



The Unburdened

David Annandale

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Author : David Annandale

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From Reader Review The Unburdened for online ebook

Gianfranco Mancini says

Twin novel to Rob Sanders' "The Honoured", this counterpart shows the same story from the Word Bearers point of view, but while the previous book was almost non stop action "bolter porn" and armours description, here we have a better character development and a great starting flashback in Monarchia, where the immortal hate between Ultramarines and Word Bearers legions was born.

"The Unburdened" is a great tale of moral conflict and betray, a literal descent into darkness and David Annandale knows for good how to mix military science fiction with cosmic horror.

A very good addiction to the Calth war Horus Heresy storyline together with the previous book.

Kavinay says

Good grief. Everything that ends up on Calth and becomes uninteresting. Story starts fine and the Word Bearers are genuinely interesting. But once you get to Calth, urk.

Hakan says

Starting slowly with the usual bolter porn, this book turned quickly to a pretty nice horror story, showing how a Word Bearer Chaplain continues his path into the arms of Chaos Undivided. Especially Chapters 13 and onwards are a very beautiful read if you are into chaos yarns.

Veronica Anrathi says

Unpopular opinion here. I liked The Honoured more than The Unburdened. Even though Word Bearers is one of my favorite legions, unlike the Ultramarines, one of the most entertaining for sure, I struggled to enjoy this story from Kurtha Sedd's perspective. I feel like even though we've learned a little more of his background, he was unable to become relatable in the slightest. There was some reasoning behind his actions, but we haven't seen enough of it. This book was unable to humanize him. This is the main problem for me, when Steloc Aethon had so much soul, The Honoured was more about bolter porn than spiritual torment. On the other hand, here I read Sedd's thoughts, beliefs and struggles, but just could not feel them. Oh well.

Daniel says

This is the second of the novellas involving these add on stories to Betrayal at Calth, wherein the Traitor Legions attack the homeworlds of the Ultramarines. As The Honored covered this subterranean war between the remnant forces of the Ultramarines and the insidious Word Bearers Chapter, from the side of the

Ultramarines, This books covers the Word Bearers side.

This tells the running battle as written in the previous novella, but the Word Bearers side of this conflict shows the slide into becoming The Unburdened, as in devoted and claimed totally by the Ruinous Powers. The Chaplain leading the Word Bearers, Kurtha Sedd was a close friend with th captain leading the Ultramarines fighting in this theater.

The words, Unburdened come into play very often in this book and a symbol and explanation of the behavior and decline into true evil for the Word Bearers. As an insidious evil, a true power of Chaos manifests itself to the chapter when finding the lower depths of the tunnels and caves beneath the planet, so does the chapter itself become unburdened with order and falls into the grips of Chaos.

Kurtha Sedd leads the remnants of his warrior on an almost fanatical campaign and loses many of his warriors, though the advent of a strange cult in the depths adds blood and power to his remaining warriors that strips them of any honor or conscience. The revert to martyrs and maniacal fanatics who have only two views: kill Ultramarines and get off the planet. They succeed at both, though the cost is high. They remnants of Kurtha Sedd's Word Bearers touch the Warp and succeed in truly becoming Unburdened by anything. This was a great book and complimented the other half of this story very well. If you are a Horus Heresy reader, you have to get these. Excellent book!

Danny

Skuli Saeland says

Kraftmikil saga í Warhammer vísindasögu-fantasíuheiminum sem þróast hefur upp úr spilakerfi og er orðinn æði viðamikill. Áhugaverð spil þótt ég eigi sennilega aldrei eftir að spila nokkuð af þeim. Hvað um það. Þessi vísindasögu-fantasíuheimur hefur fengið að þróast sögulega og gerist í fjarlægri framtíð. Ég greip í þessa sögu sem gerist í bókaflokkinum "Horus heresy" þar sem helsti herforingi og arftaki einræðisherra jarðar gerir uppreisn og herflokkar jarðar snúast hver gegn öðrum. Trúarbrögð og ofstæki eru mjög fyrirferðarmikil og í raun lykilatriðið í þessari sögu. Eftirminnileg sögupartur og leiklestur í stærri heild.

DarkChaplain says

Review also published here

Alright, people. You know the drill by now. This is a David Annandale story, so expect a large spiritual component.

Indeed, *The Unburdened* is all about Kurtha Sedd (first seen in Nick Kyme's audio drama *Censure* before being introduced as the antagonist in the Betrayal at Calth box set) and his spiritual journey towards becoming "unburdened".

