



Art of Hunting

Alan Campbell

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The second novel in the Gravedigger Chronicles

The Haurstaf have been decimated. The Unmer have seized the palace at Awl. Ianthe's father carries her to safety. But she is not interested in a life of treasure hunting with him. She returns to the palace, hoping to find the Unmer prince with whom she shared some of her darkest moments.

Prince Paulus Marquetta discovers a friend and ally in Ianthe, albeit a dangerous one. She has the power to destroy his mind with a single thought, and yet she herself remains at risk from his own innate sorcerous abilities. The handsome young prince could murder her with a simple touch.

Briana Marks, meanwhile, has escaped with her life. Fearful of Marquetta's rule, she travels to the Dragon Isles to seek out the exiled Unmer lord, Argusto Conquillas and beg him to help her assassinate Ianthe. When Granger learns of this plot to kill his daughter, he must use every scrap of his resourcefulness and cunning to protect her.

Maskelyne returns to Scythe Island to study the crystal he plucked from the wreckage of the Unmer chariot. The artifact leads him to discover exactly why the Drowned continue to deposit thousands upon thousands of keys on the beach beneath his fortress. The Unmer, in their quest to unlock the secrets of the universe, forged a monster. Now Maskelyne knows where this thing is imprisoned...

Art of Hunting Details

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Author : Alan Campbell

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From Reader Review Art of Hunting for online ebook

Paul Forand says

The book was very good. Story has gotten even more enthralling since the first book. I can't wait to read the next in the series!

Brad says

good follow up to the first book but need the next one

Rebecca says

This is the second book in the Gravedigger Chronicles and I quite enjoyed it. The world building is so unique and I love reading about all the artifacts and the magical properties they have. I really love this series and I'm sad that at this point it's not likely that there won't be a continuation of the series. Still worth a read though.

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Mark L says

Very enjoyable read.

Campbell writes with great style and pace. Having been a fan since Scar Night I can say this is probably my favourite of his works.

Ianthe is frightfully naive. Due to this, Granger is pulled into conflict with every major player in the world in

order to keep her (and at least a mote of self determination) free.

Bring on book three!

kit says

i kept expecting the characters to gain in dimensionality over time, but they remain rather flat. the tension from the first book builds all the way through the end of this one, and the pace is rapid. after finishing the book, i'm left feeling like i just played a four-day boss battle in a non-existent ubisoft game. as in, kinda satisfied & really burnt. the imagery is what saves the two books, for me. the world, the magic, it's all intricately crafted, and very unlike anything i've read before. would recommend reading this if you want to kill a couple of days with some action, & don't care about emotional content.

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Ashley says

Woo!

That was a very entertaining sequel. Not as great as the first but not far behind it. Each chapter brought a new antagonist forth - more worse than the previous one. I love the moral ambiguity of all the characters. Almost as if every man were for themselves.

It was great to see more of the world explored in this sequel. The atmosphere was about equal to the previous book.

Although there wasn't a shittonne of character development, I still enjoyed the stories movement and the loyalty it had to the characters personalities.

There was a troupe-y romance that made me kind of uncomfortable but I tolerated it because at least the characters remained true to their personality. I loved the over load of Umner magic in this book, something we weren't shown on a regular basis in the previous book.

I wouldn't have minded more mention of the Drowned or Ichusae, they created great atmosphere for the first book but I believe the dragons and gods countered for their lack of.

