



If their serenade makes her heart skip a beat, it will be her last.

Unchained Melody

S.K. Munt

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Warning Unchained Melody contains Sex, Drugs and Rock 'N Roll

From girl, to woman, to goddess....

January 1991

The new girl in town takes a chance, saves a life, and wins herself two best friends, a Red Sox hat and possibly, a band.

October 1998

Ryan and Hunter don't know how to handle themselves when their so called 'Tomboy' best friend begins to blossom into a goddess. So they handle it badly and suddenly, the Red Sox hat is on the ground and Callie had vanished naked into the eye of Cyclone Addison leaving them short for their first big gig and broken-hearted.

June 2004

Hunter and Ryan have finally recovered from the trauma of Callie's disappearance and are ready to take their music careers to the big-time when Callie returns. No longer the girl next door, but a banished goddess with a mission; to break the heart of one of the men who still love her, using the other, or die.

Set to an incredible playlist with heart-stopping twists and turns, Unchained Melody is a coming of age story that starts with innocence and ends in wicked desire, with a paranormal twist unlike no other that will have you singing, laughing, crying and hot under the collar!

Unchained Melody Details

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From Reader Review Unchained Melody for online ebook

Kristal & Charmaine says

Full review posted at www.onceuponabookblog.com

WOW. I don't even know where to start with this review. I feel like I have just been whacked across the head with an S.K. Munt shaped piece of wood. Hello book hangover, nice to see you again, it's been a while! The story starts out simply but turns many revealing corners along the way. I don't want to give away too much of the story because I truly think it's one of those stories that's best to go into blind.

It's not easy being an adopted, astrapobic ballet dancer from Canada, trying to make friends in a new country, but when eight year old Callie Clay saved the boy at the gorge on her first day in Horizon, she scored two best friends, a red baseball cap, and a reputation for being a risk-taking weirdo.

Eight years later, Hunter and Ryan had been given pamphlets on what to do when they started noticing girls, but nothing could have prepared them for the changes that came over their tomboy friend and so they handled it as hormonal teenage boys do; badly. One moment, they were a band on the precipice of their first big gig and the next, Callie is having a nervous breakdown and running naked into the eye of Cyclone Addison.

When Callie returns, she's no longer the girl next door but a goddess with one purpose; To shatter one of the hearts of the men she's forbidden to love, by using the other- for the sake of The Harmony, and to save her own ass.

Phew! Sounds awesome right? It was. The start of this book seriously felt like an ode to my teenage years. I loved it! The music, the clothes, the posters – all of it was just so spot on that you couldn't help losing yourself in it and taking a little stroll down memory lane. As the story progresses we learn more and more about the characters and each of their purposes in the story. There are so many ups and downs along the way and at times my heart broke for each and every one of the main characters.

Early on in this story I latched on to a clear favourite out of the boys. It wasn't intentional, and I was trying to be fair to both characters, but I couldn't help but adore the gentle nature and loving way of one the boys more. I wasn't disappointed with how it panned out – they definitely got their moment together.

The writing was so descriptive and beautiful in this story. It played out like a movie in my head and the authors descriptions of people and places are exquisite. Her world building is gorgeous and you feel like you're right there alongside the characters watching the story happen. This book is tagged as paranormal romance but I don't think you need to be a paranormal lover to adore it. I think romance fans will get just as much out of this story – maybe even more, as it focused heavily on character relationships.

Now, the ending. Hmm. I'm not sure if I got too eager reading this book and ended up missing something, but the ending did leave me with a burning unanswered question about one of the characters. Or two of them

really. But at this stage Unchained Melody is a stand-alone and a lot of readers will be happy with the way it worked out in the end. I officially love S. K. Munt and will read anything she writes in the future.

