



# Things Unseen

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History student Aria Forsyth's studies lead her to dangerous questions about the Empire's origins. A mysterious man named Owen, impervious to the winter cold, further unravels the safety of the world she thought she knew. At first, Aria believes Owen is human. He says he's not. What if they're both wrong? A moment's compassion draws her into a conflict between human and inhuman, natural and supernatural, and she begins to discover the secrets of the Empire, the Fae, and what it means to be human.

## Things Unseen Details

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Author : C.J. Brightley

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## From Reader Review Things Unseen for online ebook

### Janka H. says

YA about the two worlds colliding - the world of regime country suppressing the free thinking and the mythological world of long-forgotten fairies. And the girl in the centre of it.

Aria doesn't know what is so interesting about the guy. She should work on her thesis, shouldn't she? But she follows him, and this encounter is the start of her awakening to well-hidden reality of her world, where people are controlled by government as in some kind of Matrix and where the said government is guilty of much worse things, like cruelty to its own citizens and another humanoids - like Fae. Fae are more known like fairies, but the stories about them are not true, explains Owen, or - lord Owen, the leader of Fae. In unity with human resistance, Owen and Aria ally to free the captured Faes, tortured and subjected to "research". But who is Petro, the uncertain figure, gifted by enormous power, and why is Aria able to communicate with him freely? She might have a drop of Fae blood in her, but she might be even more...

I love YA. But I don't love this book. I mean: the idea is interesting - the hidden race with morals different from ours, the fight for what is right, the idealism, the beginning of love. But the execution is sloppy, I must say. I have never seen the government so lazy and inefficient to rule a cruel regime! And they are even not entirely evil - even the big baddie is not entirely bad, just mistakenly believing in the wrong ideology! I see where the author is coming from (as there are very slight Christian undertones in the book and the novel is apparently focused to explore the fact of free will and implications of the choice), but if you want to fight something, it should be worth the fight.

The plot is prolonged, too - the swift editing might make wonders.

And the characters should be more than just black and white figures, they are missing some personality and flair. And personal shortcomings. O like my characters raw, human, making mistakes and learning from them to be better persons, Fae or anything :)

But still - I don't love the book, but I don't dislike it. It has its amounts of shortfall, but there is certain sweetness and freshness in it.

It is also a clean read, which I like - poor YA is so often just an erotica for teenagers in disguise, so it is lovely to find a book what is not that.

I hope that the author would go deeper in the following novels in the series. I believe this would improve its quite lovely idea tremendously!

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### Kirsten says

What a great story I loved every page of it. Everyone should check it out because it had a little bit of everything in it Post-Apocalyptic, Horror, magic, and a little bit of a love story all wrapped in one. It is also well written with characters that seem to jump out of the page.

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### Laura Meyerovich says

A fast-paced book that kept me turning pages till after midnight. Absolutely worth reading. The world that C.J. Brightley has built seamlessly combines reality with fantasy, is populated with human and fantasy

characters, and plugged with problems with which we all can connect.

The very first pages put the reader in the middle of a conflict that will start the heroine on a journey where she and those around her will risk their lives, meet others, human and not so human, and find out things that will force them to question their core beliefs.

Additional fun for the history lovers: same as in Game of Thrones, try to figure out historical parallels.

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### **Nicholas Kotar says**

I never expected to like this. Totally not my thing, with something like vampires in a dystopian urban fantasy setting.

But it's a lot more than that. I loved the characters, even if some of their motivations strain credulity sometimes. The interactions are good, and by about 1/3 into it, I wanted to see how things turned out (always a good thing, especially with my recent book burnout). The Fae in this book are convincing and interesting in their otherness.

There were a few issues though.

In the very beginning, the actions of the main character don't seem to make much sense. She's meant to be impulsive, ok, but what she does (repeatedly) is more than a little nuts. I think there's probably a good reason for it, but it's hidden in future volumes. I'm ok with that, but it might drive some readers crazy.

The ending is open-ended, which is fine. But there might be a bit of a bait and switch going on, which I don't appreciate. Book 2 is very different from book 1. I won't say any more, because it's not the review for book 2, but caveat emptor.

Still, despite those issues I really enjoyed the story and would recommend it.

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### **Kyra Halland says**

4.5 stars. Gripping urban fantasy set in a chilling future dystopia. Aria is a history student with a little more curiosity than is good for her; she stumbles into the hidden world of the Fae, who are horribly persecuted under the new government, and the human resistance. Well-written, though there are a few slow spots and some of Aria's initial choices seem incredibly reckless and impulsive. I really enjoyed the Fae, who seem human but are very much not, and Aria's developing relationships with them. The book is a wonderful example of good if flawed characters trying to do the right thing in impossible circumstances.

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### **Pam Siloti says**

Very enjoyable, she left enough mystery to spur me to read until 3 a.m., finish with regret, and pop over to

Amazon for book 2, ( yet to be released)

Immediately purchased on Amazon for a friend, sent it to her kindle with directions to "drop and read" she did,,,her response? Loved it!!!! Followed by,,, you got me in a series that is just starting,,,now I actually have to wait for them to be written!

