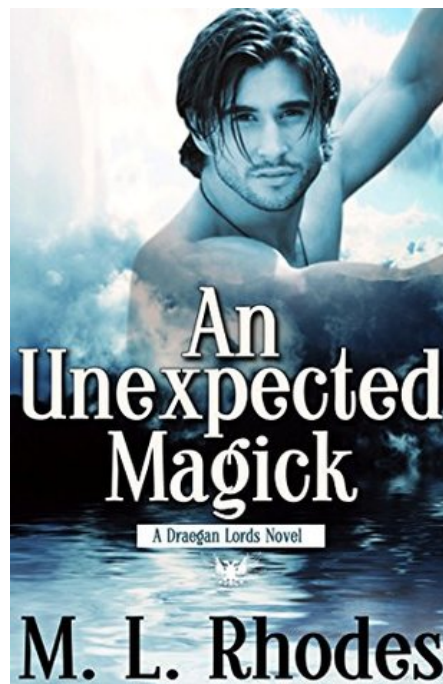




An Unexpected Magick

M.L. Rhodes

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Having lived his entire life under the veil of the high sorcerer's repression, Wen Daneson grew up with a sword in his hand. Now, at twenty-eight he's already earned the rank of second lieutenant in the draegan lord's guard and been granted the privilege of sitting on the lord's council of advisors. In spite of his achievements, he's made a point of keeping his distance from personal relationships. He's seen too many people develop close bonds and share their hearts, only to have everything torn apart with one slash of a sword. Which is why his attraction to the human Wesley Brannock unsettles him so much. There's something different about Wesley. Wen doesn't want to care about the younger man, but when he's tasked with training the inexperienced yet naturally talented Wesley for a position in the guard, being around him stirs powerful emotions he can't understand.

Wesley grew up living in secluded villages, learning at a young age to hide from prying eyes and keep to himself. Having spent most of his formative years with little company, when the settlement where he lives is attacked by the sorcerer's soldiers, he's frustrated that he doesn't have the skills to fight back. The draegans who came to their aide encourage the residents to relocate to the draegan camp, and when they do, a new world opens to Wesley. He's determined not only to learn how to protect himself but to join the draegan lord's guard and be part of something that matters. But when he's paired with the passionately intense Lieutenant Daneson, he begins to doubt whether he's suited for the guard at all. Not only does the lieutenant push him hard while never letting him close, keeping Wesley constantly torn over his feelings for the man, being around so many people after years of isolation makes it hard to keep the secret he's spent his whole life protecting.

On the eve of war, the two young men have to decide if facing their secret fears will destroy them or give them unexpected strength to face the coming darkness.

An Unexpected Magick Details

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From Reader Review An Unexpected Magick for online ebook

Irestia says

Well this was . . . sweet? This book has a general lack of action and doesn't advance any plot points in the series as a whole. This book and it's departure from the couple focused on in the other books just feels self-indulgent, and this book is just very much not necessary to the series. This is particularly frustrating because the previous book felt short and left things fairly unresolved for Gaige and Keiran, the couple we had been following. The problem here is that this is the most recently released book in the story, so everything with Gaige and Keiran is still unresolved. This book just messes up the pacing of the series; we went from high-tension angst to fluff with angst thrown in to give the fluff a plot. It would have been better to release this after the series was completed, as fan service for readers who wanted to stay in this world a bit longer.

Crissy Morris says

5 stars

Originally reviewed at Joyfully Jay

Cherish the unexpected, for it can lead you to your heart.

Lieutenant Wen Daneson knows what it feels like to love someone completely and lose them violently. That's why he's kept his distance from Wesley. As the attraction continues to grow stronger and a strange connection is formed between the two men, Wen is more determined than ever to keep his distance for fear of losing himself in Wes and fear of losing Wes. When Captain Rizik asks Wen to train Wesley one-on-one to prepare him to join the draeganjhere, Wes is even more determined to keep his distance emotionally...no matter how much he wants Wes.

Spending his life away from most people in order to keep his secret, a secret even he doesn't fully understand, Wesley Brannock is in a whole new world when he enters the draegan camp. Joining the weapons training group with the goal of learning how to defend himself and protect his mother, Wes has dreams of joining the draeganjere not only to protect his family, but the camp as well. He's been attracted to Wen since they first met, but he's sure that he doesn't have a chance with the handsome lieutenant. As he begins training with Wen for the draeganjhere, he senses Wen putting distance between them, but is unsure what he's done to turn the usually warm, happy lieutenant into a cold, all-business dictator where nothing Wes does is good enough for him.

