



Weaver's Lament

Emma Newman

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Charlotte's magical adventures continue in *Weaver's Lament*, the sequel to Emma Newman's *Brother's Ruin*.

Charlotte is learning to control her emerging magical prowess under the secret tutelage of Magus Hopkins. Her first covert mission takes her to a textile mill where the disgruntled workers are apparently in revolt.

But it isn't the workers causing the trouble. The real culprits are far more extranormal in nature.

And they have a grudge to settle.

Weaver's Lament Details

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Author : Emma Newman

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From Reader Review Weaver's Lament for online ebook

Lindsay says

Charlotte embarks on a secret mission to help her brother work out what is going on at the textile mill where he works for the villainous Ledbetter.

I really enjoyed the first one in this series, but I don't feel that this one adds anything to the story. In a lot of ways it's just a retread of the previous book with only one real revelation about magic-users and the Royal Society that could easily have been part of the first book.

Charlie continues to be used by her brother and under threat that he will expose her as a magician against her will (out of concern for her, not maliciously). It makes it hard to like him, and other revelations in this book don't help either. It's also unclear why Charlie is so devoted to getting married to George, and Hopkins is coming across as quite manipulative by this book.

Vicky says

This story is definitely a niche one, but none the less compelling for it! It's by Emma Newman, the queen of short stories and generally excellent writing, following on from the first book in her Industrial Magic series, *Brother's Ruin*.

The era is the 1800's, a Victorian England with magic and magi who hold the country in almost a death grip. Charlotte Gunn, our heroine from the first story, heads to Manchester to meet up with her brother Ben, an apprentice Mage who has been put to work overseeing one of the mills. But something odd is going on: the looms are being destroyed by what looks like a dangerous Latent mage, and Charlotte, herself a Latent, agrees to go undercover and investigate for Ben. But before long it looks like she might be caught instead... I loved the detail that Newman managed to cram into this very short book, which picks up very neatly from where the last one left off. The Victorian era is really brought to life, from the journeys by steam train to the mills- not something I've really seen addressed much beyond Elizabeth Gaskell- and is integrated very neatly with the magical elements to the story: the Royal Society, and the ways in which rich and essentially corrupt Mages hold sway in London and in Parliament. It feels like a living, breathing world... which is why it's so frustrating that Newman doesn't worldbuild a little more and explore the consequences of Charlotte's actions in evading the Royal Society, the details of her training and perhaps a more fearsome nemesis than some grouchy factory hands and only the vaguest mention of the Big Bad from the first book.

As it is, the vast bulk of the story is about life in a cotton gin, which is fine. Newman packs the book full of plot: she really knows how to craft an interesting, well-written story, and it had me gripped for the whole time it took me to read it. Though quickly sketched, the characters like Mags well-drawn and instantly likeable, and Ben's slow but steady slide towards some pretty murky morality that comes with being a Mage was also well done. Charlotte does come across as rather naïve sometimes- and the love triangle with her mentor is also a tad heavy-handed- though I suppose that's unavoidable when you have so few pages to work with.

All in all, Weaver's Lament is a self-contained, fun little read that drops some intriguing hints about where the story's going to go next whilst offering a satisfying read in itself. More please!

James Tivendale says

3.5/5

I received an advanced copy of Weaver's Lament via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I would like to thank Emma Newman and Tor for the opportunity.

Following on from Brother's Ruin, Ben is now in Manchester fulfilling his studies and duties for the Royal Society (of magic). He is now an apprentice Mage and the lifestyle is treating him well. There's an issue though. He's running one of the mills where peculiar and unexplainable events have been happening. He seeks the aid of his sister Charlotte, a Mage herself but currently under the radar of the establishment. What should have been a nice holiday to Manchester doesn't quite transpire that way as Charlotte goes undercover in the mill to find out what on Earth is going on.

