



Flights and Chimes and Mysterious Times

Emma Trevayne

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Ten-year-old Jack Foster has stepped through a doorway and into quite a different London.

Londinium is a smoky, dark, and dangerous place, home to mischievous metal fairies and fearsome clockwork dragons that breathe scalding steam. The people wear goggles to protect their eyes, brass grill insets in their nostrils to filter air, or mechanical limbs to replace missing ones.

Over it all rules the Lady, and the Lady has demanded a new son—a perfect flesh-and-blood child. She has chosen Jack.

Jack's wonder at the magic and steam-powered marvels in Londinium lasts until he learns he is the pawn in a very dangerous game. The consequences are deadly, and his only hope of escape, of returning home, lies with a legendary clockwork bird.

The Gearwing grants wishes—or it did, before it was broken—before it was killed. But some things don't stay dead forever.

Flights and Chimes and Mysterious Times Details

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Author : Emma Trevayne

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From Reader Review Flights and Chimes and Mysterious Times for online ebook

Heidi Schulz says

I read an early version of this and it became an instant favorite. I can't wait to see what Emma has done with it. LOVE.

P.S. CLOCKWORK DRAGONS.

Pau says

Why do middle-grade books have more artistic ~~better~~ covers than most young-adult or new adult or adult books? Coz I'm so tired of seeing half-nekkid men on covers. Or girls in swirling voluminous gowns. Or half-nekkid girls in corsets. Or words with swirly bits. Or an object of no particular importance like an apple or a shoe. Come on! Level up publishers!

Leah Jay says

THERE BE NO SPOILERS HERE

Actual rating 3.5 stars

This book was great.

I love the plot!

I love the characters!

I love the PICTURES!

I love the beautiful writing!

I love the world!

BUT:

The way some of the writing was presented didn't exactly keep me on my toes.

Flights and chimes and mysterious Times? More like flights and chimes and CONFUSING times.

Sorry.

I feel like the whole thing could have been a really amazing mystery if some of the paragraphs and/or sentences were switched up a bit. It left me kind of confused and really discouraged to read it.

But without all that doohickey, this was really a very interesting book.

Would recommend for steampunk lovers!

Until the next book- Leah the Bluebird

Chesca says

Actual Rating: 2.5 stars

Emma Trevayne's *Flights and Chimes and Mysterious Times* is a story of one's childhood escape from reality. We've all been in that phase and this book will remind you of all the love we craved, and the nightmares we had as children.

Ten-year-old Jack Foster had always felt neglected by his parents, like almost every other child. One day, an odd man arrived at their home to provide her mother and her friends some magical and spiritual amusements.

Sir Lorcan Havelock was on a mission to find his most-beloved Lady a new and perfect son. He'd do anything to make her happy and thought that Jack Foster would be the finest candidate. However, Lorcan is envious and furious. Loving the Lady greatly, he wanted all her affections for himself alone and this could put Jack and the others in a great risk that would sweep the whole empire on its wings.

The story was quite appealing especially as the world, Londinium, was unraveled gradually. I'm sure that it's not that unique, but it's likable. The book is steampunk-themed, focusing on another London which could be accessed through magical doorways. Londinium, the Empire of Clouds, is a place of imperfection. Its people have a few of their defective body parts replaced with metal. Some, like Beth, needed winding up because they were entirely made of machines.

Though Jack's character was well-developed, I didn't adore who he became in the end of the book. Yes, he indeed became stronger, but all the edge somewhat destroyed part of his goodness. He'd been through much, and he chose to be driven by his anger towards Lorcan. I don't think he would be a good influence to young readers.

The other characters were very interactive as well and contributed a great deal to Jack's and his adventure's molding. Beth was the ideal character that kids could look up to. She's kind and caring, even towards people who've wronged her. Of course, there are the adults who helped Jack get through this world of death and smoke: Xeno and Dr. Snailwater. These two were fairy-godparent-like for giving all Jack he needed to make it out alive in exchange for nothing. Although these three were fantastic characters, they were all flat and were the same from beginning to end.