It is also the flipside of Rob Sanders's *The Honoured*, which I would *urge* you to read ahead of this short novel.

The reason for that is mostly the framing of the plot. *The Honoured* follows a more structured and anchored progress, and each chapter starts with a Know No Fear-style timestamp. This book does not, but follows along the events in the other book, though its first chapter goes all the way back to the humbling of Lorgar

and the Word Bearers, delivering a very different perspective to the one found in *The First Heretic* .

You will see a lot of overlap with *The Honoured*, but Annandale's book does not concern itself so much with the exact events, or the action. Instead, the WB's morale and faith are the pillars, as well as Kurtha Sedd's internal struggle. He is desperately trying to find his place again, especially after hearing that his old friend Steloc Aethon is leading the Ultramarines arrayed against him.

He has to cut himself loose from the things and thoughts wearing him down: Loyalty to the Legion, which abandoned him and his men on a dying world. Friendship with Aethon, who took part in tearing down the monument city of Monarchia, all those decades ago. And also his belief in divine retribution and the Emperor watching him.

Taken as that, I very much enjoyed *The Unburdened*. Unlike its plot-armor dripping counterpiece, this installment was very atmospheric, dark and esoteric. It put me right into Kurtha Sedd's mind, and growing madness. As such, I much prefer it to Aethon and co from Sanders' work.

But you can't really read this without the context of *The Honoured* without getting lost in the more action-packed sections from said book. The scope felt far more limited, more centered around the warband rather than the war as a whole. Where Aethon's company is aware of other traitor groups and generals in the underground network of Calth, Sedd and co are isolated, and it wears on them.

Overall, though, I would recommend this as a fine addition to the Calth saga in the Heresy. I'd say it is one of the best pieces in that story arc, and would heartily recommend picking up the *Betrayal at Calth* combo - though I would recommend waiting for a combined print copy, which is bound to happen sooner or later.

Michael Dodd says

The second in the set of Black Library books released to coincide with the new *Betrayal at Calth* game, *The Unburdened* is the companion piece to Rob Sanders' *The Honoured* and sees David Annandale delving into the darkness once more to tell the Word Bearers' side of the story. Set primarily on Calth at the very beginning of the Underworld War, it actually takes things back much further to begin with, to Monarchia and the humbling of the Word Bearers by The Emperor and his XIIIth Legion. We meet Kurtha Sedd at a turning point in his life, taking his first steps on a path that will lead him to Calth and a fateful confrontation with Captain Aethon of the Ultramarines, a man he once called friend and brother.

Read the rest of the review at <https://trackofwords.wordpress.com/20...>

Simon says

Okay, maybe if you read this first before its sister volume, it might have been better. But as it is, its the exact same events as 'The Honoured' but told from a fractionally different point of view.

Does this constitute a valid standalone novel? I think not.

Andrew Ziegler says

Certainly better than the Honoured.

Dylan Murphy says

Oh man does David Annandale deliver again! The mirror story to Rob Sanders "The Honoured", this novel follows Kurtha Sedd, and his wonderfully terrifying Word Bearers. The story starts on Monarchia(?), with an alternate views on the humbling of the Word Bearers. The view from Kurtha Sedd was extremely interesting, and really started the whole feel of the book. While there was definitely action, the focus was very much so on Sedd and his walk into darkness and the glory of Chaos. It was extremely well done, Kurtha Sedd's inner battles between his old faith, his new faith, and his comrades/the legion was a real treat to read. Annandale really captures the cosmic horror in this one just as he did in "The Damnation of Pythos, only this time, we had the glory of reading from the traitors perspective. Really Damn good stuff, and it leads into Nick Kyme's "Censure".

It's a shame too, because Sedd is a Damn good character.

Michael T Bradley says

At least better than Know No Fear, for sure. This follows one Word Bearer (Kurtha Sedd) from basically the beginning of The First Heretic through a bit beyond the end of KNF. Sadly, the first few chapters are the best of the bunch, and the character arc is PRETTY similar to the arc of the main character in TFH, but overall, still, decently enjoyable seeing a bit from the Word Bearers' side during the Calth incident.

Also, having a main character named "Kurtha Sedd" probably seems OK on paper, but the audio book version is very confusing because I kept thinking, 'wait, what did he say?' Just something to keep in mind if you're a writer out there.

Alexander van der Pol says

The emperor is watching, whether he cares for what he sees no one can tell.
