

AN ARTIFACTS OF ANARCHY NOVEL

# SWORD OF AUDANTEI



# Press Release

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**For Immediate Release**

**The child of vengeance yearns for belonging.**

***Today is Hanging Day.***

**PORT ALBERNI, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AUGUST 2023.** Prepare to be enchanted by Ashley Holmquist's "Sword of Audantei", a spellbinding tale of loyalty, betrayal, and the power that lies within.

Danilo stumbles upon an unexpected incident during Audantei's notorious Hanging Day, his world takes a dark and twisted turn. Seeking refuge among Audantei's enemies, the Stormthrowers, Danilo strikes a deal with their reticent leader, Enzo Sapienti. In exchange for safety, Danilo finds himself a captive amidst the most dangerous of their kind. As secrets unravel and loyalties shift, Danilo's dormant magic is awakened, revealing the true extent of his exile. With the Stormthrowers capturing Llodis and a vengeful Royal Beseecher hunting Danilo, he must choose Enzo's threats or the tantalizing promises of his own father.

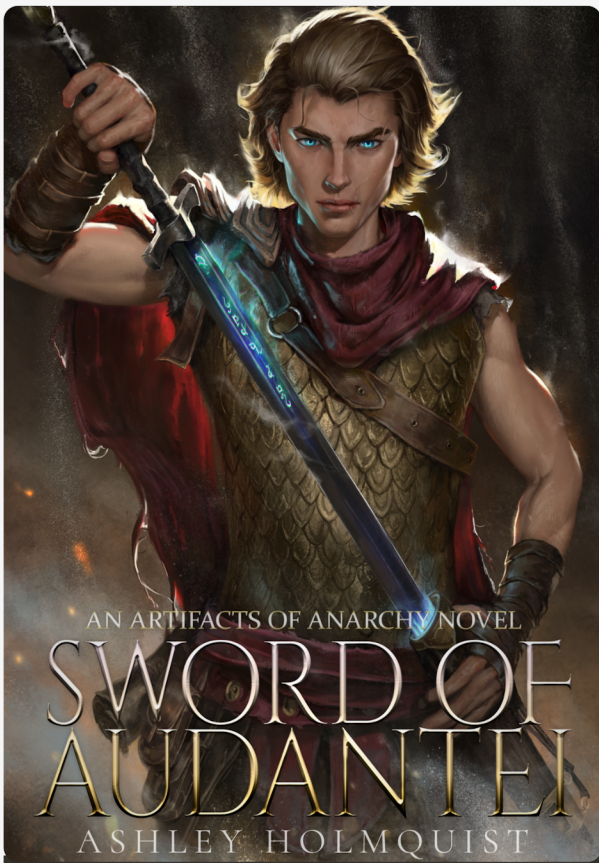
"Unique and refreshing!" - Editor Melissa Cole

Ashley Holmquist is a first-time author of the mystical fantasy-adventure series—Artifacts of Anarchy. Her short stories have been published in multiple online magazines.

"Sword of Audantei" e-books can be preordered on Amazon. Check out Ashley's website for updates on the preorders for Paperback and Hardcover copies.

To read the first chapter for FREE, go to [ashleyauthorholmquist.com](http://ashleyauthorholmquist.com) and subscribe!





THE CHILD OF  
VENGEANCE YEARNS  
FOR BELONGING.

## TITLE

SWORD OF AUDANTEI

## SERIES

ARTIFACTS OF  
ANARCHY

## PUB DATE

OCT 12 2023

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## PAGES

APPROX. 480

## CATEGORY

YOUNG ADULT FANTASY

[Amazon.ca/swordofaudantei](https://Amazon.ca/swordofaudantei)

# Blurb

Lieutenant Commander Danilo Altamura is torn between his commitment to his city and his desperate desire to escape the clutches of his deranged father, High General Llodis Altamura. When Danilo's blood bonds with a powerful Stormthrower sword, Llodis labels him a traitor and he flees to Audantei's deadly alleyways, where survival means staying hidden. But after stumbling upon an unexpected incident during the city's notorious Hanging Day, his world takes a dark and twisted turn.

Seeking refuge among Audantei's enemies, the Stormthrowers, Danilo strikes a deal with their reticent leader, Enzo Sapienti. In exchange for safety, Danilo finds himself a captive among the most dangerous of their kind.

