



## King of the Unblessed

*Michelle M. Pillow*

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**"This title was previously released by Samhain Publishing."**

The choice is simple: go with him or die...

"King of the Unblessed: Realm Immortal, Book One"

Merrick, dark elfin King of Valdis, had once been heir to all that was good happiness and pleasure his domain. Now, trapped as the ruler of mischief, king of necessary evil, he stands on a precipice of choice. On one side, his estranged brother, now ruler of what should have been Merrick's and, on the other, King Lucien of the Damned. Both would sway him. Damnation is winning.

Lady Juliana of Bellemare is from a human family, protected by the Blessed, coveted by the Damned. Betrothed to an old friend of her father's, Juliana is resigned to living out her days close to her childhood home, longing for an adventure, never dreaming she d get what she wished for. When her fiance is murdered and the children of Bellemare are stolen, Juliana is sent on a quest in a strange realm where appearances are deceiving.

Merrick brings more adventure and passion than any woman could want. Can she withstand the temptations of the Unblessed king? The spell she weaves over him is more than he can resist and, desperate to be the one to rule her, Merrick offers her a choice; either come with him until he tires of her or die.

Warning: This book contains hot sex, violence, trickster goblins, overly helpful sprites, a king of necessary evil who lives to get his way and a woman who would dare to deny him."

## King of the Unblessed Details

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Author : Michelle M. Pillow

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## From Reader Review King of the Unblessed for online ebook

### Gaele says

AudioBook Review

Stars: Overall 4 Narration 3 Story 5

So I had so much fun with this author's Divinity Warriors series, and the two medieval romances that were stand alones that I was really excited to be offered the opportunity to start on the Realm Immortal Audio Book.

There are really four or five different stories that comprise this book, making it the perfect introduction to the series and providing the never ending conflict that has existed for eons.

Set in the early 15th century, the medieval themes and references are beautifully integrated, showing the author's true enjoyment of the fashion, customs and beliefs of the age.

The primary protagonists in this story are Lady Juliana, soon to be married and not relishing the decisions, but having no power to change her own destiny. Her life is reasonably carefree: she spends much time imagining and dreaming.

Merrick is the King of the Unblessed: an elven man with the task of separating the evil from the good, and finding a balance in the world. He hears Juliana speaking of her desire for adventure, and is instantly obsessed with her. When he arranges to kidnap Juliana and make her his own, the characters start to arrive fast and furious, and the subplots and major conflicts start to appear,.

Merrick and Juliana have a chemistry that is palpable: while she laments her lack of self-control around Merrick, she cannot help but enjoy their more lustful and steamy interactions. While Merrick is not one for soft words and gentle ministrations, his tender and considerate care for her, despite his often harsh delivery make his own internal struggles even more poignant.

See, Merrick and his brothers Lucien and Ean rule the three realms of the Immortals, Unblessed, Damned and Blessed. The three have a familial connection that none has severed, and this allows them a sense of one another's emotions, presence and struggles. Merrick was never meant to take his throne, and for him the struggle between his own personal preferences and the necessary evil that he must loose on the world are constantly battling within him. Lucien is deliciously and unapologetically evil: his delight in all things dark and deviant are readily apparent, and his lover Mia alternates in awe, fear and desire of him. Ean is the King of the Blessed, and as such he fights for all that is good and right. Yet even he understands the need for some darkness to creep into the light: allowing for the reset of both nature and the true appreciation.

Add to that a castle full of goblins who love to be told children's stories, two sprites with a love-hate relationship, gnomes, fairies and even a few of Juliana's brothers and the action is fast paced with characters providing tension, laughs and even steam. While it puts me in the mind of the film Labyrinth in the unique voicing and introduction of characters, the unique inclusions of ultra-alpha males, humor and historical references make it utterly fresh and individual.

Narration is provided by Ross Pendleton, and the review on his delivery is mixed. While I found his narration to move beautifully from one character to the next, with enunciation that was clear and precise, there was a great effort expended to 'act' voices of characters, some working better than others. It took some time to acclimate myself to his voicing choices, and were I not familiar with a similar delivery style from a weekly podcast that I listen to, I would have found many of the changes in pitch, tone and pacing to be

distracting. What I can say is that as you listen more the choices start to make sense and do not distract from the writing and the flow of the story.

I received an eBook copy from the author for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

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### **Janet says**

I don't read many romance novels anymore, and I'm not particularly interested in the paranormal romance genre -- but I somehow found myself caught up in this story about a medieval noblewoman who, on the eve of her marriage to an older man she's known all her life, has her wish for "adventure" granted by an elven king who has become obsessed with her.