UGH! I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL NUMBER THREE IS OUT!!!

~~~~~ The Gravedigger Chronicles , ~~~~~  
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The first book follows the story of Thomas Granger, ex-Colonel with the elite 'Gravediggers' army unit now

Granger sets off on a quest to find his estranged daughter Ianthe - herself an incredibly powerful but blind

The book ends cataclysmically with Ianthe all but destroying the telepaths' power with her mind and setting

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the trapped Unmer prince Marquetta free at the same time as her father - now with magical armour and sword - arrives to rescue her himself.

The second book carried straight on from the first, detailing the aftermath of the battle and the Unmer's plans to once again rule, beginning with Marquetta's plan to marry Ianthe. Granger is naturally suspicious of his motives towards his only daughter. Marquetta also needs to eliminate another Unmer lord, Conquillas, who has been hired as an assassin by Briana Marks to kill Marquetta and his uncle. Conquillas is an Unmer rebel who has studied war and hunting until it is an art form to him. Marquetta plans to eliminate him by challenging him to a tournament which is rigged so that Conquillas cannot survive.

Learning of the plans, Granger decides to leave his daughter and travel to find Conquillas and warn him. But soon he has more to worry about as his Unmer sword literally has a mind of its own. Meanwhile Maskeleyne is on his own quest to discover why the unfortunate people who have 'drowned' in the brine seas (but still have a sort of life) are bringing him keys.

As can be seen from the brief description above this is a complex book. Although the story is told from four viewpoints - Granger, Ianthe, Maskeleyne and Briana Marks - the bulk of the story is carried by Granger (on his own quest) and Ianthe (following with the Unmer). Granger is a terrific character - he is gruff and insentimental and is not always a sympathetic character. But he is also very driven and always sees the solution to anything as a straight line, regardless of any obstacles on that path he will just bulldoze straight through them. Ianthe is more subtle as a character because she is essentially tagging along with Marquetta and apart from the marriage plot doesn't really contribute very much.

The world they inhabit is excellent. This is a different kind of fantasy world. Rather than being stuck in medieval worlds as tends to be the case, there is a lot of technology. There are guns and gas cutting torches for example. Everything seems to be very very old and anything enchanted by the Unmer is as dangerous to the innocent wielder as their target.

After the first book it is interesting to see more of the Unmer in action. Marquetta is a proud and determined prince, his uncle fills the role of scheming manipulator well and it is not clear if Marquetta follows his uncle or is merely another pawn in the play. Conquillas is also well drawn for the few scenes he is in, the consummate warrior and hunter while still being otherworldly and cold towards the humans that he deals with. Maskeleyne also comes to the fore in this book after being something of a villain in the first book in this book he is not at odds with the other main characters and so is a much more rounded person rather than a cipher to explain Unmer artifacts and move the plot along.

Yes this is a hard read; the chapters are long (there are only 8 chapters in the book) which means it is a long time between breaks in the narrative and the start does take a long long time to get going although a lot of the information is vital in setting up the rest of the book. Once it gets going however it flows well. In fact I would say the tournament at the end was a little rushed - some more insight into the early rounds would have been interesting I think - but as the main point is to get the final showdown this can be excused.

Overall, a fantastic second part and I eagerly look forward the the third installment.

Rating: Some slight swearing and crude references

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## Woodge says

This story picks up where *Sea Of Ghosts* left off. I began reading this series after being wowed by the author's *Deepgate Codex* series that began with *Scar Night*. I think Alan Campbell is among my top favorite fantasy writers right now. He's right up there with China Miéville. He tends to jam many wild and original ideas into one book. I was digging the *Replicating Sword*. Now my 13-year-old son is reading this too. I'll be eagerly awaiting the next installment in this series. It's way fun.

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<http://knijenpetar.blogspot.com/2015/...>)

## Bogdan says

This was such a nice and satisfying adventure...

It's a pity that the end feels a little rushed and we'll have to wait for a third book to find out how all the threads will wrap up. But it looks like the book hasn't sold so well so we're not so sure if it will be a third one.

Overall it lightens up some of the mysteries from the first part, but until the end more and more questions started to pop up.

The worldbuilding has a lot of potential, some of the unknown things are explained, but, still, a lot of things remained in the shadows.

Hopefully there will be a third part in this series because it really deserves another book.

I enjoyed the mix of fantasy with a lot of magical artefacts based on a secret technology, fiercefull dragons

hunted for food, Almighty Gods (still, not a lot of them... but their appearances and informations about them it's so intriguing!) some of them slayed by sorcerers, or magical and nasty creatures from another dimensions.

Maybe there are some holes in the characters development but the whole adventure flows well and I wasn't so stressed out about it.

Four and a half stars from my part, but because the system doesn't permits it I will give it a four note.

Ps: I have a problem with the cover. It's true that it's a character from the book, but still, the cover from the first one looked more carefully made. This one is kinda dull and a sort of "Meehhh". The background has potential, but the front runner, sorry, not so much.

There still are people out there that buy a book by looking at it's cover!

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## Metodi Markov says

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