

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. Scattered throughout the network are small, faint white dots.

The Unspoken Name

Written by A.K. Larkwood

Published by PDF Site

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The Unspoken Name

The Unspoken Name

By A.K. Larkwood

The Unspoken Name Review

What if you knew how and when you will die?

The Unspoken Name

The Unspoken Name Epub

Corwe does " she will climb the mountain, enter the Shrine of the Unspoken, and gain the most honored title: sacrifice.

The Unspoken Name

The Unspoken Name Pdf

But on the day of her foretold death, a powerful mage offers her a new fate. Leave with him, and live. Turn away from her destiny and her god to become a thief, a spy, an assassin—the wizard's loyal sword. Topple an empire, and help him reclaim his seat of power.

The Unspoken Name Amazon

But Csorwe will soon learn “gods remember, and if you live long enough, all debts come due.

find this review & others on my blog

The premise of queer orc assassins and magical intrigue had me clamoring to read the Unspoken Name, but the novels offerings left me unmoved, and about a quarter through the story, that initial cheeriness fell from my face, like a person slipping into sleep. Once my mind started to meander and the boredom glazed my eyes and I had to squint the words into focus, every page feeling like a heavy stone lifted with terrible effort and dropped again and

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The premise of “queer orc assassins and magical intrigue” had me clamoring to read “the Unspoken Name”, but the novel’s offerings left me unmoved, and about a quarter through the story, that initial cheeriness fell from my face, like a person slipping into sleep. Once my mind started to meander and the boredom glazed my eyes and I had to squint the words into focus, every page feeling like a heavy stone lifted with terrible effort and dropped again and again to the ground, I knew I had to call it a DNF (at 67%).

Structurally, The Unspoken Name is not necessarily a total success. The novel is packed to the brim with world-building, much of it is very chewy “with a few random elements winding up being huge red herrings” but little of it is actually convincing. I struggled with the opening sections, where much happens, and little is explained, but I resolved to wait patiently for the relief of having my questions answered.

That relief never really came. The novel pulls itself in too many directions at once. The plot unfolds in fits and starts, and we rocket from one destination to the next, with no time to breathe and fully contemplate a new facet of the world. There’s a substantial amount of logistical hand-waving too, and several time jumps configured so haphazardly throughout that it felt like half of the book’s action took place out of sight. This approach might be expedient for the plot, but it feels too easy, too convenient, leaving gaps too wide to be darned, and making all that has unfolded devoid of a clear rhyme and reason.

This inconsistency is made more complicated by the introduction of new characters, and a sense that the author has bitten off a little more than the story can chew. Though their inclusion eventually makes sense, it feels somewhat... holey in the storytelling department early on.

I struggle to remember any distinctive trait about the characters, like meeting someone before and mutually agreeing to forget about it. Csorwe clearly gasps for more oxygen on the page “more often than not, she comes off as silent and drab, set apart from the violence of her emotions, like the whole

The Unspoken Name

story could have happened without her. There is a divide between a before and an after, a line drawn through Csorwe's life. The before: the Unspoken Name hanging over her, bright and sharp as a sword, aimed at her tearing flesh, and Csorwe readying herself to die in the shrine of her patron god, with nothing of her own. The after: an exiled wizard named Sethennai, and a purpose: to help him find the Reliquary of Pentravesse. Csorwe's life, like a door, closed, and another opened elsewhere. But this new door seemed to only lead her to a another world where she, once again, hung on by a single filament of purpose that wasn't her own. And while I hold no particular fondness for Sethennai, his motivations at least are not unexplainable. They are aggravatingly practical—driven by greed, and magnified by a desire to impress his significance upon the world. But Csorwe's actions never attain the same moral stakes, and the novel's ethics ultimately feel confused.

The novel's biggest flaw, however—and what really kicked me out of its pages—is that the flow of the story is freighted with a distant, impassive kind of writing that I really did not care for. Alone, this would not have been a deal-breaking quibble, but it just added to the overall impression that “The Unspoken Name” was lacking. Even the potential of a sapphic romance couldn't keep the book in my good graces, and if you know me, you'll know there's not much I can't forgive for the promise of sapphic content.