Super enjoyable,,,put on my recommendations list :)

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### **Suebee Ransom says**

I was so impressed by this book! A fantasy world set in some reality that was recognizable and felt personal. It captivated me from the beginning. The world it introduced felt so real and well-developed, with many twists and turns that were as unexpected as they were fascinating! Soooooo many questions, I have to read more! So satisfying as a story, with compelling characters that drew me to them. Kudos!! I have already ordered the next 2 - MUST know more! :-D

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### **Caanan Tully says**

Such a page-turner! Great story with so many questions. I can't wait until the next book!

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### **Becky says**

#### **Very interesting**

I really enjoyed this book. Haven't read anything in the "Fae" area. The characters were very interesting and I really began to feel them. I definitely want to learn more about El and the other's relationship with Him. I would like to get a little more description on how each character looks physically. Going to buy the next one right now!

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### **Scott Hume says**

An interesting read that succeeds in creating a robust world without sacrificing pace or story. C. J. Brightley is able to tell a keep the readers interest while gradually revealing more details about the world she has created.

The story is set in a dystopian society where history has been replaced by propaganda. Aria is a history grad student whose curiosity and passion for the truth draws her into conflict with the established academia. It also draws her to Owen and into a greater world she never knew existed as she begins to learn the truth about the revolution, the Fae and herself.

I strongly recommend this book for readers looking for a quick and enthralling novel.

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## **Courtney says**

With the trend in YA Fantasies shifting in a direction that isn't my taste, *Things Unseen* was a life saver. It's pretty different from some of the fantasies I've been reading. It's refreshing. Opening it up I wasn't sure what to expect being told that it was a Christian Fantasy. Being brought up with a super religious grandmother I was prepared for reading about Jesus at some point, yet I didn't really come across anything religious throughout the novel except for the mentions of bibles. Unless I missed something (I wasn't really looking for themes and symbols so I probably missed it). Nonetheless, that isn't what should be important about this book. What is important is how much action and suspense there was that made every single moment of this book interesting. I'm willing to push aside the fact the first chapter was kind of hurried and choppy because the interest and suspense of the first chapter just pulled me in. It was good compensation.

The use of sensory imagery in this book was also splendid. I was able to feel what characters felt and see what characters saw (granted I live close to where this book takes place so I suppose it was easier to imagine the landscape). The ability to relate to characters was also a good move. It helped me a lot with falling in love with them faster, being able to relate with feelings, and especially Aria's thought process.

Also, brownie points for this interpretation of the Fae. It frustrates me especially with letting people read excerpts from my books, especially the ones that include one of the main supporting characters who is a Faerie and they interpret him like he's Tinker Bell and I'm just like "No????? ?? ? ? ?" I guess it's just a bias. I don't think of Fae as in wee little ones who just throw around magic and fairy dust. I think of Fae as tall and strong wielders of magic who can still resemble humans with diversity. I guess I just agree with this interpretation... Still, kudos.

And the way the magic is written. It's just. Ugh. So awesome.

The plot was really interesting and the interaction with the characters kept me from putting it down. I blew through this book in about a week. The love story that slowly develops is also well-written and not overpowering to the main plot. Aria's infatuation with the love interest is so adorable and it doesn't take up her whole entire thought process yet it's so sweet how the love shapes her actions and the care for his people. I can't wait to see what becomes of it in the second book.

Overall, it was very inspiring and it makes me want to push through writing my novels faster.

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## **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Things Unseen (A Long-Forgotten Song #1) by C.J. Brightley is a dark world where humans are controlled by the government but don't know it. There are Fae, and other creatures of the night, and one girl finds one fae man injured and becomes involved in something far greater than she ever thought possible. It is a dark fantasy that is exciting, full of emotion, suspense, and very captivating. I loved it! I have to save up to get the next book because it is not on KU. ugh!

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## **Elizabeth Maddrey says**

this a fantastic urban fantasy/near future dystopian novel that will have you ignoring your work to read just one more page.

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## **Christopher D'Amico says**

Completely unlike Brightley's "Erdemen Honor" series, Things Unseen is set in a dystopian Earth-as-it-might-be. It centers around Aria, a graduate student of history that somehow can't complete her thesis without locking horns with her professors and the current powers-that-be, who deem questioning their authority to be punishable by failure. But Aria somehow can't simply kowtow for the easy A--her curiosity just won't allow it. So as she agonizes over her research in her favorite bookstore, she sees a rather strange fellow having words with the store owner. Who is this mysterious figure? And why is he barefoot in the beginnings of winter?

With an interesting cast of characters and an equally fascinating plot that had me constantly wanting to turn pages to find out "why?". Although there are fantastical elements with the story--the 'magic' system is quite unique, too--they are subtle enough to play second-fiddle (pun on the title intended) to the plot such that the characters' pathos is almost tangible. Though the book ends on a cliffhanger, I see no reason not to look forward to book two, and...the rest of the story!

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## **Joshua Clanton says**

### **An intriguing urban fantasy**

It has been a long time since I've read a fantasy novel in which the magical element seems legitimately alien and marvelous. But this book has it, and I'm looking forward to reading the next in the series.

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