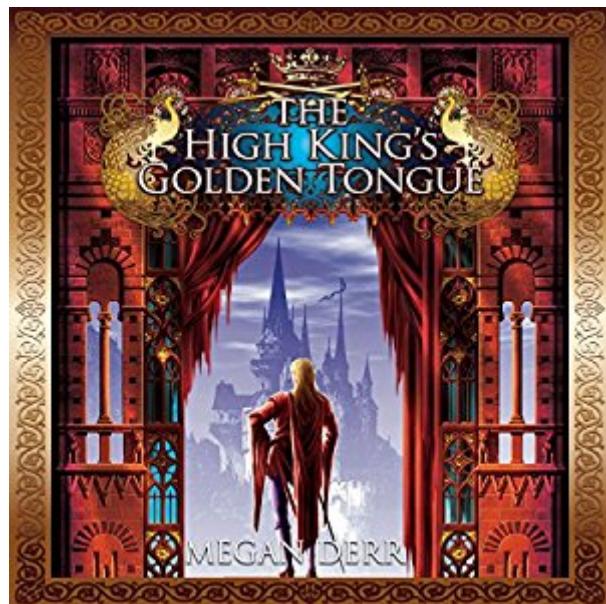


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# The High King's Golden Tongue



## **Synopsis**

Prince Allen has trained his entire life to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious mother, who has made their kingdom one of the wealthiest and most influential in the empire. For the past few years he has trained to become the new consort of the High King. The only thing no one prepared him for was the stubborn, arrogant High King himself, who declares Allen useless and throws him out of court. High King Sarrica is ruling an empire at war, and that war will grow exponentially worse if his carefully laid plans do not come to fruition. He's overwhelmed and needs help, as much as he hates to admit it, but it must be someone like his late consort: a soldier, someone who understands war, who is not unfamiliar with or afraid of the harsher elements of rule. What he doesn't need is the delicate, pretty little politician foisted on him right as everything goes wrong.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Disappointing. The original short story was cute, it had action and adventure in an alternate world. The short story had conflict with the king not wanting an administrator for a husband and the translator having suffered abuse at the hands of his brothers. While the translator was upset and affected by his past abuse, he did not let it define him and went on a quest to be useful and to prove his own worth, the king came to his rescue and both admitted their attraction and they lived happily ever after. Now the new book. Pros nice world, plenty of back story and additional characters. One of the things Derr does best is world building. Cons additional characters, too many to keep track of, they became distracting. Allen was a wimp, who alternated between bitchy and feeling sorry for

himself through most of the book. The king was just an ass until he suddenly decided that he wanted to have sex with Allen. Manufactured drama of the high school kind! While the author usually writes a happily ever after story with some drama/angst this story was too pat and I might have enjoyed it more if I hadn't read the short story. I also agree with another reviewer who mentioned that the real purpose of this book was to open a new world for the following sequels.

I enjoyed this book more than "Tournament of Losers." The character has endured years of studying and abuse from his brothers. Only to be jilted from his betrothed because he wasn't accustomed to the battlefield. The characters' motivations were clear, but the relationships were unrealistic. I think it would have been beneficial for Allen to have indulged in self-pity such as: crying, flinging papers to the floor, etc. I thought there were going to be repercussions for Allen to sleep with Sarrica's right hand man and former brother-in-law. No jealousy between Sarrica and Allen? Regardless of how he could have pushed Allen away, Sarrica could have held indignation for his fiance sleeping with another man. Humans tend to think irrationally at times. No knee jerk reactions of any kind. Also, Men can have children in this universe? I think it would have been wise to provide an explanation for that. Why did Allen think "Golden Tongue" was a preposterous term, but "Silver tongue" was completely normal? No legends? No myths? No questioning whether changing times may have decreased the amount of languages needed to be considered a "Golden Tongue"?

I received a copy from the Author in exchange for a honest review. The story was a bit long at over 110k+ words and I felt it could be a bit shorter but despite the length, I couldn't stop reading. I was so engrossed in each page that I put everything else on hold to read the book without any interruptions. **PLOT:** As much as I love a good romance story, I love books with subplots almost as important as the romance and this book delivered. The story arcs were suspenseful, intriguing and perfectly inter-wined with the romance that it wasn't until I was done reading the book that I realized there were several mini stories blended into the book without it being obvious. This gave the book suspense and made it unpredictable, as well as provided some distraction from the tension between Allen and Sarrica's relationship. **CHARACTER:** The book features beautifully amazing characters, each growing in their own way and learning to accept the love that was right in front of them if only they could get their act together and embrace it. I love how in the beginning Sarrica only saw Allen as cold and beautiful even though Allen wasn't cold, he was just used to hiding his emotions. It was fun watching him lose composure a few times and I squealed with joy whenever someone managed to make him laugh or blush. Despite the perfection

that Allen put as a front, in the inside he was loaded with insecurities and scars. Sarrica hung on to Nyle despite his death; their marriage wasn't perfect even though Sarrica made it seem so, in fact, it was heading for doom had Nyle not died yet Sarrica refused to acknowledge it. Before I continue I'd like to add that I love Lesto and he is so badass and like a grumpy cat! I can't wait to read the next book in the series to watch his fumbling attempts at love. I'm almost sure he'll screw up somehow. Back to the main couples, Sarrica and Allen relationship was complicated even though it could have been simple, Allen kept trying to prove himself and Sarrica, God bless his soul is terrible with words. I knew he didn't mean to come across as hostile to Allen but God, was he even trying? The characters were amazingly crafted and each brought their own internal and external conflicts to the table, creating more subplots that never distracted the stories but rather made the story richer as well as made us understand and love the characters even more. The prose was beautiful, simple and fluid despite the non-contemporary settings and speech patterns. Thumbs up to Megan Derr. One more thing Tara and Rene are adorable together and nothing can convince me otherwise!

Ok this was the book that made me fall in love with Megan Derr, after buying 'Once Upon a Dream' and 'Tournament of Losers' both on whims I really had no intention of buying any other titles by the author... but because of those purchases this title kept popping up in my 'recommended for you' list and one day when I wanted something to read and had some spare cash I decided 'oh why not?' and clicked buy... I love Alan, I love Alan even more through Sarrica's eyes... Even if a story is flat if the characters are intriguing and endearing I still love to read it anyways but this one had a lovely combination of both being wonderful! I read to escape reality and usually crave magic as potently as any addict but despite the lack of dragons and sorcerers this one was my favorite for at least a month and was re-read more times than I could count! Pretty sure the only reason its not still my favorite is because I eventually purchased "Black Magic" and the "Dance with the Devil series!"

Many of the 3 star reviews for this story were written for the short story the full length novel is based on. I think it is unfortunate that all the reviews are lumped together. Most of the reviews for the full length version are 4 and 5 stars. I gave this 5 stars... unique, great characters, adventure and a good romance! It is in my re-read collection and has been checked out several times already!

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