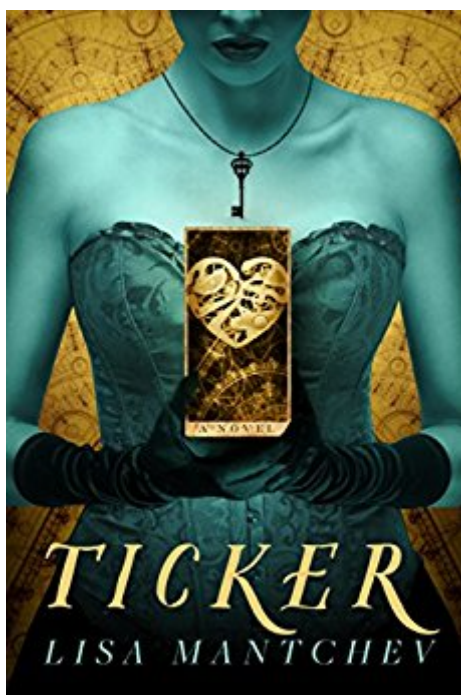


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Ticker



Synopsis

A girl with a clockwork heart must make every second count. When Penny Farthing nearly dies, brilliant surgeon Calvin Warwick manages to implant a brass "Ticker" in her chest, transforming her into the first of the Augmented. But soon it's discovered that Warwick killed dozens of people as he strove to perfect another improved Ticker for Penny, and he's put on trial for mass murder. On the last day of Warwick's trial, the Farthings' factory is bombed, Penny's parents disappear, and Penny and her brother, Nic, receive a ransom note demanding all of their Augmentation research if they want to see their parents again. Is someone trying to destroy the Farthings...or is the motive more sinister? Desperate to reunite their family and rescue their research, Penny and her brother recruit fiery baker Violet Nesselrode, gentleman-about-town Sebastian Stirling, and Marcus Kingsley, a young army general who has his own reasons for wanting to lift the veil between this world and the next. Wagers are placed, friends are lost, romance stages an ambush, and time is running out for the girl with the clockwork heart.

Book Information

File Size: 2483 KB

Print Length: 276 pages

Publisher: Skyscape (December 1, 2014)

Publication Date: December 1, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00JJZ3QV2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #50,393 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #22 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #36 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #67 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk

Customer Reviews

I admit I once again hit the [Buy Now] button without using the "Look Inside" feature, but I guess I am really am getting used to the first person narrative that seems to be taking mainstream publications by storm. However, don't let it overly dissuade you if you are not a fan of the narrative style as Lisa Mantchev does it very well indeed. In fact, if one replaced all the "I"s with "she", the book would easily transition to a more traditional narrative. Even I (lol) found myself losing awareness of our heroine's perspective, becoming quite immersed in a lovingly detailed and lushly geared fantasy world bridging the time scale of mid-19th century to early 20th century alternate Steampunk locales. Whereas many Steampunk novels take a definite time period to imbue the wonders of techo-gears and coal powered wonders, TICKER proved hard to pinpoint, ranging between hansom cabs and gaslights to steam cars, air fortresses, and electricity powered by mined gems from a distant northern continent. The world that Mantchev has began drawing hints at a vast scope and rich history, an impression not unlike the world that Sean McMullen first began within his SOULS OF THE GREAT MACHINE. Albeit, his was a post-apocalyptic saga of clockwork in a devastated Earth whereas Mantchev only borrows elements of late 19th century British and American cultures to populate her definitely fictional world, but either way, if you enjoyed McMullen's vast trilogy of ticking technology at odds with human passions, then the human heart contained within TICKER will give you the same supreme satisfaction it gave me. STAND-ALONE NOVEL - SUITABLE FOR YOUNG TEENS AND OLDER Although the novel is quite self-contained, I dare say it would be a shame for Mantchev not to continue in this world she has wrought. The language and action is on the whole clean. A few scenes may give the more delicate natures a bit of a squeamish wriggle, but on the whole a good book for young teens on up, especially for those who do like a healthy dash of Victoriana romance. :)

Ticker by Lisa Matchen
Rating: *** (3 stars)
Book Length: 276 pages
Genre: Science Fiction, Steampunk, Young Adult
Ticker is a steampunk novel complete with springs and gears that drives the book more than the plot does. Penny is born with a bad heart, so of course, hers is replaced with one made from a clock instead. Ticker is a world of springs and gears that work almost like magic. The main character having a heart transplant from a clock instead of another heart. When Penny's parents disappear the kidnappers demand that everything related to the Augmentation research be turned over. What follows is a journey against time with lots of characters and a little bit of romance. The world of Ticker is worth reading, although the writing fell a little flat in places. The climax never reached excellent but I did find it to be an interesting read. It was a different world that the reader is expected to adapt to. I could see where some would have difficulty connecting at all.

Personally, I think it could just do with some more depth to the characters and a little more attention on weeding out the plot. Overall, It was an interesting read. It is good if you are looking for something different. As reviewed on The Book Recluse Review

This "steampunk fantasy" was so much fun to read! Although this genre is not one I usually read, I found this novel fresh and interesting. I loved the wide variety of clockwork creatures, and the gutsy heroine, Penelope Farthing, is charming. Penny is an intriguing cross between a proper Victorian maiden and a kick-ass feminist. There are many surprises mixed in with the action (along with a smattering of romance, too). You hardly have time to catch your breath--as Penny visits the spirit world or sips tea from a delicate porcelain cup--when the action begins again. Keep your own "ticker" wound up so you don't miss anything. The author, Lisa Mantchev, has a vivid imagination and the narrative skills needed to share it with her readers. Recommended.

Penny Farthing lives with an artificial heart - a ticker - that was installed by a doctor now on trial for mass murder. He kidnapped, experimented on, and murdered a number of people to improve the heart and other augmentations. When the Farthing's factory is bombed and her parents kidnapped, Penny and her twin Copernicus (Nic) recruit some friends including baker Violet Nesselrode and entrepreneur Sebastian Stirling to help them find their missing parents and the papers the kidnappers have demanded as a ransom for them. They are assisted by Marcus Kingsley who is in charge of the local police and who has his own reasons for wanting to find the kidnappers. This was a great steampunk story filled with wonderful gadgets not least of which was Penny's augmented heart which was in danger of failing throughout the story. The story had sort of a Victorian feel in terms of manners and costumes. It was a very nice mystery and a very nice romance too. I liked the relationship between Penny and her brother Nic and Penny and her best friend Violet. I would be very happy to read more stories set in this world.

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Ticker

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