



Inked Armour

Helena Hunting

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In this follow-up to Clipped Wings, the emotional love story continues between Hayden and Tenley; two young people who desperately want to love and be loved but are afraid to completely let go of their pasts.

In the wake of losing Tenley Page, tattooist Hayden Stryker's tumultuous past is haunting him. Plagued by nightmares about the murder of his parents, Hayden reaches out again to Tenley. Having run from the man she doesn't believe she deserves, Tenley finally lays her guilt to rest. Despite their intense physical attraction, Hayden and Tenley struggle to repair their fragile emotional connection. As Hayden gets closer to the truth, he must find a way to reconcile his guilt over his parents' death in order to keep the woman who finally cracked his armor, and found her way into his heart.

Inked Armour Details

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Author : Helena Hunting

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From Reader Review Inked Armour for online ebook

Angela says

4.5

Really enjoyed this second book. So funny and entertaining. Tenley was an enjoyable leading lady but there's no doubt Hayden stole the show!!! Freaking loved him!

Can't wait to read future books by Helena

Tpagirl says

Inked Armour was the second book in Helena Hunting's Clipped Wing series and the conclusion to Hayden and Tenley's story.

The storyline picked up where Clipped Wings left off. It began as a story of pain. It was very emotional, serious and intense. Hunting took us through the pain in detail and then eventually through the journey of healing. As with the first book, it was complex, full of depth, well written and well developed; however, it was slow progressing for me and I would have preferred combining the two books. With that said, it was a great story and had some key developments that were revealed in Inked Armour that brought the story full circle. In the end, as expected, the ending was well worth the wait.

Naudia says

"For me, she would always be the light in my darkness."

When I started this, I knew that I would like it more than I liked the first book. I was so happy when I was proved right, but this could have been a 5 star book.

Here's why it wasn't:

It really bugged me how nosy some of the characters could be. Someone was always in someone else's business. But I also think that bothered me because that's an actual thing I can't stand in real life.

I felt like there were a million different sides to Tenley and she was hardly ever consistent. I liked her more this time around though, and I'm glad she evened out by the end.

The chemistry between Hayden and Tenley was hardly believable and a bit forced, but it was always swept under the rug with sexual situations. So if I didn't put a note in my phone about this once it hit me, I would have completely forgotten.

A lot of problems with Hayden and Tenley's relationship stemmed from Tenley herself almost every single time. And the two of them never really bothered to try and solve any of their problems head on, and Tenley's anxiety only ever surfaced when she *actually* needed to be level-headed to keep the plot moving. I found that

annoying, but I do understand anxiety so I just took it into consideration anyway since we hardly saw any more examples of it.

It took all the way until the last two pages for me to say to myself, "Aww, see now this is why I like NA. This is definitely a four star book." I realized that if the author would have treated the story like she did in the end throughout, it would have been perfect.

All in all, this was a really nice and satisfying follow up to the debut novel *Clipped Wings* and I felt that the story wrapped up in a good way, without any holes or confusion. I would be happy with maybe a novella about Hayden and Tenley to see where their future heads.

Pam says

4 heartfelt broken stars

In this life, for as long as we had, we would be each other's armor.

Tenley is finally ready to move on with her life; setting things up so that no one will ever hold any kind of power over her again and more importantly being able to finally forgive herself.

I wanted him back--but I needed to be worthy of him first.

Hopefully her selfishness hasn't destroyed the one good thing that has happened in her life. Tenley doesn't pretend to be completely "fixed" but seeing at what her actions has done to Hayden, she has no choice but to go home to him and make things better.

"Sometimes I feel guilty for having you."

Tenley's distance and lack of communication sets off Hayden's OCD tendencies, making it hard for anyone to be around him. Everyone he has ever cared for has left him one way or another. There is no doubt that he loves Tenley, but he also can't help being scared of the damage she can cause.

She'd found a way between the cracks in my armor and blew it apart.

Forced to face his past, he has to relive it all over again and hopefully get the closure he needs to set his mind and guilt at ease. Torturing himself with the what-if's, while trying to pretend everything is all right he relies on Tenley. She is his strength and his driving force, for without her he would be spiraling out of control.

