



# Unchained

*Shayne Silvers*

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**Unchained** Shayne Silvers

**Meet Callie Penrose. Is she Heaven's Devil, or Hell's Angel?**

Callie is a middle-class, Midwest American girl. And a wizard in training. She works for Roland, a member of the Vatican Shepherds – an elite group of twelve warrior priests who travel the world smiting whatever offends them or their Good Lord.

One problem. Callie isn't a huge fan of churches... Not even a minor fan, really.

She trains with Roland only to learn how to use those strange magical powers inside her. And because Roland had once saved her and her friend from monsters in a dark alley.

But when a Heavenly spear enters an auction in Kansas City, and Roland is gravely wounded, Callie finds herself forced to step up as an interim Shepherd, and her first night on the job puts her in a bidding war against the infamous Nate Temple – the billionaire wizard from St. Louis. And when demons, shifter bears, vampires, and Nephilim attack the auction for the spear, Nate and Callie are forced to join teams, and one-time foes become hesitant allies.

Callie must learn where she stands as a wizard. Will she hide behind a man, or light Kansas City afire with a name of her own? And will she finally come to appreciate God? Or will the demons and monsters in the shadows take her for themselves?

Because Callie soon learns she isn't *just* a wizard, and it was never just about the spear. Monsters have evidently been hunting Callie her entire life, and now, they've finally found her...

## Unchained Details

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# From Reader Review Unchained for online ebook

## Lora Shouse says

Callie Penrose is a girl wizard. Her mentor, Roland, works for the Vatican as a Shepherd. He and Callie are trying to retrieve a magical artifact for the Church when something goes wrong, and Roland is seriously injured. This leaves Callie to take care of the business on her own. Only she is convinced she isn't ready.

They have information that a piece of the artifact they want will be up for bid at an auction open only to the very wealthy. Roland sends Callie, and she invites her best friend, Claire, who has no magical powers. At the auction, they run into another wizard – Nate Temple.

At the end of the bidding, the auction venue suddenly breaks out in chaos as monsters attack right and left. Nate runs off to take care of some bear shifters, werewolves, and vampires, but only after noticing that Callie has pulled out some magical weapons. In all the confusion, a demon walks off with the magical artifact they have come to claim.

I think I do like Callie better than Nate on the whole. Callie has an understandable backstory, though even she doesn't really know all of it. Where Nate is too cocky for his own good, Callie is too unsure of herself – more so than she probably needs to be, because she is actually awesome.

Anyway, Callie and Nate are forced to work together, learning from each other as they go. They have to fight through a lot of chaos, a lot of pain and a stunning betrayal to finally resolve the situation.

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## Ron MacQuarrie says

### Couldn't finish it

The premise is good: wounded little girl rescued from a vicious attack, but no details. Who attacked her, why when, etc. So now she's caught in extreme PTSD to the point of being helpless under stress. Again, no details: was she treated? Anyway, as far as I read it; it was like that. Constantly, irritatingly vague. Silvers seemed more interested in pacing than in creating a good story.

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## xxkitsunexx says

I first read (The Nate Temple series books 1-6 ) before i started this book and absolutely loved that series although it not necessary they do cross paths in this series.

This arthur has what it take to keep the reader reading so many other worldly creatures you name it this arthur brings them all to life in both series, i really enjoyed Callie and her story strong willed sassy but not overconfident gets as many knock as wins this book was none stop page turner of action i found myself laughing out loud many a time also :-)

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## **Glenn Adams says**

OK. Really 2 1/2 stars. Perhaps if I'd started with the origin series and not the spin-off, my experience would've been better. Maybe.

I've been looking for new authors in UFF and SF, and was fed this book via the usual Amazon teaser ads. The carefully crafted blurbs got me interested (yes, I'm a sucker for many of these stories), and having grown up in the town the setting takes place was a big hook. So I bit. About 1/3 of the way through the book I realized two things: One, there's zero depth about the city this takes place, at least nothing you couldn't piece together from a 2 minute scan of the wiki page. Two, I couldn't stand the main characters. It's not a good sign when I start speed scanning page after page to find plot points, avoiding the one-dimensional juvenile emotional interactions that go on and on. The two main characters never seem to self-realize 'ok, time to stop acting like an insufferable douches and grow up just a tiny bit.' Life's too short spend hours reading that stuff.... just saying.

