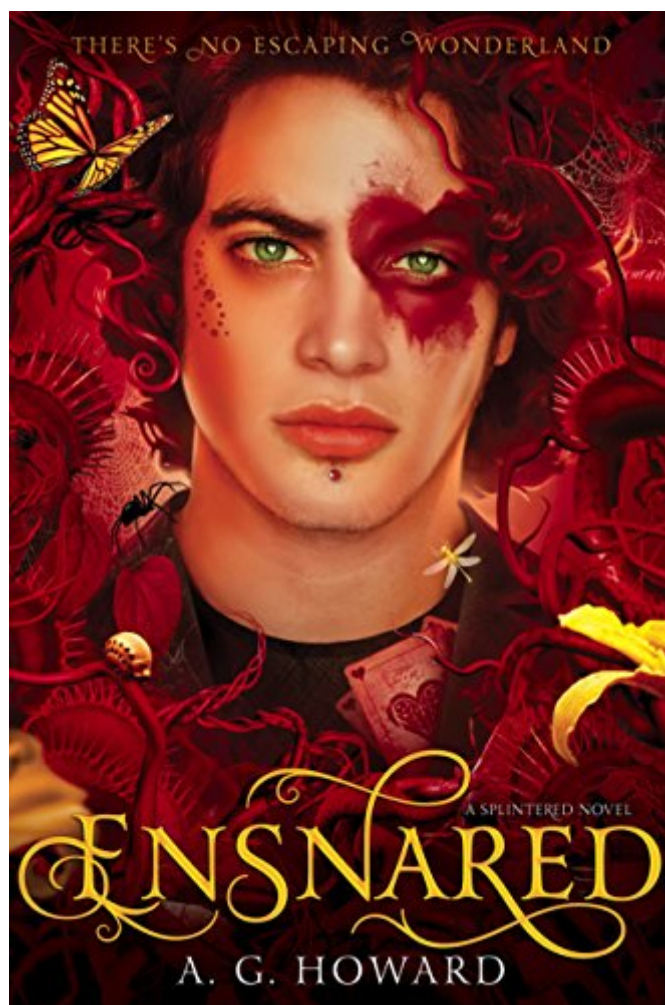


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Ensnared (Splintered Series #3): Splintered Book Three



Synopsis

After surviving a disastrous battle at prom, Alyssa has embraced her madness and gained perspective. She's determined to rescue her two worlds and the people and netherlings she loves. Even if it means challenging Queen Red to a final battle of wills and wiles . . . and even if the only way to Wonderland, now that the rabbit hole is closed, is through the looking-glass world—a parallel dimension filled with mutated and violent netherling outcasts. In the final installment of the wildly popular Splintered trilogy, Alyssa and her dad journey into the heart of magic and mayhem in search of her mom and to set right all that's gone wrong. Together with Jeb and Morpheus, they must salvage Wonderland from the decay and destruction that has ensnared it. But if they succeed and come out alive, can everyone truly have their happily ever after? Read all the books in the New York Times bestselling Splintered series: *Splintered* (Book 1), *Unhinged* (Book 2), *Ensnared* (Book 3), and *Untamed* (The Companion Novel). Praise for *Splintered*: **STARRED REVIEW** "Fans of dark fantasy, as well as of Carroll's Alice in all her revisionings (especially Tim Burton's), will find a lot to love in this compelling and imaginative novel." • *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* "Alyssa is one of the most unique protagonists I've come across in a while. *Splintered* is dark, twisted, entirely riveting, and a truly romantic tale." • *USA Today* "Brilliant, because it is ambitious, inventive, and often surprising • a contemporary reworking of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," with a deep bow toward Tim Burton's 2010 film version." • *The Boston Globe* "It's a deft, complex metamorphosis of this children's fantasy made more enticing by competing romantic interests, a psychedelic setting, and more mad violence than its original." • *Booklist* "Protagonist Alyssa...is an original. Howard's visual imagination is superior. The story's creepiness is intriguing as horror, and its hypnotic tone and setting, at the intersection of madness and creativity, should sweep readers down the rabbit hole." • *Publishers Weekly* "While readers will delight in such recognizable scenes as Alyssa drinking from a bottle to shrink, the richly detailed scenes that stray from the original will entice the imagination. These adventures are indeed wonderful." • *BookPage* "Attention to costume and setting render this a visually rich read..." • *Kirkus Reviews* "Wonderland is filled with much that is not as wonderful as might be expected, and yet, it is in Wonderland that Alyssa accepts her true nature. The cover with its swirling tendrils and insects surrounding Alyssa will surely attract teen readers who will not be disappointed with this magical, edgy tale." • *Reading Today Online* "Creepy, descriptive read with a generous dollop of romance." • *School Library Journal* A