I rarely ever not finish a book. Something about exiting stories, while unfinished, nags at me like an itch that needs to be scratched. But I needn't worry about “The Unspoken Name”, because the story quickly evaporated, like dew from a morning leaf.

â~† ko-fi â~... blog â~† twitter â~... tumblr â~† ...more

The Unspoken Name

The Unspoken Name Epub Download

ARC provided by the publisher Tor UK in exchange for an honest review.

4.5/5 stars

The Unspoken Name is a terrifically-written debut that merged science fiction, space-opera, and high fantasy into one inventive book that's incredibly suitable for SFF enthusiasts.

One look into the striking cover art by Billelis, and I already wanted to speak about this book. My urge to read this book increased when both Nicholas Eames the author behind The Band series and Dyrk Ashton the author behind Paternus trilogy ARC provided by the publisher "Tor UK" in exchange for an honest review.

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One look into the striking cover art by Billelis, and I already wanted to speak about this book. My urge to read this book increased when both Nicholas Eames "the author behind The Band series" and Dyrk Ashton "the author behind Paternus trilogy" recommended the book to me. Then I found out that Lindsey Hall, the editor behind two books "Kings of the Wyld and the upcoming The Bard's Blade by Brian D. Anderson" I truly loved edited this book too, suffice to say that The Unspoken Name has attained all the package that made it a necessity for me to read; I'm glad I did.

"Csorwe had spent a lifetime readying herself to die, not to talk to strangers."

The Unspoken Name, the first book in The Serpent's Gate series by A. K. Larkwood, follows Csorwe "an orc priestess destined to become a sacrifice to her god on her fourteenth birthday. On the day of her prophesied death, Belthandros Sethennai "a powerful wizard" offers her a new fate that compels her to escape death by leaving her home, destiny, god, and become Sethennai's personal assassin instead. The main plot of The Unspoken Name centers around Csorwe as she's tasked by Sethennai to retrieve the Reliquary of Pentraverse; anyone who claims the Reliquary will gain the legacy and knowledge of Pentraverse "someone who changed all worlds forever. Jumping through multiple worlds with a strong echo of chaos and destruction accompanied by landscapes that are also beautiful, Csorwe has to go through tons of dangers to achieve this task; many events happened in less than 500 pages book. However, what I found to be very praise-worthy about the story was that in the midst of all the mayhem, The Unspoken Name is at its core a book about choices and its importance.

"People were like locks. All resistance, until you discovered the precise information of teeth that

The Unspoken Name

would open them up.â€•

â€œYou always have a choice,â€• have you ever heard this often-repeated phrases/advice straight to your face? You probably have, and youâ€™ll most likely know just how simple it sounds and yet how insanely difficult it can be to execute. What if for a period of time, short or long, youâ€™re caught in a toxic situation/environment that you didnâ€™t recognize at first? By the time you do, the actual task of breaking the invisible chains can be harder than it sounds. Freedom and choicesâ€™ among many other themes such as faith, loyalty, and loveâ€™ were the most relatable themes throughout the book for me; Csorweâ€™s journey and character development ignited and gave an impactful meaning to the themes in this book. I wouldnâ€™t say that I clicked with Csorwe immediately, but once the story reached a quarter mark and eventually she meets Shuthmili, I became captivated thoroughly by Larkwoodâ€™s storytelling. The Unspoken Name doesnâ€™t have a large cast of characters relatively, but the dynamic between the five dominating charactersâ€™ Csorwe, Sethennai, Oranna, Tal, and Shuthmiliâ€™ was very compelling. Also, I loved reading Csorwe and Shuthmiliâ€™s endearing and gradual relationship development; their relationship progression was believable and easy to root for.

