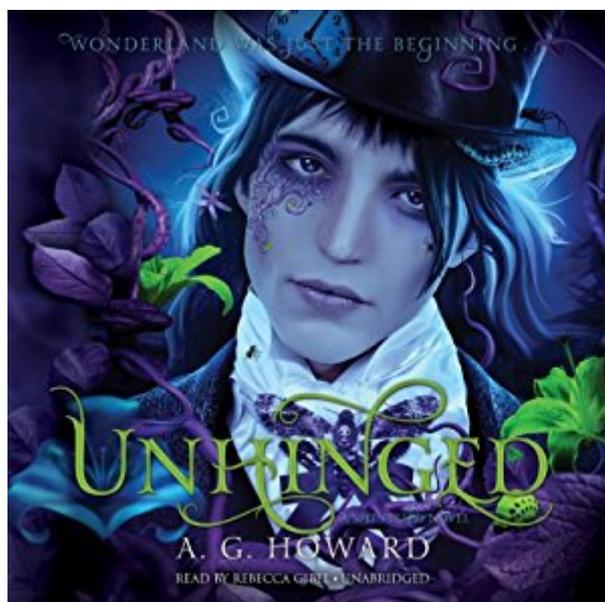


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Unhinged: Splintered Series, Book 2



Synopsis

Alyssa Gardner has been down the rabbit hole. She was crowned Queen of the Red Court and faced the bandersnatch. She saved the life of Jeb, the boy she loves, and escaped the machinations of the disturbingly appealing Morpheus. Now all she has to do is graduate high school. That would be easier without her mother, freshly released from an asylum, acting overly protective and suspicious. And it would be much simpler if the mysterious Morpheus didn't show up at school one day to tempt her with another dangerous quest in the dark, challenging Wonderland - where she (partly) belongs. Could she leave Jeb and her parents behind again, for the sake of a man she knows has manipulated her before? Will her mother and Jeb trust her to do what's right? Listeners will swoon over the satisfying return to Howard's bold, sensual reimagining of Carroll's classic.

Book Information

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Fantasy

Customer Reviews

4 Stars It was SO awesome to be back into this world and all of it's madness!! As always, A.G. Howard takes us through a world like no other; filled with insanity, madness, chaos, and LOTS of fun. And I LOVED every minute of it!!! ;) I was quickly pulled back to this world like I never even left it. Granted, I did read UNHINGED shortly after I read the first book, SPLINTERED. But the author was able to tie everything in nicely, allowing the reader to feel drawn back into the world and characters, and made me fall even more in love with it all! THE PLOT Alyssa's finally made it out of

Wonderland and back home to the human realm, but it's a far cry from "Getting back to normal," like she's ever had a normal. But now her mother is freshly out of the asylum and controlling her like she was still five years-old. And her father is still in the dark about their heritage, and that her mother was never really crazy at all. And Jeb still doesn't remember what happen in Wonderland, because "Technically", he was never really even there. But to make matters even more insane, her blood is doing crazy stuff, and acting images out in her paintings. So between having to continue to lie to Jeb and her father, and having no one to turn to about what's really going on in her life, besides her overly protective mother, and having blood with a mind of it's own, yeah, it's enough to drive anyone mad. But just when Alyssa starts to think her life can't get anymore complicated, Morpheus, the frustrating and extremely sexy Moth Man from her past shows up and throws her life back into the chaos and madness she left behind in Wonderland.

I absolutely loved AG Howard's debut novel, *Splintered*, last year, so I had to get my hands on this beautiful second installment, *Unhinged*, as soon as it came out. The covers of both books are gorgeous, are they not? *Unhinged* by AG Howard picks up several months where *Splintered* left off. Alyssa is struggling with her relationship with Jeb, who seems more interested in starting a career than spending time with her. Plus, he doesn't remember any of their adventures in Wonderland, and Alyssa is wondering if she should tell him. Unsurprisingly, Morpheus shows up in her dreams again and in the living flesh to shake things up. To make things more tricky and interesting, we learn new things about her parents and their relationship, which clarify a lot of things and put a new spin on some of the events that happened in the last book. Will Alyssa be able to navigate her feelings about Jeb, Morpheus, and her parents and save Wonderland again from eminent danger? I have said this before about trilogies. Second books are hard. They just are. Even if you have a kickbutt heroine, there still has to be character growth (or more likely, setbacks) in the second, so that in the third, she can rise to the occasion and show everyone just how far she's come. Alyssa is not as likeable in this installment, but understandably so, because her world has completely turned upside down. She doesn't know who she is, and it doesn't help that she's split between two worlds and two men that are different as night and day. All of her personal relationships have just (for lack of a better word), "splintered," and she has to pick up the pieces and see where she fits into each of their lives and how they fit into hers. She regains some of her momentum by the end, as she should.

Having finally recovered from a horrid reading slump, I decided to take my destiny into my own hands and read A.G. Howard's splendidly delicious *Unhinged* • the second book in the *Splintered*

series. Withal, I must confess that I was quite reluctant to pick up the book at all, simply because Splintered didn't quite satisfy my thirst for a Wonderland escapade. Boy was I ever thankful I gave into my netherling instincts, not only did this steampunk fairy tale retelling satiate my cravings, but A.G. Howard's vision for Wonderland left a lasting impression; I am

hooked! _____ WHAT I LIKED+ The approach to detail in the Wonderland A.G. Howard has fashioned for us goes beyond perfection. I often marveled at her uncanny ability to mesmerize and reel me into places my imagination has not dared to venture. Albeit, the character designs, the hairstyles and outfits, the dark elements and characters from Lewis Carroll's original books are all twisted in a hypnotic mesmerizing style, yet while initially jarring, they quickly grow on you and add a whimsical flavor to the overarching prose.+ The interplay and developing relationships are truly what makes this series unforgettable. Like, the eccentric relationship between Morpheus and Alyssa (which is an obvious highlight and sordid obsession of mine), the whimsical humor which is often upheld by underestimated wit and a perfect sense of timing which you rarely see executed with such charisma and deftness, but more impressive still is how the banter and dialogue were given special care and attention to detail to boot. This is evident in how the friendships and relationships between our trio consistently evolve. It goes without saying, Morpheus is the pick of the cast, and serves as a case in point.

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