



Media Kit

Title: Uniting the Heavens

Author: Emily Peraro English

Publisher: English Scribbles

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ABOUT THE BOOK



UNITING THE HEAVENS BY EMILY ENGLISH

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Genre: Fantasy

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- Paperback: www.englishscribbles.com
- iBooks: <http://bit.ly/UtH-iBooks>
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- Kobo: <http://bit.ly/UtH-Kobo>
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When a bloodied, secret message destined for the powerful Lord Tiede ends up in the hands of Aren, a young apprentice serving in the greatest library in all of Cordelacht, his life starts to unravel. A murderer is leaving grisly sacrifices all over the city in the name of Magic, Aren's little sister starts relaying messages from the gods, and the Lady Tiede becomes a little too familiar with the bumbling apprentice. As intelligent and handsome as he is naïve, Aren has a gift for saying all the wrong things and stumbling into hopeless situations, like falling for a mysterious scholar with her own hidden agenda.

Now it's up to Aren to save Tiede, and to do so he'll need to rekindle his masochistic relationship with Tiede Wood, the magical and cursed forest that protects the House. Will Aren unmask the monster on the killing spree and finally prove his worth? Or will he succumb to his personal demons, unable to overcome the stigma of being an Unblessed, and die as godless as he was born?

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Emily Peraro English is a technical writer, blogger, and the author of *Uniting the Heavens*, a fantasy novel.

Emily has spent most of her career as a systems analyst, writing and editing technical documentation and requirements for enterprise-wide systems.

If that wasn't thrilling enough, in her spare time (aka the wee hours of the night) and over the course of five years, she completed her first novel *Uniting the Heavens*.

Emily is heavily influenced by (and obsessed with) anime and the *Final Fantasy* video game series. She lives with her husband, two daughters, and a high-anxiety dorgi in the Washington metropolitan area.

PUBLISHER

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PROMOTIONAL INFORMATION

Tiede Wood is alive, and it wants Aren, a handsome young librarian, to come out and play. But Aren is already tangled up with a monster who wants to suck the marrow from his bones and a mysterious scholar who wields a blade even better than she handles a pen.

Uniting the Heavens is a blend of fantasy and mythology with a steampunk undertone. Victorian-era settings are intermingled with a polytheistic culture, where gods and magic clash, and the fate of the world relies upon the fragile peace between Light and Night.

When a bloodied, secret message destined for a powerful Lord ends up in the hands of Aren, a young librarian, his life starts to unravel. As intelligent and handsome as he is naïve, Aren has a gift for stumbling into hopeless situations, like falling for a mysterious scholar with her own hidden agenda. It's up to Aren to save Tiede, and to do so he'll need to rekindle his masochistic relationship with Tiede Wood, the magical and cursed forest that protects the House.

2016 FOREWORD INDIES BOOK AWARDS FINALIST

<https://awards.forewordreviews.com/books/uniting-the-heavens-1/>

Uniting the Heavens was chosen from over 2,250 entries. Every year panel of over 120 librarians and booksellers take part in judging independently published books in 60 categories. *Uniting the Heavens* is a finalist in the Fantasy (Adult Fiction) category.

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INTERVIEW RESOURCES

How did the novel evolve from your original idea 20 years ago?

The story has been in my head for about 20 years, but the writing actually took a little over three years with two additional years dedicated to editing—eight months of that with a professional editor. The story has grown up with me. It's darker than when it started, but it's also more hopeful without being naïve. The original idea had “knight-in-shining-armor” and “damsel-in-distress” characters because my experiences and viewpoints were very limited. I don't think there's anything wrong with that because we all bring a different story to the table regardless of our age and experiences, but I am much happier with this darker story, these richer characters, and the offbeat humor.

As a mom of two, when did you find time to write?

I had to be very strict with myself, and I tried to compartmentalize. I have a full-time job outside of the home, so a massive chunk of my day goes to that. After work, I try to concentrate on my family and the house. There was piano and homework and band and dinner and laundry and the usual house stuff we all deal with. When the kids were in bed—or in the case of my older daughter, writing late night papers or studying for tests—that's when I would write. Sometimes I would write from 10 pm – 1 am, and sometimes I would write five nights a week. Other times, I could squeeze in only 1 hour and maybe one night a week. I refused to let it get in the way of time with my kids or my husband.

