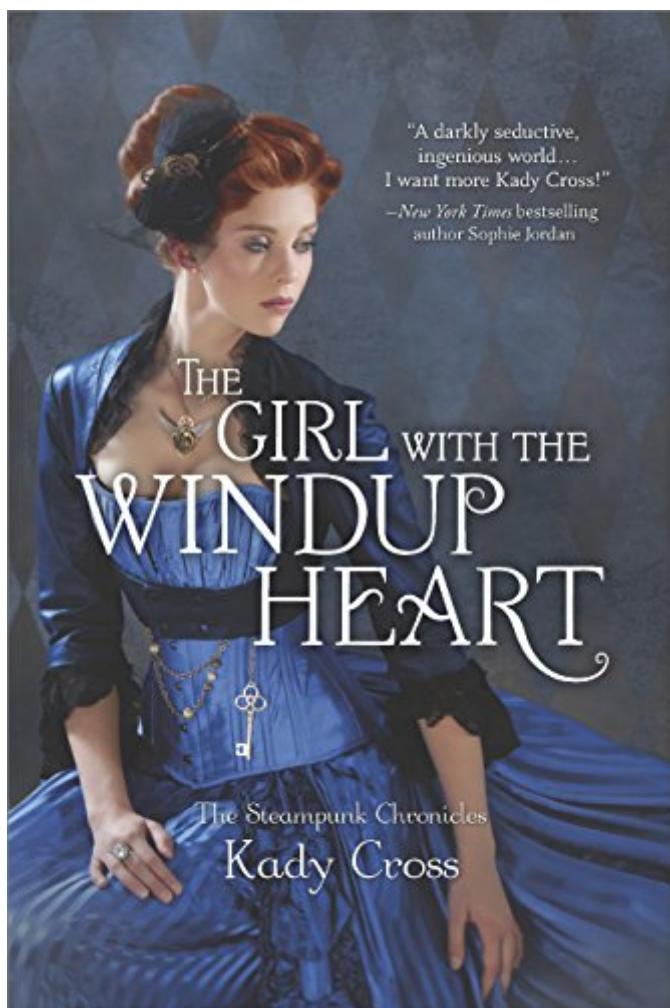


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The Girl With The Windup Heart (The Steampunk Chronicles)



Synopsis

In 1897 London, a final showdown is about to begin. London's underworld is no place for a young woman, even one who is strong, smart and part automaton like Mila. But when master criminal Jack Dandy inadvertently breaks her heart, she takes off, determined to find an independent life, one entirely her own. Her search takes her to the spangled shadows of the West End's most dazzling circus. Meanwhile, taken captive in the Aether, Griffin King is trapped in an inescapable prison and at the mercy of his archenemy, The Machinist. If he breaks, The Machinist will claim control of the Aether, and no one in either world will be safe. To defeat The Machinist for good, Griffin will have to confront his greatest fear and finally come face-to-face with the destructive power he wields.

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Customer Reviews

The Girl with the Windup Heart is Kady Cross's conclusion to her Steampunk Chronicles! I have enjoyed reading this series immensely, and grateful for Netgalley having had all the books each

year! This final installment was quite an exciting read! Each of these novels has had its own level of awesomeness. I don't think I could pick a favorite really, because they were all so incredible! In this final installment, we have a dual storyline going on. Granted, there's the general multiple points of view, but we firstly have Mila's story and then there's Griffin and Finley's as well. I truly enjoyed reading about Mila and Jack though! We know from last time that Mila was an automation meant to be used by The Machinist, so that he may live again. But she ended up developing her own personality, and well, her own person. We learned from The Dark Discovery of Jack Dandy novella, that Jack was the one who delivered Mila to the bad guys without knowing what he was delivering. He then ends up taking Mila into his care. A ward, he calls her to those who ask. But during the weeks where he teaches her a little bit about being human, Mila has grown to care for Jack. Deeply. Yet, it doesn't appear Jack feels the same way what with all the ladies of the night visiting him. So she leaves him and joins the circus. Seriously! I love Mila! While not completely human, she is very humane. She has an innocence about her that's just endearing and fresh for a character. Jack does truly care for her, but he believes she deserves the best and the best is certainly not him. Granted, that whole scenario nagged at me where Jack thinks he knows what's best for Mila when Mila is perfectly capable of knowing what she wants in her new life. But it does make for an intriguing story as Jack's reaction to her leaving was quite astounding! Then we have Finley and Griffin's story in that The Machinist is the villain that just doesn't die and stay dead. Now his ghost is causing trouble for Griffin and all his friends. He manages to kidnap Griffin and has him held hostage in the Aether. Finley will do anything to save him, including going into the Aether herself, even if it means she has to die, because an alive human cannot go there otherwise. It takes some mechanics and the genius that is Emily to make that happen without Finley being permanently dead. I was also happy to see Wildcat and Jasper in the story, as well as Sam of course. If Emily's there, you know he won't be far behind. I can't quite recall when we met Wildcat, but I know she was there in the other novella The Wild Adventure of Jasper Renn. But first, they have to finish saving the world. And that in itself will be tricky since The Machinist remains to be their most diabolical villain ever. And there is still plenty of danger afoot in the Aether. But luckily, Finley and her friends have more than enough help. I truly enjoyed reading this one and thought it was the perfect ending to the series. I was especially glad to get a little more inside knowledge to Jack Dandy. He played a large part in one of the main storylines and we get some insight to what this guy thinks and feels. We also finally learn his background. Things he didn't even know. The pacing to this one was fantastic! Since there were two storylines going on, we hopped back and forth between them with either Jack, Mila, Finley or Griffin narrating in the third person. Each segment always seemed to end with a mini cliffhanger and I was

