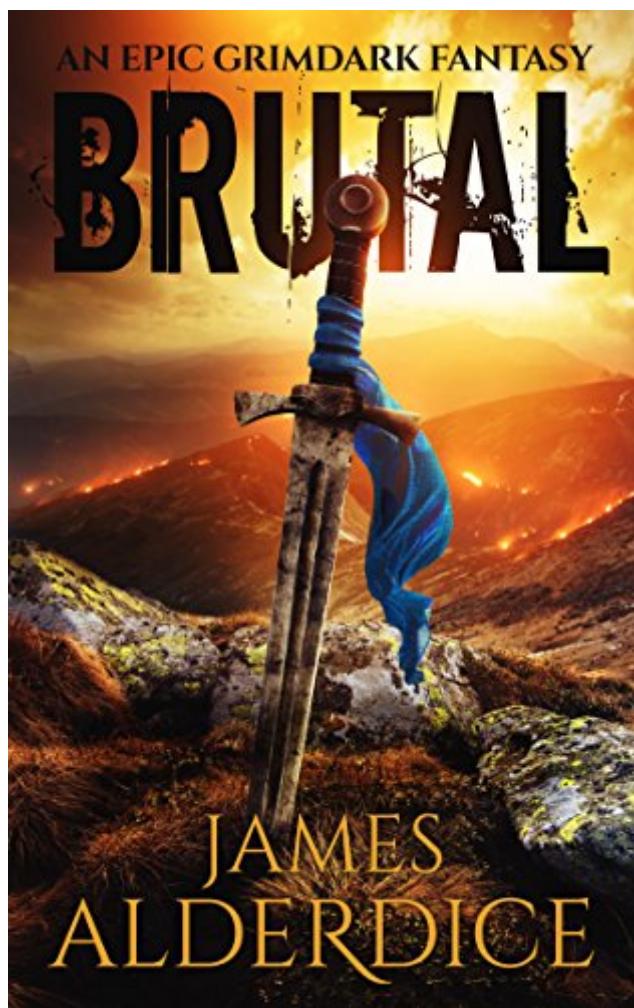


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# **BRUTAL: An Epic Grimsdark Fantasy (BRUTAL TRILOGY Book 1)**



## Synopsis

A man of violence. A duchess with dangerous desires. Two warring wizards. Things in Aldreth are going to get Brutal. A man known only as the Sellsword has come to the border city of Aldreth, where rival wizards struggle for control of a weak-willed duke. Amidst murderous conspiracies and a scandal plagued dynasty, the Sellsword plays all sides to his advantage, bringing about a full-scale gang war between the two ambitious and unscrupulous men, while wooing the reckless and willful duchess. Though corrupt paladins, demonic adepts, and a surprisingly formidable assassin stand between the Sellsword and the unwholesome truth, spells and blades might not be what take the Sellsword down. It could be plain old bad luck... BRUTAL is an powerful sword and sorcery tale with colorful characters and wit straight out of a 80's flick. If you like humor in your pulp, gritty heroes, despicable villains and grimdark fantasy then you'll love this riveting debut by James Alderdice. Grab a copy now!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Take some Karl Edward Wagner's Kane, Dashiell Hammett's Red Harvest, A Fistful of Dollars, and various other influences (which the author describes here), and you've got a bloody, gritty tale of a stranger who comes to town to clean up. A man known only as the Sellsword comes to the town of Aldreth, which the locals have started calling All Death. He's there to clean things up, and there's a lot to clean up. There are two warring wizards, a cult dedicated to a dark goddess, corrupt city guards, and a widowed duchess who has a reputation for stepping out on her recently deceased husband. Of course the Sellsword gets involved with her. For a while, I thought the Sellsword wasn't particularly brutal, at least not as brutal as he came off in the opening chapters. For someone who has come to kick butt and take names, he has moments of unusual compassion. And his reasons for showing up and doing what he does aren't explained initially. He just arrives and brings trouble with him. By the time I got to the end of the book, his behavior and characterization made sense. Aldreth is a mining town, but the mines have pretty much played out. The former Duke brought in a wizard to transmute the rock to iron, because it's easier than transmuting things to gold. Then the wizard's apprentice rebelled. They spend more time trying to kill each other than anything else. Aldreth used to be one of the most significant towns in the kingdom, but in addition to the failing mines, the kingdom has fallen to a barbarian conqueror from the north, which makes everyone nervous. Aldreth is a powder keg waiting to explode, and the Sellsword has just lit a match. There is more going on here than is apparent on the surface. There's also a very high body count. The action hardly ever stops. There are more double crosses than in a Donald Westlake/Richard Stark Parker novel. In short, it was a lot of fun. There's a twist at the end of the novel, one I should have seen coming. I didn't, but in hindsight, the clues were there. I'm looking forward to seeing more of the Sellsword in the future.

Wow! Great book! There are stories that are interesting and that grab the imagination, but James takes story telling to a new level. I love an author that can drag you into the story that you are reading. Not just another thrown together novel. Well written and Mr. Alderdice's command of the english language leaves nothing to be desired. I highly recommend this book. New world, original and all-around fun.

A mysterious warrior known only as the Sellsword arrives in the dying city of "All Death" and finds himself playing two rival wizards who are running the city into the ground against each other. There are sword fights, foul sorcery and dark gods to found in this tale. I found it to be a lot of fun and a

pretty quick read.

Brutal is a fast paced and emotionally immersive tale of courage and survival, expertly interwoven with inspiring threads of love and heroic sacrifice. With an epic confrontation reminiscent of hard-boiled pulp and Big Trouble in Little China, Brutal is an intelligently written and exciting piece of standalone fiction that is riveting right up until the last word. Five stars for the elegant and emotional Brutal by James Alderdice.

Enjoyed the book and follows in the vein of Conan the barbarian with a bit more brain than just brawn put into his actions. Looking forward to the next one.

The next time you can't decide between a fantasy and a western, reach for BRUTAL. This fast read includes hard action, savage combat, and more twists and turns than a minotaur's maze. With echoes of everything from "Red Harvest" to "The Man With No Name", this story will please fans of old school pulps and new school thrillers alike!

We do our best to review without any preconceived notions, but this book brings some with it just through the title. Brutal: An Epic Grimdark Fantasy. That is a heck of a name, how could it possibly live up to the hype it generates? Well, it does. From the get go, opening on a jagged mountain pass, it has the traditional "too cool for school" hero done right, thrust into a situation of danger and intrigue. A ride that starts fast never loosens its grip, creating a relatively long story that you will likely read in a single sitting. Mister Alderdice, has delivered a pulpy and fun adventure. He gives us violence, wit, and leaves us yearning for more. Without a doubt, this is the best dark fantasy we have read this year. We love writers who deliver what they promise, and you get that here. While this is not a book for everyone, if you love Robert E. Howard, you will find this little gem to be well worth the price.

This book's name says it all. It's a blend of Fistful of Dollars and Conan the Barbarian. The action is nonstop and exciting. The end is satisfying. Definitely a fun read.

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