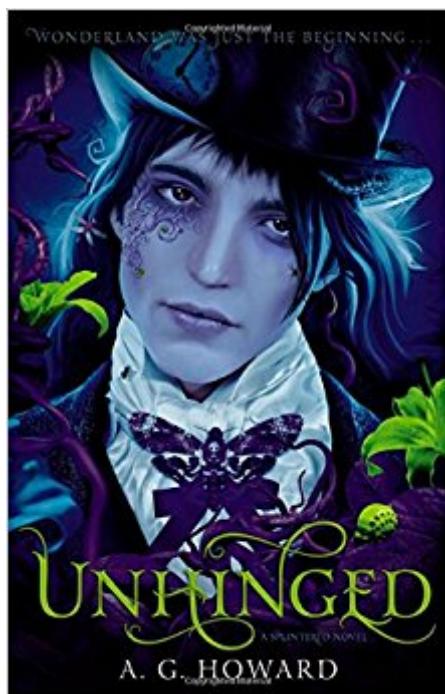


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# Unhinged (Splintered Series #2): Splintered Book Two



## 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 for 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? Readers will swoon over the satisfying return to Howard's bold, sensual reimagining of Carroll's classic. Read all the books in the New York Times bestselling Splintered series: Splintered (Book 1), Unhinged (Book 2), Ensnared (Book 3), and Untamed (The Companion Novel). Praise for Unhinged "I really enjoyed the first book of this series, but Unhinged cranks the Wonderland experience up to 11. It's just ... WOW! The last few scenes dangle Alyssa's next adventure with shockers enough that I found my jaw needing a bit of assistance in coming off the floor. Write quickly, A.G. Howard! I need that next book!" --USA Today "Howard excels in sensory and sensuous descriptions." --Kirkus Reviews "As intense, dark, and weird as the first volume, this worthy sequel creates a parallel narrative that brings the action out of Wonderland and into Alyssa's hometown." --The Bulletin of The Center for Children's Books "A dark beauty fills the novel's pages, which will mesmerize teens with a taste for magic, romance or suspense. Unhinged lays the groundwork for a third book where anything could happen--it is Wonderland, after all." --Shelf Awareness Praise for Splintered: STARRED REVIEW "Fans of dark fantasy, as well as of Carroll's Alice in all her revisionings (especially Tim Burton's), will find a lot to love in this compelling and imaginative novel." --Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Alyssa is one of the most unique protagonists I've come across in a while. Splintered is dark, twisted, entirely riveting, and a truly romantic tale." --USA Today "Brilliant, because it is ambitious, inventive, and often surprising -- a contemporary reworking of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, with a deep bow toward Tim Burton's 2010 film version." --The Boston Globe "It's a deft, complex metamorphosis of this children's fantasy made more enticing by competing romantic interests, a psychedelic setting, and more mad violence than its original." --Booklist "Protagonist Alyssa...is an original. Howard's visual imagination is superior. The story's

creepiness is intriguing as horror, and its hypnotic tone and setting, at the intersection of madness and creativity, should sweep readers down the rabbit hole." •Publishers Weekly "While readers will delight in such recognizable scenes as Alyssa drinking from a bottle to shrink, the richly detailed scenes that stray from the original will entice the imagination. These adventures are indeed wonderful." •BookPage "Attention to costume and setting render this a visually rich read..." •Kirkus Reviews "Wonderland is filled with much that is not as wonderful as might be expected, and yet, it is in Wonderland that Alyssa accepts her true nature. The cover with its swirling tendrils and insects surrounding Alyssa will surely attract teen readers who will not be disappointed with this magical, edgy tale." •Reading Today Online "Creepy, descriptive read with a generous dollop of romance." •School Library Journal

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 9 Up •The sequel to *Splintered* (Abrams, 2013) continues the adventures of Alyssa Gardner, a descendent of Alice Liddell, Lewis Carroll's inspiration for Alice and Wonderland, who has inherited her ancestor's connection to Wonderland, and her madness. Alyssa is back up from the rabbit hole but still not safe. Having made the decision to renounce her title as Queen of Wonderland to live in the human world with her boyfriend, Jeb, she is still enticed by the mysterious netherling Morpheus to return to the magical realm, or otherwise it will be destroyed. Much to Alyssa's horror, Morpheus manages to come to the human world and even enroll in her school. Fans will be pleased that Morpheus plays a more prominent role in this book, since he is more intriguing as a romantic figure than Jeb. Alyssa's mother, newly released from a mental institution, is

also given a larger role, and the teen's relationship with both parents is fleshed out. Like Alyssa's half-mad, half-sane world, this installment feels unbalanced at times, but stays entertaining. The cliff-hanger ending will leave readers eager for the next entry in the series. •Eliza Langhans, Hatfield Public Library, MA --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

When Morpheus shows up at Alyssa's high school as a glamorous goth rocker, she is furious; he has invaded her real world. Things become tense when he threatens to harm those she loves if she doesn't return to Wonderland to fight the Red Queen. Once again, Howard expands the Alice in Wonderland fairy tales to imagine a terrifying backstory full of sinister toys, talking flowers and insects, and a Jeb/Morpheus/Alyssa love triangle made more interesting with the addition of wealthy Ivy Raven. The Wonderland magic and perverse violence is nicely juxtaposed with a typical high-school senior year. Eventually, Alyssa enters battle with the Red Queen, which will hopefully be resolved in the third volume. Grades 8-12. --Frances Bradburn --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

