



Supernatural Devices

Kailin Gow

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Scarlett was a sensible seventeen year old young lady or so everyone thought, but there was definitely more to her. The daughter of famous English Egyptologists and archeologists Theodore and Gemma Seely, she was prone to adventure and all the world had to offer.

It was the 1890s, and she had just received a letter from one of her parents' dearest friend, a certain detective who lived on Baker Street, who needed her help on a case most bizarre.

As she embarks through the supernatural side of London, ventures into the forbidden realms bordering Victorian society; often accompanied by a dashing but infuriating Lord Darthmoor; Scarlett's first case, which had seemed so innocent at first had taken a turn for the unexpected and dangerous.

Official Steampunk Scarlett Trailer:

<http://youtu.be/itEiEa6Pa6U>

Supernatural Devices Details

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Author : Kailin Gow

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Della says

Supernatural Devices: A Steampunk Scarlett Novel #1

By Kailin Gow

** May contain spoilers!

Supernatural Devices is really more of a historical paranormal novel, rather than a steampunk novel, which makes the title very misleading. The Devices are the only steampunk elements in the book and they don't come into the story until almost the end. Most of the book is instead about a seventeen year old girl named Scarlett Seely who has second sight, which is the ability to see things such as ghosts and other paranormal beings. She is asked to help out on a case of theft by none other than the famous Sherlock Holmes. Because of her gift, Scarlett is very good at finding things, which is why Mr. Holmes calls for her assistance. As the story goes on, you find out that the item she is searching for is, in fact, a magic ring. There is a love triangle, a kidnapping, and a few attempted surprises which were very easy to predict. While this book will appeal to any paranormal fan, it was not very original and certainly will not appeal to those looking for a steampunk book. As the series continues, it has potential to turn into a steampunk series, but Supernatural Devices was nothing more than a pretty girl deciding "do I want the vampire or the bad boy fae?" The heroine was your stereotypical beauty who had long golden hair and a beautiful body and knew how to fight anything and everything. Scarlett was a strong character but she wasn't very unique, and she also wasn't very smart. This would be an additional purchase to a public library system.

Becky Soledad says

Copy provided by NetGalley

What I Liked: I really liked the character of Scarlett. She was smart and adventurous. She was a fairly strong young woman who used her wits and special abilities to help Sherlock Holmes solve mysteries. She is unofficially apprenticed to the great detective and is eager to learn all that she can from him. It was a fun story with some adventure and romance. The mystery was fairly predictable but still enjoyable. We are left with a sort of cliff hanger ending so I am looking forward to the next installment. Even though I would classify this as fantasy, with all the gypsies, vampires, and other beastly creatures of the night I still enjoyed it. The steampunk wasn't apparent until the end and then only in minimal amounts. So be forewarned.

What I Didn't Like: Cliff hangers...ugh. They often frustrate and annoy me. I just want to know what happens next! (I didn't dislike the ending it's just that cliff hangers annoy me.) The instant love connection. Once again we have love triangle where all the boys are attracted to the lead female, instantly, without getting to know her. Of course she is instantly attracted to both of them and kisses them often. Most of the book felt like a great big introduction to a series, which it is but it could have been made less obvious.

Verdict: I enjoyed the book despite not being the steampunk I expected it was still an entertaining and fun read. I can't put it in my library but would be a welcome edition to a junior or senior high library where there is an audience for paranormal romances.

Brandy says

Supernatural Devices is set in London during the Victorian era. Scarlett, however, is not the typical female from the time period that you would envision. She is a tough girl who has been trained in self-defense and fighting. She is also very smart and helps Holmes in some of his case because her powers of deduction are also finely honed. She is also blessed with a gift that allows her to see the supernatural that is around her - including ghosts and vampires.

When Scarlett gets called home from an archaeological dig with her parents to help Holmes on the case to retrieve a missing ring, she gets firmly drawn into the supernatural underbelly of London and into the dealings of a ruthless group called The Order. While on her journey to solve the case, she will also find herself torn between two very different men that will be instrumental to saving her from The Order and retrieving the ring.

