



The Golden Spider

Anne Renwick

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London papers scream of dirigible attacks, kraken swarms, and lung-clogging, sulfurous fogs. But a rash of gypsy murders barely rates mention.

Lady Amanda is tired of having both her intelligence and her work dismissed.

After blackmailing her way into medical school, she catches the eye of her anatomy professor from the moment she walks into his lecture hall. Is he interested in her? Or only her invention—a clockwork spider that can spin artificial nerves?

Lord Thornton, a prominent neurobiologist, has been betrayed.

Secret government technology has been stolen from his laboratory, and a foreign spy is attempting to perfect it via a grisly procedure... using gypsies as test subjects. The last thing he needs is the distraction of a beautiful—and brilliant—new student, even if her spider could heal a deteriorating personal injury.

Until her device is stolen and used in the latest murder.

Lord Thornton has no option but to bring her into his laboratory as well as the investigation where they must fight their growing, yet forbidden, attraction. Bodies accumulate and fragile bonds are tested as they race across London, trying to catch the spy before it's too late.

The Golden Spider Details

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From Reader Review The Golden Spider for online ebook

Jennifer says

Loved it! I'm a huge fan of steampunk and romance and found this book a great read!

Lady Amanda is strong and smart without anachronistic sentiments or tendencies. Thornton is written with a certain dry British air that I just loved. The spark between them felt very real and was based on much more than surface attraction. I loved how necessary they each were to solving each other's problems, and the main conflict in the book. They worked well together and the tension keeping them apart was believable.

The steampunk parts of the book were also great! It created a world with a good mix of historical feel and steampunk technology without overly explaining everything. I loved how the fashion was also described so that it was also influenced by steampunk tendencies.

The book felt a touch slow to start (though I was also extremely tired when I was trying to start and had many distractions from kids, so, that could have been the only issue) and the ending took a bit to wrap everything up (though again, was reading at work amid distractions and interruptions). But these are very minor issues, and also just a matter of personal taste/circumstance.

The supporting characters in the book were also great and I'm looking forward to more books in the series (hopefully something with Mr. Black?)

Lucina says

4.5 stars

Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

3.5 stars. A suspenseful and sexy steampunk. While I was ultimately more invested in the resolution of the mystery than the romance, I nevertheless found it an engrossing and enjoyable read.

Lady Amanda was a treat. I've become somewhat disenchanted with historical romance over the years because I prefer ambitious, career-minded heroines and, unsurprisingly, they aren't particularly common. Amanda was smart and sassy, but she also had vulnerabilities and insecurities. She made mistakes. I was sold from the moment we caught a glimpse of her at work on a clockwork spider that can "spin" artificial nerves and reverse paralysis. When her spider is stolen, it catches the attention of the government and Lord Thornton, our scientist spy hero. While the spider has groundbreaking scientific implications, there are also national security concerns at play. Amanda already has a "hot for teacher" thing for Thornton, a professor at her medical school, and it adds a delightful layer of tension.

Despite my weakness for grumpy and gruff heroes, I wasn't AS sold on Thornton. We didn't get as much time in Thornton's head and, as a result, I was unable to connect as well or understand his inner conflict and angst. Don't get me wrong - when he got it together, he was swoonalicious, but I wanted to smack him a few

times. And not only did we not get as much “Thornton time”, we didn’t get an abundance of “couple time”. Still, they had a nice amount of steam and emotion and their HEA was touching. Also! Thornton has an injured leg, and there were several instances where Amanda helped “save the day” or took the physical lead. I effing hate the “damsel-in-distress” trope and appreciated that it was turned on its head here.

There is A LOT of medical and scientific jargon. I had to reread a few times to fully grasp it, but it lent authenticity to the book. The world-building was moderate but well-done, and the glimpses into the various gadgets were tantalizing. As I noted, I was a bit more invested in the mystery aspect, and I can say that I was genuinely surprised by the villain (which doesn’t happen often).

All in all, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this for a fun and fresh read!

Mara says

3 1/2

Unexpectedly good, even if far from perfect.

Shomeret says

I don't normally read steampunk romantic thrillers, but *The Golden Spider* by Anne Renwick sounded like a doozy. Lady Amanda, the female protagonist, is attending medical school and spends her spare time at home working on a device that can reverse paralysis. I wanted to know more about this woman. So I requested a sample through Instafreebie, and then purchased the book on Amazon.