**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. And now he's demanding she return back to Wonderland, because Red is up to her old tricks again, but this time, it's not only all of Wonderland

in danger, but the human realm too... Now Alyssa must decide if she's really willing to let Wonderland fall under the destruction that Red will surely bring, or if she's ready to go back down the rabbit hole and into the same place that almost drove her utterly mad. Because Red is coming, and she wants revenge, and if Alyssa doesn't bring the fight to her in Wonderland, then Red will definitely come to the human realm and bring the battle to her. One way or another, Alyssa must face Red in this upcoming battle for the crown she's already won. But before Alyssa can make her move and head back into Wonderland to gear up for war with Red, Wonderland literally walks into the human realm bringing tons of netherlings with it. But something isn't right, and Alyssa knows Morpheus knows more than he's letting on. But with so much going on, and all the crazy netherlings pouring in through the portals, her paintings turning up missing, and the scary little toys coming to life and following her around, and the bugs warning her that trouble is finally here, she realizes she may be too late. Red might already be here, and she's not leaving unless it's inside of Alyssa's body, possessing her forever... I really thought UNHINGED was a great sequel with lots of drama and tons of action and twist that I didn't see coming. Which I loved, but at the same time, had some issues with! One being that the whole entire book was plotted in the human world. Which is okay, I guess, but I really missed being back in Wonderland, and thought at least some of the story would be plotted there. But it wasn't, and I really didn't like that aspect at all. Another small issue I had with UNHINGED was that it felt like there was way too much going on at once. I mean the whole plot was so fast, with things changing and different lies being revealed almost every other chapter. And it just got to be a little overwhelming. It wasn't too bad, but sometimes I had to go back and reread a chapter that I just previously read to make sure I didn't miss anything or read it the wrong way. But besides that, I thought it was a great sequel that I absolutely adored! Overall, UNHINGED delivered on many levels and prepared us for one hell of a sequel, that I can't WAIT to dig into soon!! A.G. Howard is just full of awesomeness, with a mind that can conjure up the most fascinating and intriguing plots that I have ever come across. And I would definitely read ANYTHING this author writes! So overall, I would highly recommend UNHINGED and this complete series to anyone looking for a book that's thick-plotted, with sharp and developed characters, and a world that is full of utter maddens and pure chaos. Then UNHINGED and this series is definitely for you!! NOTE: I received a physical ARC from Amulet Books for reviewing purposes! All opinions expressed are my own and are not influenced in any way!

ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å“UnhingedÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å• by A.G. Howard was a dark and twisted sequel to ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å“Splintered.ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å•ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å“UnhingedÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å• picks up

several months after "Splintered" ended. Alyssa is trying to figure out her relationship with Jeb but it is a bit difficult because he doesn't remember any of their time in Wonderland. When Morpheus starts showing up in her dreams again, Alyssa wonders if something is up. Now that Wonderland is in danger again, Alyssa doesn't want to go back but she is afraid that she must if she is to say her beloved second home. I really did like "Unhinged." I felt like I really got to know both Alyssa and Morpheus better in this book. I think "Unhinged" focuses a lot on Morpheus and who he is. I really liked getting to know Morpheus better. I think it all sequels were similar to this one then I would enjoy them a whole lot more. I like when I get to know the characters better. I don't just want to see one side of them but all the sides that make the character. I think Howard did a great job with this one because I truly got to see all sides of these characters. The biggest complaint that I have is also why it made it so good. The love triangle was getting a little out of hand in "Unhinged." I also think this is why it made the book good because you really got to know how each character felt about the other one. The back and forth between whom Alyssa should love was really getting old. Then when there is a loop-hole everything becomes a huge mess. The visual art in this story is amazing. Howard paints such a beautiful Wonderland. It is creepy and sinister but beautiful none the less. I fell in love with it right away. I still think this is one of my favorite "Alice in Wonderland" retellings. I am really looking forward to reading "Ensnared" and seeing how it all ends.

I was severely disappointed by this book. In the promotional copy, the author talks about putting the macabre of Lewis Carroll's work center stage. Unfortunately, that's not actually what she does. Instead, she puts a hackneyed love triangle front and center. The viewpoint character has to choose between a jerk who consistently lies to and manipulates her, and a guy who's supportive and genuine. I want to scream "how is this even a choice?" but I've seen far too many of my friends excuse this kind of abusive crapfest behavior to not recognize that it does happen, and some girls do fall for it. Save yourself some trouble, and don't be one of those who falls for it.

The first book Splintered was a five star for me, but this one was a little less because the setting was in the real world, as opposed to Wonderland, for a majority of the story. However, having read the third and finale book in the trilogy, Ensnared, Unhinged does a fine job of setting up the ending of the author's dark, and insanely bizarre, Wonderland story. You should catch your breath a little

during this book because Ensnared is going to spin you around, hold you upside down, turn your emotions inside out, and rip your heart to shreds! Unhinged has a HUGE cliffhanger at the end, so I suggest buying Ensnared, too, so you can binge read them both.

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