So did I like anything? Yeah. The magic stuff is cool, and the action scenes are well done. It shows that the author really loves writing those parts. Many side characters add to the story in meaningful ways and provide balance to the main characters. The key antagonist could have been better developed, yet did well enough for the story.

Maybe all of this was fleshed out better in the Nate Temple series, and if I'd started there, things would have made a lot more sense. But I can't see myself continuing with the Feathers and Fire series, or going back to read Nate Temple if those books follow the pattern of this book.

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## **Zee Wyatt says**

Made it to Chapter 23 before I finally gave in and put it down. I could go no further. The writing was just too sophomoric and I believe the author was trying to create suspense but in reality just created annoyance. Almost half way through a book and I'm still not sure what's its about... Not for me.

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## **Kate Williams says**

### **Unchained Review**

If you want an urban-fantasy that has a lot of action and excitement then Unchained is a great book for you to read. Unchained is about Callie and her friend, Claire. They work together to stop the end of the world as we know it. Callie is a fierce wizard with white hair. Callie uses mainly magical rods, but also uses fireballs and staves. When contrasting Callie and Nate Temple, the main character of the authors previous series, you could say that Callie is more self reliant, serious and understanding. Compared to WonderWoman and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, you could say that Callie is a strong female lead that is just as willing to save a life as they are. Callie, however, is less likely to kill someone or thing, than Buffy or WonderWoman.

Claire, Callie's friend, is a Regular. She has a background in medical training and has saved many life's, including Callie's. She wouldn't kill anyone unless forced to and is very caring. Claire and Callie has been friends for as long as they can remember. Claire knows all of Callie's secrets and has been through a lot with

her.

If you compared this book to the first Nate Temple book, this book is more well rounded. This book has a nicer flow than the Nate Temple book. Overall I'd say this is a really great book. When the book slows down it still is interesting and detailed enough to keep the reader's attention until there's more action, which I personally like. This book is one of my favorites and it was a lot of fun for me to read.

This book was also really inspirational, because it has a strong female lead. Part of the reason I compare Callie to WonderWoman and Buffy is because they are also strong female leads and people look up to them. Callie is another hero for people to look up to. She could be the next hero they make a movie about. She is at least a hero in my eyes because she saves people and the world.

Buffy, WonderWoman and Callie also all pass the Bechdel test, a test to see if the movie or book has two women who talk to each other about something other than guys. This test is important to me because it symbolizes the fact that women are important as well and deserve to be treated that way.

- Kate Williams

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### **Bec says**

Just can not get into this one, the writing seems a bit repetitive and explanations are very vague.

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### **Runningrabbit says**

#### **Swinging in chains**

KU

A great new find to add to my series to follow list. A tough female protagonist with some good side kicks. There were, unfortunately, a couple of plot scenarios that the reader can see coming, but it is a rare occurrence with any novel where there is a true twist so I can't say that this is a surprise.

I'm desperately waiting for book 2 and keeping an eye open for any fresh work from this author.

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### **Kelley says**

#### **Good story**

I loved Callie and her honest relationships with others. She wasn't perfect and she was interesting for her flaws. She showed growth personally in accepting her issues and trying to work past them. Looking forward to the next book.

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## **Tiera McMillian says**

Yea so the book description actually gives you more backstory than this whole book did. Was very confusing and frustrating getting thrown into a story that seems to already be taking place.

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## **Kitlina says**

Loved the book. It was full of action and some romantic prospect, although not at all in the center of the plot. I like where the story line is heading.

There were of course some things that annoyed me but I got past them.

I love how the heroine is growing with each chapter and how she interacts with her friends.

I will definitely continue with this series.

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## **Candice Alvarado says**

### **I really am thrilled that I bought this book**

I'm not sure exactly what I said what I was expecting but I was really impressed with this first book of the series. Totally fun read that caught my interest early and now I can hardly wait to read the rest of the series . Read read read ! You won't regret buying this book !

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## **M says**

A friend got me this book and told me to read it on a few conditions. I was not allowed to read the synopsis on the back or any online reviews.