The "unblessed" stand between the "blessed" and the "damned." They are not evil, but are aligned with the necessary and natural forces of darkness, winter, breakdown, and chaos. The politics of the Otherworld and the balance of power between the three realms of blessed, unblessed, and damned shapes the plot and provides a level of complication beyond the romantic storyline.

While reading the story, it was easy to suspect that the author is a fan of the movie "Labyrinth," for many of the motifs seem drawn directly from that story: a heroine who likes to lose herself in stories, not dreaming that she is being observed by the characters she thinks are fantasy, an enigmatic king who steals her away in an act that could be seen as wicked but is equally mixed with passionate obsession, a quest with a time limit, unexpected fairy-goblin helpers, even -- yes -- a labyrinth.

But I don't want to suggest that this is a rip-off of "Labyrinth". I found the resonances fun, but the story itself felt fresh to me.

"King of the Unblessed" does suffer from the too-frequent romantic novel plot device of the heroine constantly misunderstanding the hero who can't bring himself to be fully honest about his feelings, but the strong points outweighed that annoyance.

I'm actually looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

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### **Heather \*Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin\* says**

DNF @ 36%

I really wanted to like this one. I loved the premise and was intrigued at the comparisons to *Labyrinth*. Alas, Merrick is no Jareth. He's more of a petulant emo man-child. I just didn't find the main characters compelling or their interactions sexy.

\*cue Jareth sadface\*

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## **Mistress ~ ♠ Mistral's Kiss ♠ ~ (Mist) says**

Labyrinth porn, nuff said = )

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## **Netanella says**

"King of the Unblessed" is a well-written fantasy romance that both pleased and annoyed me.

I enjoyed the main character of Merrick, the misunderstood King of the Unblessed, and his conflict with this brother and the Demon King Lucian. The sprites and fairies and gnomes were fun. So were the goblins.

Lady Julianna completely annoyed me throughout the story. She is described as near perfection, yet she consistently lies to her brothers and her new lover. Her choices are crap, and she has no clue about life.

I was glad when the story ended - I hope the next book in the series redeems this mess.

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## **Tiffany Roberts says**

I'm sure this has been said many times, but I'll say it as well: King of the Unblessed highly reminded me of the Labyrinth. Absolutely nothing wrong with that. It's an amazing story and movie, and loved that the Labyrinth might have been the inspiration behind King of the Unblessed.

I loved the Prologue as it introduced King Merrick. Poor guy just needs some love. I was very curious about him and wanted to know more about him immediately. However, by the second encounter with Juliana (the heroine of this story)...he was a bit off. Then I realized what he was doing as the story progressed and it made sense — even if I didn't agree with his decisions. Would have solved things so much easier if people would just communicate!

Speaking of which — Juliana. Annoying. Her internal dialogue as she tried to reason with herself with why she did something, or why she believed this or that was irritating. She seemed like she should have been smarter than that, but she was naïve to the point of dumb. Not to mention how she was pretty much in insta-love with Merrick despite all he's done. Merrick, in no way, shows any redeeming qualities when he presents himself to Juliana. He's not a nice guy. When we're reading from his point of view, we can see and understand what he's trying to do, that he really isn't as bad as he's made out to be, but Juliana doesn't see or get that from him. He does everything from hurting her and tricking her, and yet, she loves him. Annnnd then she responds to Nicholas right after doing the dirty with Merrick. That was also off-putting. Whether she believed she did it or not, for being so innocent and believing that it's a sin if you're not married, she didn't push Nicholas away. Also, her utter lack of trust in Merrick, accusing him at every turn and not speaking plainly (again, communication!!!) was frustrating.

Enough about her.

Mia! Oh how I wished there was more about Mia and Lucian. That woman has it bad, and I just want something to happen that will make Lucian pause. He cares for her. You can see it despite what he does. Doesn't make what he does right, but oh, she needs to bring him to his knees. I hope they have more in the book to come or their own as well.

Overall, I enjoyed the book. I would recommend and would love to read the next in the series. My only complaint was that this had too many POV's from several characters. But it was a very entertaining read with beautiful world building.

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### **Gina Guerra says**

I was pleasantly surprised by this story and really enjoyed it.

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### **Lisa says**

This was the most enchanting story. I loved how it was like an adult faery story. I could just picture the goblins and other creatures as they were described. They were so funny. They reminded me of the ones in the children's book *Where The Wild Things Are*. The king of the Unblessed was so hot. He was so misunderstood. This is a tale of good verses evil and how true love overcomes all in the end. I hope we get a tell of Juliana's brothers in the future.