As training progresses, the attraction between Wen and Wesley reaches a boiling point and Wen has to decide whether living his life alone and losing Wesley to his stubbornness is better than feeling the freedom to love the younger man. For Wesley, giving into love is easy. It's sharing his secret with the possibility of losing Wen forever that's hard. Both men have to learn to trust one another with their secrets in the midst of a war that could cost them their lives even before they have a chance to enjoy any sort of relationship.

The draegans are back, ladies and gentlemen, and this time with a new perspective, new mystery, new secrets, and new love. Master storyteller M.L. Rhodes has floored me again. I'll admit I began this story with high hopes. I absolutely love the Draegan Lords series, so to finally get a fresh, new taste of that world again after so long was exciting. An Unexpected Magick is A Draegan Lords Interlude. It's a story within the realm and timing of the original series. The timing of this book actually runs parallel to Lords of

Kellesborne. This is Wen and Wesley's story, a relationship that was first brought to light in Fires of Ballian, but now we get to see it from the beginning.

I've been in love with Wen since his introduction in True of Heart. He's a secondary character in the Draegan Lords series, so I'm happy to get a peek into his life. Wen is a consistently strong, stable character in both a secondary or main role. He does what needs to be done. He has faith in his leaders, in his family, and in his people. His vulnerability is in his fear of falling in love and losing that love. His growth as a character, his faith in himself and Wesley is one of the greatest parts of this story.

Wesley is the more vulnerable of the two. He's not weak. He has a quiet strength. His secret keeps him from ever trusting anyone fully. He's has lived a lonely life keeping secrets he doesn't understand. He can be stubborn and defensive, but he's also accepting, protective, and caring.

The chemistry between Wen and Wesley is palpable. The tension, be it sexual or otherwise, is thick until they finally cross the line of attraction into a physical relationship. And wow...when they finally did get together I'm surprised my reader didn't overheat. They're hot individually, but together Wen and Wesley are an inferno.

"Keep doing stuff like that and I'm going to have you spread-eagle in the bed in about two seconds with my prick buried so far up inside you you'll be tasting my seed for a week."

A surge of white-hot need shot through Wesley at his words. "Is that a promise?" he asked breathlessly, smiling.

"Think you can take it?"

"Try me."

"Oh, I will. Trust me." With his fingers still working Wesley's nipples, more firmly now, he leaned in until his mouth was against Wesley's ear again. "Before the night is over, you'll be mine, Wes, in every possible way. I'm not letting you leave this tent until you know, balls to bones, that I'm never letting you go."

"Oh gods." Wesley's eyes closed as the words set his veins on fire. "I'm holding you to that."

I am more amazed with the detail of the world in each story I read of this series. There is always something new that surprises me or gets my attention. This time it is Wesley's secret. I don't want to give too much away, but I'll be honest. I was afraid that the addition of this twist would come off as too much or too cheesy, but I was wrong. That'll teach me to ever doubt this spectacular storyteller. And remember, I've said before, everything happens for a reason in these books. I have no doubts that this is only a small part of the bigger picture.

The story itself is engaging from start to finish, as always. It's fast paced and captivating. I laughed. I cried. I was angry. I was happy. My heart felt like it was ripped out of my chest at least once. And, geez, it's so hot. It is an adventure in the reading. The characters drew me in, but the story and plot kept me wanting more. So much so, that by the last page I was sad that it was over.

I know some readers want to get back into Kieran and Gaige's story, and I don't blame you. Their story is amazing, but don't discount the interludes. They are part of the big picture. This is only the first of Wen and Wesley. Word is Rhodes is working on another Wen and Wesley interlude story that will span the end of Fires of Ballian and beginning of Circle of Ariend. I'm not sure if any other interludes are planned for Wen and Wesley or any of the other characters (Jax perhaps?), but I'm looking forward to each and every last story in this world. And for those of you hardcore Kieran and Gaige fans, don't fret. Rhodes promises that Circle of Ariend is coming. And I for one am waiting on pins and needles for all of it.

An Unexpected Magick is a welcome addition to a wonderful world and a great part of one of my favorite series. The characters are beautiful. The world continues to grow in ways that I would have never imagined. And this story is sweet and sexy and completely perfect. I now want more of Wen and Wesley...and Kieran

and Gaige. This interlude has given new perspective to an amazing story arc and added more depth to the love I have for the Draegan Lords series. I highly, highly recommend An Unexpected Magick by M.L. Rhodes.

Jessie H. says

3.5/5 Stars

Cute but short.