When I asked if he could give me anything about what I was getting myself into he smirked and said,

"Shayne Silvers is a man of mystery and power, whose power is exceeded only by his mystery. In other words, a storyteller." Jeeeeeusus.

So the usual warning, this review will be long and contain spoilers.

The plot is that Callie Penrose is a wizard being trained by her mentor Roland. Roland works for the Vatican killing monsters, acquiring dangerous artifacts, preventing doomsday that sort of thing. We are introduced to this pair as they team up on

Callie's first real mission which is locating three pieces to the spear of Longinus before they fall into the hands of evildoers.

One thing I noticed right away is the writing isn't very good. Shayne Silvers has a habit of making Callie's inner monologue repeat/reiterate things to the reader.

In it's least offensive form it looks like this:

"pg 8 - I wanted to run. To just sit there. To do something. To do nothing. I didn't know what to do."

This type of laundry listing appears regularly in various degrees throughout the book, which destroys the flow and makes it a chore to read. Much worse examples are when the main character will repeat the same thought in multiple chapters and there's even an instance where she repeats the same observation just a few paragraphs apart. This makes it feel like either the author isn't reading his own book as he's writing it, is trying to pad it with all this reiteration, or Callie has a mild form of dementia.

Silvers also enjoys contradicting himself. A prime example occurs on page 49 as Callie describes herself:

"My black dress clung to me like oil had been poured down my shoulders. Falling into place as the contours of my body dictated. Not indecent, but leaving little to the imagination."

When clothing leaves little to the imagination, that's the definition of indecent. This also brings up another point, which is the author has no idea how to write a female character.

Callie describes herself as a thirty something male private eye would describe a high-class escort, but that's the least of her problems. Silvers seems to think a believable female character is a bipolar nut job. Callie is easily offended, quick to anger, slow to forgive, petulant, jealous, and has random emotional changes from chapter to chapter.

She will talk about how experienced and professional she is one minute only to devolve into insecurity and self-loathing the next.

She has PTSD. Not from a vampire attack that occurred when she was a teenager but from, I kid you not, her mother abandoning her as a baby. The trauma of not feeling worthy of her mother's love causes her to freeze in the face of werewolves and vampires because you know that makes sense.

Callie's radical mood swings aren't limited to how she views herself but also in her feelings toward male characters. One minute they appear in her eyes as the most fabulous person ever and then next she's pitying them, despising them, or mocking them. For instance, at the beginning of the book, she has an intense reverence for Roland. Referring to him at one point as her "titan of a mentor." By the end of the book, it's clear Roland's role is as the punchline for jokes spearheaded by Nate Temple or Callie.

Another example occurs when she meets a guy named Johnathan at a bar, they go on a single date, and she seems to think the world of him. She then meets him again by chance at a grocery store and becomes furiously jealous seeing him chat up the female cashier and starts acting like a spoiled brat when he approaches her. He's not your boyfriend after one date!

This chapter ends with her getting into the sports car of the incredibly wealthy Nate Temple who mistakes Johnathan for a bagger, acts like a jerk, and dismissively tips him as he takes the groceries. Johnathan would be way more justified in any anger he had towards Callie for how she let Nate treat him than Callie is for her jealousy watching Johnathan have a pleasant conversation with another woman.

As Callie watches Johnathan angrily drive off on his motorcycle she points out to the reader that his motorcycle is a Ducati and that owning a Ducati means that he "has serious money." I have no idea why the author thought this was relevant information unless he wanted the reader to view Callie as a shallow gold digger.



I should point out that I have not read a single Nate Temple book, and then I learned to my horror that *Unchained* is a crossover.

The minute Nate Temple shows up, Callie starts playing the sidekick in her own book.

It becomes abundantly clear at this point that Silvers is using *Unchained* to advertise for his other series.

Nate Temple is by far the most egregious example of a Mary-Sue I've ever come across in a published work.

Nate is a handsome, powerful, billionaire playboy wizard who inherited his wealth from his parents. He's an arrogant jerk, but all the women want him, and all the men want to be him. Any time a character shows disdain toward Nate, it's very clear that they are just totes jealous of how awesome he is.

