



Wordless

AdriAnne Strickland

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“The Gods made their Words into flesh, giving privileged individuals the powers of creation...”

In Eden City, a member of the illiterate wordless class would never dream of meeting the all-powerful Words ... much less of running away with one. So when a gorgeous girl literally falls into his lap during a routine trash run, seventeen-year-old Tavin Barnes isn't sure if it's the luckiest or worst day of his life. That girl is Khaya, the Word of Life, who can heal a wound or command an ivy bush to devour a city block with ease. And yet she needs Tavin's help.

By aiding Khaya's escape from the seemingly idyllic confines of Eden City, Tavin unwittingly throws himself into the heart of a conflict that is threatening to tear the world apart. Eden City's elite will stop at nothing to protect the shocking secret Khaya hides, and they enlist the other Words, each with their own frightening powers, to bring her back.

Wordless Details

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From Reader Review Wordless for online ebook

Chelsea Pitcher says

First thing's first: WORDLESS is one of the best books I've ever read. Strickland has a phenomenal talent for blending unique world-building, excellent characterization, and pacing that will keep you flipping through the pages until the end. I cannot speak highly enough of this book.

So let's start with the world-building, shall we? On the surface, it seems like Eden City is quite a bit different from the real world. After all, the real world doesn't contain human beings who have the power to bid the forests to grow, or the power to kill with a touch. But under this fantastically unique world-building, we see hints of the real world, of governments that manipulate their people for profit. Of celebrity-status Words who seem to have it all, but really are treated like caged animals.

And at the center of it all, we have Tavin, a seemingly normal boy who's grown up poor, working as a garbage boy with the man who adopted him. But Tavin's life holds secrets that even he doesn't know, and it's impossible not to root for this wry, hilarious boy as he seeks out the truth.

And then we have Khaya. Kick-ass, wonderful Khaya, who would never sit around and wait for some boy to save her. Khaya is the Word of Life, but her power is being used for something terrible, and so she makes a plan to escape Eden city. That's when she collides with Tavin—literally, she lands on him while leaping to her escape. And what follows is nothing short of wonderful.

This book is just a masterpiece. The pacing is so fast, the tension crackles, and the characterization is believable without being predictable. I was on the edge of my seat the whole time I was reading, flipping from page to page, anxious to see what would happen next. Would the characters survive? Would this unlikely pair become friends, or even more? Who was the true villain in the story?

Strickland kept me guessing until the end. And along the way, I got to meet other fabulous characters, sinister and sweet, snarky and genuine. Khaya and Tavin aren't the only ones providing tension in the novel, and I loved that the other characters' stories never felt like side stories added in. Everything was perfectly woven together, and when I got to the ending . . .

Well, I won't spoil it for you, but wow! I love trying to guess how a book will end, and trying to solve all of its mysteries, but with WORDLESS, I had the pleasure of being surprised.

I recommend it to everyone.

Eunice says

"And the Words became Flesh"

All it took were those words, and i knew I'm going to give this book 5 stars. It was a very unique experience and adventure for me reading this book. I ran, hid, held my breath, and swam with them. The story in general is very intriguing.

Some books start really well but disappoint in the middle. I watched out for that part but there was NONE!!! everything was well placed and well thought. There was enough thrill, enough humor, lots of adventure, enough romance and friendship, enough twists and turns, enough mystery and...well, everything was said and done just at the right time. i have no complains. I loved how Tav was portrayed. He's very human by the way he thinks and acts while the Words were very Words. I liked Pavati's personality a lot but still like Khaya for Tav. I Liked how Khaya can be very close and very open depending on the situation. As for Tu, well he's there to make more twists. He's powerful (like the rest of the Words) and often reliable but i still cant decide if I like him.

I strongly recommend this book!

