



The Unicorn

Allison Lassieur

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The Land is Wounded.

Shadowlands monsters mass on the edges of Rokugan. The Crab Clan, long vigilant in battling them, seems unable or unwilling to stop the demonic onslaught.

But from an unlikely quarter, a hero arises. She will lead her forces in a battle that will rend the world: The Battle at Beiden Pass.

The Unicorn Details

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Author : Allison Lassieur

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From Reader Review The Unicorn for online ebook

Ashkhan says

My favorite clan in the L5R CCG. Have to be a bit benevolent here.

Serge Pierro says

Being a fan of the Legend of the Five Rings CCG, this series of books were a must read. Of course the fanboy element probably added an additional star to the rating. Non-fans of the game might find this to be an enjoyable read (although for them, only three stars).

Lori says

Story of the Unicorn, set 3 years after the coup by the Scorpion. Great action and drama. Tetsuko is a character I want to see more of.

Jukka Särkijärvi says

The Clan War series, I think, is hamstrung by its own structure. You have seven novels, each with their own protagonists and focusing on a different clan, but only one overarching plotline. In *The Scorpion*, we at least saw the plot begin, but *The Unicorn* does very little to advance it, being forced to spend time in introducing its characters, who are still left wooden, distant, and somewhat passive. The one thing I think the novel did well with its characters (or with anything else, really) was its sidestepping of the romance subplot with the female protagonist.

The book also undersells its events. From the sourcebooks we know the Battle at Beiden Pass is supposed to be big and significant, but the importance and scale of the events is not passed on to the reader in *The Unicorn*. It's supposed to be epic, larger than life, a turning point. Instead, we're told about it, we're not shown it, even though we're taken right to the middle of it!

See, I like Rokugan. I like *Legend of the Five Rings*. It makes no pretension of any kind of cultural accuracy, gleefully embraces every myth about the superiority of katanas the writers could find and is generally an unabashedly Hollywood take on fantasy Japan. It's over the top and takes itself seriously, which is what makes it work.

The Unicorn doesn't deliver that. If you ran a search and replace to change katanas to longswords on the manuscript, it could just as easily be set in the Forgotten Realms. You have katanas and tea sets and rock gardens, but those are all set dressing, and everyone acts like modern-day Westerners. Also, we get zombies. Lots of zombies. They're called zombies. They're called zombies lots, without recourse to synonym or euphemism. It gets repetitive fast, and took me out of the story. Zombies are something you get in a Romero flick. In a fantasy Japan, namedropping them breaks the tone. Calling them walking dead or hungry dead or

something would have been preferable.

Meh.

Eric Mikols says

Better overall than the first book in the series, this volume still suffers from mediocre prose. The biggest problem is that, while the world is interesting, there's little plot development until the end. The combat scenes are bad but the stuff in between are actually quite good.

lulzcannon says

This book reminded me of a very bad wapanese (that is, white kids acting Japanese) fan-fiction. The most bothersome aspect of the book is that the already wooden dialogue is peppered with Japanese buzzwords that scream "Trying too hard". Reading "The Unicron" as a teen marked the point in my life where I realized how annoying and unnecessary the domoarigotodesudesudesu bits picked up from watching too much anime could be when added to a literary work (and that's saying a lot, because I loved anime at this point in my life). Besides this, I never got really hooked on the story. It felt like mishmash of overdone fantasy tropes and never brought anything new to the table.

Jason Cominetto says

Characters could use more depth, and at one point there were 3 or 4 characters in one scene whose names began with "T", making reading cumbersome at points. A little too much set-up, but some cool moments here and there. Definitely a SOFT 3 stars

Nisha says

My favourite book in this series. It tells of the "barbarian" Unicorn clan's efforts to save their world from the encroaching evil.

The book focuses on two Unicorns, a Battle Maiden named Tetsuko, and the Unicorn Ambassador, Tadaji. Through their eyes the plot unfolds, including deadly battles and political intrigue. A great read for those interested in this series.