If you like audiobooks, this narrator really brings the characters to life. He does the creatures' voices so well. And gives Merrick a deep sexy voice.

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### **Deana-Coffee, Books, Life Blog says**

Ms. Pillow recreated what I call the adult version of Labyrinth with KING OF THE UNBLESSED! I don't know how she did it, but she even came up with a sexier "goblin king" than David Bowie! Yes, I believe I blushed more than once.

Lady Juliana of Bellemare, wants nothing more than a grand adventure before she is to be married. When one lives in the land of the Fae, one must be careful of what they wish for. She is a bit naive and does not know the really know what the world hold. As there were times I really wanted to grab a hold of the girl and shake her and say get it together chicka! I truly loved Juliana. She was a woman thinking outside the box and wanted what she wanted. In many ways she did get them!

Merrick, the King of the Unblessed, is dark, sexy and powerful. OMG, the long blond hair, I just wanted to run my finger through it. He is one of those Alpha's alphas! He wants something and he gets it no matter what. But God, those eyes that make you want to melt. Kings have to do what kings have to do! I so fell in love with him!!

Merrick gave Juliana the adventure she wanted. Along with magic, deception, a bunch of magical creates to guide her along the way and passion beyond what Juliana could have imagined, she unknowing walks right in to the Unblessed Kings waiting hands. Merrick's own deception turns on him, when he realized Juliana just might be more to him than her though she should be.

I want to start out by saying I am not much of a Historical romance reader. It's not that I don't like that aspect of romance, I have a tendency to get lost in it, but do I love the way they speak. I am however a huge paranormal romance fan. KING OF THE UNBLESSED was a surprisingly exciting read for me. Not only

was it paranormal and fantasy together and had this wonderful historical setting that just blew me away. Mega props to Ms. Pillow for this awesome world building in the series. Yes I am a huge fan of world building. Not only is this Merrick and Juliana story, but you can see so many other story lines that could very well be a good book coming in this series!!

I listen to the audio version of this book. I have to be honest I had a little trouble with the narrator. Please do not give me wrong, Ross Pendleton, did an excellent job narrating. I had a hard time getting used his style. Upon the second listen of the book I was very much able to enjoy the wonderful enchanting tale that was told.

If you want to get lost in a fairytale that will heat up the pages as you are turning them, I suggest you go with the KING OF THE UNBLESSED.

I was given a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

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### **Sarai says**

I liked this book a lot the reason it doesn't get five stars is simply the price I can't afford to buy it and the series it is creating. That being said I loved the story line. Merrick is the King of the Unblessed and becomes interested in a mortal woman. So interested he brings her into the Otherworld on an adventure that she craves. However Lucian King of the Damned is playing his own game with Merrick and Ean the King of the Blessed. Throw in some fairies hot mortal men. Sexy Unblessed Men some graphic sex and a not too shabby story and well you get Chapter 1 in the Realm of the Immortals Series. The next is about Hugh one of the brothers of Julianna (The girl the Unblessed King wants) and his story of the Tania the Queen of the Fairies. Can't wait to see how that one goes. I also want to see who she pairs the other two brothers with as well as the ever evolving story of Mia and Lucian. (Such a good sidestory too!)

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Alright the re-read challenge for this month has begun!

OKay I really really like this book. This is definately a keeper!! I enjoyed reading it so much I re-read it in a day. Now granted there aren't a lot of pages but still! And this time I really enjoyed learning more about the characters. I saw more of the game playing and how it was working in Merrick's favor. I really enjoyed watching Julianna come to the realization that Merrick wasn't all that evil and that he did care for her. Very GOOD!!!

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### **Scarlett Copperfly says**

This was strange - I guess that's all I can say about this book.

I wasn't really connected to any of the characters, they lacked depth and any sort of development.

I was also confused about the settings at times and characters just pop up out of nowhere, it was weird.

The story also was only so-so. I often find that those kind of books suffer an overload of paranormal fantasy figures and get lost in so much diversity that the story and the characters are not well rounded and understandable. Less is more would have applied to this story.

Another minus point was the heroine. Juliana often isn't likeable at all and acts ridiculously stupid. Then instead of learning from past mistakes she only victimizes herself.

I was disappointed with this book; even though it had so much potential it didn't live up to it.