I really loved this book and first installment to the Steampunk Scarlett series. The way that Kailin Gow combined the elements of the supernatural genre with the steampunk was really intriguing and interesting to me. She managed to merge them in a way that felt believable. I also really loved Scarlett as a character; she was feminine, but she was also fresh and brazen. She's no wallflower, and I liked seeing her take charge. Cruces and Tavian also make great heroes - dark, mysterious and intriguing.

After reading the first one, I was very anxious to read the second. However, I went to bn.com to purchase for my Nook and discovered that they aren't available in Nook version. Now, I'm a very disappointed girl.

MJ says

This book was a short, silly read. I was a little wary at first, once I realized the author was the same as the Shiver books (angst much?). But this was a reasonable read once you got in the right mindset for fluff. The heroine has a team of handsome men vying and kissing for her attentions, it was much like those Japanese dating sim games with your own reverse harem. But it was too pressured or emotional, it was a girl caught up in the moment. Bad notes on the book were plenty of speech anachronisms, all the silly suitors and short length. Good notes included a straightforward, yet layered plot and all the handsome suitors. (Yes, they are good and bad.)

Rachel Marks says

I found out about this book through reading through the book reviews on YA-holic. I was immediately intrigued because of the word Steampunk. For those of you that don't know, Steampunk is a genre in science fiction where steam power is widely used instead of electricity. Steampunk stories usually take place in the Victorian period of Britain, or the Wild West of the United States (for more info on steampunk check out wikipedia). I personally love Steampunk and think it is an extremely interesting genre of science fiction.

Within the first few pages of reading Supernatural Devices I was completely hooked. Scarlett Seely is one of the strongest female characters I have read in YA novel in a very long time. She is extremely sassy, and is not a pushover that most heroines of YA novels are.

Not only are the characters in this book great and believable, the story itself is very entertaining. I absolutely

loved how Gow combined Steampunk elements with the paranormal like vampires and fey. It seems as if this was a natural step in the Steampunk universe that writers should have gone in long ago.

I honestly could not put this book down, so I highly recommend it!

Tara says

This book was definitely a bit of fun!! 17 year old Scarlett, who travels around with her archaeologist parents, is suddenly called to return to London to help a family friend, a Mr Sherlock Holmes! She returns to London, very happily, and then the rest of the book is one small adventure or mishap after the other. We don't actually get to meet Mr Holmes but we do find out that Scarlett has a special ability, to see paranormal activity....whether that be vampires, or the Fey, Or even the Romanian gypsies....all of which make their appearances in the story. Scarlett is an independent girl, quite capable of looking after herself and can quite often be found running around the streets of London, still in her traveling outfit, chasing after girls with stolen rings or fighting off a vampire attack. She also has a variety of males who show up in the story, all who seem to be very good at kissing! I am not too sure what part the 'Steampunk' (from the title) has to play in the story but I expect it will be more dominant in the next book in the series. At one point in the story Scarlett claims something to be 'very fantastical, even for me' and this is what you should expect if you want to read this book. Every few pages there is another twist or turn and you have to let your imagination take over when reading the book and try not to question the likelihood of these events actually happening! While I didn't really connect with any of the characters, it was still a fun, short read.

Book received from NetGalley

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I always like to read Kailin Gow's series to see what new spin or twist she will put on a theme whether it be vampires or witches or fey.

So I was pretty excited to see that she was coming out with a steampunk series because even though I am new to the genre I really like what I have read so far.

And this just isn't steampunk (although, I will admit it is pretty light in that area as far as steampunk goes, so light in fact that I think people who don't like steampunk will still really enjoy this series and be interested in it) this is steampunk with a supernatural twist. Steampunk with vampires and fairies and all beings of the unknown. This is steampunk with, well, spunk.