~♥ Elle ♥~ says

I love this series! This visit to Velensperia was truly long overdue. Though this is not really in the main story arc, it is still a welcome addition to the series. This was a sweet story set in a fascinating world. Wesley and Wen were really good together. There were sweet and tender scenes and there were really sizzling scenes. My fave was the scene in the pool and then in Wen's hut. The story was balanced... well paced, well developed characters and fantastic writing. LOVED THIS! Can't wait for the final book to come out.

Diane says

I'm a big fan of the Draegan Lords and all the stories set in it's world. This installment takes a deeper dive (pun intended) into the characters of Wen and Wes. Fun as always.

4.5 stars

Caroline Brand says

3.5 Stars

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

4 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com/>

This story is linked to a series and chronologically, takes place concurrently with Lords of Kellesborne. Wen is second lieutenant in the draeganjhere (the draegan lord's guard) and has learned to protect his heart from harm having seen too much love torn apart by a sword or an arrow, when Wesley catches his eye, Wen hiding from the sorcerer's soldiers, his mother has taught him from a young age to protect his secret, but

when they settle into the draegan's camp and he has a fierce attraction to Wen, he finds it harder and harder to hide the secret and he has to decide if he can face rejection from the one he has come to love.

Whoop *dances* Finally after six thousand years (okay, a *slight* exaggeration) we are getting a taste of the Draegan's again, do I care that it is Wen and Wesley, hell no, Wen and Wesley caught our attention in *Fires Of Ballian* and we can now discover how they got together. Wen has fought against the sorcerer for as long as he can remember, now a second lieutenant for the Draegan Lords he is training those who wish to learn to fight. Wen tries his best to protect his heart from loss by keeping relationships at arm's-length, but Wesley sneaks into his heart. Wesley doesn't know what he has done that Wen would now hold him at arm's-length and a confrontation has both of them admitting the truth of their feelings, but Wesley still has a secret and he fears how Wen will react. But danger finds them and Wesley has no choice, but to trust in his instincts.

This is a wonderful visit to the world of Velensperia and the Dreagan's who are fighting for freedom, this story is centred on the developing relationship of Wen and Wesley although we do see brief glimpses of Gaige and Kieran they are very much in the background. Wen and Wesley are brilliant characters, Wen the seasoned warrior at only twenty-eight and Wesley the eager trainee desperately determined to be a fighter and protector, each of them cautious about relationships, but for very different reasons. The development of the relationship is good, it is well written and isn't rushed into, but that doesn't mean that they don't have scorching sex because they do, oh boy do they! I loved how this story is woven into parts of *Lords of Kellesborne* keeping the strands in place, but being independent so we never lose focus of whom the stars of the book are. The danger is well placed and gets the blood pumping and Wesley gets a shock when Wen is a lot more accepting than Wesley feared.

I have to recommend this to those Dreagan Lords fans who have been panting for more, to those who love fantasy worlds, danger, excitement, hot sex, love and a happy for now ending. Also as a side note, I am keeping my fingers crossed for this summer and hopefully the appearance of *Circle of Ariend* and a second Wen and Wesley interlude.

Gitanjali says

A wonderful series

This is the fourth book in the series and is more of a novella featuring secondary characters. I liked Wen and Wes from previous books and did not mind reading about their love. The author is a good writer and I really like her style. Am looking forward to the next book in the series which will also feature Wen and Wes, i heard. But the book that I really want to read is number 6 in the series featuring the main protagonists. I hope it won't be too long now.

Seiran says

I really liked this book, and thought it was well done. My only complaint is the author is not very clear on when this story takes place, but IMOP its between Lords of Kellesborne and [book:Fires Of Ballian|7543927. If you haven't read this series, then this one won't make sense to you as there are past characters and situations throughout this book. Otherwise, I think it's a great addition to the series. It explains more of who Rowen is and his past experiences that make him who he is. It also explains a lot more of who Wesley is, and maybe "what"? he is. It also gives you a chance to explore several other secondary characters in the series. So if you like the Draegan Lords series as much as I do, and have been waiting forever for the next book to

come along, this is a great little story to keep you content until the author gives us what we have all been waiting for.

Reviewer Larissa says

****Review for Reviews by Jessewave****

When I arrived at work this morning I wore a dopey smile, upon which my boss asked me: “What is his name?” I answered: “An Unexpected Magick.” Of course my boss sighed and muttered something about me and books. But getting this book did make me very happy.

An Unexpected Magick once again takes us back to the fantastical world of Velensperia and M.L. Rhodes didn't disappoint!

This is the fourth book in the Draegan Lords series after True of Heart, Lords of Kellesborne and Fires of Ballian. Unlike the other stories, this short interlude focuses on everyone's second favorite couple Wen and Wesley ('cause let's face it, everyone noticed Wen and Wes in Fires of Ballian), instead of Gaige and Kieran. While I very much want to know what happens next in Gaige's and Kieran's adventures and Circle of Ariend is one of my most anticipated releases, I don't think anyone will mind this short shift in focus.