Full review now posted -> [https://onceuponabookblog.squarespace...](https://onceuponabookblog.squarespace.com)

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Sandi Walsh says

Honest review..... I cannot find anything to dis in this whole stand alone novel. It is so refreshing to read an enthralling, nail biting, make you laugh, cry & damn near rip your husbands short off the minute he gets home in the hopes that Ryan or Hunter suddenly materialize & someone randomly hits play on tragic kingdom somewhere loud enough for you to hear it! I was hooked by the adventurous "near death" experience by page 4 & from there I swear someone write my teen years down, (omitting the raunchy 3 way I was epically too shy to jump into at that age!) But damn it, my darling husband would like to shake the authors hand for ensuring he had a God like experience in the bedroom because of this books existence, the music, the raunch, the angst & oh swoon, these characters & all in ONE novel, you're ripping yourself off by passing this book up, trust me, you'll be entirely left out of a brilliant experience if you miss this novel, do yourself & your teenself a favour, READ THIS BOOK!!

Jen says

This book is simply divine but honestly I didn't expect any less. This authors books are an auto buy for me.

Callie's story starts out in the 90's. Being a teenager in this era myself I felt like someone had hit the rewind button and I was reminiscing my own youth complete with music references. I was constantly holding one hand on my heart and crooning "ooh, I loved that song". Of course in my youth I wasn't blessed with the company of TWO hot as hell male best friends who also happen to be extremely talented musicians, experts in the art of flirting and crazy in love with me. And so, my own youth was easily forgotten as I lost myself in Callie's world. As the story progresses and things begin to heat up (quite literally *fans self*) Callie realises that breaking one guys heart isn't the hardest thing in life she has to face and his heart isn't the first or last heart broken in this story. There is a defining factor to this romance that edges into another genre. S K leaves you hanging just the right amount if time before all is revealed. When the light came on it consumed me. I was not expecting it and suddenly I was making a mental note to explore this topic more. I don't do spoilers so I will move on.

Unchained melody is unlike any other story I have ever read. It ticked all my boxes. It was entertaining, at times laugh out loud kind of funny, mysterious, provocative with just a good pinch of risqué, heart warming and utterly heart breaking all at the same time. Warning..you will need a box of tissues nearby! Although fans of any genre will adore this story, it's originality deserves a genre all of its own.

My only complaint is that this story is a stand alone and although the story wraps up air tight I found myself at the final page feeling like a drug addict begging for just a little bit more!

In the words of Callie this book was, well... "it was everything!"

Kristy says

Overall this was a decent story, however I just could not get past the ridiculous love triangle and how absurd it was. I can understand love triangles to an extent and most of the time end up being OK with them because in the end the main character chooses one and then they get to live happily ever after. Well, not in this case. I personally would have preferred to have it end with the "soul mates" living happily ever after (I won't provide names as I do not want to give away spoilers). However, I do appreciate the author's story itself and liked the idea of a story about Muses, as they are not common place in this genre. I definitely liked the fresh idea for the storyline. I also enjoyed the author's writing style, it definitely kept me engaged, I just did not like the extreme love triangle. If you are OK with love triangles and are interested in supernatural books then I would highly recommend this book.

Trisha says

Wow what can I say? This book had me hooked from the first chapter. I have read a lot of paranormal books but this one takes the cake. The music brought back so many memories it felt like I was reliving my childhood. So many twists and turns you never knew where the story was heading, kept me questioning right to the end. I want to read it again and again in case I missed something, I have not done that since twilight.

S.K. Munt is a must-read author; they way she writes gives me goosebumps and I feel like I am there with the characters. There has only been three other authors to do this to me.

Shasha says

The author makes a really stupid comment that people don't go swimming in Canada because it's too cold. I've been swimming and tubing as a child in Ontario! Loved the beginning otherwise. The music woven into the story brought me back to those years. This story messes with your emotions.

Then it turns into a lust fest. The Muse angle was neat at first but turned ugly, manipulative, and a Greek tragedy. John Lennon dying because a Muse freaked out maybe worked for the story but I wasn't entertained. It's hard to like a character that did the things she does as her 'job.' In fact, I started to hope she would die.

I finished it. The epilogue made up for some of the heart-crushing but not enough for me to read it again.

S.K. Munt says

Sequel out soon!

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I wrote this story about true love, and true passion. Not only the romantic sort of relationship (though there is plenty of that) but that thrill you get from a funny phone conversation with a friend, the butterflies of first love, the elation when 'your song' comes on the radio and the adrenaline rush from jumping from somewhere high and landing somewhere deep.