Inked Armor concludes the tale of Hayden and Tenley, *"two young people who desperately want to love*

and be loved but are afraid to completely let of their pasts." I have to admit, after the way the first book made me feel I was a tad hesitant to pick this up and just read it, I knew that a book like this I had to wait until my mood was right. The tone in this story, while still on the sadder side, wasn't as sad as I was expecting. The whole entire way I was rooting for them, willing the outside forces to back off and give them both the time and space to deal and be with one another. I'm happy with the way things turned out, they both got the closure they needed to finally move on together. There was one question I was left wondering about, one I wanted more information about, but other than my "WHY", it was another satisfying read.

ARC kindly provided by Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

***Quotes above are taken from the ARC version of the book and may differ upon publication.

Lucia says

My Tenley and Hayden:

Hayden is plagued by his nightmares and insecurities, Tenley is troubled by her bad past decisions. Will these two fragile people ever be able to catch a break and find their bliss?

Inked Armor is continuation of captivating story about intense and addictive love between two broken people struggling with **guilt**. It pained me to see how little Tenly and Hayden believed in themselves, how their fears were keeping them in check, postponing their chance for happiness.

But even though story focuses on sad and serious topics, it never felt too depressive. I was worried that darkness in Hayden and Tenly will overwhelm me, but author balanced it with right amount of steamy and funny moments.

I loved how incredibly hot **steamy** parts were, without turning this book into erotica. Sex scenes were intense but never a dominant feature of this book. And I really liked that.

"You have no idea what I'm going to do to you.'

It was a warning and a plea. We needed each other on the most basic level. It was that simple."

Also, I have to mention the growth of **Tenley**'s character in this instalment. Tenley made some bad choices and hurt others in the process. But she owned her decisions and tried to fix them so I couldn't be angry with her. Being far from perfect made her character look realistic and I liked the way author depicted Tenley's transformation in this book. It is always a challenge for author to change broken heroine into confident one in the believable way. Helena Hunting managed it and I have to compliment her on it.

I enjoyed Tenley's and Hayden's story a lot and I am already looking forward to next projects written by this author!

ARC provided by publisher as an exchange for honest review

MORE REVIEWS ON MY BLOG **Reading Is My Breathing**

Christy says

4 stars!

We were so similar in our pain. If only we could cancel each other's out.

After listening to *Clipped Wings* I had to jump straight into *Inked Armor* and see how Hayden and Tenley's story concluded. I loved these two broken characters and all I wanted for them was for them to be able to heal and move on together. I was nervous starting this one, but now that I'm finished, my heart is happy.

In the beginning, the story focuses on Tenley's struggles with her family being gone. As the book goes on, things start to happen with Hayden. He's recalling things, memories are coming into play that make him question what really happened all those years ago. His struggle is more the focus on the last half of the book. I love how these two characters both deal with their struggles, but the other is always there for him or her. Also, even though it's so heavy on emotion, there were always scenes to make me laugh and smile and of course- the occasional steamy scene.

My favorite thing about *Inked Armor* was watching both characters growth. They both really made leaps and bounds from book one. If you're looking for an emotionally charged story with damaged characters that focuses on healing, friendship, family and love- this is a series I recommend!

“You are everything I could ever want. You are the place I want to be.”

Dali says

If the first book was a seductive healing of two shattered souls, then *Inked Armor* is the scorching melding of them, like the flow of molten lava, moving inexorably and changing and fusing them together with finality.

When we left Hayden and Tenley, they had a deep but guarded connection. They had found in the other something beautiful and unexpected, but their guilt and fears from the past kept them from opening up completely. When Tenley's past literally comes knocking on her door, she decides it's best to deal not only with her greedy and manipulative almost brother-in-law but with her grief, sense of culpability and

unworthiness. But we were also left knowing Hayden was determined to reclaim what was his.

Inked Armor starts three weeks after Tenley abruptly and without explanation parts to Arden Hills, thinking it best not to communicate with Hayden until she lays her past to rest, inadvertently leaving him rattled and broken like never before.

This last part was something I did not expect. Hayden's vulnerability and pain was almost physically palpable. And this book, even though it deals with both their pasts, is mostly about him. The resurrecting nightmares and fears about how easily one can lose a loved one, new and old memories triggered by Tenley's sudden departure were bleeding into his waking hours because even after all those years, he never got past that.

When Tenley finally comes back, she witnesses the emotional turmoil she created. But with a new found peace of mind, openness and resiliency she walks hand in hand with Hayden through a road full of moments with exquisite emotions as well as some bumps and setbacks. But it definitely leads to a better, stronger, brighter future.