As secrets unravel and loyalties shift, Danilo's dormant magic is awakened, revealing the true extent of his exile. With Royal Beseecher hunting him, and Llodis becoming a captive to the Stormthrowers, Danilo must choose which fate to face: Enzo's threats or his father's tantalizing promises.

"A DEBUT MASTERPIECE."

— ELISE ARNOTT, "CALYPSO'S CURSE"

# About the Author

Before she started writing fantasy, Ashley studied psychological theories of family dynamics, addictions, and the behaviour of human development. She then worked as a Behaviour Interventionist. Now, she applies these experiences to develop vibrant characters that leap off the page.



# SWORD OF AUDANTEI

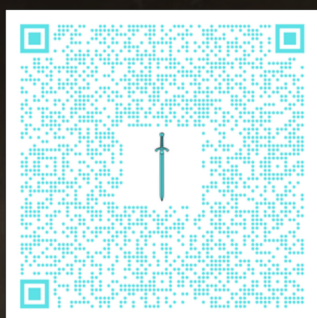


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# Excerpt

Danilo attempts to lurch forward, and Enzo rocks the blade, cutting his skin. He grinds his knuckles deeper into the stone, splitting open dry scabs. With the filth surrounding him, he's quick to wipe the backs of his hands on his shirt. Enzo squints, watching the movement.

Their breathing collides in the cramped space, echoing in tandem with the sewer sloshing around their ankles.

"What is your plan of attack?" Enzo slides the dagger up until Danilo tilts his head to avoid it slicing his jaw. Danilo refuses to meet his eyes, scrutinizing the stone slab beyond Enzo's shoulder. Enzo sneers and glides the knife against Danilo's cheek, forcing Danilo's gaze to him.

"Your father should be behind you with a battalion of men. Is he not?" Danilo flinches at the mention of the General, and Enzo's eyes light up in interest. He chuckles darkly, the sound growing deeper with satisfaction when Danilo lurches for his throat. He drives the blade's tip into Danilo's cheek. "What did you discover in the Narota camp?"

Danilo's teeth clack together, glare tight. Enzo squints at the obvious defiance. The sewer beneath them gains speed, growing clearer with its sudden violence. As Enzo's expression stills, Danilo whitens with realization. He drives his heel to Enzo's knee and the man staggers into the opposite wall.

His nails dig into Enzo's clothes, but it does nothing against the man's many layers. Between Danilo's dwindling strength from the day's events and the rapids pulling his feet from beneath him, Enzo easily peels him from the wall and pins him to the roof tiles at the deepest parts of the stream. Waters as violent as the western seas pull him into the depths of their own accord. Danilo's head pulses as he struggles to hold on to air. When Enzo pulls him up, Danilo sputters water across Enzo's sleeves. Enzo scowls.



OBEDIENCE BRINGS DEATH



# Reviews

"Packed with action from the beginning, Sword of Audantei introduces an interesting cast of characters and a father-son relationship we don't often see in fantasy books. Guys, there is more than romantic love to human relationships!"

"Holmquist is a wonderful writer with fantastic descriptions and beautiful imagery. She spins a tale of lost souls and magical artifacts that leave me incredibly excited for what she has coming next! Sword of Audantei is a great book, and it's even more impressive knowing that this was a debut! I look forward to what Holmquist has in store for us next!!"



TODAY IS HANGING DAY . . .

"Sword of Audantei really took me by surprise. I went into this book having no real expectations and found myself in tears at more than one part of the novel. We have all heard of enemies to lovers, but have you heard of enemies to family. \*chef's kiss\* Each character was written with intent and were unique - and boy of boy do they have a personality!"

"Sword of Audantei is an incredible story of abandonment, survival, and belonging. When Danilo Altamura is abandoned by the only family he has ever known, he is forced to join his enemy in order to survive. His struggles to let go of his old life, and find his place in his new one, are very engaging and a driving force behind the action in this novel. Ashley Holmquist has written each character beautifully, with well-developed backstories that serve to affect their personalities and actions. Upon reading, I found myself emotionally attached to these characters, and drawn directly into both the physical and mental battles they faced. I thought the entire read was amazing, and would highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys found-family or YA Fantasy."