â€œCsorwe, before I met you, my idea of happiness was, I donâ€™t know, going to bed early.â€•

From my reading experience, the most impressive thing about Larkwoodâ€™s prose is her capability to constantly shift her writing style between elegant utterance and bloody scenery; it didnâ€™t feel like reading a debut effort. Also, The Unspoken Name is an imaginative book with a very fascinating world-building. Seriously, it has multiple worlds to travel, ancient tombs, terrifying giant serpents, spaceships, magic, giants, and intimidating presence of dead gods. Gorgeous landscapes described beautifully and efficiently; Larkwood never went overboard with her scenery visualizations. In a way, this book reminded me a bit of the world-building done in Gideon The Ninth by Tamsyn Muir; telling a high fantasy story in a sci-fi/space-opera setting. Heck, comparison-wise, it even featured a swordswoman and queer duo as the main characters.

â€œThe secret to greatness is to know when you should risk the wrath of god.â€•

I believe that The Unspoken Name is, ironically, the title of an incredible genre-blending debut that should and will be spoken by its readers in the future. I highly recommend it to both sci-fi and fantasy readers, even more so if youâ€™re a fan of both genres. Itâ€™s creative, greatly imaginative, not afraid to be different, filled with intense rescue sequences, and it gave a breathtaking lotus-scented fresh air to the genre. Larkwood tells a compelling tale about choices and braving the first step to pave your own way, and you should choose to read this book as soon as itâ€™s available to read.

Official release date: 20th February 2020 (UK) and 11th February 2020 (US)

You can pre-order the book from: [Amazon UK](#) | [Amazon US](#) | [Book Depository](#) (Free shipping)

The quotes in this review were taken from an ARC and are subject to change upon publication.

The Unspoken Name

You can find this and the rest of my reviews at Novel Notions ...more

me, screaming: I will go down with this friend ship

Where has this queer high fantasy book been all my life? Kai is shooketh.

I wish I knew where to start. There are so many aspects of this book that filled me with pure joy: frenemies, world building, characters, twists, diversity. No hard feelings!!! Ugh.

I'm going to start with the one thing that could have been improved: the pacing. Overall, this is a finely plotted story. It spans over 8 to 9 years and I think it wouldn't have hurt to stretch me, screaming: I will go down with this friend ship

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I'm going to start with the one thing that could have been improved: the pacing. Overall, this is a finely plotted story. It spans over 8 to 9 years and I think it wouldn't have hurt to stretch the story more, give it a little to breathe for the characters to evolve, grow. I felt this especially in the beginning, when we see Csorwe turn from a quiet, nondescript girl into a warrior and spy. I see how the time jumps were necessary to let the author tell the story she wanted to tell, but another 50 pages or so might have given it more depth.

Now that we got the unpleasant things out of the way, hear me gush about all the great stuff:

I cannot believe how, in a matter of chapters, A.K. Larkwood created a fictional universe so rich and original. A universe in which thriving and dying worlds lie side by side, connected through a labyrinthine structure called the Maze. The universe is populated by all kinds of different people who seems to live peacefully side by side, for the most part. They all have their own history, traditions, social and political systems, and beliefs. And while they clearly look different and come from various backgrounds, their differences don't lead them to hate and fight each other. This is not to say that they all run around holding hands and loving life, but at least their outer appearance and faith don't serve as an excuse to disrespect and exploit each other. Overall, the attention to detail and the societies, cities, realms that the author built are utterly fascinating and I'm so glad that this isn't a standalone. I couldn't live knowing that there remains so much left to discover.

The characters were a joy. Csorwe reminds me of Harry Potter in the way the she is more or less an average person. No shade. She is balanced, doesn't necessarily lean towards extremes, and therein lies her strength; it makes her relatable. She is a character with fears, dreams and hopes like anyone else. She's also pretty queer, like most - if not all - characters in the book. It's also great to see that no

The Unspoken Name

character experiences discrimination because of their sexual orientation. It's never once questioned. Because in a perfect world, why would anyone think of you as lesser just because you don't care about what gender you fall in love with?

