



The Gears of Madness

Iain Grant

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It is 1902. Victoria's steam-powered empire stretches from England to the stars. The Queen's Armoured Hussars patrol the æther. British airships rule the skies of Mars. Great British inventors build bridges across seas and connect the cities of the empire with vast subterranean tunnels.

But Britain (and the world) are under threat from unspeakable horrors from beyond. Slumbering gods, diabolic occultists and terrifying monsters from Earth's past conspire to overthrow mankind and usher in an age of terrors. Only Professor Erskine Sedgewick – the most insightful mind of the age -and his faithful companion Cadwallander can stop them.

Fantastic steampunk derring-do and thrilling cosmic horror collide in this action-packed adventure.

The Gears of Madness Details

Date : Published May 30th 2015 by Pigeon Park Press

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Author : Iain Grant

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From Reader Review The Gears of Madness for online ebook

Book Monitor says

I was new to this genre and wasn't sure what to expect but I really liked this series of interlinking stories set in an alternative Victorian world. Partly told as diary entries, partly letter and report. The story arc crosses each of the six episodes and the narrative develops and grows throughout the book. Some of the characters have more depth than others and some of the chapters more appealing than others but overall this was well written with a good pace and a good sense of era both real and fantastical. I will definitely read more of this type of book in the future.

Simon Fairbanks says

The Gears of Madness is the compilation of Iain Grant's hexalogy of first-class steampunk novellas.

I have read and reviews all six over the past two years and it has been an absolute pleasure to delve into the historical, fantastical world of a Victorian age with modern technology, space travel and otherworldly monsters.

The Sedgewick adventures serve as an excellent crash course into the steampunk genre. Each story is bite-sized and easy to digest during a commute. They are also highly readable, in that they are entertaining page-turners with humour, action and mystery packed into their economic word counts.

Professor Sedgewick and his trusty batman Cadwallander are the steampunk equivalent of Sherlock and Watson: the former is brilliant but peculiar, whilst the latter is the loyal grounded everyman.

Four of the stories are told from Cadwallander's very British and gentlemanly perspective, which makes for a very amusing narrative. The other two tales are narrated by free-spirited adventurer Mina Saxena and dutiful Inspector Wilmarth. If Sedgewick is Sherlock then these two are Irene Adler and Inspector Lestrade.

The variety offered by this collection is dazzling, with Grant assembling a greatest hits of key steampunk tropes: aliens on a spaceship, discovering a cult on Mars, relic-hunting in Tibet, a locked room mystery, subterranean monsters and an Armageddon-inducing finale. Each is peppered with historical figures albeit with a fantastic twist, such as Queen Victoria, Empress of India and Mars!

It is hard to pick a favourite because each novella is so different, flitting between genres under the general steampunk banner. Angels of the Abyss is science-fiction, The Well of Shambala is an old-fashioned adventure romp and The Bridge to Lemuria evolves from a detective story to a giant monster movie! Perhaps it is unfair to pick a favourite because all six tales are interlinked through their characters, events and references, and they are neatly drawn together by the final instalment. Although, for the record, Lemuria is my favourite.

The Gears of Madness is a towering accomplishment which deserves a large readership and a Netflix adaptation. Fans of Sherlock and Doctor Who will love these adventures, so grab yourself a copy now. This is Grant's magnum opus.

Chris says

I was really impressed with this book and the way it was written. The characters and story lines were well thought out and I liked the way it divided into different stories all with mentions of the first part of the book. I can't say too much more as I don't want to put any spoilers out but I will say that if you like Steampunk like I do then this book is definitely one you should add to your reading list.

Margaret McCulloch-Keeble says

I really enjoyed this, my first real foray into steampunk Victoriana. There were plenty of cads and bounders (I presume correctly pronounced keds and binders), and good baddies as well as some very informed notions on ancient civilisations. Some of the characters reminded of me Robert Rankine's Brentford Trilogy, no bad thing in my book. Jolly well done!

Sean Talbot says

While it was enjoyable read I found it very hard to follow the story.

Bill Ramsell says

Steampunk is not my favorite genre, but this is a very good book. Written, apparently, as a series of chapbooks now collected into one volume. The age is Victorian, some of the heroes are stuffy and British, others are Indian and Russian and not so damned British! Lovecraft references abound. Lots of fun for the lovers of tentacular horrors from outre dimensions what man was not meant to wot, if you'll pardon the expression.

It also has spaceships and an orbital elevator. Pretty cool!

Steven Davis says

Well plotted and written, with strong cthulhu (sorry, Cthulhu) references and ideas about the Old Ones. Somewhat dry in style, it reminded me of Sherlock Holmes tales and the like (not to its detriment, either)

Michelle & Tony says

Really unusual stories.
very entertaining and brilliantly written!