I liked everything about this book. It's a beautiful experience to have with these characters but I would also like to add that the familial bonds with the wonderful secondary characters made the story so much richer. I'm very glad Helen brought them back because they were also instrumental in helping this couple.

I also enjoyed being inside both Hayden and Tenley's head, but especially Hayden's. I've stated that this man, that projected danger and menace, was vulnerable, but he is also swoony and amusing especially when he was brought down to a puddle of gooey charm by temptations of cupcake underwear, shoes and nipple guards.

I almost forgot to mention this, there was a subplot which you could put together with the leading memories and nightmares Hayden had. Some might say it gave the book a sense of predictability but I think it was important for closure and Hayden's growth.

There was no epilogue but the last few chapters were a delightful detail of the events that happened once all ghosts were laid to rest. Besides, true love has no ending.

P.S.: I never actually cyber-stalked Helena, but I will be on the lookout for the release of Cracks in the Armor, book 2.5 of the Clipped Wings. It's about Chris and Sarah!

ARC received on behalf of NetGalley.

** There were no excerpts from that copy, because there were too many I wanted to share.**

Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says

4 Unapologetically Beautiful Stars

*"F*ck appropriate"*

Following up right where Clipped Wings left us hanging, the story between Hayden and Tenley continues proving that unique is beautiful and tragedies don't always end your life.

Longing to love and be loved, emotionally crippled, unconventional and sexy both our heroes grow so much as characters, fighting to let go of their pasts and trusting each other with their hearts.

"We were marked by one another. It went far beyond the skin. It went right down to the soul. In this life, for as long as we had, we would be each other's armor."

Tattoos, cupcakes, kittens, skeletons in the closet, scars on the inside and the outside and smoking hot sex are just a small part of this exciting novel. Go read it to find out the rest! ;)

ARC courtesy of Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review

Aestas Book Blog says

Starting this next I'm totally hooked on this. Love it!!!!

"Everyone has scars, Tenley. If we're lucky, they're only on the outside."

(Note: this is contemporary, NOT paranormal.)

My review of book #1: aestasbookblog.com/clipped-wings-review/

TeriLyn says

***Inked Armor* generously provided by Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

This review contains spoilers, don't read if you haven't read book one *Clipped Wings*

5 Beautifully Inked Stars

Inked Armor beautifully continues the dark, sensual, and deeply emotional love story between Tenley and Hayden. The prose begins where Clipped Wings left us emotionally hanging, wanting more immediately from these two fatefully destined characters. The story leads us on a journey of letting go of the tragedies

from the past and the consuming guilt these tragedies left in their wake. Through a passionate and evocative portrayal we experience new beginning through Tenley and Hayden. They work through debilitating thoughts of regret, grief, and remorse for what they've lost all the while realizing the beauty of what lies ahead for them, together.

Their relationship became an addiction for each other, an intrinsic craving and evolves to where they become extensions of each other. Part of the reason I adore these characters so much stems from the depths of their emotions. The author brilliantly weaves together a quilt of refreshingly honest, comforting dialogue between the two with intriguing and real inner-monologues from both characters POV's. Ms. Hunting's character development thrives thanks to her beautiful, fluid writing revealing all the emotions, light and dark, these characters possess. The complexity of the woven webs of their pasts never escapes them but how they come to live with it touched me in such a connecting way. Hunting makes it effortless to fall back into the tormented world of Tenley and Hayden. The story is just a consuming as Tenley and Hayden find their relationship; a remarkable testament to the writing when the reader feels the raw emotions of the characters so fully.

I fell hard for Hayden Stryker in *Clipped Wings* and I fell even harder for him in this sequel. Hayden's allure shines through the cracks of his armor. His vulnerability endears him to the hearts of the reader just as he's endearing himself to Tenley. Hayden hopelessly devotes himself to her in so many telling ways. His desperation to make her happy and be a man worthy of her love is as beautiful as it is heart breaking. These depths of emotion and open, raw communication mixed with a passionate hunger for Tenley makes him irresistible. Any lapse in his control sends him spinning except where Tenley is concerned. Tenley's growth in this story satisfies fully. Her acceptance of her past and her conviction to be exactly what Hayden needs stabilizes his story. She becomes an anchor staying strong through the storm, allowing him what he needs to understand the out of control feelings within him. Both of these characters make full strides in *Inked Armor* and it's not an instant, all things are well, reunion. Trust seeds plant and bloom. The slowing down of their relationship made for some of the angst we had in *Clipped Wings*. The sexual build up and tension resonating from both characters is visceral. And of course, their discourse with each other shines so bright. They're both young, witty, and funny, feeding off each other so easily. Hayden's affection for cupcakes does not go unnoticed in this book and I love that about him. He's such a simple man with the simplest of desires. Their fantasies are fulfilled by each other.