What determined (or inspired) you to finish *Uniting the Heavens*?

I have always enjoyed writing, and I had planned on writing as a career. I majored in Mass Communications in college, concentrating on journalism and writing. After a few unexpected turns, my career path led me to computers and systems analysis. My job requires a lot of technical writing so I'm not out of practice, but while it pays the bills, it doesn't satisfy the way creative writing did when I was younger. So I made a promise to myself that I would finish a story that I had started 20 years ago. I would do it for myself above all else. On top of that, the characters and story kept growing and growing, and at times it was all I could do to scribble notes and sketch out ideas.

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MEDIA REACTIONS

REVIEWS

"This impressive debut fantasy novel is an imaginative tale of a lowly apprentice stepping up to defend his city against a mysterious, murderous monster. The grand library he works in is distinctly steampunk—filled with maps, scrolls, vials, and stardust 'like sand glittering in the twilight'—and the dark forest he finds himself lost in is mythological in its ominousness and nearly inescapable. English's storytelling is as compelling as her intricate world-building, and I'm excited about the prospect of a follow-up book to expand even deeper into the evocative realms of this universe."

Scott Jones, Editor

"I could not put it down! *Uniting the Heavens* hits the sweet spot of a quick read with the magic of rich character development and layered plot. When does book two come out?"

Brianne Brodeur, Writer

"I enjoyed the heck out of this book. English's world-building skills are quite remarkable for a first-time author...If there's a sequel coming, I'm in."

Regan Avery, Writer

"An absolutely fabulous read. You're pulled in from the very start. There's never a lull and the anticipation keeps you wanting more. I also really enjoyed the amazing visual the author paints with such creative description. I'm so excited for the next book in the series!"

Amazon Reader

More reviews can be found on Amazon and Goodreads!

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Uniting the Heavens*, a Fantasy Novel by Emily English, Now Available**

Steampunk, magic, and gods are rolled up in a story about an outcast librarian who is just trying to figure out who he is.

ANNANDALE, VA (USA) - NOVEMBER 1, 2016

"This impressive debut fantasy novel is an imaginative tale of a lowly apprentice stepping up to defend his city against a mysterious, murderous monster...English's storytelling is as compelling as her intricate world-building, and I'm excited about the prospect of a follow-up book to expand even deeper into the evocative realms of this universe." -- Scott Jones, Book Editor

Tiede Wood is alive, and it wants Aren, a handsome young librarian, to come out and play. But Aren is already tangled up with a monster who wants to suck the marrow from his bones and a mysterious scholar who wields a blade even better than she handles a pen.

"I grew up reading and loving fantasy by authors like J.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. In time, the worlds and authors have changed, and now we have Neil Gaiman, George R.R. Martin, and J.K. Rowling. I want to make an impact to the genre as an author with a unique perspective. As a Filipino woman born in the west to parents raised and culturally rooted in the east, I aim to bring a more culturally diverse point of view to the fantasy genre," said Emily English, the author of *Uniting the Heavens*.

Emily Peraro English has spent most of her career as a systems analyst, writing and editing technical documentation and requirements for enterprise-wide systems. However, her passion has always been creative writing. *Uniting the Heavens* is her first novel and is part of a series of five planned books.

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Uniting the Heavens is available in paperback as well as electronic (iBooks, Kindle, Kobo, and Nook) versions. Visit www.englishscribbles.com to learn more about the book and the author, or to read what others have been saying about *Uniting the Heavens*.

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EXCERPT FROM *UNITING THE HEAVENS*

THREE

Tiede is going to fall. The words made Aren's chest tighten, and they burned through his lungs.

"Tiede will only fall if I don't warn the House," the gray man explained, as if Henrik's statement were a child's exaggeration. Aren glared at the man, waiting for an explanation. Crumpling under Aren's gaze, the stranger said, "I'm a messenger for the House of Rose. Everyone's frightened because news has come of mages rising in the east. I was on my way to Tiede when I ran into Henrik. I lost my horse because—"

"Horses bred outside of these lands don't care for Tiede's *atmosphere*," Aren finished for him. "Everyone in Cordelacht knows about the Old Magic that leaks from Tiede Wood."

