



Unholy War

David Hair

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Shaliyah, birthplace of the Prophet, now has a new name: Mother of Victories. In the wake of the devastating battle before her walls, everything has changed: the East is rising, bringing equal measures of hope and despair to the magical world of Urte.

For Elena Anborn and Kazim Makani, Salim's victory is a call to arms against the renegade spymaster Gurvon Gyle. For Queen Cera Nesti of Javon, it is a beacon as she seeks new ways to overthrow her husband, the usurper king, and reclaim Javon for her brother. For Ramon Sensini, trapped behind enemy lines with the shattered remnants of the Southern Army, it is more evidence of a world gone mad.

And while the armies of east and west clash in ever-more-bloody conflict, emperors, Inquisitors, Souldrinkers and assassins all have their attention turned elsewhere as they hunt the Scytale of Corineus. This artefact is the key to ultimate power, and it's in the hands of the most unlikely of guardians: failed mage Alaron Mercer and market-girl Ramita Ankesharan, pregnant widow of the world's greatest mage. What they choose to do with the Scytale could change the world forever.

Unholy War Details

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From Reader Review Unholy War for online ebook

Matias says

Desde hace un mes que estoy leyendo esta asombrosa saga, y desde hace un mes me estoy preguntando lo siguiente:

¿Por qué estos libros no son más populares y por qué no está todo el mundo leyendolos?

Una mezcla perfecta entre Brandon Sanderson y George R. R. Martin. Con un worldbuilding y sistema de magia digno de Brandon y acción, política, sorpresas y múltiples puntos de vista que mucho me hicieron acordar a Martin, The Moontide Quartet es una saga alucinante. Como toda épica hay que invertir unas 100 hojas aproximadamente en conocer a todos los personajes (que no se acercan a ser tantos como en Game of Thrones), pero lo vale. Lo vale absolutamente.

Al TBR no. Directo a la Kindle. Haganme caso!

Liviu says

huge expectations as Scarlet Tides was my top sff of last year and Unholy war delivered and more so it will be another top 5 of the year; same structure with multiple pov's, lots of turns and twists, pairings and splits and an ending at a good stopping point though one wants more asap

if time/energy allows a more comprehensive review will follow, though I will note that if you loved Scarlet Tides, you will love this as the action continues directly and with the same pov's/locations to start with, though of course as the story continues things keep changing

until then my review of Scarlet Tides will give you a good idea about what to expect:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Readerx11 says

5 stars because I simply could not lay this book aside.

Tension is very high, although it is not as action packed as the second book.

The most characters are just amiable, their development is comprehensible (with exemptions - see below). **It were the characters and the well thought-out magical world that kept me addicted to this book.**

However there are some things that keep this novel and this series from being really great:

The events and developments, especially political intrigues, are too foreseeable.

(view spoiler)

The 'evil' POV characters are not well explained or developed. (view spoiler)

Kazim's development is a bit too plain (view spoiler)

Some characters actions are just nonsense. (view spoiler)

The imperial financial system is not realistic. (view spoiler)

There are too many ends left loose. (view spoiler)
To me it screams for a prequel saga.

(hide spoiler)] (hide spoiler)]

Jawad Khan says

I don't really like writing reviews since iam usually very sad when i finish a book but this book was so intense *_* I had to write something about it. In short much better and in some ways also a lot more frustrating then the last 2 books. We see many characters go through a character development phase but at the end of it all i feel that too much relationship angst was present and i mean too much for a fantasy of this caliber.

As for the story it was excellent at-least for me, though knowing that their was gonna be a 4th book after this made reaching the end much more harder. The pacing is almost consistent throughout though things really only pick up near the end with many twisting and gut wrenching moments the last 200 pages were really really well written and the amount of emotion they had in them was just....

As for the characters i will not go into their stories but everyone was well managed some might be put off by cymbealla's story but at the end of it all i thought the author did what was right. Oddly enough Alaron remains almost sidelined from the war throughout the story almost till the very end, i thought he should have had more character development but i guess all is well that ends well.

So in totality i did really enjoy it, their were some pacing problems and a very stockholm syndromish situation which irritated me a lot but author rose to the challenge and finished that arc with flying colors. Thoroughly recommended, read it as fast as you can.

Nervis Wreck says

Let me begin by saying that I thoroughly enjoyed the first two books of this series, and I waited anxiously for this book to come out. However I find myself begging for this novel to come to an end. My suspension of disbelief can only be stretched so far, and this book has far exceeded what even I, an avid fantasy reader, is capable of.