This story spans not a particular time frame- but the span of a friendship- a friendship worth its weight in gold. I chose to start the story from the beginning but the glimpse of these characters in their youth is only the foundation for an epic romance, so don't be fooled into thinking it's a middle grade or YA novel- the content is strictly suitable for 17+

My passions in life are dance, theatre, music and writing- so this is my tribute to those arts! If a bunch of clothes get ripped off backstage in the process I apologise... and you can thank me later ;)

Tessa says

I fell in love with the characters in this book. I really don't want to give anything away, but this book messed with my emotions, made me smile, hug myself in joy, and sob uncontrollably. Wonderful, and heartbreakingly all at once.

Aura says

*****Updated with final review!*****

I have written this review TWICE! Both times, I get almost to the end, and it gets erased! First by a power flash, then by an accidental click on my part. I shall try to do it again, but later. I might break my computer if I somehow lose it a third time tonight.

Love this book!

This is my third attempt to write a review for this book!

Original, imaginative, and sexy, with an amazing paranormal aspect and a gut-wrenching twist at the end.

Sweet Zombie Bob, this is one of the best books I've read all year.

Callie is a cool chick. She is a badass from the very beginning, at 8-years-old.

Hunter and Ryan both have some typical "stupid boy" moments, but they both love Callie, and they are both good guys.

And they're in a rock band. A good one.

The book shows three main different aspects of their lives: when Callie meets the boys at 8-years-old, right before Callie runs into the storm as a teen, and when Callie returns home at 24 (I think). Through each period, the characters maintain their unique personalities, while still maturing at the proper rate. It doesn't jump around, either - the story is linear, which was so much better than flashbacks. The consistency was fabulous.

This story is told mostly from Callie's POV, but there are a fair amount of chapters from Hunter's POV. I kept wondering why Ryan's POV was omitted, but that was revealed at the end.

I seriously hate how the love triangle was resolved, but I understand why she wrote it that way. Still, I think that all the main characters got gyped at the end, and I was not terribly happy about it...until the very last scene. The last scene is what won this book 5 stars from me. Even with the awesome epilogue, Callie's soul mate deserved way better than he got. My heart broke for him.

I loved the paranormal aspect.

Beware: you will have a book-hangover after this one. Having a rebound book at the ready is highly recommended.

Jessica says

OK I had a really hard time debating whether this book was 4 or 5 stars so I'll have to break some of my thoughts down for you.

Part I - AMAZING! I absolutely loved the character development in this book and I could not put this down for a moment. The dynamic between the trio was great and well thought out. The author kept throwing me for loops which made me completely clueless as to how this story was actually going to go. The love triangle was also completely heart wrenching and this is no Edward/Jacob scenario...you seriously cannot choose one over the other. I was a little worried it would be a YA threesome book...

Part II - Huh... OK I have to admit this is where this book started to throw me a bit. Ally has this phobia of storms and after the steamy scene in the shed...all of a sudden she is some version of Olympus? Enter Ardos... (you'll have to excuse some clear editing faux paus here as well) Not only am I now having the flutterings of attachment to this soul mate Ardos, I am completely concerned about what the heck happened to Hunter and Ryan! All the background on Cally/Calliope/Muse of Music, etc. is a lot overwhelming and I was a little turned off by her 'mission.' She returns to 'Earth' and basically waits some time and orchestrates meeting up with Hunter and Ryan once again who are immediately in love with her as if time apart never happened. Cue the adult sexy scenes (which are definitely steamy - thumbs up).

Part III - OMG, frustration, frustration, sadness, and then a Pearl Harbor moment. Yeah the one where Kate Beckinsale goes from Ben Affleck to Josh Hartnett and then back to Ben Affleck...grrrr. Not sure how much I really liked the ending which is why I gave it the 4 stars. I don't have a better ending in my head, I just kind of feel like I wasn't 100% happy at the end of it.

I would definitely recommend though.