The main reason why I'm giving this book a 2.5-star rating was because of the Lady and Lorcan. Honestly, I'm more interested in them than Jack and his friends. They were dark and wrecked inside and they made me want to unearth their past. I wanted to know why the Lady was miserable and looking for a son. Did she give birth to one before and lost it? What was Lorcan like before he became the Lady's son? I want their entire truths! The tale ended with me not discovering where these two came from and it was irksome.

The next reason which resulted to my rating was the Gearwing. I think it was such an instant solution. It was too easy of an answer although Jack had to find it piece by piece. Maybe I just don't adore wish-granting scenarios resolving issues anymore. It made the ending too hopeful for such a sinister plot and world buildup.

This was an adorable read although I didn't enjoy it as much as I expected.

Andreas says

This could have been so good, the cover is goooorgeous and it seemed like a cute, light and steampunk-ish read! But by god, was it bad! Incredibly badly written, badly constructed and badly told! Depthless characters, glacial pace, boring world... I skimmed through the last 50 pages or so because I just couldn't take it anymore.

Stefan Bachmann says

I read this when it was still a draft, and Emma is a dear friend, and I blurbed it for the publisher, but none of those things had much to do with why I loved it so much.

It has all the best things in it. Behold:

- An alternate mirror-London that is slightly sinister.
- Portals
- Dragons
- Steampunk
- Steampunk dragons
- Characters named Dr. Snailwater and Lorcan Havelock, etc.
- Cake
- Airships
- A wind-up girl named Beth Number Thirteen, who is one of my favorite characters everrr.
- A duplicitous villainess
- Mechanical faeries
- Dreadful hangings, clockwork masks, gorgeous writing.

The list goes on, but YOU UNDERSTAND. Everyone should read this. People who like Victorian-tinged fantasy, atmosphere, and colorful worlds, should read this especially soon. It's fantastic. :)

Brooks Sherman says

Disclaimer: I am the author's agent. I am also, however, a true diehard fan of this book--it is THE kind of story I'd hoped to someday work with when I first decided to get into publishing. It is classic and original all at once, the kind of book you'd read by the fire on a cold winter day, or at night in bed...unable to put it down until you'd read "just one more" chapter.

I cannot wait for the rest of the world to read this book.

Pamela says

I can't tell you how much I wanted to spell the title "Flyghts, Chymes, and Mysterious Tymes" because it's steampunkier. Plus, I also read way too much Chaucer Doth Tweet on Twitter.

Emma Trevayne's *Flights, Chimes, and Mysterious Times* started out so well! And then ... it meandered ... over thataway ... and back this-a-way, until BOOM! THE END!

In Victorian London, Jack Foster lives a relatively pampered life. His family is wealthy, I suppose, and would like for him to grow up a gentleman. Jack, however, prefers tinkering with clockwork and generally doing ungentlemanly things and eating ungentlemanly foods like porridge and cottage pie. Having been born to two people who would raahllly prehfehhh just sitting around chatting and conveniently forgetting that there is a child somewhere in the family, he gets super-excited when his mother's latest Spiritualist offers to take him on as an apprentice.

Now we all know that this Spiritualist is, in fact, a Nefarious Villain. He's got two main things against him:

1. His name is "Lorcan Havelock." Since this book is not about wild love on the moors or werewolves, that name defaults to "villain."
2. We are treated to his internal Nasty Person Monologuing about stealing a child for his mistress, The Lady. Soo, yeah. Bad guy.

After various attempts to lure Jack along with him, Havelock gets what he wants when Jack follows him through a portal in the Tower of London. Havelock also gets a Dumb Villain Award for this, because he doesn't even notice. He has what he wanted and doesn't even know. Some super-perceptive villain he is.

Jack finds himself in a London without sun. It's smoggy and sooty and people all seem to be missing at least one limb. As he wanders the streets of this city, called Londinium, he encounters a cheery clockwork girl named Beth sitting in a giant birdcage (as one does, I suppose, when one is a clockwork person). She takes him home to her maker, a doctor, and there they live merrily until Havelock realizes that Jack is in his universe. Hangings ensue, and Jack goes to live with the Lady as her surrogate son in order to stop the killings.