Opinion on this book is divided. Some readers who love to read steampunk that really develops the scientific side of the devices which the protagonists invent, complain that there is too much romance in this novel. Other readers complain that there is too much scientific detail in *The Golden Spider*. My objection was a failure of realism. There were medical miracles, but apparently the restored limbs needed no prolonged physical therapy. I can see how lengthy physical therapy would be problematic for the plot, but I found the failure to even mention physical therapy hard to swallow. I did think the book was an enjoyable read, but I deducted a star from my rating here on Goodreads.

Correction 4/11/17- Perhaps I was writing too many reviews at once this weekend, but I forgot to look through all my notes for this book. There was actually a mention of a physical therapist, but physical therapy played no role in the plot. It was otherwise absent. There were unrealistic recovery times. So my point still holds.

For my complete review see <http://www.bookbabe.blogspot.com/2017/...>

Katy says

"He'd set her free to choose-his arm tightened around her as warmth flooded his chest-and she'd chosen him."

Regardless of what I read during the day, which is mostly arcs or review copies, for some reason, I love to read romance at night. It's a weird habit, but one I can't seem to break. I seem to crave the HEA and most of the time, the predictability. Every once in a while, the predictability becomes a little *too* predictable. So, I step outside my normal romance novel box for something different. You know, like a steampunk romance with a heroine who has a cat with a monocle.

Okay, the pipe isn't in the book, but still. That is one classy cat.

Plot: Lady Amanda is a gifted scientist who happens to be the daughter of a duke. No, gifted is the wrong word. She's brilliant. She has spent the last five years of her life inventing and perfecting a device called a neurachnid that can repair nerve damage that causes paralysis. She designed it *by herself* without formal training. Get it, girl. She manages to get into medical school and is drawn to her professor, Lord Thornton, an equally brilliant scientist who is in service to the crown and is developing devices to help in the war and sometimes, hunts various bad guys. When someone steals Lady Amanda's amazing invention to do terrible things, the two of them have to work together to find it who took it and get it back.

I loved so much about this book. For one, Lord Thornton was a grumpy, brooding genius who would get incredibly turned on watching Lady Amanda work and invent. Nothing sexier than a man attracted to a woman's mind. I even loved his possessive streak. It worked here because he kept it to himself. He was always thinking "mine". Keyword being "thinking". Thinking-good. Acting like a jealous asshole-bad. I also loved that Amanda and Thornton's work in the laboratory often turned into a weird kind of foreplay. It was adorable. Amanda somehow resisted the TSTL urge and was actually helpful when shit went down. What a concept. Neither Lady Amanda or Lord Thornton wanted to marry for legitimate reasons (at least, legitimate to them) and found exactly what they were looking for in one another. On top of that, I was actually surprised when the villain was unveiled. And of course, there's the fact that the servants were steam-powered and Hyde Park was filled with mechanical horses.

Oh, and the Thames was filled with krakens of every size, from babies to ship destroying monsters. YAAAS.

There were of course, a lot of things that would normally bother me and will probably bother other people. The threat of scandal was used only at the most convenient times. Sometimes it was a huge part of the plot, other times it was completely ignored. Lady Amanda was a duke's daughter yet she was always running around at night? She literally *never* had a chaperone. Which considering that women were admitted to university, might not be a problem, but I would have loved to know where the line was. If women could attend university, what else could they do that traditional non-steampunk English society wouldn't allow? Some things just seemed randomly thrown in. Why Gypsies? Lady Amanda's father, who was a duke, seemed to have some kind of say over Lord Thornton and his colleagues' work. Was this because he was a duke, or for some other reason? Who knows! The reason I enjoyed this book so much despite all of this was that I just didn't care. It boils down to what you're looking for. I didn't care about realistic deference to titles or perfect *ton* politics, I just wanted a fun, original plot that was more than waltzes and wallflowers. I loved reading about a brilliant neuroscientist for a heroine who refused to languish in a ballroom when she really wanted to be performing surgery. And did! And the book went into incredible medical detail. I loved it. I learned things! And I saved the best for last. The hero's name is Sebastian Thornton. The sexiest first and last

name EVER. Okay, well, at least to me. It certainly didn't hurt that this Thornton had dark hair and blue eyes because RICHARD ARMITAGE, that's why. It was like a sexy, science-filled steampunk North and South without the bitchy stupidity that was Margret Hale. God, I love Richard Armitage. That man is sex in a cravat.

So, to sum it all up. This book has its fair share of issues, whether you are going to enjoy it or not really depends on what you're looking for in your romance. I was looking for something different and I found it. I can't wait to read the rest of the series.