You will find all members of "Team Callie" talking about Nate when he's not around as he quickly cements himself as the center of their world and intricate to the book's plot. The author benches Roland by having him decline Nate's offer to heal an injury he suffered early in the book. This way Callie can spend her time with a young, wealthy hunk of a wizard instead of the doddering grandpa. I hope you like contrived romances.

Nate's presence creates friction between Callie and Roland causing her to distrust Roland; a man she's known for ten years while blindly believing in Nate who she just met yesterday. Her friend Claire who was a shy wallflower gains more confidence and starts flirting with men merely from being around the unshakable bravado of the great Nate Temple. Even Callie's adoptive father who hates Nate at the beginning is singing the praises of "Master Temple" by the end.

Nate offers on multiple occasions to call in his crew to aid "Team Callie" in the quest for the spear. Callie refuses and puffs out her chest while going on a tirade about this being "her city" and sharing her reasoning that if she doesn't make herself appear as a threat to the supernatural community, every monster in the city will be gunning for her after Nate leaves.

The problem is Nate's people are hilariously overpowered. Meaning the story would be over in two chapters if Callie accepted their help. But spouting off faux feminist slogans rather than getting help from a man makes Callie look like she cares more about her reputation than the safety of the world. This completely removes any tension the reader might have regarding the protagonist's chances of success and makes it plain as day that the good guys are going to win. Boring.

Silvers makes sure his golden boy is the picture of professionalism next to Callie as there are moments I wonder if she can tie her shoes properly. I understand she's supposed to be the noob while Nate is the veteran, but she's been training for ten years. The kinds of blunders she makes should have gotten her killed within the first few chapters. The Nate/Callie combo is a terrible team-up with Callie only being around to make Nate look good, and become infatuated with him. Good team-ups are characters who complement each other in either personality or ability. Deadpool and Wolverine (buffoon and straight man) Batman and Superman (brains and brawn). Each character brings something to the table, and it's exciting and enjoyable watching them interact with each other.

Nate Temple brings everything to the table while Callie only brings her baggage and neurosis. Nate's got more money and connections. He's got more skill than both the protagonist and her mentor. He does the mission recon without her. He protects her friends and family. He provides transportation via shadow-walking. He relishes battle, and tangles with were-creatures while she stands there wetting herself because her mommy never loved her. It's nauseating how much the author is in love with this douchebag wizard.

Silvers spends the end of the book severely backpedaling trying to make up for the damage he's done to Callie's character.

So she predictably gains a butt load of confidence (thanks to Nate) and has a PTSD breakthrough from 10 minutes of meditating in her car. She then acquires a massive amount of magical ability, learns about her past and destiny, and single-handedly defeats the "big bad" thanks to Nate conveniently having to leave to take care something in St. Louis. All of which takes place in the last fifty to sixty pages of the book.

Unchained is an urban fantasy novel suffering from below average writing, a badly written unrealistic main character, and Nate Temple. Temple's presence not only steals the spotlight from Callie but makes the book after his introduction feel like I'm reading a Nate Temple fanfiction.

Callie Penrose needs a massive overhaul just to become a decent character and I will not be reading book 2 to find out if that happens.

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### **Alex says**

I really wanted to enjoy this. The author has a huge following, so I was sure I was in for a really good read, but I couldn't get past the first few chapters. I can forgive a few typos in the first few pages. They happen. But when the character has three paragraphs, one after another, all with "I realized..." in them, and then we get the "my mentor" repetitions, "he's my mentor" "oh by the way, did I mention he's my mentor" plus the clunky sentences. It's so frustrating because an editor will pick up these silly errors. And I so WANTED TO LOVE IT. But couldn't get past the first few chapters.

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### **May says**

Great story! Character development for Callie was good, and she was really relatable. She likes to take charge and not rely on anyone, but I think it would've been nice if she were more accepting of Nate's help. There were some cute NatexCallie moments though!

Also it was kind of obvious what Jonathon was, and I think the ending was too rushed. There was a lot of new info at once and it was hard to digest. I'm sure it goes into more detail in the next book though! Overall a great start to a new series.

Summary:

Strong heroine

Action-filled

Good character development

Budding relationship

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