Something else that I found striking was how there is no main antagonist. This is not to say that Csorwe doesn't have enemies. She has lots of those. But alliances change a lot based on whether people have similar goals and decide to work together even though they might have been on different sides before. It's refreshing and creates unexpected turns and entertaining character dynamics.

One more thing about the characters: Usually I live for queer ships. But what almost drove me nuts was the friendship/hateship between Csorwe and Tal. They both work for the same guy and should combine forces, work as a team. But they simply despise each other too much. At the same time they can't live without the other. Tal is a bastard, don't get me wrong, but I love him. And I want nothing more than for these two idiots to annoy the f*ck out of each other until the very end of this series. And I also want No hard feelings. to be what History, huh? was for Red, White & Royal Blue. If you don't know what I'm talking about, you better read RWRB quickly because you're missing out.

Suffice it to say that this was my high fantasy adventure of the year.

Find more of my books on Instagram [...more](#)

The Unspoken Name

The Unspoken Name Of God

4.5 STARS

"Unspoken and Unspeakable One, Knight of Abyss, Overseer of the Eaten Worlds, praise and reverence unto your Chosen Bride. May she intercede for us."

What an exceptional debut! The Unspoken Name is difficult to summarize; the story is an ambitious blend of epic high fantasy and space opera/science fiction, which will tickle the fancy of fans of both tremendously. From the very beginning, I got the vibe that this book would be the lovechild of the writing styles and world building of 4.5 STARS

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What an exceptional debut! The Unspoken Name is difficult to summarize; the story is an ambitious blend of epic high fantasy and space opera/science fiction, which will tickle the fancy of fans of both tremendously. From the very beginning, I got the vibe that this book would be the lovechild of the writing styles and world building of Brandon Sanderson and Ken Follett. How an author can take so many aspects of my favorite genres and include a storytelling format in league with the giants in the writing industry is beyond me, but Larkwood has done just that. There is a lot of story packed into just shy of 500 pages and it's very dark overall, but there is action and gore galore, while also including a steady balance of thought provoking thematic elements surrounding the choices we make and the outcomes that they produce. If you enjoy a new take on a familiar tale, please consider picking this one up. I enjoyed it so much that I'll be purchasing a finished hardcover for my personal collection!

"This is me, in two weeks' time. Here I am, walking up to the Shrine. This is the end. This is how it will feel at the end. Thy name shall be forsaken and thou shalt be my bride."

*Many thanks to the publisher for providing my review copy via NetGalley. ...more

It.

Is.

Done.

Phew. I feel so accomplished having completed this. Honestly, this is a fairly challenging read.

The Unspoken Name

Csorwe is a teenage girl who has been raised to be the sacrificial wife of the Unspoken One, an ancient god living within the earth.

Locked into a tomb on what is to be the day of her death, a mage appears and offers to rescue her and provide her with a new life.

She decides to accept his offer and flees with him. Over time she lives with him and trains to be his assassin.

She feels she owes it.

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She decides to accept his offer and flees with him. Over time she lives with him and trains to be his assassin.

She feels she owes him everything. She owes him her life and thus, is extremely loyal to him and his goals.

The mage, Belthandros Sethennai, is a very powerful man who is also on a mission. His aim is to regain control of the lands from which he was exiled.

In order to do so, he wants Csorwe, along with another young person in his employ, Tal, to seek and return to him the Reliquary of Pentravasse.

This Reliquary is said to hold immeasurable knowledge and the one able to capture that will increase their power to new heights.

...or something like that...

Okay, so, I will admit this was a little hard for me to grasp. I never felt like I truly understood the world.

For example, Csorwe, is an Orc, which I never really knew until I read a blurb of it in a bookish newsletter.

I knew there was something going on with her, as she is described as having tusks, but I thought maybe she was some sort of elephant human hybrid or something.

But even knowing she was an Orc, didn't really piece the rest of it together for me.

Were they all orcs? Were there humans? Were there all sorts of magical beings living together in harmony like in Middle Earth?

