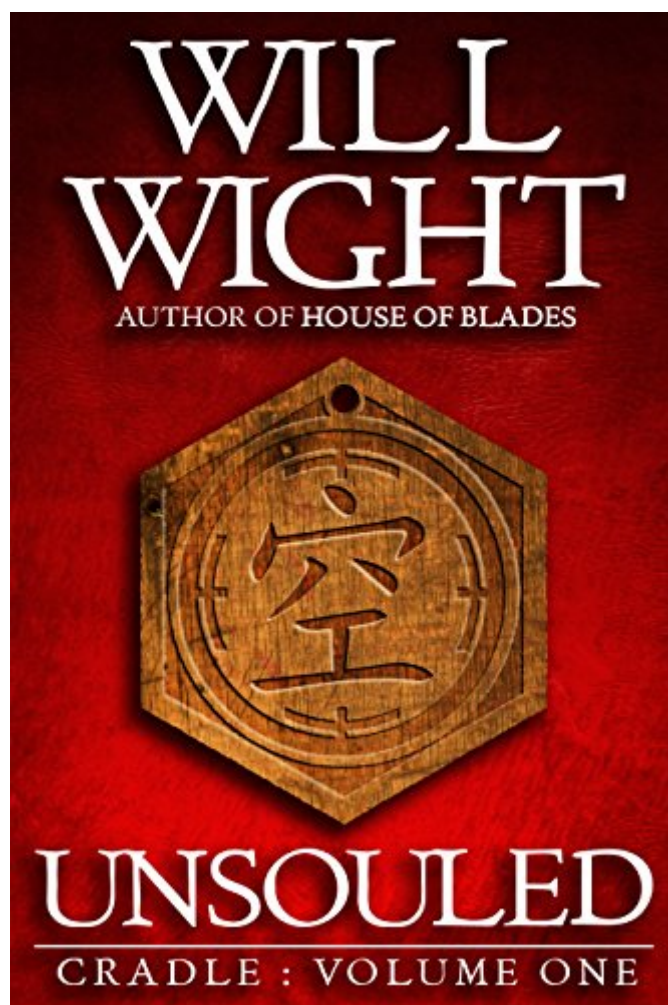


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Unsouled (Cradle Book 1)



Synopsis

Sacred artists follow a thousand Paths to power, using their souls to control the forces of the natural world. Lindon is Unsouled, forbidden to learn the sacred arts of his clan. When faced with a looming fate he cannot ignore, he must rise beyond anything he's ever known...and forge his own Path.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is my first review, but after reading all of Will's other stuff I felt compelled to finally take the time to make sure that anyone who reads this starts supporting this amazing indie author. I have been reading fantasy since I was eight and started with authors that I believed (while I was young) were at the top of the field. Having revisited some my childhood favorites in recent years I have found some authors unreadable (looking at you Goodkind and Eddings ?'Eddingses'?) and others poorly written or just plain boring. In recent years I have been excited and lucky to watch and take part in fantastic new entries into the genre (Mark Lawrence, Patrick Rothfuss, Martin, Anthony Ryan's first

book). In between the "big authors" releases I have downloaded, read and discarded probably forty or so indie entries. Some have been good. Some have been bad. Most have been terrible. What I can't figure out is how some of these books obtain 100+ reviews averaging 4 stars or better, or how they can contain multi-paragraph hand written write-ups praising the "original story" or "unique characters" or "intriguing plot line". I am at a loss because most of these books end up turning me off after about 50 pages because they are some combination of a) illegible writing, and b) a protagonist that is unrealistic/whiny/overpowered/smartwhilestupid. This book is none of those things. This author's other works do not fall into those categories. Will's stuff is well written, entertaining and contains characters that are funny, relate-able and have depth. I am a fan of pretty much every character in his Traveler's gate and Elder Empire Series. Will does small short-stories filling in background on the characters in between book releases and it is a testament to his writing that fans get excited to hear from minor characters who barely got any lines in the book (incarnation's daughter... more please). The magic systems are well thought out and unique. The action is fast-paced and well described. The dialogue is sometimes laugh out loud funny and you actually care about what happens to each of the characters. Honestly my only complaint with Will's stuff is that I want more and wish he could write longer books, but if he did that we wouldn't have so many releases in such a short time span. Seriously, buy this book, then buy his other books. They are all good and they are stupidly cheap compared to some of the others out there on .Regarding Unsouled specifically, this is actually my least favorite of his three series, but I still enjoyed it immensely and believe it deserves a 5 star review. I read two other self-published Xianxia novels before this and the state of that genre is currently terrible. One of the novels was unreadable (I won't mention a name, but it involves a certain bird that is a certain color). Even if you don't like Will's other stuff, or just don't like fantasy in general, but somehow you still like Xianxia, you should read this. Its by far the best available. If you read this and wonder which to go to next, start with Traveler's Gate. It starts a little slow in house of blades but it quickly ramps up into the awesome-sphere. The Crimson Vault and City of Light are even better.