## Laura Greenwood says

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

Title: King of the Unblessed  
Series: Realm Immortal (#1)  
Author: Michelle M Pillow  
From: Review Copy  
Genre: Fantasy, Romance  
Release Date: 1st March 2009  
Challenges: N/A  
Links: Goodreads - Amazon

Merrick is the King of the Unblessed, the necessary evil such as mischief and tricks, but he's been distracted by the beautiful Lady Juliana. Juliana is due to be married, but her heart yearns for freedom and adventure. Merrick seizes his chance and tricks her into an adventure, not quite knowing the games that will play with his heart. King Ean of the Blessed knows that he may have to fight his brother, particularly when King Lucien of the Damned starts playing them off against one another...

King of the Unblessed weaves together a world that is rich both in setting and in mythology. There are several different mythological creatures that are introduced in this book, and I thought that in some cases it was really refreshing to see different takes on these creatures (such as Dark Eleves, I've never read them like they were in this book).

The setting for most of the book (King Merrick's castle) was rich and described with interesting details that didn't feel like they were detracting from the rest of the story. The same was true of both Merrick and Juliana's clothing, which often shifted to suit their emotions and situations. Not only did this make for a good setting, but it added another level to the magic in the book as well.

The relationship between Merrick and Juliana was certainly complicated to say the least. They were honest with their attraction for one another, but slow to come to terms with the idea that maybe there was something else between them. That made their romance itself quite slow burning, even if the physical aspects of their relationship happened quite quickly.

The side characters in King of the Unblessed also got a fair bit of page time. Most notable was probably the interactions between Mia and Lucian (which have me intrigued to say the least!) and between Hugh and Tiana, which was partly a set up for book 2 but also made me laugh at several points.

King of the Unblessed was a great read, with romance elements woven into the fantasy. Well worth a read.

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## Pam Louis says

I normally don't like history romance is not my thing but this one has magic, evil demon's, trolls, faries, and a munch of other stuff lol haft the time ..... well all most all the I wanted to slap king merrick LOL BUT he grows on you then there is sweet blessed Juliana every one loves here. The book was great as are all the book I read of miss pillows. I haven't found one I haven't loved! The audio for this book will make you hate

merrick more lol you can just hear the bad boy in his voice lol great job!

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### **Arlene says**

the heroine makes me grind my teeth in annoyance..my feelings are still torn..and I'm almost halfway through.

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### **Inara says**

Lady Juliana of Bellemare has always been hungry to experience new things and exciting adventures but knows that will never happen. Her older brother Hugh has decided to marry her off to their neighbour Lord Eadward of Tyrshire and the only thing she'd experience would be the life with a man thirty years older than she and be stuck in the same place for the rest of her life. On a whim she calls out to her imaginary knight of her dreams to rescue her and take her on an adventure, yes, she even promises him her soul in exchange. What she doesn't know is that Merrick, dark elfin King of Valdis, the ruler of all what is unblessed watched her through his water mirror for quite some time and of course jumps at the opportunity to get Juliana under his control. He tricks her to come into the Otherworld under the impression he has kidnapped some children of the castle (but it was only glamour he used, he had no interest in the children). There she should find the King of the Unblessed and ask him a question. Now not happy anymore with her foolish wish Juliana reluctantly ventures into the realm of the Otherworld...

I had this book (and the following in this series) at my TBR-pile for quite some time and now I could kick myself because I didn't start reading it much earlier. This is an enchanting fairytale for adults! A fairytale which had me it's grasp and didn't let me go till I was through. Merrick is a dark hero, the King of the Unblessed isn't necessary evil but the balance between King Ean of Tegwen, the King of the Blessed and King Lucien of the Demons. It's not only about Juliana's journey to the Otherworld but the journey of her brothers who came to rescue her too! When they unexpectedly meet, Hugh is suspicious of her relationship with Merrick and suspicious he should be! The King seduces Juliana by every trick in the book till the poor girl doesn't know anymore if what she feels is real or another trick. Sometimes Juliana acts foolish and doesn't question the things she learns although she should know better after having spent some time in this strange world. And her brothers had their own challenges to master, especially Hugh, who was held off by the Faery Queen Tania who had her own reasons to chain him to his bed. There were many interesting sub-characters like Lord Kalen of the Berserks, Mia, the unfortunate lover of the Demon King Lucien and of course there was a betrayer to enforce war between the blessed and unblessed kingdoms.

This is a book with just the right mixture of adventure, love and some hot sex scenes which are an addition to the already intriguing plot. These scenes are just the cherry on the cake – not too much and not too few! I'm really looking forward to read the next books in the series "Realm Immortal: Faery Queen" and "Realm Immortal: Stone Queen"

Website of the author: <http://www.michellepillow.com/>

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