I genuinely don't know. If you know, comment down below.

I am also of the opinion that this was entirely too long. There were two distinct portions of the book, or quests if you will.

There is a quest for an object. Once that point is resolved, you think, it could be over. This is it.

But no, it is not. Characters are separated, there's still a baddie out and about, it would have been a great place to leave off prior to a second book.

Then there is a completely new quest to find a particular person.

The Unspoken Name

Again, I feel like that could have made a great second book. If it had been broken up that way, I think the world could have been built out more and perhaps the author would have more time to really focus on that instead of trying to cram it all into one.

Overall, this was a mixed bag for me. I felt the pacing was off.

There were moments when I was really into it and then a few pages later, I would be bored, and back and forth it went until the end.

It did have moments of greatness and I don't want anyone to think my minor critiques make this a bad book. It's a good book, I just feel the story could have been better served if formatted differently.

It also isn't an easy read. I did end up mentally exhausted after reading it for a half hour or so. I could have made it through more quickly if it didn't take me 8.5-minutes to pronounce each name.

My favorite part of this was the relationship between Csorwe, and a religious adept, Shuthmili. Their friendship-to-more was beautiful. I waited a long time to get to it, but it was worth it.

In short, although this wasn't perfect for me, it did have some strengths. If you can make it through the weaknesses, it is a pleasant, though entirely too long, read.

Thank you so much to the publisher, Tor, for providing me with a copy of this to read and review. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my opinion. ...more

The Unspoken Name

The Unspoken Name Excerpt

4.5 stars

Im definitely getting the audio to go with my hardback! This book took me by surprise! I had no idea it was going to be like this and I quite enjoyed it. I love Csorwe!

Mel [ðŸ–ªðŸ• ¶ðŸ• °ðŸ• ¾](#)

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Mel [ðŸ–ªðŸ• ¶ðŸ• °ðŸ• ¾](#) ...more

This Review [â€• Blog ðŸ–ª](#)– [Twitter ðŸ• ¶](#) | [Instagram ðŸ”](#).

Actual Rating: 2.5 stars

You frightened of ghosts? Whatever it is youre scared of in the dark, thats what you become.

The cover, the synopsis and early reviews all made me believe that I was going to read something very special! Unfortunately, I am not impressed by this debut. I wish I did but It was just acceptable for me!

I had 2 problems with the book, the writing which was too dense for me and affected all other things in the story and the [This Review â€• ¶](#)– [Blog ðŸ–ª](#)– [Twitter ðŸ• ¶](#) | [Instagram ðŸ”](#).

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The cover, the synopsis and early reviews all made me believe that I was going to read something very special! Unfortunately, I am not impressed by this debut. I wish I did but It was just acceptable for me!

I had 2 problems with the book, the writing which was too dense for me and affected all other things in the story and the characters who I could not care about and connect to. The writing reminded me of Tamsyn Muirâ€™s style and my thoughts on this are similar to those on Gideon the Ninth.

I was very confused as why do people have tusks and why are Orcs mentioned. I did not realize that the

The Unspoken Name

characters were orcs because nothing gave me that feeling except that they had tusks, they felt very humane and I was embarrassed when I realized the fact that they are not. I think writing a whole race is more than just physical description and tusks. The beginning of the book was good but then I did not relate to Csorwe or any other character. The pacing was weird too because we get so much at first and it was very fast but then it got slower -I was even bored- and then picks up toward the ending again.

•“The secret to greatness is to know when you should risk the wrath of god.”•

Summary: I don't have much to say about this book because I finished it but I can't really say that I could get into it! The writing and characters were not for me and the world-building was good but not enough to make me continue it. I am woefully not going to continue the series.

You can get more books from [Book Depository](#)

...more

The Unspoken Name Release Date

ARC received from the publisher, Tor UK, in exchange for an honest review.

3.5 stars.

The Unspoken Name is a commendable fantasy debut with fascinating worldbuilding ideas.