always eager to return to the previous narrator! It was quite daunting at times! The action was delightful as well. Just the right amount to go with the perfect pacing! And the romance was enjoyable as well. And that goes for all the romantically involved couples! The Steampunk Chronicles was one of the first steampunk books I read and I have loved every moment of it! The Girl with the Windup Heart was filled with shocking twists and surprises that every moment was a delight! While the series is over, I will continue to read and enjoy the works of Kady Cross--and her many personas--as she is a very talented writer who takes the world of steampunk and makes it one wild ride! Overall Rating 5/5 stars

Steam punk with likeable characters and fun, if slightly predictable, plots. This is the last book (that I know of) in this series, and features a new character, but is still quite enjoyable. Would compare to Parasol Protectorate or Lady of Devices books. Highly recommend.

Kady Cross has done it again! The Girl with the Windup Heart is a thrilling, exciting conclusion to the Steampunk Chronicles. We are thrust right back into the world that Ms. Cross created in The Girl in the Steel Corset, and you never want to leave. I was extremely sad while reading this book because I knew that this was it. There would be no more Finley, Griffin, Sam, Emily, Jack Dandy, or Jasper. And while this is something that is still hard to cope with, the ending of this book couldn't have been better. All of the loose ends are tied up, and any remaining questions are answered. The Machinist is back and badder than ever, and I loved the entire storyline with him. It was creative, and brilliant. He is a villain until the very end of the book, and was truly a worthy opponent of the team. The Machinist is honestly one of the best written foes I have read, and that's saying a lot. I don't want to give away any spoilers, so you will have to read the beauty of this book, but everything works out in its own way in the end. One of my favorite aspects of this novel was reflecting back on how much the characters have grown over the course of the series. They have all matured and evolved into even more amazing people, and this book showcases this growth perfectly. The unwavering loyalty to each other is something to be admired, and the love they have for each other makes you realize that this ragtag group of people are truly family. They epitomize the term more so than some people that are family by blood. It shows that even though you are born into a family, you still choose who you want in your life. The lengths these characters go to for each other is actually quite inspiring, and it makes the reader want to have similar friendships and love. And let me just say, it's about time Jack Dandy is happy! Mila is such a great match for him, and seriously, the two are adorable together ;) While there was more romance in this one (more than the other books), it never really got

in the way of the storyline. There was a great balance between the romance and the action, and it shows just how extraordinary an author Kady Cross is! Ms. Cross navigates the steampunk world expertly, and captivates the reader. We get a look at the Aether world and the creatures that live there. It was so unique, I never wanted to leave! There is also a nice balance between paranormal and steampunk, which oftentimes is hard to do. This novel is an excellent finale to the story, and Ms. Cross brings a wonderful sense of closure to the novel. With fantastic writing, and even more fantastic characters, this is a surefire win. Pick this book up now so you don't miss out on how it all ends for our beloved characters! Happy reading :)

I've read all the books in this series and have to say that I was never once disappointed with Kady Cross's ability to dazzle you and keep you hooked throughout each page and chapter. Some authors can lull you by spending a page for description, but Cross makes her descriptions fun and keeps you wanting to learn more. If you are into Steam punk, fiction/fantasy, or are in need of a good book that isn't complicated to read and is quick and fun, then you've got it! As this is the 5th book, I would recommend searching "The Strange Case of Finley Jane" and starting there. That is where the story begins!

This is one amazing book! In most series the books end up getting progressively worse, but it kept getting better and better. I love the characters, and the plot line did not repeat very often and that is not something you can normally say about a book in a series. Fresh from beginning to end!

I have just loved this series and I feel so bad that it is over. I have come to feel like I know the characters and they are my friends. I would love to live in their world, well at least now that they have gotten rid of the bad guy. I have loved watching them grow in their powers and in their relationships. I love the combination of technology and the regency times. I love the steampunk clothes and the lovely manners. Can I say it enough. Love, love, love!!!! Now I need to read it all over again and I recommend it to anyone who loves a great story!

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