The incomprehensible amount of coincidence and luck that both Elena and Kazim have been gifted throughout this book feels like extremely lazy and lackluster writing to me. From one battle to the next they are portrayed with far more power and skill than either should have, which allows them to escape from more than 3 different scenarios which should have seen them easily dead. I am aware that Kazim has ascendant level power. However to make such a big deal over him having trained for MONTHS with swords, when he is going up against men who have dedicated their LIVES to sword play is just plain silly (especially when during the periods when he has no access to magic). Then to make his raw magical power seem to matter so much against men who have studied their affinities for years, while at the exact same time contradicting that by showing Elena who does not have the raw power, but is capable of taking out those far more powerful because of her dedication to her affinities, is hypocritical and utterly unbelievable in it's entirety.

I find myself sorely disappointed in the decision to put main characters in such peril and then refuse to see it through simply because the writer is too attached to them. If you cannot bear to part with the character stop putting them in those situations. Do not ask us as readers to simply buy into outlandish acts of coincidence and luck that no other character in the series, just ask Cera Nesti or Justina Meiros, finds themselves privy to.

Kaitlin says

I'm giving this one a 4.5*s which means I absolutely loved this book, but it wasn't quite on par with the previous one in the series (which I adored). We pick up the story of this book just after the ending of the previous (which was a pretty dramatic ending) and we're following a host of wonderful characters once again.

I will not say much about the plot as this is the third book in the series, but I will say that this book is truly the most character-focused of them so far with heavy emphasis on relationships, magic, bonds and the general characters. I found that the plot of this book moved a lot slower than the previous two, but this was largely due to the fact that we're focusing in on some of the slower, more intense moments.

During this book we see the formation of many different romantic and friendship-based relationships. Some of which are healthy and wonderful, some are tragic, some are unhealthy and some unusual. I loved the vast variety of relationship types that David Hair was able to achieve in one story so convincingly because we not only have straight/lesbian/gay relationships, we also get older and younger, loving and hating, and pregnancy and abortion all covered as topics. Some of these are so well discussed that they truly got me thinking about my own feelings on some of these topics, and I loved that.

The plot in this book is still ongoing, despite my saying it is slower. We still have the drama of the moontide to contend with and the atmosphere of the world and politics of the world is all starting to come to the forefront with many shifts in power and a tumultuous society. I love seeing the various ways that characters are manipulated or being manipulative, and I also feel like you get to see inside both the 'good' and 'bad' character's minds so you can understand them all.

We had a few minor characters who certainly shone alongside the major ones for me in this book,

particularly the character of Coin, a conflicted, troubled and ultimately damaged child. We also see Malevorn, Hyuria and Seth start to come into their own and become much more major characters with some big events ahead of them.

We also get a lot more development on the magic in this book with new magic ideas being introduced and new phenomenon discovered. I have to say that I really do think David Hair has a marvellous imagination and the way that this world comes together and works is truly astonishing and exciting to me at times!

On the whole I still adored this book and I cannot wait to move onto the final one in the quartet and hopefully adore that one too. A wonderful 4.5*s overall :)

Aristea says

Quite impressive continuation of the series. It just lost a bit of momentum (in pretty much all the story lines) in the second half to regain it at the end.

Still interesting characters, good twists and turns. I am hoping that the last book will be impressive!

Elizabeth Fantham says

OMG you just never know what is actually going to happen! What you think will, just doesn't!

Can't wait to read the next one! Waiting for the audio version if I can actually wait!

Alexander Klaver says

I thoroughly enjoyed this third installment in the series. In fact I think its the best book in the series yet. Indeed the ending battle and developments are a roller-coaster of emotion. The political intrigue is well done, the magic system is just plain awesome, and the cliffhangers at the end are just excruciating. Please release the next book tomorrow.

The only gripe I have with this one is that there are so many love scenes/ couple developments. Like another reviewer mentioned it is somewhat unusual for this genre. I do enjoy them to a large extent but my personal preference does lean more towards the politics, character growth and great army and magic battles. My personal favorite Alaron is turning into a real Rockstar.

Thank you Mr. Hair for an excellent series.

Evgeni Kirilov says

I don't think the series is going to click for me... I didn't like how many of the women were written in this book (some even felt like a step backwards), and I know that I didn't like how virtually every time a viewpoint character spent an extended amount of time with somebody from the opposite sex, they had sex. With most of those resulting in pregnancy. With most of those resulting in gnostic manifestation. On top of

all this, I felt that many of the characters didn't use skills they were verified to have (telepathy is a big one here) when using them would've made their conflict much easier to resolve. Nobody likes stupid and/or incompetent characters.

Scott Hitchcock says

3.75*.

Another good edition of this series. I would put it on par with book one but not as good as book two. A lot of good twists and blurred lines of loyalty did keep it interesting. The historical fiction aspects drawn from the crusades continues to have me googling things I've half forgotten as a history buff. Personal avarice hidden behind religious overtones and duty with a multi-continent backdrop coupled with political maneuvering.