Inked Armor reminds us of the beauty of a caterpillar. Two tragically beautiful characters who need each other in a primal way fall in love and work through their tormenting pasts in order to better themselves for what they both deserve: each other. The story of Tenley and Hayden renews our faith through the angst and pain of these complex characters. The chrysalis of their fragile relationship blooms into a beauty like that of the butterfly. It's peaceful, settling, and relieving – to know these two have found soul deep love and trust even through the pain of tragic pasts. I realize have a lot farther to go but I think together they'll find their way. I hope we get to experience more of their journey because I fell in love with these books and look forward to more from this gifted author.

One of my favorite quotes:

"You know your family wouldn't want you to be alone, right? They'd want you to have people in your life to love you and take care of you. I don't know that they would have chosen me to be that person, but I want to be if you'll let me."

Brianna Maddox says

Usually I'm terrible at continuing series, but I had to know what was going to happen! Plus I needed more Tenley and Hayden. I'm obsessed with them. What happened to them in the past was not only heart breaking, but I liked seeing their lives turn out for the best. It was a rough journey for them, but as things could have gone, they did a heck of a lot better than I would have if I had been in either of their shoes. I knew one of the clues to the ending towards the beginning of the book. I got nervous towards the last 40 pages wondering if it was going to be solved. I do want more on their story.. I want to see their lives after they've come to terms with their past and how they continue out their lives together. obsessed! cannot wait for more books by her!!

AJ says

This is the follow up to Clipped Wings – the heart-wrenching, emotionally intense and slightly edgy story of two people who have been broken by events in their past, but who find life-changing, all-consuming love together.

“She’d found a way between the cracks in my armor and blew it apart.”

This book picks up about a week after the end of the first book, and the subsequent novella Between the Cracks. I can't really say anything specific about the storyline without being spoilery, but this is a beautiful finish for Tenley and Hayden and their incredible love story.

“It felt as if I had always been his. My heart belonged to him for as long as he wanted to keep it.”

In the first book we saw them fall and fall hard for each other with all of the build-up, tension and passion that goes along with that. This book details their ongoing relationship as they both start to deal with their pasts and understand exactly what it is they mean to each other.

“It’s not just about wanting you. It’s this fucking need. No matter what I do, how close I get, it’s like I’m consumed by it.”

“Do you have any idea how difficult it is to reconcile the reality that I never would have met you if my whole family wasn’t dead?”

Their intense connection and need for each other is so beautifully depicted, but there are still lots of ups and downs for them as they move forward. And I loved every moment of it.

“I wanted to tell her I loved her. I wanted to hear the same from her. All the things I couldn’t say kept me bound and gagged, breaking me in ways I hadn’t expected.”

Both of these characters have endured so much, and sadly it's not all over yet. They still have challenges to face (OMG, I wanted to hug Hayden so many times during this book!), and despite Tenley's initial moment of stupid (view spoiler), the way they stay strong and fight for each other, and to stay together is absolutely beautiful! I loved watching them both grow so much as they strive to heal from the past and find their happy ever after.

“You are everything I could ever want. You are the place I want to be.”

This book is beautifully romantic, scorchingly sexy and both devastating and heart clenchingly satisfying. While, for me, it didn't have the intensity of the first book, I thought it was a great finish for these characters that I care so much about and I loved seeing them get their happy ending.

I loved it – 4 stars.

Michelle says

ARC received on behalf of Gallery, Threshold, Pocket Books from NetGalley.

When Tenley met Hayden and gave in to her desire for him, she always knew her past was going to come between them. I just don't think she ever thought she would be the one forcing it to happen. She left, forced to go back to Arden Hills, Tenley is forced to face her past in a way that she never imagined. But in doing so, she left Hayden. There was no explanation given, no promise to return. Just her walking away from a man that shatters in her absence.