As with all Gow novels we have a fantastic heroine who is no wussy female waiting for a man to save her or come to her rescue. Instead we get a woman who is fierce and smart and knows how to be tough when she needs to be, act like a lady when it is appropriate and be a warrior when needed. Someone who doesn't fit the ideals of a gentlewoman in London in the late 1800's where this novel is set.

I love the Sherlock and Watson spin on this series, how Scarlett knows them and works with them to help solve cases and as she is about to get her very first solo case to work on things don't always go as planned. In fact, it is downright chaos in the making.

Of course this being a Gow novel we have a love triangle, or maybe love rectangle is more appropriate, or

love square? Either way we get some very swoon worthy and even supernatural men for Scarlett to choose from. Each great in their own way and even a little dangerous and mysterious as only Gow knows how to write them.

I really enjoyed this read, even more than I thought I would if I am being completely honest.

I will most definitely be buying the second book when it comes out in a few months and I can't wait to see what adventures are in store for Scarlett as the series continues. Who Scarlett will end up with, what her powers will show and what the future will hold for this feisty detective and her friends.

Alexandra says

I listened to the audio version, and I confess I fell asleep during the last portion only to wake right before the end. So, this is based upon me missing a bit near the end.

I also confess I do not enjoy stories that are mainly romances, most especially those of the current fad of teen hearthrob vampire romance variety.

So, your mileage may vary.

I did not expect this story to be great literature or the next blockbuster. I did have hopes for a fun and entertaining story, with hopefully likeable characters.

It partially delivered. It is disappointing though, because I think it had the potential to be so much better.

All the main characters are described as gorgeous - repeatedly. When a new character is introduced he/she is (surprise, surprise) gorgeous. And the characters talk to each other about how gorgeous the other is, repeatedly. This was, for me, the most annoying and distracting issue with this story. I felt I was being hit over the head, repeatedly, with the CLUE to expect a romance. With characters that were not only all unrealistically and uninterestingly attractive, but that they also lacked skillful and witty banter.

The inclusion of Sherlock Holmes is unfortunately simply a plot device, and after the needed scene he is never heard from again (although I may have missed a reappearance if it occurred in the portion I slept through). As pointed out by other reviewers, this story really is not Steampunk, and does seem to be intentional inclusion of many popular YA themes. Vampires - check. Romantic triangle - check. Steampunk - missed the mark.

The writing also gave me the impression of an inexperienced author, who still lacked a bit of polish, finesse and subtlety. I was surprised when I discovered this is not the author's first novel.

For those who want to read about a plucky and beautiful heroine, with potential romance with several gorgeous male options, with some danger and vampires thrown in, this might be a enjoyable diversion. But for Steampunk, Adventure and even Holmesian take offs I can think of better options.

Try Airborn, Enola Holmes The Case of the Missing Marquess, The Beekeeper's Apprentice, Good Morning, Irene, Lloyd Alexander's Vesper Holly series The Illyrian Adventure.

Stephanie says

1.5 stars.

Rounded down because the last 20% of this ebook was sneak previews of other books by this author.

There are several things about this book that annoy me. Let me list them for you.

1- False advertising. This is not steampunk. Nor does it really involve Sherlock Holmes in any real capacity.

2- Scarlett is not your typical "silly" Victorian girl. Or so we are told... repeatedly. And I do mean REPEATEDLY. And it's something that everyone around her feels the need acknowledge (or to tell anyone who dares assume her to be incapable of -anything-)

3- Scarlett in general. She claims to be better than other girls her age, those silly little things who care so much about manners, appearance, and finding a good husband; but she corrects other people's bad manners, thinks about her clothes and looks, and is very interested in members of the opposite sex. And speaking of men, nearly every male is in love with her (and willing to fight over/for her). This causes every female character (not that there are many) to be jealous of her beauty and ability to enchant men.

3A- Silly Heroine Syndrome. For such a clever girl she's very oblivious and she makes a lot of stupid decisions.