There's no other book like this. This is like, ALL-IN-ONE. Everything you want in just one go. I read this book as a reward to myself for doing well on my exam and i just have to say this: **This is the BEST reward i ever gave to myself.** Will be waiting for the sequel. I'll have to summon every patience i can summon to wait patiently...but it's more than worth it

(view spoiler)

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Wordless was entirely original and extremely engaging, with strong aspects of world building.

Opening Sentence: I'd heard the story when I was a kid.

The Review:

In Wordless, certain humans have been granted with the power of the Words, unlimited Godlike power. There is the Word of Life, who can heal and bring back the recently dead with a touch. There is the Word of Earth, who controls the elements on earth. They live in Eden City, and the lower on the social structure are kept illiterate as to not endanger the Words. But not all is right. Tavin, a poor trash collector, is pulled into a daring rescue for one of the Words much by accident, to prevent total takeover by those that crave power.

Wordless has a remarkably unique plotline. The idea of having humans called "Words" that can control life, darkness, earth, just by talking? Wow! I loved the structure to Eden City, though I wish I'd seen more of it because most of the book they're on the run. The lower citizens are kept wordless (can't read or write) as to not threaten the Words. You start to see how corrupt the social structure is, however, during the book, I loved the glimpses into how the Words were being used. The whole prospect of Godspeaking was creepy and made me shiver for Khaya. You could tell the work put into the world building and I certainly appreciated getting to delve deep into it! Since the majority of the novel is spent trekking through wilderness, dodging enemies, it was important to have stories about Eden City and such to fill the pages. To add to the originality, I must note that's it's been awhile since the POV has been primarily male. Last time I remember reading one like that is Percy Jackson... It's definitely not the last I read but it's the last that comes to mind. Speaking of Percy, I haven't read Percy Jackson and the Olympians in a long time!

The characters had depth and personality. Actually, Tavin was the character that I enjoyed least of all, don't get me wrong, he was not a bad character. It's just that the others were so amazing he was out shined! The romance had development and I loved watching Khaya melt from her outer shell a little each conversation. Some YA books have started with the insta-love where it's love at first sight, so the development made the success of the relationship all the sweeter. At first, she's hard and slightly self-centered. It takes her a long time to trust Tavin, but watching them get together was so worth the wait. Not to mention that Khaya's sweet Word of Life powers made me read without pausing.

Cliffhanger!! Usually my use of two exclamation marks in reviews is reserved for my rants. So here we go: give me book 2. Now. The book went from great to amazing within the last few chapters. So much happened but I was very pleased that it wasn't rushed. We got to let the sudden exciting twist sink in... And then the book ended. Yeah, no, don't leave me like this. I REFUSE. At least I don't have to wait as long because I'll review it, but still.

You should really check out Wordless. The writing style is different and dark, and the story is plagued by danger. World building wins an A++. If you get bored easily you may want to bypass this one because towards the middle things slow down (that's why 4 stars), but otherwise you're set. Characters are fun and I laughed a few times out loud. Not to mention the intriguing plotline that really drew me in. It promises a fulfilling trilogy and an exciting battle to come, and the cliffhanger leaves you wanting more. Action can flip on at the push of a button. An awesome romance begins to bud. To finish up I'll just say that Wordless is a unique and original novel that is worth your time!

Notable Scene:

"What's this?" Drey asked, picking up the postcard with the message scratched into the back. The pencil sat nearby, like a murder weapon at the scene of a crime.

Before I could invent some excuse about pretending to write-and it would have been good, especially since Drey couldn't tell the difference between real or fake letters-he uttered in a tone of utter surprise:

"Why does this say 'help me?'"

FTC Advisory: Flux provided me with a copy of Wordless. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review. In addition, I don't receive affiliate fees for anything purchased via links from my site.

Kristy Sartain- Whispering Pretty Stories Reviews says

Oh. My. God. YA Crack. I could NOT put this book down! The language, actions, love at first sight, everything screams TEENAGE BOY!!! I will 100% buy this book when it comes out. My guys, and girls, will love it!