"I made the rest of the way on foot," the gray man pushed on, "and met Henrik as the Laithe Inlet came into view. I just had to catch the next ferry into Tiede Harbor, but he told me the Harbor was closed, that he was turned away and was going to wait in one of the nearby towns until it opened again." Aren frowned at the news, but before he could ask about it, the man explained, "The Harbor's been closed off because of a string of grisly murders in the city. No one's allowed into or out of Tiede, except through the southern gates."

Aren squeezed his eyes shut to contend with his headache. Then, opening his eyes, he said, "Are you even aware of how far that is?"

"Through those trees—"

"Those aren't just trees. That's *Tiede Wood*," Aren said. He would have stood up and walked away if he weren't cradling a dying head. "No one gets to Tiede by going through the Wood."

The stranger patted at his chest, and Aren heard the crinkle of parchment. "But I need to get this message to the House. If we stay here any longer, the mage will find us. He knows about the message, and he doesn't want it to reach Tiede. Henrik saved me when the mage attacked us. We fought, managed to take away his staff, and ran." His gray face lengthened and looked as if it might melt. "Henrik knows. We have to get this message to the House. Tiede needs to know about the mages."

"Henrik is going to die, and you're in no condition to make a run for the House," Aren argued, pointing his chin at the man's bloodied face. "You'll only make it as far as the cliff's edge before night falls. There's no cover on the road. On one side, you have a thousand-foot drop into the Parthe Sea; on the other, you have the cursed Wood. You only take that road if you're not traveling alone and you know what you're doing. It takes *days* to get to Tiede's southern gates."

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Aren was disturbed by the determination in Henrik's voice when he managed to speak again. "Don't let..." Aren and the messenger both opened their mouths to argue, but Henrik continued. "Magic..." Henrik's eyes lifted towards the messenger's gray face. "Run..."

"I can't leave you here," Aren said.

"He won't make it, but we can throw the mage off your trail," the messenger said, glancing over his shoulder to make sure they were still alone. "I'll head south. If I make it to the House of Kaishar, I can ask them to send assistance to Tiede." He coughed, choking on blood, then said, "Or maybe the mage will follow my trail and —"

"No," Henrik wheezed.

Aren pursed his lips as he contemplated Tiede Wood. Standing sentinel at random points along the perimeter, the white-barked ghostwood moaned and creaked as the northern winds rushed past. The dead, crunchy leaves on the forest floor were rustling as something trampled them, running through the Wood's liquid darkness and approaching its edge. A small shadow was barely visible, scurrying just inside the tree line, and a little girl's laughter shimmered like chimes in their ears.

"What was that?" the messenger asked, getting to his feet, ready to run. A violent shiver passed through him.

"Faeries, gnomes, walking mushrooms—any of those," Aren replied. "Phoenix, *chima-kun*, and those gelatinous blobby things—you know what I'm talking about."

The look on the messenger's face said that he had no idea what Aren was talking about. Aren ignored him, then took one last look at Henrik's bleeding eyes. Aren sniffled, holding down a cry of frustration, then set the fisherman's head on the river's edge. "I'd say the prayer for your water goddess, friend, but I don't remember it." Aren's words felt rough in his throat, and he turned away to mash his belongings into his pack. He couldn't look at Henrik anymore. The guilt of having to leave him was too heavy a burden.

The messenger pulled the parchment from his inner pocket and handed it to Aren, who shoved it inside his vest, causing the man to wince. "The seal of Rose..." the man whined. Aren grabbed the staff from the man's other hand. "Hey, wait —"

"I don't need this to get back in the mage's hands," Aren said through clenched teeth, gripping the gnarled wood, challenging the messenger to argue. "Pray to whatever gods you worship that I make it because if the House of Tiede really is in trouble, all of Cordelacht is doomed."

There was a disturbance from the east, in the direction Henrik and the messenger had come from. Aren could see the tall grasses shaking as something disrupted their peaceful swaying along the river. Aren and the

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messenger exchanged a look, and Aren knew that the messenger wasn't going anywhere. The gray man's bottom lip quivered, and Aren turned away, taking off towards the Wood before he could change his mind.

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