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Customer Reviews

This trilogy has been quite a ride! It's wild and chaotic...just like Wonderland is! A.G. Howard concludes Alyssa's story in *Ensnared*, and...I finally get it. I've seen quite a few reviews where people were mad or upset with the way of things, and I get it! It's going to be hard not to mention my feels over it or what I think about said turnout, but I'll remain mum about it all. We pretty much pickup where we left off, Alyssa and her father want to return to Wonderland and rescue her mother, Jeb and Morpheus, though the boys are trapped in AnyElsewhere, a different place entirely from what I was able to gather, since the gates to Wonderland are completely closed off. But first, Alyssa wants to help her father get his memories back, and that is their first task. Their journey then takes them to AnyElsewhere where they do find Jeb and Morpheus, but Jeb has changed. He's been affected greatly by the prom ordeal and it's left him forever changed--to say the least. Worse yet, he wants nothing to do with Alyssa anymore. Morpheus is more than happy to see Alyssa again and will welcome her into his arms, if only she'd take that first step. It seems for the entire novel, Alyssa

debates with herself who she should be with; rule Wonderland--once they rescue it and rid themselves of Red--with Morpheus at her side or return to the human world and live her days out with Jeb? She can't decide, she wants both lives because she truly loves both guys. And this is where she irritates me. I guess I'm just a fan of monogamy. I don't believe a person can love two people and want to be with those two people. One or the other has to mean something more to you. But then, Alyssa isn't quite normal herself. She has always had two sides to herself; the human side who grew to love Jeb and the side that has been won over by Wonderland which in turns loves Morpheus. It's truly a tangled web. While I get that she has two sides to herself, I still don't like her indecisiveness. It's just likely a personal thing I have with the story. I was also expecting maybe a bit more with the ending. Something to just jump right off the pages and have my heart racing. While things were intense, I felt like the resolution just kind of came about with a snap. There's still conflict and all that, but the resolution just came along too easily for me. The pacing to the story was great though! There's several steps into this journey and getting to a happy ending is going to take work and time. Though, it's hard to say what this ending is. I mean, I could use adjectives, but then I feel like I might lead you to think spoilery thoughts! Though I have to say, I could see the ending coming. I was hoping to be wrong, I usually am in most things, but leave it to fate that I'd be right about something I hoped to be wrong about! Howard has created quite the magical world here! I loved how she took a beloved classic and totally twisted it around and around! You don't see much of the Alice in Wonderland tale here precisely, you have to look deep between the words in order for it to be there! But even then, we see things that we never knew possible! I loved how magical this series has been and exciting! There were some down sides to it as well, but it was a most remarkable read! Overall Rating 3.75/5 stars--I just can quite call it a 4 star read, but it's definitely better than a 3.5. Hence I must use the ever awkward fraction star review!

(sigh) I am not even sure where to start this review. . . I want to try to get through my feelings on the whole book before I address the ending. If I even manage to address it. There were so many feels happening in this book. I spent the first few chapters or so chewing on my nails waiting to hear something, anything, about Morpheus and Jeb. We learn more about Alyssa's dad and his family line and all that is interesting and stuff but...in the back of my mind I was stuck on the boys. I tried to focus, I did. Finally, FINALLY, we get to the boys and man, things just start to get so twisted. Alyssa is a little cray-cray, Morpheus is still his cunning and conniving self, and Jeb, well Jeb is angsty and now has some magic of his own. The way Alyssa seems to be literally splitting in two from Red's doing she is also split between her netherling side and human side over Morpheus and Jeb. My

heart hurt for her it really did, but to me there wasn't ever a choice. #teammorpheus In total Howard style she, well really Jeb, has created some creepastic creatures in Ensnared. I loved the whole vibe of the book and the set up of the world. I think we finally get answers to smaller things from the start of the series. Things were pieced together and the puzzle was finally able to be seen as a whole. The adventure was definitely NOT lacking. Reuniting with all the characters made my heart pitter patter. I loved the Wonderland that Howard created. Following Alyssa through this book was more nerve wracking knowing we would find our end. . . I am sad, so sad, to see this series end. Which leaves the ending... I had begun seeing mixed responses from readers all over (even my best friend) before I finished the book. I even stopped and read another book to prolong my feels. I am going to state my opinion on the matter. I think the ending felt like more of a copout than anything. I understand the author wanting to please her readers and in this case Howard had to please the masses swarming to either Morpheus or Jeb. Don't get me wrong the set up she wrote to achieve the outcome was brilliant and I applaud her but the ending felt wrong in some ways. Some say it was the perfect ending... because they all three (Alyssa, Jeb and Morpheus) win. Well, it's fine and dandy to think of it that way but reality is she was getting the best of both worlds and I think that wasn't fair to either guy. How could she fully give herself to one or the other? She couldn't, not really, not fully. In some way they all did get their happily ever after and maybe that's the way I should see it. I'm still trying to see it that way. Overall, it was a great series and I'd read it all over again given the chance and knowing what I know. I look forward to any other work Howard may put out and hope to everything that we get to glimpse Wonderland once more. perhaps with an offspring of Alyssa and Jeb's? Or through the eyes of her son with Morpheus?

I was severely let down. I loved mad Alyssa and the second book ending made me believe that she really stepped up as her place as red queen but sadly her stupid ties with the human realm that keeps her emotions see sawing drove me crazy. I felt like the author didn't want to let anyone down so she made an easy choice. Both men get a happy ending. But I despise it. I feel you cannot love two men and she should have picked one and been done with it. And obviously that one was Morpheus. She loves Wonderland and Jeb is just a distraction. Such a let down. I prefer the stories that take the risk to make them good. Not just lightly treading water all the way through.

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