I don't know how to classify Wordless as a genre, which is important since I'm genre-fied my library. ./ I would probably put it in Paranormal because some of the world is similar to our own. It's not a fantasy, other-world and it's not a dystopian because this isn't a future world. It's today, if The Words existed in real life.

The plot? Love it! The society in Wordless is "ruled" by The Words. These are people who not only are in charge of their Word, but ARE their Word. They are born into it and become it. Enter Tav. We can assume there is something *more* to him because of how he is described and how his "dad" raised him. I did NOT see the thing coming, though. And I could not get enough of it. I was devastated when this first book ended. Not in the ending, but that it ended. I wanted, nay, craved more. And now I have to wait a year before I can get it?!! UGH! YA crack!

Do yourself a favor. Read this book as soon as you can get your hands on it. Wow. Wow. Wow.

Larissa says

4.5 stars

My college counselor, of all people, gave me this book to review last year. She was related or connected to the author in some way and gave me an autographed copy for free because she had been looking at my college applications and knew that I ran this blog. It took me an incredibly long time to get to this book since I was busy with school and always reading other things, but I wish I'd gotten to it sooner since it is one of the better books I've gotten for review in a long time.

The world-building, for one, was spot on. A big factor for how well I enjoy a book is how well I feel I am immersed in the story. If the world-building is sub-par I always feel like I am wondering around in a picture with blurry edges, but Wordless was crystal clear, and the whole premise was incredibly interesting. I also really liked the characters, Tavin and Kaya are a loveable pair, and even characters who aren't "likeable" are still distinctive and interesting. Another factor of enjoyability for me is if the book makes me feel things (besides frustrated, that doesn't count) and I definitely felt for what Kaya and Tavin were going through, which made me even more invested in the story.

If I had to say something that I didn't like about this book it would be that some of the big reveals or plot twists were a bit cliché. Sure, I may not have seen them coming directly, but once they happened I wasn't surprised since I've seen it happen in other stories. That's not to say I don't like these clichés, some of my favorite stories use them or are founded on them, but it's something I definitely noticed, especially since the set up of the story is so original.

Wordless is a great Young Adult fantasy superhero story and I would definitely recommend it! Honestly, even though it is small press, I'm surprised this book is more widely read. It's easily as good as some of the best-sellers I've read.

TL says

A nice concept and characters... I was racing through the pages for most of it. I loved Tavin and Khaya and how the romance between them slowly blossomed.

It was scary how greedy Eden City was for power and how they kept the Words prisoner... the ending of the book was a surprise too, set up nicely for the next installment.

In spite of everything I did like/love about the idea... I felt disconnected from it at some point, not sure when/how it happened but I started to want to hurry up and finish it.

The world building is good but I wish there had been more information *shrugs* The backstory on the Words was interesting though.

Its probly another case of 'Not the book its me' (happens to the best of us) Its not a bad book, wish I could've liked it more.

Still would recommend, you may think differently than me.

Happy reading!

Helene says

Wow! AdriAnne Strickland tackled some complex ideas here and she did it with surprising humor and style. International politics, love, government manipulation - it's all here in book one of what should be a fantastic and popular series. I'm trying to be careful not to give anything away, which is difficult. But I will say that this book has a wiz-bang ending that already has me salivating for book #2!

Analouise Keating says

Great start to a new series. *Wordless* has innovative world-building and equally innovative characters. I enjoyed the ways language took on a life of its own (so to speak), as well as the implied connections between literacy and power. I'm looking forward to the next book! Highly recommended.

Jennifer Nash says

This was an enjoyable read. It had an interesting premise: only select individuals have the ability to read because words are so powerful. Along with the new element of actual Words - people who have the ability of the words (Death, Life, Earth, etc.). The unique story along with fun twists along the way make this book worth reading.

Lisa Maxwell says

We all know that words have power, but AdriAnne Strickland's debut takes that idea and makes it literal. In the world of wordless, there are the Words--god-like being who are inscribed with words that have the power to make and unmake, and the Wordless--the teeming masses of the unwashed illiterate, who look up to Words the way that we look to celebrities.