Cristal Punnett says

4.5 * I think I enjoyed this one one best out of the series so far, it all ended on such a cliffhanger, hope to start the last in the series soon.

Nathan says

Fantasy Review Barn

Three books into a war spanning two continents- where the hell are you?

For reasons I can't figure out David Hair's epic series is flying somewhat under the radar. The Moontide Quartet has everything I am looking for when I want a truly epic feel and Unholy War is a very worthy continuation of a good thing. After a strong but uneven opening book the last two books have been very consistent; lots of action, smart political plays, and a few surprises no matter how vigilantly one watches the text.

I continue to be impressed by the way Hair takes some very familiar, almost trite, ideas and spins them in a new way. Not in a trope bending fashion, that doesn't really explain it. He built a fantasy version of the crusades, hardly an original through in fantasy. But Hair refused to take the easy route and make things as simple as Us vs Them, Black vs White, or dare I say, Christian vs Muslim. No single culture monoliths are present; even within groups are being forced by circumstance to fight alongside each other divisions work deep.

Made even better by scattering the point of view characters all over the map; there is no right side to this conflict for a reader to gradually start rooting for. Perhaps a reader's cultural biases may have them thinking one side or the other is showing backward thinking but the narration itself is completely neutral. And if one 'culture' shows you it's worse side in one chapter then be assured a chapter soon after will have you realizing they represent only a fraction of that sides actually beliefs.

So if there isn't a correct side to root for where is the reader's emotional involvement to come from? The characters of course. Some to root for, some to root against, and some that you just can't help to follow even

if you are not quite sure how you feel about them. Even characters of whose chapters I wanted to skip in earlier books are must read at this point; a major thing in the series favor is there is no POV that is noticeably weaker than the others. Gyle, spy and wannabe puppet master is by far my favorite to read about; not a nice man but always involved.

This is a middle book in a four part series and as such spends a lot of time moving its pieces around. Almost everyone is on the move; some lags occur during the travel times. If there was anything that annoyed me it was the insane rate that our major characters started 'hooking up.' Perhaps I am over stating it but three or four of our major characters found another major character to ease the journey a bit (wink, wink, nudge nudge). Basically if you found a male and a female together for more than a chapter expect a sex scene (got tired of winking, subtlety is not really my thing).

Epic fantasy is not dying my friends, it is just moving in new directions. Here is a book (not the only book but a great example) that proves that fantasy can have a basis in medieval ideas and still remember to give a role to women and non-white cultures. And yes it still has cultural oppression, racial biases, and hellish situations for the downtrodden. But it also has signs of growth, diversity, and people of all walks carrying their own agency.

This was a book that needs all eight hundred pages to follow its multiple viewpoints. There is some foreshadowing that is hard to ignore; I would be shocked if a few story lines don't end up exactly as I envision. But there are so many moving pieces that guessing the whole story is proving to be impossible; and if the final book proves me wrong on the threads I think I have then so much the better.

4 Stars

Copy for review provided by Jo Fletcher Books.

Chernz says

Had to DNF this one.

Series has been so hit and miss for me but this one feels like the biggest swing and a miss of them all and with limited time and way too many books I gotta cut my losses. I know I'm in the majority here but I started losing my shit with repeated descriptions of all the masculine males around, how LEONINE they are, how their physiques are INCREDIBLE, how two of the main female leads just want to fuck their respective love interests for the first 250 pages.

Not a prude here by any means but this whole thing smacks of fan service.

Book 2 literally ended with Cym's sworn vengeance against the souldrinker who killed her mother and less than a THIRD of the way through book 3, her and the very same souldrinker are getting it on based on some contrived plot points that feel forced into my brain at gunpoint.

This has some truly awful and rushed character development. How you RUSH character development in a series that totals over 2,800 pages I don't know but Hair manages it.

(And to top the whole thing off, the final straw here, the typos are just as bad as they were in Mage's Blood. I've never done this but I actually started keeping a list of where and when they crop up and they aren't minor! Sometimes whole words are missing from sentences, like:

"But it too dry to speak" (missing 'was') - pg 115

"and she far more at ease" (missing 'was') - pg 201

"thin ginger cut close to her scalp" (missing hair)- pg 97

The list continues but I've stopped this ride. I'm glad to be off.)

Mark Halse says

An excellent read! I would say that this one is the best in the series so far.

There are a bunch of things that irk me about this series: unoriginal world building and races, and far, far, far too many POVS (I'm thinking of you Milda) but everything finally comes together in this installment. The POVs (for the most part) pair off, lightening the mental load and plot points start to spark.

This series is a bit of a slow burn but I believe it's worth a read... except for Milda. There are way over ten POVs, my friend. I know your limit is five.

Recommended.