Fathima says

I cant really put my finger on it but there was something that really wasn't working out for me whilst reading this story.

The steampunk was nice , the romance was steamy , the angst was palpable but something just didn't make me go all ' yeah this was bloody fantastic ' ...

Drew Doll says

Fun Read

This is a really fun story. I enjoyed the Steampunk world-building, and appreciated the way we learned about this world naturally through the action in the story.

Under the Covers Book Blog says

You may know this already, but I struggle to read steampunk. I have the hardest time getting really into the stories I've read in this genre. This is not to say I haven't found some favorites, but usually they're few and far between. Enter THE GOLDEN SPIDER. I was lured in by the beautiful cover and I admit it's been on my radar for quite some time. I'm glad to say that this is a steampunk romance I could sink my teeth into and enjoy!

There's a bit of mystery and murder investigation, there's a dash of steampunk elements weaved into the mystery and murder in an interesting fashion. But mostly there's the characters and the writing. This book just flowed and drew me in. Lady Amanda is a strong willed female that likes to push her way into being taken seriously. She's smart and feminine and for the most part quite unapologetic about it. I adored her character because there are still so many things in life she has no clue about but at the same time she's already gone through more than most. She's also fiercely loyal to her family.

The love interest, Lord Thornton, couldn't have been a better fit. They make a kick ass team in the research and science department but they also have great chemistry together! He's a bit perfectly imperfect and I love my heroes to be like that. Maybe even a bit of a grump and guarded but with plenty of reason. The romance here also deals with a student/teacher relationship that in no way felt or played on the taboo aspect of it.

I am, finally, excited to continue reading a steampunk author/series and I haven't felt that way in years.

*Reviewed by Francesca♥ ? Don't want to miss any of our posts? Subscribe to our blog by email! ? ♥

Sarah says

i'm actually glad i had no idea how good this book would be when i met the author, because i would have fainted upon meeting her. this is a great book, and i get star-struck. that's just me. but she signed my book so, nyah nyah-nyah and other noises.

i liked it a lot. i don't know much about medicine, but i loved the medical jargon. i loved the steam punkiness of this book. it was perfect. the story was awesome. perfect amount of romance, etc. i guess if you don't like romance, you might not like this. but everyone else, i definitely recommend this!! i'm so impressed. now i must go faint.

Cecilia Dominic says

First, I love that the heroine is smart and not afraid to hide her femininity, which is refreshing. Second, I really like the hero - wounded, brilliant, and of course handsome. Okay, I have a soft spot for academics. He of course fights falling for her, but the process of their relationship and seeing how they both gradually bend and adjust is one of the most fun parts of the book. Yes, there's some sex, but not too much. And lots of adventure, intrigue, and espionage. I found some of the science stretched my suspension of disbelief, but it's plausible enough, and the author's background as a biologist shows through nicely.

Sandra says

3.5 stars. Steampunk romance in the style of Bec McMaster. While the steampunk element is very well done this is predominantly a romance. I liked the Amanda was strong and intelligent and that Thornton recognised this and respected her abilities. However I was baffled by his resistance to marrying her given his attraction to and respect for her and the fact the he fully intended to marry to carry on his title in the future. Yet despite all of this he is insistent that all he can offer her is an affair. That made no sense to me. I picked the identity of the Wasp very early in the piece so I was completely unsurprised by that twist.

Beth ~~Just One More Chapter I Swear~~ says

Man oh man was this book GOOOOD! It was steamy (though I must admit to skimming through the naughtiest of bits), extremely well written, well researched, action/romance packed and neatly wrapped up at

the end (for most of the leading characters that is). It was told in multiple POVs which can be tricky but worked here. There was quite a bit of Romance so those who are deathly allergic beware BUT most importantly there was Science! Science how I love thee!! A few reviewers complained about the amount of Science in the book. I personally can not stress enough how the Science and the incredibly detailed Steampunk(ness) drew me in and kept me firmly within its loving, mechanically and biologically technical grasp until the very last page. The Steampunk/ Mad Science aspects were done so expertly that they not only seemed 100% believable but quite possible, for those of us who would be so inclined, to replicate in our very own garages. The Romance was not an insta-love, nor was the reader bludgeoned with its presence or urgency the entirety of the book. It was sweet, slow to mature, and you couldn't help but root for it to solidify (and I am not the biggest of Romance fans). I believe The Science was so well explained that even Scientific newbies could follow along and puzzle the concepts out without prior knowledge of anatomy, physiology or chemistry....All that is required is an interest imo. ALSO, there were kraken, dirigible, personal submersibles, steam powered/ mechanical everything (including nerve repairing arachnids), mad scientists, international espionage and you guessed it...air pirates! No good Steampunk yarn can be spun without the trusty air pirate or two. If you like Alt-Historical, Steampunk, Romance or Science based tales of espionage, love against the odds, scientific perfection and mechanical wonders filled awesomeness...you have found your next fav and new topper of the ever growing TBR pile!