In a word, the premise is just brilliant. Luckily, the rest of the book follows through on its promise.

Wordless is a non-stop, keep-you-guessing adventure that takes our main character, Tavin Barnes, out of his monotonous life as a garbage collector and puts him at risk as an enemy of the state. The book teems with a diverse cast of characters and keeps you guessing, right until the very end.

Mrs. Kenyon says

Tavin Barnes is an illiterate wordless trash collector and he knows that will never change. He was found abandoned as a baby and raised in his wordless world. After being assigned to Eden City to collect trash, Khaya, the Word of Life, stages an escape and Tavin is quickly pulled into the world of the Words and the political intrigue he knew nothing about. The city's elite will do anything to get Khaya back, but won't admit to the public that she is missing. Do these teens have what it takes to outsmart their devious elders? Who can they trust and what will they sacrifice?

Wordless is the first book in the new Words Made Flesh series. Although there is world building and character development for a rather large group of characters, Strickland is able to weave these details into the story without it feeling like a lecture. The action is quick and ever changing with a few twists at the end to make this a satisfying read. Readers who enjoyed The Hunger Games, The Testing and The Maze Runner will want to try their eyes out on this book.

Hallie says

Heaven has given me a little gift! I just received this book two days before the release date! I cannot wait to read this!

My thoughts now that I have read this: Wow. Just wow. That ending...I did not see it coming. I can't wait to see how Ms. Strickland develops the story from there.

This book was imaginative and wonderful and...you'll just have to read it to find out. As for me, I will be twiddling my thumbs for the next two years, impatiently waiting for Lifeless and Boundless. The waiting may very well drive me insane, so if you need me at all during this period of time, I'll likely be in an insane asylum.

Deanna says

I loved this book! It's very original and the story and characters kept me interested and on the edge throughout the entire book. I couldn't put it down! It was fast-paced and fun with the right amount of romance, and a totally shocking ending that makes it so you can't wait for the second book, Lifeless. Loved it. I highly recommend!!

Mary Crockett says

A wild, roller coaster ride of a book with so many great moments along the way! I thought the alternative reality aspect of Wordless was especially fascinating. Loved the idea of the words made flesh--and all the implications of that idea. The characters were complex and engaging. Can't wait to read #2!

T.M. Smith says

I have always lived by the philosophy that Words have Power. When you speak them, you give them meaning. That were never more true than with this story. In a world where certain people have been given power over words, and certain words affect our reality, two teenagers defy the Gods and attempt to change society. Tavin is wordless, meaning his words have no power. Khaya is the exact opposite, she is the Word of Life. Khaya escapes Eden City with Tavin's help and so our story begins.

The center of power, Eden City, is home of the Words. The Word of Life, the Word of Death, Elemental Words such as fire, water, earth and air. But the majority of the populous are wordless, like Tavin. The Godspeakers rule and manipulate with the ability to read the words that are held on each Word's flesh. Khaya has learned exactly what the Godspeakers are planning, which is why she flees. Together they find other Word's and start to build their own abilities, both as individuals, but as a group as well.

While Tavin and Khaya are on their journey emotions run high. Fear of what the Godspeakers will do if they catch them, anger at what they are attempting, love and so much more. Friends will be lost, enemies will be made, their very lives are on the line. Through it all Tavin and Khaya remain steadfast to each other, but a dark long hidden secret threatens to tear everything they've built apart in the end.

My only complaint, there was a conflict between two of the characters that felt forced and didn't ring true. Aside from that this was a fantastically believable story within an amazingly drawn world littered with completely loveable and utterly revolting characters. Fast paced and steady throughout, action packed, suspenseful and just a teensy bit romantic. I felt like I was a third wheel travelling alongside Tavin and Khaya the story was so vividly described. And holy cliffhanger, not nice!

I give this one 5 out of 5 to spite the little hiccup, it was so thought provoking and descriptive and I highly recommend it.