4- Faux Victorian setting. I hate stories that repeatedly (there's that word again) mention a societal limitation but have people casually break it with no consequences. Many YA historical and steampunk novels have this problem, it's a sign of lazy writing and can only be overcome by the book being independently amazing in at least one other way or by the author not acknowledging the limitations at all. Neither of which is the case with this book.

5- The men. Simply put, they are possessive jerks. But they're also hot, so apparently that doesn't matter.

6- The characters in general are pretty one dimensional.

All of that said, I couldn't get through the whole thing. I read everything through chapter 14, then skipped ahead and read the last chapter. Normally I'd round up for that, but this book was such a huge letdown that I just can't.

Miranda Merrill says

I have wanted to read a book by Kailin Gow for a while now. I am glad I finally got the chance to read one of her books. Supernatural Devices was an enjoyable quick read. I felt myself get pulled in from the very first pages. The book is fairly short compared to what I am used to, but I found in the end the length was perfect. It answered questions and left enough questions to have me wanting to read the next book in the series.

Supernatural Devices is about Scarlett a seventeen year old young lady. Being raised in 1890's London. She is off on an expedition with her famous Egyptologists and archaeologists parents when she gets a letter from a family friend none other than Sherlock Holmes saying he needs Scarlett's help on a case most bizarre. She returns home to London to help and embarks on a journey through the supernatural side of London.

This story was pretty basic on the supernatural, but I still found it very intriguing. The author builds a very believable world. I found the story to be a light read which with all the bigger darker books out there today it was nice to change it up a bit. I also enjoyed all the love interest in this story it makes you wonder who Scarlett is going to end up with at the end of her journey. Scarlett was also a very likeable character and she wasn't a weak heroine she definitely wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty. I really felt like I was on the streets of London right there beside Scarlett. This being my first book I have read by Kailin Gow I truly hope her other books are just as interesting as this one. I will definitely be keeping my eyes out for her book. Overall this was a great read. I will definitely be tuning in to see where Scarlett's adventures take her next. I also want to the Sparklesoup inc., TheEdgebooks.com, and Netgalley for allowing me to review this book.

Traci says

This was my first read by Kailin Gow; I was pleasantly surprised by the first of the Steampunk Scarlett series.

Paranormal, Steampunk, Amateur-Mystery, Young Adult series.

What a delectable vampire, gorgeous gypsy man, chivalrous English gentleman and the most noted detective of all-time have in common?

Miss Scarlett Seely, a young woman seventeen and of proper breeding, is one who has been exposed to many peculiarities in her short lifetime. She has traveled to Egypt and is accompanying her parents on an excavation in Egypt. Having been afforded exposure to intriguing and exotic lands due to her parents obsession, passion and careers as antiquarians, she appreciates their passion -- just not their excitement. Scarlett never understood why they would want to seek the past. It is 1890 and her future awaits. She longs for adventure, preferably in London. Serendipity lends a hand. No sooner than her contemplation of what adventures were transpiring without her - she receives a telegram. A long time friend and associate of her parents, Sherlock Holmes, has requested her presence and assistance, in London, on a matter of great urgency. Obtaining a quick blessing of approval from her parents and she was off. The moment Scarlett steps off her train her adventures begin...

This story is full of dashing handsome young gentlemen tripping over one another. All trying to protect this beauty, Miss Seely, from all the unknown dangers that lurk in the mist and darkness. Scarlett has a unique "gift" or ability that comes in handy for this particular case of Mr. Holmes'. Scarlett strong-willed, hard headed and determined to prove herself an invaluable, capable asset to Mr. Holmes. She will rush headlong into this case, devil be damned, delving into the unknown sides of London. Even she may be surprised at what secrets London is holding.

This story is one I found myself captivated by. Although it may have some predictability, it definitely is a fun read. The love triangle maybe is more of a square, not all as it seems. How many young women would love to have so many men trying to rescue them?