Suzanne says

It's not easy being an adopted, astraphtobic ballet dancer from Canada, trying to make friends in a new country, but when eight year old Callie Clay saved the boy at the gorge on her first day in Horizon, she scored two best friends, a red baseball cap, and a reputation for being a risk-taking weirdo. Eight years later when Callie returns, she's no longer the girl next door but a goddess with one purpose; To shatter one of the hearts of the men she's forbidden to love, by using the other- for the sake of The Harmony, and to save her own ass.

The paranormal aspect is very original with a few very surprising twists. I wasn't thrilled with the love triangle but was happy with the way everything worked out.

S.K. Munt is a very talented author as she grabs you in the first few pages and has you loving each and every one of the characters even when you think you shouldn't. A well-written and imaginative story!

Howard Parsons says

Remember when the music
Came from wooden boxes strung with silver wire
And as we sang the words, it would set our minds on fire,
For we believed in things, and so we'd sing.

Remember when the music
Was a rock that we could cling to so we'd not despair,
And as we sang we knew we'd hear an echo fill the air
We'd be smiling then, we would smile again.

Oh all the times I've listened, and all the times I've heard
All the melodies I'm missing, and all the magic words,
And all those potent voices, and the choices we had then,
How I'd love to find we had that kind of choice again.

Harry Chapin

There is a Top-40 phenomena known as the “One-Hit Wonder” – a band or singer who made a meteoric rise to the top of the charts with a song that winds up on everyone’s mind and everyone’s lips. You simply cannot wait to hear their next release ... but you never do. If there is a follow-up song, it gets nowhere near cracking the Top-100 and the artist is all but forgotten save for an occasional mention in trivia games.

Up until now, S.K. Munt has been best known for her remarkable Fairytale Saga which includes a recently published Young Adult/New Adult prequel as well as a tetralogy of books concerning merfolk. While Ms.

Munt is firmly rooted in the Paranormal Romance genre, the question that has been on many minds is whether she can move beyond the sea and write with equal passion in a different setting. After reading her latest novel, **Unchained Melody**, the answer to that question is an unequivocal “YES”. Although she stays within the genre of paranormal romances, the story carries Ms. Munt’s sense of desire, passion, and sentimentality into a new and provocative venue.

Mermaids Not Included

Both childhood and adolescence are a perilous passage in many respects and that includes friendship. To understand this, one need only attend a high school reunion. People who were best mates once upon a time will barely acknowledge each other’s existence when the class reassembles ten or twenty years on. Some friendships however, will stand the test of time despite the many missteps along the way. S.K. Munt’s paranormal tale of Sex, Love and Rock n’ Roll is a tale of a three-way friendship that carries on from third grade scrapes thru sock-hops and hormones and into adulthood.

The central characters consist of Hunter Marks, Ryan Weaver and Callie Clay and as the story opens, eight-year-old Callie has left her native Canada and settled in Horizon, Australia with her parents. An incident at the local swimming hole binds her inextricably with Hunter and Ryan who are already best mates. Callie is quite the tomboy and the three will spend the next eight years together, bound by friendship and eventually by the inevitable hormones that come as part of the adolescent package. Once those hormones begin to make themselves known, suddenly, Callie is not just ‘Callie’ anymore.

Aside from the shared memories of spending a childhood together, their common bond is music. While Callie does not aspire to be a performing musician, music is her life, flowing through her essence like a river. She envisions Hunter as destined for musical greatness and while Ryan has a wonderful voice and is a dab hand with a guitar, Callie views him in a different light. At the end of the day, Callie is attracted to both Hunter and Ryan and life has become way more complicated than the usual labyrinth of adolescence. The boys don’t have it any easier as each is torn between their unwritten code that one does not hit on a best mate nor do they snake one either and the certain knowledge that Callie and romance are combination too beguiling to pass up.