Hayden has survived seven years since his parent's murder, but he never learned to move on from the tragic events of that night. Tenley leaving is a stark reminder of how easily you can lose someone you love. In the wake of her escape his past come surging back, bring with it new memories of that night and new nightmares.

Tenley's return should result in happy reunion, but too many doubts have surfaced to for these two start off where they left off. Trust has been broken and although one of them is healing from their past, the other is finding new obstacles in their way to healing. But one thing is certain, they need each other.

Helena Hunting does a fabulous job with the continuation of this series! After the short suffering after the cliffhanger ending in Clipped Wings I was unsure if a quick reunion was going to be enough to make up for her leaving. But we didn't get a quick, all is forgiven, reunion. Hayden was destroyed when she left and I felt that pain through to my bones with every painful plea from him. The way these two had to rebuild all that was torn down, but with that electric chemistry still in place, was perfection.

In order for me to really fall in love with a story I have to fall in love with the characters. There is no

question that both Tenley & Hayden have a place in my heart, it was an instant love with the first book and it carried over into Inked Armor flawlessly. The added drama of Hayden's past coming into play was done well, although there was a slight predictability to the twist; but I am one of those readers who tries to figure it all out first (although I won't ever flip ahead – I just can't let the story unfold fully without playing the never ending guessing game of what the hell is going to happen next). Both characters grew stronger as the story progresses, learning to lean on each other when they realize they can't do it alone any longer. I loved how this focused more on Hayden's past, not losing the healing that Tenley undergoes, but there is no doubt that Hayden was the start of this story from start to finish.

Absolutely fantastic read that gives all of us a great book boyfriend to fall into lust with but an even better story. It was just a perfect balance of everything I love in a romance, and book two has no cliffhanger!!!! I can't wait to see what this author has in store for us in the future, I know I will be reading it have no doubt that I will love it.

And we get more cupcakes!!!

** quotes used in graphics are subject to change and are solely from the unfinished/uncorrected ARC copy.**

Duchess Nicole says

I feel a little bad for even going for this ARC, seeing as how my feelings for book one were somewhat lackluster. So I'll try to keep this short and sweet.

There's so much circling around the actual subject matter and the real plot line that this quickly became one of the biggest drama fests ever. I lost count of how many times Tenley and Hayden break down, have a fit, lose themselves in tears, throw up, etc. All of the glaring problems in their respective lives that prevent them from having a healthy relationship - Hayden's crazy ex, his traumatic experience with his parents murder, Tenley's traumatic experience with the death of her family - all of this is just fodder for more breakdowns. I don't actually feel like either of them came through all of this drama healthier, happier people. I feel like they found someone almost as broken as them and rushed into a serious relationship, thus creating more drama on top of the old. The whole story is them going from one problem to another, and then pages and pages of the fallout that follows.

I honestly wish this story had been told when each of them had some more time and/or healing behind them. As is, it's as if they used each other as a band aid instead of actually dealing with the problem at hand. Very unhealthy, imo.

I think this story is meant for hard core lovers of the New Adult genre, those who enjoy unrealistic amounts of angst.

Advance copy provided by the publisher for review

Kellie Maddox-Ward says

1st off again

Yes, I really enjoyed this series. Did I buy it though? No.

Luckily enough I received an ARC through NetGalley.

I'm sorry but Amazon is asking for **\$9.52 FOR A FUCKING EBOOK!**

That is just disgusting. That's paperback pricing!

Helena don't get me wrong your writing was beautiful but I think your publisher is pushing it.

Quickest way to turn off readers is jacking up the price..

We will all just wait till it goes on sale...

Deep breath in

deep breath out

Ok Rant over...

ANYWAY...

Whereas the first book is about Hayden and Tenley hooking up, having lots of awesome sex and keeping secrets from each other.

They are both laid bare in this book.

It is one hell of an emotional roller coaster!

Sometimes it was hard to read being in their heads, thinking their thoughts and wanting to yell at them for feeling how they did.

This is more about their relationship and how they come together as one.

Learning to forgive themselves for their pasts.

to playing the "what if" games..

All the awesome secondary characters are here.

As well as the uncool ones.

I know I haven't really told you anything about the book or the secrets, but if I did I would ruin the awesomeness of it. So you will have to read for yourself!

Arc received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.