In this tale another young man wanting to better himself strives for power. Much like how the Traveler's Gate series featured such a character so too does this one. However the pacing is slower and Lindon's struggles and growth are much better charted. It's less of a OP power spike and more about how a clever and determined youth grows and improves. So, when is Book 2 coming out Mr. Wight?

So, I've read the first three books in this series and feel like I can, finally, give a fair review for it thus far. The basic idea is that there are two stories going on at the same time but they intersect sometimes. The background story is that of asian fantasy meets highly advanced sci-fi (replace science with a magic like chakra and you get the idea). The primary story is that of a "primitive" world based around the same chakra style magic. Mostly just one boy in that world. While I don't tend to dig asian fantasy much, the story has grown on me. It stretches my comfort zone a bit but keeps most of the things I like about western fantasy. It does start slow though, so the free sample doesn't do it complete justice. The first thing I would note, for people new to this author, is that this isn't his best work. It's good, better than your average fantasy book, just not his best. If you're new to Will Wight, your best bet is his Traveler's Gate series. That is an order of magnitude better than this one. For fans of his previous works, this one doesn't really disappoint too much. But you can see that the quality of his work suffers for the speed he is putting into it. I will finish this series without question. But I hope to see better from him in his next one. Second thing to note is that nope, this is not a trilogy and is not complete at the moment (deal breaker for an increasing number of people in the age of GRRM and Jordan). With one of the things discovered in book 2, and the pacing so far, I would guess we're looking at a 6(-ish) book series. The upshot is that the author seems to be producing a book about every 6-7 months and successfully completed at least one other series previously. Each of the books also has it's own subplot. So you aren't left feeling like he stopped mid-sentence, or punched the time card, or is just plain milking it for more books or something. I have to give a nod of respect to the author for that. It's getting rarer to see these days, and it's enough to keep me paying a small premium for his books versus some other authors who don't show the same (or any) consideration for their audience. Third: It actually took me until halfway through book 3 to get invested in the main character. The general story and writing style is good enough to carry it that far though. (After all the first two books together are only 500-ish pages, that's a single conventional fantasy novel to me). Fourth: On the technical side, the author must have a great good editor. The grammar is clean as far as I could see. His one failing is the usage of modern terms and idioms. They're not everywhere, but they are glaring when they happen. If memory serves, I see these failings mostly when a character is making a jest. (E.g. a character made an offhand metaphorical comment about a dead dog on a country road, but the books never really talk about any roads besides a few main ones, and the usage implies what happens to dogs when hit by an automobile. It was moderately entertaining, but needed adapting for the world.) Fifth: The biggest improvement I could suggest would be to add some texture and depth to the people and world. The MC has a fair amount of this already, and I like how his partnership grew over book

2 and 3. That is the kind of texture that the rest of the world could do with to help bring it alive. Make it, and the background characters, feel like they are moving and changing while the main characters are off doing their own thing.

This is the first of his books that I've read, and boy did it deliver! Incredible, unique world building at its finest. I'd also call it genre bending. Is it fantasy? Sci-fi? Adventure? Hero's journey?

Anthropological treasure? All of the above, I'd say! I started reading it yesterday and finished it today, to the protests of my empty stomach and full bladder, as I neglected everything but work in order to devour this book. Well done, Will Wight. You've earned a guaranteed reader of this series, and I'll definitely give anything you write a chance to grab me like this again.

This book showcases martial arts to the umpteenth degree. Very addictive, it is the story of a boy given no hope of ever bettering himself. Indeed, he is not even allowed to marry and have children, let alone being taught the 'Sacred Arts' that define his people and his culture. He is declared as worthless; an embarrassment to his clan. But Linden won't bow to insignificance. Author Will Wight drives the plot onward with seamless grace; drawing the reader ever deeper into Cradle, the world that he created. By book's end, we are so invested in Linden's path, we are ready to follow as he, guided by a strange girl with an unparalleled talent with a sword, leaves the Sacred Valley to brave the dangerous world outside. That means... Lead on, Book 2, Soulsmith.

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