At this point, there are one or two things that one should know about Callie. She is an adopted child, born to an unknown Canadian mother. She also suffers from Astraphobia – an abnormal fear of thunder, lightning, storms, and by extension, cyclones. This fear has plagued Callie all her life and her best mates have learned how to deal with this and minimise its impact. Absent parents, hormones and Cyclone Addison prove to be more than Callie can handle however, and she flees, not away from the storm, but into the very heart of it. Like Dorothy, Callie is transported to a different realm. Unlike Dorothy though, what Callie will experience is not a dream stemming from a bump on the head. Callie awakens to find herself on Mount Helicon in Greece and learn that her full name is Calliope (Kalliope? "beautiful-voiced") and that she is a Muse. In S.K. Munt’s story, Calliope is the muse of music, the muse that her sisters envy, the muse who had gotten a little too big for her peplos. Her assignment had been to inspire one of her best mates to musical greatness and she needs to return to the mortal plane in order to fulfil her obligation. At least she won’t be flying blind this time.

Remember when the music
Was a glow on the horizon of every newborn day
And as we sang, the sun came up to chase the dark away,
And life was good, for we knew we could.

Remember when the music
Brought the night across the valley as the day went down
And as we'd hum the melody, we'd be safe inside the sound,
And so we'd sleep, we had dreams to keep.

Harry Chapin

While it is somewhat unusual for a book to have a sound-track, **Unchained Melody** draws its inspiration from the rock n' roll of the 1990's. Although there are those readers who, having paid attention to music in that decade, will argue that it just isn't the same now – as does the character, Hunter Marks - one and all should take note that the great golden age is never the present one. Each generation seems to have its own rock anthems and if the reader has trouble relating to some of the music mentioned in Ms. Munt's story, they are free to substitute music from their own time. For this reviewer, that would be Layla by Derek and the Dominos ... with the long version of the piano coda ... cranked up until the windows of his dormitory room rattled. There is, however one aspect of music history upon which most readers agree and **Unchained Melody** gives the most logical and rational explanation for that dark and lamentable time in human history known as The Disco Era.

Those who are familiar with Ms. Munt's *Fairy Tail Saga* will readily attest to the author's amazing skill at writing steamy scenes involving the central characters. These are not the obligatory sex scenes that infest much of today's romantic fiction for adults. Instead, the steam is an integral part of the plot as she takes you from the opening scene to the close of the story where there may or may not be a happily ever after. In **Unchained Melody**, S.K. Munt is more than deserving of the title "**Queen of Steam**" and those who enter the realm of her creation would do well to consider cold showers or long walks as a relief from the pervasive sexual tension. As in her *Fairy Tail Saga*, there is a romantic triangle comprising the central characters. Whereas in *The Marked Ones*, the triangle is an antagonistic one between the competitors for the hand of Ivyanne Court, the triangle featured in **Unchained Melody** seems to be more of a friendly rivalry between two best mates. Both Hunter and Ryan somehow instinctively know that one or the other will be the ultimate victor and each will manage to show up when the other is about to make time with Callie. For her part, Callie is seriously attracted to both of them and apparently for different reasons though her attraction is strong for one as well as the other .

Unchained Melody by S.K. Munt is a story that begs to be read more than once. It encapsulates the awkwardness of learning that one of your best friends is very possibly going to be your lover as well as the shock of learning just who and what you really are. You find that you have a mission to fulfill and it's going to be tough to walk away once it's completed. What makes it even harder is the fact that you are going to have to ultimately walk away from everything and both your friends and lovers will be swept downstream in the river of time. In and of itself, **Unchained Melody** is a hard novel to walk away from.

In the final analysis, readers will be left to ponder which of Ms. Munt's stories is the best of all. The answer, though, is quite simple: All of them and none of them. The author was already off to a strong start with *The Marked Ones* and has decidedly hit her literary stride with **Unchained Melody**. Some of her readers will favour one book over the others but the simple truth is that they are all good – each in their own individual way. Consistency is a tough road for a rock n' roll band to follow and doubly so for an author. It is the opinion of this reviewer that Ms. Munt's best story is yet to be written. In a world of formulaic fiction where the plots of paranormal romances seem to be interchangeable and the names of characters are the only

variable, her works stand out as something new, something different, something that calls with a siren's voice.

Those readers who take their romantic fiction with a bumper helping of mythology will want to follow S.K. Munt in her ascendency. Not every novel that she'll write will be about mermaids or muses but if she continues her present course, this reviewer predicts that each story will be an exciting and quite often, a moving read. All hail the Queen of Steam!