Crazy for Books (Stephanie) says

I don't like giving bad reviews, but in this case I have to as I got this book and will only get others on condition of reviewing. The character of Scarlett was interesting only because she's a strong, self sufficient young woman in the Victorian era. But that's the only saving grace for this book. The author has thrown in all the elements of the supernatural from vampires to fey and not really landing on a story. I can guess, but only from the last few pages of the book that Scarlett has some sort of ability that an old Order of Vampires wants her to use to help them in order to rule the world, but I'm not even clear if Scarlett is human or not.

It starts with the idea that she's connected to Sherlock Holmes through a friendship with her parents, who are archeologists, but he's barely in the book and you only realize later that it was some actor playing him, but using a glamour, which is attributed to the Vampires, but the fey are the creatures who are supposed to do that.

Also, Scarlett can't seem to resist kissing every gorgeous man who comes into her path. And they are all gorgeous. I just don't get this book at all. The story is all over the place, I have no idea what it was trying to accomplish. The best thing about it was that it was only about 240 pages could be read quickly.

Amy says

Scarlett Seely is in Egypt with her parents, who are archaeologists. She really doesn't want to be there and is glad when she gets a letter from Sherlock Holmes wanting her help on a case in London. When she's in London, she heads out to meet him. As she's outside, two thieves grab her bag. She chases after them, when all of a sudden a man sticks out his foot, so he can retrieve her bag. The man, Cruces, just happens to be the client that Scarlett is supposed to help.

Apparently, his servant, Cecilia, took his ring, so he's trying to find her. As he is walking her home, they spot her and chase after her, but she gets away. Cruces continues to say anything that will rile her feathers. When she lives in a huff, she finds an old woman on the street that appears to know where Cecilia is. The old woman isn't who she appears to be. In reality, it's Cecilia's brother, Tavian. He does take Scarlett to see Cecilia, and Scarlett convinces her to let her see the ring.

After a short time, Scarlett realizes someone's behind her, and she immediately feels sleepy. She was chosen for the case for her ability to see the supernatural, but is this case more than she can handle?

I'm really not too familiar with steampunk fiction because this is the first one I've read. At first, I wasn't for sure if I'd like it or not because I usually like books that are set in the present. I really ended up enjoying this one.

I'm usually pretty sure who I like more in Kailin's books, but on this one I'm not so sure. I can say for now Rothschild is in dead last, but that could change in later books. I do think Tavian is really nice, but Cruces can be a rake and somewhat nice at the same time. I might like Cruces a little more just because I liked it when he tried to rile up Scarlett.

Mary Ann says

Read the electronic ARC from NetGalley on my Kindle. Unfortunately, I was very disappointed with *Supernatural Devices* (A Steampunk Scarlett Novel: Book 1) by Kailin Gow. Initially I thought it had great promise, but it fell far short of what it could have been. It felt like Gow was trying to capitalize on the latest trends in YA lit--vampires, fey, steampunk; I expect zombies and werewolves to show up in the sequel. Everything is shallow: the characters have no depth, the plot is not compelling, and the setting lacks description. It feels as though with minor changes, the story could take place in any time period--there's little that ties it to the richness of the Victorian era and it's only real claim to steampunk is the series title. Taken for what it is, a light paranormal romance, SD may draw in teen girls looking for a quick escape. Gow spells out everything for the reader--she does far more "telling" than "showing." Despite the heroine Scarlett's strong, independent young woman persona, she is almost constantly surrounded by gorgeous, admiring men (who garner the only rich descriptions in the book) who frequently have to save her. If you're looking for good, solid, engaging stories from the same era, try Kenneth Oppel's *Airborn* and Libba Bray's *A Great and Terrible Beauty*.

Cheri says

I thought this had promise after reading the sample. It had a young girl who was going to be working for Sherlock Holmes on a case. There was some interesting chemistry between the girl and Cruces. Once I bought the book though, it all deteriorated. It was definitely "supernatural"--there were vampires and fey and ghosts and other "gifts." most of the book involves the one male lead or another kissing this poor girl and putting their "mark" on her. It was so ridiculous that it would be worth one star, but I really did like the sample...it was a good enough concept that I gave a second star for potential.
