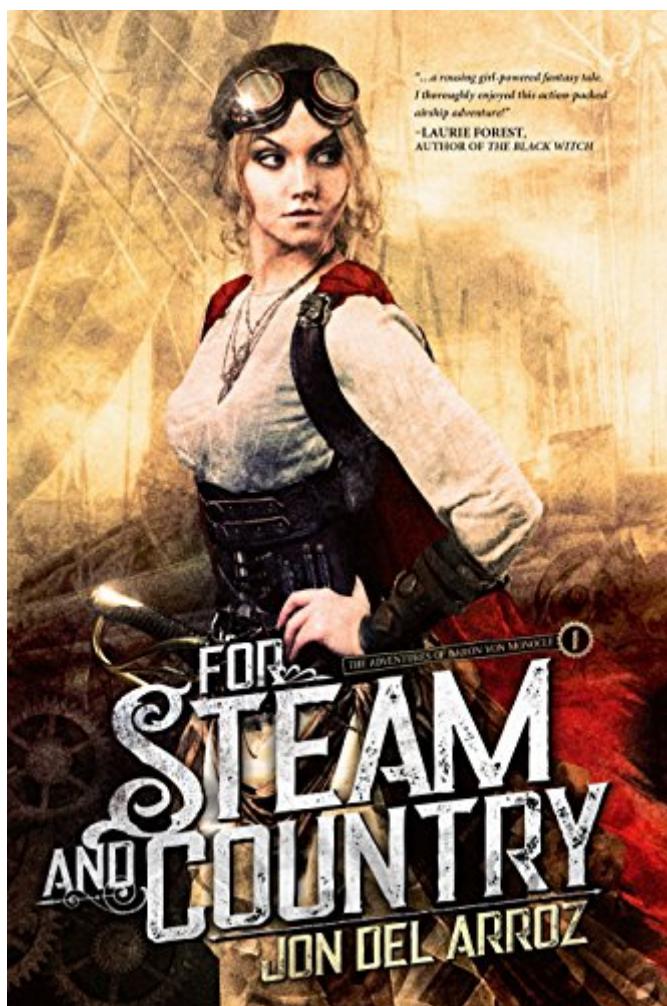


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For Steam And Country: Book One Of The Adventures Of Baron Von Monocle



Synopsis

Her father's been pronounced dead. Destructive earthquakes ravage the countryside. An invading army looms over the horizon. And Zaira's day is just getting started... Abandoned at an early age, Zaira von Monocle found life as the daughter of a great adventurer to be filled with hard work and difficulty. She quickly learned to rely on only herself. But when a messenger brought news that her father was dead and that she was the heir to his airship, her world turned upside down. Zaira soon finds herself trapped in the midst of a war between her home country of Rislandia and the cruel Wyranth Empire, whose soldiers are acting peculiarly "almost inhuman. With the enemy army advancing, her newfound ship's crew may be the only ones who can save the kingdom. For Steam and Country is the first book in the Adventures of Baron Von Monocle series by top-10 best selling space opera author, Jon Del Arroz. "Witty, charming and downright thrilling!" Del Arroz nails the feel of good old fashioned Steampunkery with wit, aplomb and of course... panache." - Nick Cole, author of the Dragon Award winner, "CTRL ALT Revolt" "FOR STEAM AND COUNTRY is a rousing girl-powered fantasy tale. I thoroughly enjoyed this action-packed airship adventure!" - Laurie Forest, author of "The Black Witch"

Book Information

File Size: 6051 KB

Print Length: 279 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Superversive Press; 1 edition (June 15, 2017)

Publication Date: June 15, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B071JNR9HB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #28,505 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction >

Customer Reviews

The best part of the book is that it doesn't take itself seriously. No preachy, no ponderous essays on the responsibility of power, no delusions of Tolkien-inspired reams of background data bereft of story, etc. If the title "For Steam and Country" itself doesn't warn you, then the character names "Baron von Monocle," "Captain Cravat," "Mr. Du. Gearsmith" proclaim proudly this book is fun. And it is. It follows our protag on her way as she discovers her lineage, her father, and her legacy, but not in the heavy Campbellian fashion so many authors seem to choose. There are dark moments, scenes that cause her and me-the-reader to really doubt her direction. The author handles them believably and deftly. For me, the most important aspect to a story is that the writer respects my time and wastes naught. This book epitomizes that goal - after the initial ramping-up, the pace alternates between the red line and top speed. That's not to say the book is perfect: it commits a few minor sins as it hurtles toward its conclusion. Given their location, I am reluctant to discuss further because of risk of spoiling various plot points, so I apologize in advance for the non-specificity. If I could give a half-star, I'd give this 4.5 stars because the writing flaws were well-intentioned and probably necessary to maintain the illusion of velocity. That said, I do recommend this book and will be picking up any future adventures of Baron Von Monocle.

Jon wrote a good tale. It's well plotted. The enemy makes sense and is good and villainous. If I had any complaint it would be the fact that the main character felt like she was the only character at times. The other characters do interact with her, but not as much with each other, and so much action is focused on her that I felt like the rest of the cast was shipped in from central casting rather than carefully developed and grown in the tale. This became a bit of a problem for me near the end when the heroine has to almost drag the plot to the finish line. Despite that it's a great read and I'm definitely open to reading more from this author.

There are books that take themselves seriously. So seriously that whatever literary merit is sucked away from them as they collapse from the weight of their own self-aggrandizement. Those books are the event horizon of pomposity and pretentiousness. For Steam and Country is not one of them. It's a fun, lighthearted, and sometimes silly adventure that kept me smiling (I mean, for heaven's sake, the main character's name is VON MONOCLE!), and that's what a book should do. Go read

this, and laugh and enjoy it.

For Steam and Country is a refreshingly fun read. Nicely paced with action throughout, author Del Arroz paints a picture of a world where steam rules. Rather than resorting to the intricacies of the machinery, he leaves us enough detail to bring out the clanks and vibrations of the equipment and place us squarely into every twist of the story. The cast of characters add verve and flair to this fun steampunk yarn. Very much looking forward to the next book in the series.

I have never gone looking for steampunk stories before. However, when I saw that Jon Del Arroz's new release was steampunk, I decided to give it a try. I am glad I did! This book unfolds the story at a nice pace, revealing the background at just the right rate to prevent overwhelming the reader but always enough to keep him in the story. I look forward to more from both Jon Del Arroz and the Adventures of Baron von Monocle.

I thoroughly enjoyed "For Steam and Country

I'm not that much of a steampunk reader, but I really enjoyed this book. Having a girl as the lead character was interesting and she did grow and mature in the book. I like the kingdom and the different tidbits of the world history we get. The only thing of bother was king malaky who I kept reading as malarkey. I reccomend it a lot. Great starter reader for young adults of either sex.

I have always like the concept of Steampunk, but I never found any books that (in my opinion) took the concept and did something good with the genre. I am sick and tired of seeing romance novels in corsets or modern-thinking action gurrrlz in Victorian England. I nearly wrote off Steampunk as a literary genre.Until now."For Steam and Country" does a lot right. A well-realized world, characters that I grew to care about, and a story that moves a brisk pace. I enjoyed Mr. Del Arroz's previous book (Star Realms: Rescue Run), and I am happy to say that this book is better than his previous one. I was a little worried about this being Young Adult, a type of book I generally do not care for, but I should not have doubted the author for a minute.Hopefully, enough people will read this and we will see Zaira cosplayers at conventions soon. While reading, I had trouble putting it down and I eagerly await a sequel!

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