The story takes place during the events of Lords of Kellesborne and tells the story of how Wen and Wes came to be a couple. An Unexpected Magick can be read as a stand-alone, nothing is given away but a few minor details. Having read the other books, I can't recommend this though!

The focus is on both Wen and Wesley. The reader gets a better idea of who both characters are. Wen is Martha's oldest son and recently became a second lieutenant in the draeganejhere, the guards of camp. Along with Gaige he is training new members and Wes looks promising in more ways than one. From the start there was a connection between the two, but neither dared act on it for their own reasons.

Wen is a smart, strong but caring draegan. He has all the qualities of being a good leader. He's been hurt in the past and it's holding him back with regards to Wes.

Wesley on the other hands lived a sheltered life and with good reason. He has a secret of his own. Despite this, he is smart, a fast learner and passionate. He's determined to become the best fighter he can be. Wesley is an endearing character. They both complement each other. Where Wen is strong, Wesley is passionate.

An Unexpected Magick is not a lengthy story. Despite that a lot happens, but not once is there a feeling of the story being rushed or the feel of it being too short. While I would have loved for the story to go another hundred pages, the length was just right. There are no open endings nor unfinished story arcs.

It is truly a well written story with solid, imaginative writing that keeps you firmly in the story. The writing is vivid in such a way that you feel like you are standing right next to Wen and Wesley.

And... it wouldn't be a M.L. Rhodes story without a steamy scene or three. Hot damn, they will melt your screen *fans self*

I could go on for a long time, telling you all the ins and outs of this story, but the fact is that you just have to

pick it up for yourself!

Carina Newworld says

This book was a nice bite for short time enjoyment.

It doesn't really make sense on it's own. So you should be familiar with True of Heart and Lords of Kellersborne to enjoy it.

To see this lovestory between two Boys grow was funny and the book felt a lot less hurried to me than the main novels.

All in all I think it's the best book of M. L. Rhodes that I have read so far.

Blue Bayou . says

Ummm Hi, this is the minority. I was 'happy happy joy joy' to get back to the Draegan Lords. However, for as much as I was excited to return and to return to Wes and Wens' story, it didn't work for me. There were multiple spelling errors. The situation that spurred Wen to follow Wes to finally talk seemed flimsy. There was a lot of angst going on with Wen, the capitulation didn't ring true. The sex scenes were boring and the dialogue during sex was awful, really. I kept cringing. I just didn't care for their story and it didn't match up with the small scene in The Fires of Ballion. I would have thought by then they would have let everyone know they were a couple. However when Gaige finds them its with surprise. I would think someone would have figured that out between this story and FOB since in FOB they are at the Draegon Castle by then. Too many questions and holes.

DeWanda says

3.5*

Russell Moller says

Ok but

I loved the first three books - they were all 5/5. Great story arcs, interesting events and wonderful characters. The fact that this book did not continue the story from book 3 annoyed me greatly. I must admit that I found it difficult to engage with this book as it completely broke the momentum that had been building - even though I liked Wes and Rowen's characters.

Ami says

In my review for book #3 of this series, Fires of Ballian, I wrote, "I adore the little *side-scenes* from secondary characters, including the cute one when Gaige catches his lieutenant Wen making out with a human boy, Wesley". Well, this is Wen and Wesley's story. I think, timeline wise, this is supposed to be book #2.9 or something, not exactly #3.5 since Gaige and Keiran are still together (Keiran is not yet kidnapped).

I thought Wen and Wesley had wonderful chemistry. Wesley, particularly, was adorable. I couldn't help it, I enjoyed reading blushing younger man *lol*. Wesley was a great fighter too, though. I loved what Rhodes wrote about Wesley's 'real' identity; that he had a magick in him that he didn't even notice (he just thought that he was *different*). Magick that ended up to be the power to save both himself and Wen when time needed.

I was glad that this secret came out rather near the end, about 3/4 of the story, because "I keep this a secret to protect you" plot wasn't something I enjoyed. Especially not in an urban fantasy/paranormal series when, well, being a little different is accepted anyway.

Wen was definitely *whipped* when it came to his human lover *LOL*. At first, when he refused to acknowledge it, I was worried that it would be what drove the plot -- again, not particularly looking for push-pull plot at this moment, it just seemed banal. So, I was happy that Rhodes didn't take that path. Instead, Wen realized quickly that he was in love with Wesley, and he decided to act on it.

It was sweet and lovely and everything was just in the right amount for me to love it.