This is really where everything gets rushed and starts making even less sense.

The Lady is human, but with magical powers (I don't even know how/why). She has a mad desire for children who are human like her, without a clockwork limb in sight. Unfortunately, these are rather hard to come by, so she's been stealing them from neighboring London. Havelock was once her human son, but as he aged, he fell out of favor. He mysteriously found a way to stop aging (the Lady doesn't age, again, for reasons unknown) and has been plotting to get back into her favor all while acting the faithful minion.

Jack is in the Lady's "family" for a blessedly short period of time, during which he manages to forget not only his real family back in London (although they really weren't winners, so I can't blame him too much), but also his new friends in Londinium who genuinely care for him. What an ungrateful little brat.

In the end, this random myth comes out of left field, and the random myth is actually a clockwork bird called the Gearwing that grants wishes and destroys itself and keeps the kingdom whole and hale.

Pay no attention to the random development of this thing being called "the plot!" In the span of like three chapters, Jack, Beth, and their friends locate all the scattered pieces of the Gearwing, put it together, and give it life. Jack can now go home again (no place like home, yawn) and Beth goes to the castle to live with the Lady, because ... I honestly have no idea. Jack just assumes that now the Lady will not hate clockwork people anymore.

To riff on my girl Elizabeth Bennet, the more I contemplate this book, the more I am dissatisfied with it. The pacing is wildly off, and the characters are flat archetypes with little to recommend themselves to the reader. Many praise the cover, but the artwork is so dark with very little contrast that I don't find it eye-catching at all.

Give this one a pass.

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

This book is full of rich descriptions and an interesting plot, but it didn't hold my attention. It was easy to get distracted while reading this one. Overall still a great story and very original!

Melissa Chung says

"Long ago, this land was nothing but gods and magic. Some say one came from the other, but that's for another time."

This was an amazing little middle-grade stand alone fantasy. I loved every cog and wheel.

Jack Foster is a 10 year old from London 1899. Jack has just been picked up by his mother for his summer holiday away from boarding school. His mother hosts a lot of parties and seances. His father a hard working businessman is rarely at home. Jack is ignored by his parents and wishes to be far away in a magical world with adventure just like his fairy-tales.

Sir Lorcan is a man from Londinium, a alternate London made entirely by magic and tinkering. Everything in Londinium has a cog, screw or bolt. Except The Lady (the Queen) of this magical island. Lorcan has been sent to present day London to fetch The Lady a new son. Jack being the target.

Jack discovers this alternate London accidentally and without Lorcan as his guide. Jack is confused when he finds himself in a new world and befriends a wind up girl named Beth.

Jack goes on an magical adventure of air ships and trickery. Tinkering and myth.

A very fast and entertaining read that I'm sure all ages will come to love and enjoy.

Bonnie says

Jack Foster is your typical 'dissatisfied with life'??? ten-year-old boy? who is constantly left to fend for

himself, in terms of entertainment, by his mostly absent parents. When he follows a man by the name of ??Lorcan Havelock? through a magical doorway set in a clock tower in London, he finds himself ?in a strange and mysterious ‘other’ version of London. This land is known as Londinium??.?

‘A land of brass and steel and clockwork, of steam and airships, cogs that turned and wheels that spin. He half wondered if he was dreaming, so perfect was this place, and would wake in his bed to the sound of Mrs. Pond clattering the breakfast things in the kitchen below.’

?Jack is mesmerized by this new world he’s found himself in and has no desire to try to find his way back to where he came from, figuring that his parents won’t likely miss him anyways. The air quality is poor and causes his lungs to ache but all the wonderful things made out of metal far outweigh any bad aspects in his mind. After stumbling upon a cage containing a clockwork girl named Beth, she takes him to Dr. Snailwater? who tells him the truth behind the man named Lorcan.?

??’Portraits lined the walls [...] All were of boys who could pass for Jack’s brothers, had he any, the oils faded and cracked, some more than others. Dozens of them.’?