With so many fantasy debuts cropping up every year, it is not an easy task to differentiate oneself from the rest. In this respect, Larkwood has created an interesting setting that blended old-world god worship that bestows magic, and science fiction or technological elements such as skyships and a dimensional plane called the Maze of Echos through which these ships travel via portal gates. Technology aside, the setting still feel very much like most classic fantasy, mainly because of the prevalence of gods and magic.

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What I got out of The Unspoken Name is that it is a story about choices vs destiny. The main protagonist, Csorwe, is the prime example as she renounced her 'destiny' as the Bride of the Unspoken One by escaping from her sacrificial ceremony with Belthandros Sethannai, a powerful wizard. And henceforth became his personal aide and assassin. The same theme came up again when Csorwe met Shuthmili, a very powerful Adept who was believed to be able to channel a goddess thought long dead. Magic in this world is bestowed by the gods, and wielding it comes at a cost, and a possible consequence of losing oneself or burning out completely, if not careful. Shuthmili is both feared and valued for her powers. And what usually happens to a young talent? Trained and controlled for the good of her nation, of course.

As much as I commend Larkwood for her worldbuilding and consistent use of character theme, I didn't get much emotional resonance from the character work itself. Being unable to bring myself to care much about the characters, I felt detached from the story which affected my overall reading enjoyment. There are also aspects of the writing style which didn't sit well with me. For example, the dialogue came across as being more suited to a urban fantasy romp (even comedic at times), while other parts read very much like dark high fantasy.

The Unspoken Name

I do think that this is a good book, and a lot of the other reviews could attest to that (my co-bloggers loved it). Larkwood has produced a contemporary fantasy that has great ideas and solid plotting. The Unspoken Name is a debut that's worth checking out for modern fantasy readers.

You can purchase the book from: [Amazon UK](#) | [Amazon US](#) | [Book Depository \(Free shipping\)](#)

You can find this and my other reviews at [Novel Notions](#).

...more

dnf @ 50%

this had all the elements that I love but something about it just wasn't working for me and it felt like a chore to read

The Unspoken Name Audiobook

MY GOD THIS WAS GOOD.

I haven't read a new fantasy this exciting in a long time. Mostly, I think I fell in love because it was so different. I had no fkn clue what was going to happen.

Blurb keywords:

Death cult. Old magic. Sacrifice. Powerful mage. Spy. Assassin. Reclaim. All debts become due.

Honestly, how could you not be sold after that???

Csorwe is our protagonist and she's a total badass. She's also loyal AF to Sethennai, the mage who saved her life. (And if the names are scaring you, don't MY GOD THIS WAS GOOD.

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Csorwe is our protagonist and she's a total badass. She's also loyal AF to Sethennai, the mage who saved her life. (And if the names are scaring you, don't stress - there's a handy pronunciation guide in the front.) She's tough as nails and easy to root for and I really admired her loyalty. Her journey throughout the novel was fascinating.

Rather than one epic tale, this is more like a series of episodes, with goals constantly changing. It made the whole novel unpredictable which was fantastic and highly addictive. I enjoyed the fortress arc the best, but I do have a soft spot for snakes (so yes, the series name gets me a bit excited for what's to come). The landscape was constantly changing, and new characters being regularly introduced. But it was never overwhelming, and everything slotted into the story so nicely.

The writing style was an interesting mix of sparse and lyrical - it creates atmosphere so well, but then at times I found myself re-reading passages because it seemed actions had been skipped over. However it still manages to draw you in and it's easy to be absorbed.

The characters are often questionable and not so easy to love but they are coloured thoroughly which makes them rather interesting to observe. Sethennai absolutely fascinated me because he's not like any wizard/mage/magician character I've come across before. I really wanted to understand him more.

The Unspoken Name

This was such an original, dark, addictive fantasy adventure and I never stopped being amazed by how good it was. I'll be recommending this one to a lot of fantasy lovers this year, and definitely keen for the sequel!

With thanks to Macmillan for an ARC ...more

yo this sounds crazy, where do I sign up?