Standing on your mother's porch,
You told me that you'd wait forever...
Oh, and when you held my hand,
I knew that it was now or never!
Those were the best days of my life...

Bryan Adams

Emm Cole says

Callie is an adopted only child who moves into town looking to fit in. It's not long before this tomboy has won herself two best buddies, Ryan and Hunter, who can't help but develop intense feelings about the girl who loves music as much as they do. Callie is understandably torn about two guys falling for her, because there's plenty to like about both of them. Also, Callie is not one for breaking up friendships, and so when things look like they might be going in a disastrous direction, she runs from the two lovesick boys and into the path of an oncoming cyclone.

When Callie wakes up, she's in an unrecognizable place, surrounded by those who claim to be not only her sisters, but also fellow muses who have a pretty heavy mission for her. You see, Callie is the muse of music, and because of the past hurt she's inflicted on her fellow muses with her seduction of the human race, she must deal with the consequences while fighting to get her past memories back. What's a girl to do when the mission is to break the heart of one of her childhood loves, Hunter, and propel him into musical stardom or die?

As if her situation isn't complicated enough, Callie has to return as an adult to face her other friend Ryan. With rock n' roll attitude and charisma that has Callie weak in the knees, she's not sure how to give her heart to Hunter when Ryan is there, fighting for her heart too.

This story had me feeling pretty nostalgic with all of the nods to the best music of the 90's. The mixture of Greek mythology and the performing arts made the framework of this romance so unique. Miss Munt slays when it comes to bedroom scenes and heroes with palpable sex appeal. Hunter and Ryan make it quite difficult to choose a side in this triangle, and I really loved that I couldn't guess what Callie's ultimate decision would be.

Read Unchained Melody and just try to guess how it ends, because there are some mighty fine curve balls thrown in this plot. Speaking of endings, there's one giant twist that is just so heartbreakingly beautiful. I didn't see it coming, and I definitely teared up about it. Rarely do I feel the need to comment on an epilogue, but this one had such solid writing and heart in it.

So five enthusiastic stars for a story that is certainly distinct and most definitely unique compared to others in its genre. Music, lust, friendship, magic, and love will have you cheering by the conclusion.

Sassapphras says

"I'm telling yah man, Eva's best friend is hot! She's got-" "Long blonde hair and long blonde legs and long blonde eyes, I get it."

"Well that's easy," Ryan muttered. **"You always go first... in fact if memory serves me correctly, you went before you had your jeans off-"** "Shut the fuck up Ryan!" Hunter snapped... **"I was seventeen!"** **"I was seventeen too man. It's not about age but muscle control. You see the trick is-"** **"I said shut up Ryan...!"** "Don't get worked up now!" Ryan shot back. **"I just mopped these floors."**

"Calliope broke my heart," Imogen said stiffly. Then she winked at Callie. **"Just not Hunter's... must be losing your edge, sister."** **"No I've just lent it to you. Try to wash the bitch off it before you return it, hmm?"**

Paganalexandria says

An unconventional coming of age paranormal romance story full of music, dance, and the magic of both. Canadian import Callie finds herself the new girl in the Aussie world. A frightening stunt forges an unyielding bond with best friends, Hunter and Ryan. Everything changes as they grow up when hormones threaten to interfere with how they see each other.

All my book friends know I'm a sucker for romance read that includes a dance, or music element. Is it any surprised that a book featuring BOTH has won my heart? This is a hard review to write because this book had a few surprise elements that are hard to go into without spoiling. I will say the paranormal aspect is very original, and I expect you to be surprised by the eventual reveal. My only real gripe was so much of this storyline happens during the high school years. I personally am not a fan of YA, so this was a little hard for me to take. Thankfully, the characters do age up, and we are able to leave highschoolandia.

I wish more time was devoted to Callie's childhood dance experiences. I was able to forgive the omission, after the great teen club dance scene. I really loved the organic nature of how these relationships played out. It was frustrating in the right ways, with just enough angst to keep me interested.

If you are tired of vampires and werewolves, this is worth a try.