Jen (That's What I'm Talking About) says

Set in a time when England and Germany have heightened tensions, spy networks are vast, and the ton continues with its balls and social obligations unaware of the secrets around them, Lady Amanda wars with her father, the Duke, over her ability to attend medical school. Amanda is driven by her keen intelligence and a guilt over her brother's injured leg, to produce a clockwork device to repair nerve damage. Under pressure to find a husband within the year, Amanda courts a classmate, but finds no sparks. However, when her work captures the attention of Lord Thornton, noted physician and neurologist, Lady Amanda finally knows what it is like to have her mind appreciated.

Lord Thornton lives with the guilt over the betrayal of his best friend in his damaged leg that will never heal. As a spy for the Queen herself, he finds Amanda's work to be the break he needs in a rash of Gypsy murders. However much he is attracted to both her brain and her body, Thornton must keep the relationship professional, especially since he's not on the market for a wife.

The Golden Spider is a delicious treat for fans of gadgets, science, and steampunk romance! Right from the start, I was drawn into this exciting mystery, trying to discover who is behind the Gypsy murders. Watching Amanda's mind work to piece the puzzle together is fascinating, and made all the much better as she and Thornton grow closer. I love the science of the story - the author does not brush over Amanda and Thornton's work, but rather gives listeners the details of both test subjects and gadgets.

While the engineering, science, action, and adventure is completely fascinating, it is the romance between Lord Thornton and Lady Amanda that gives The Golden Spider heart and makes it such a wonderful story. The pair are meant for one another; not only do they share a passion for science and ingenuity, but they are able to openly be themselves with each other. Thornton doesn't trust easily, but he finds a confidant in Amanda. Working side by side, their passion grows until they finally give into their burning desires.

The story is read by British-born actress Henrietta Meire, who embodies the Regency Steampunk setting perfectly. She modulates her tone to fit both high society snobbery and working class Roma. Her narrator

tone is mostly neutral, but seems to be a tad bit softer when expressing Amanda's POV than Thornton's. I enjoyed all of her voices, although it took a while for me to warm up to Thornton's speaking voice, which came off robotic. As I got to know his character, I became accustomed to his unique voice, and it even softened some as he grew closer to Amanda. Ms. Meire also tosses in German and French accents wonderfully.

In the end, I enjoyed devouring *The Golden Spider*. A wonderful mix of mystery, adventure, steampunk, and romance, the story unfolded at a thrilling pace, building passion and excitement along the way. I cannot wait for the second title, *The Silver Skull*, to be released in audiobook format.

My Rating: A

Narration: A-

Review copy provided by Tantor Audio

Originally posted at [That's What I'm Talking About](#)

Jann says

i'm finished with the book, tho i didn't actually finish reading it. this is one of my favorite genres-historical mystery/suspense with a steampunk theme. at first, i was really into the storyline and wanted to continue reading till i was done. however, after several chapters that changed.

one of the things i had a problem with was the continued use of medical terms. on almost every page it seemed as though one of the characters was spouting off medical terminology as if we were supposed to know exactly what they were talking about. while the author may have a Ph.D. i don't, and constantly running into these terms was more than a bit jarring and frankly took me out of the story more than once.

another thing that bothered me was how ridiculous the relationship between the two main characters was. yes, sexual tension helps drive a story, but if not done properly it can also cause the reader to spend more time wanting to bang their head against a wall at the overall frustration they're feeling [at the lack of a good solution] as the main characters must be feeling.

there were several other things that bothered me about the storyline and character development, some of which i've stated here and others i can't quite define even to myself. suffice it to say that 1) had i known there were explicit sex scenes in the book and 2) had i known i'd need my medical dictionary to translate way too much of what the characters were saying i wouldn't have bought the book.

other readers have given this book stellar reviews, and i'm glad to see that they enjoyed it. i guess this one just wasn't quite my cup of tea.
