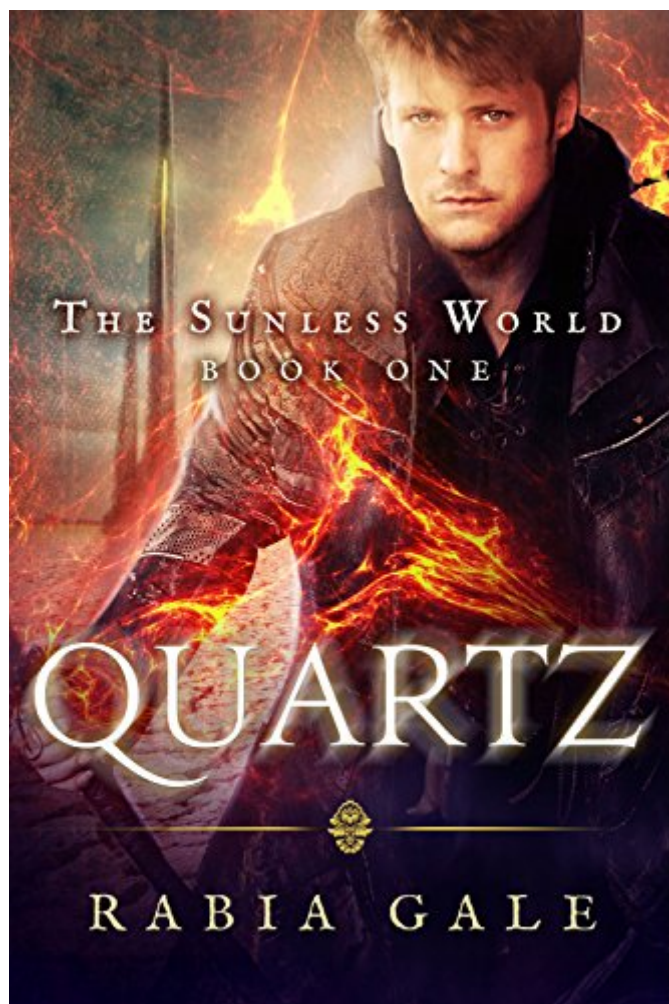


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Quartz: The Sunless World Book One



Synopsis

A sunless world. The lost Tower of Light. And the race to find it. Rafe Grenfeld, diplomat and spy, has problems. He's just learned of the discovery of a legendary quartz pillar: his world's most precious resource. But his informer died before revealing its location, and Rafe's on the run in the hostile state of Blackstone. Once, quartz powered magical devices, but the mages who created them are long gone. Now, veins of quartz give light to a dying world, and Rafe has competition. Karzov, the notorious chief of Blackstone's secret police, is also hunting for the pillar. Determined to claim it for his own country, Rafe forms an uneasy alliance with the mysterious and maddening Isabella. As dangerous magical artifacts resurface and dark forces close in, Rafe must tap into the lost powers of the mages to find and secure the quartz before his world is torn apart by famine and war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

***I received an advanced copy of this book in exchange for my unbiased review of it. The opinions stated are solely my own and no one else's. ***Quartz: The Sunless World Book One by Rabia Gale is a fantasy novel about a sunless world, a lost tower of light and the race to find it. In this book

we are introduced to a character by the name of Rafe Grenfeld. He is a diplomat and a spy for his country: Oakhaven and they are trying to find information on the lost Renat keys that once were used by the mages now long gone. The keys can power old mage weapons and give them an edge in the event of a war with Blackstone. But Rafe learns about a quartz pillar, which is his world's most precious resource, but the thing is this quartz pillar is believed to just be a legend a myth something that you heard stories about but never really existed except for years ago before the scorching of the world. Rafe is supposed to meet up with an informant in Blackstone who has information concerning this mysterious pillar but he is killed before he is able to reveal any information to Rafe and then Rafe is on the run from the Blackstone secret police so that he can escape back to Oakhaven and safety. Rafe wants to claim the pillar for Oakhaven but he will face dissidence and obstacles even with his own in his quest to find the pillar. He will cross paths with a woman named Isabella who will be both a help and a hindrance to him along his path but who is she really? Friend or foe? This book has really got some good elements to it and I really enjoyed reading it overall. This is a fantasy novel with the usual political intrigue of those who are ruled and the dissidents in the midst who wish to bring about change and in doing so bring about destruction hot on its heels.

It took a very long time to settle into this book. The writing was action-packed and engaging, but it felt like a step was missing for a very long time. I actually set it aside (figuratively speaking) and read at least one other book before coming back to it. Either I was incredibly inattentive for a long time to more than just the name of the series this book opens or there actually was a step missing: it took me forever for the light bulb to go off (so to speak) that the world on which the story was set literally had no sun. Seriously, I had no idea. (In my defense, the Kindle galley I had just used "Quartz" in the listing no series name. There was a book synopsis just inside the cover but opening the book for the first time goes straight to the table of contents, a couple of pages after.) Then suddenly the switch flipped and I understood why magical quartz was so valuable, why all agriculture took place in caves filled with said quartz, and why no one ever commented on what a lovely day it was. So maybe I missed something else. This might, however, have been one time when a prologue, or an excerpt from an ancient text, or a glimpse into a history class ("It's true, children! Once upon a time there really was a big ball of fire in the sky, providing heat and light") or something like that. Or maybe I just missed it. Well, no, actually, if it was subtle enough an explanation that I missed it entirely then it was too damned subtle I'm not that careless a reader. Anyway.

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