??Lorcan Havelock?? was sent to London by the ruler of Londinium, a woman only known by the name of ‘Lady’, to procure ?for her a perfect human boy that she can play with and love. Lorcan was her previous (and not only) son but he has grown old, while the Lady has not, and she requires a new child. Lorcan was a surprisingly terrible? and? unforgivable type of villain that did truly awful things.? I felt the acts of violence were extreme for a Middle Grade book (including daily hangings? that go on for far too long) but Lorcan was still a small child at heart that only wished to be loved again by the Lady. Nonetheless, his actions were shocking.

??’Most of all, the open door beside the stairs, the maddeningly incomplete glimpses of the engine in the room beyond. He ran to it, through it, engulfed by the sound. It was like nothing Jack had ever seen. The enormity of it, the clouds of steam thick enough to blanket the whole sky, sucked from the room by a shaft that led upward. Every metal part, tiny and huge, playing its well-oiled part. Spinning, hissing, churning.’?

?The single most lovely thing about this book was the imaginative descriptions of this parallel world. ?Her descriptions of clockwork dragons and magic made it easy to understand what made Jack so spellbound. The descriptions alone will keep the reader invested but upon closer examination one would have questions abound regarding what exactly makes this world tick. It lacks a clarity and feels akin to a hazy dream, but then again this is a magical world so maybe that’s to be expected. The characters were also written in a hazy, imprecise manner and added detail into who they were (most especially the Lady) would have been well-received. While I loved the world Travayne created, I didn’t feel it fulfilled it’s potential especially with the lackluster ending.

Flights and Chimes and Mysterious Times will appeal to fans of steampunk (or readers looking to try out the genre) and middle-grade readers will likely be mesmerized just as Jack was.

Annie Hawthorne says

This book is magical and delightful and I almost (but not quite) want to live inside it.

Linda says

3.5

Jack was a bit of a jackass for too long before his turnabout and I just don't have the patience for it anymore. Maybe when I was younger maybe, but when I keep saying in my head "Say something-these people are your friends and they care about you" and the character does stupid shit... I love the character of Beth and lots of bits but overall not as much as I'd hoped.

Bang Bang Books says

3.5

So I read this book b/c it had a high Goodreads rating but I think the reviews were stacked. This book should get around a 3.90.

This is a high fantasy/steampunk middle grade novel about Jack Foster, a 10 year old boy, who is ignored by his parents. One day, a mysterious man, Lorcan, visits his mother and her friends but he actually wants to take Jack away to live with The Lady in bizzaro London to be her son. Jack enters bizzaro London but soon learns that this was a mistake and he wants to go home.

This book was a cross between Alice in Wonderland and Coraline with a dash of Wizard of Oz.

The Good

- * The world building was written well. Trevayne did a great job describing her steampunk London and the characters in the story.
- * The premise was good. An evil Lady wants a human son.
- * I thought the steampunk aspect was written well. If you've never read steampunk, it is hard to picture it in your head. This will probably be an introduction to steampunk for MG and the way it was written will make it easy for kids to picture this world.
- * It's a good discussion book. I think middle graders will learn lessons about "the grass is always greener," having a soul, etc

The Bad

- * The Characters. Jack was kind of stupid. He was angry with his mom for ignoring him and shipping him off to boarding school and he wanted to go to the The Lady and Lorcan even though everyone told him it was a bad idea. The other characters were flat. I thought Beth was going to be a good snarky character but no. I thought the Dr. was going to be a humorous character but I only chuckled a couple of times. The Lady was weird and not in a good way. Lorcan was the only good character-but that was it.
- * There was no meat in the story. It started off really well but when Jack got to the Dr.'s house, right before he went to the palace was when it took a turn. Everyones motive for their actions was a little weak. Lorcan's motives were good. He was a good villain. The part about the Lady and her wanting peace and kicking Jack to the curb so abruptly was weak. I get why Jack wanted to live with the Lady and I get why she wanted Jack but The Lady character and storyline was not interesting or dynamic.

I think kids will like the story and I will recommend it to middle graders.

Wendy Darling says

We hosted the official cover reveal for this gorgeous Victorian middle grade fantasy today:

Add *Flights and Chimes* and *Mysterious Times* to your TBR list if you're interested, and win an ARC on the blog, too!