I read this book in a single afternoon. Occasionally a quality shortish tale is what I require in my bookish diet so this was perfect at approximately 160 pages. Newman fits a quality story, interesting characters, and magical complications within those limited pages. I'd say the world seems almost like a Dickensian alternative history with certain characters hiding/flaunting magical powers. 3 of the main characters return from the first book and a large number of new additions are introduced at the mill. I cared about a lot of the newly introduced individuals living in the squalor of their working environment. The story is written in the first person perspective and Charlotte is a very cool character. I'm unaware of how many stories Newman proposes to write in this series but she'll definitely always have a reader in me. It's difficult to say too much about this book without giving away the action, surprises, or revelations. I slightly preferred the first book but both have an interesting and intriguing mystery element. The Industrial Magic series is a treat to read. The world is gothic yet poetic. The characters are engaging. The story is weaved admirably. Perhaps my rating is too harsh- either way, this book's pretty awesome.

Mike says

2.5 out of 5 stars -- see this review and others at The Speculative Shelf.

Weaver's Lament, sequel to *Brother's Ruin* (2017), brings us back to protagonist Charlotte in Victorian-era England, where she attempts to infiltrate a suspicious mill and expose the poor working conditions and nefarious magic at play there. This series continues to be delightfully British — with tea, cakes, cravats, and magic, of course.

The “gaslamp fantasy” environment of *Brother's Ruin* was fascinating and rich for potential exploration, but there was never a satisfying level of sufficient worldbuilding. Weaver's Lament does even less with this world, sticking Charlotte in a stuffy mill for the majority of the book. The story gets bogged down with more tedious discussions of looms than I thought possible in a novel, much less a novella. Proceedings are much more compelling when Newman shifts to discussing Charlotte's personal conflicts and her interactions with the alluring Magus Hopkins. The ongoing chemistry between Charlotte and Hopkins is the best part of this series, so far.

I'm a bit unsure if each one of these novellas is a one-off adventure or if each subsequent novella is a continuation of a cohesive story, but *Weaver's Lament* does little to push the overall plot forward, much to

my chagrin. If there's another novella in Charlotte's world, I'd hope for more worldbuilding, more magic, continued love triangle romances...and fewer looms.

Bradley says

This second novella in the Industrial Magic series picks up nicely where the previous leaves off... with one exception: we're left with a fairly interesting historical footnote but not much of that does our MC Charlotte much good in terms of character development or interesting plot other than something like a one-off.

I personally would have been ecstatic with a firmer grounding in the magic and the training if she's going to be bucking the Royal Society like this. Even an untraditional schooling is better than this, and just slapping the previous baddie onto this tale might work when we finally get down to it, but I thought there was enough possible growth in the world to make this tangent both unique and poignant without falling back on an already familiar plot point.

That being said, however, both the writing and story were interesting enough to negate a huge portion of my gripe and getting a heavy and oppressive feel of the Cotton Gin, even under the auspices of being a spy, was quite clever and cool.

I figure, as long as a consistent stream of new situations and chances to flex those magical UF muscles keeps coming along, I'm not going to have much of an issue.

I had fun, regardless!

Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC!

Karina Read says

There's going to be a third one, yes?? I very much would like to keep reading this series, although full novels would be preferable :D

Bridget McKinney says

Emma Newman's gaslamp fantasy series continues with a new mystery for secret mage-in-training Charlotte to puzzle through. Her brother Ben has settled into his role as an apprentice Mage, and he seems to be thriving at his new position at a mill in Manchester. The problem is that the mill seems to be haunted—either by ghosts or by rebellious workers—and Ben calls in Charlotte to go undercover and investigate. It's a decent premise, and it's never a bad time for a new book about workers' rights, but everything about *Weaver's Lament* feels a little rushed and its treatment of serious issues is perfunctory. Charlotte is a likable heroine, and she's sensitive to the injustice and abuse she uncovers in Manchester, but secondary characters are given short shrift while Charlotte easily returns to her status quo at the end of the book.

Also, while I'm a fan of slow-burning will-they-or-won't-they romances, it's difficult to be invested in Charlotte and Magus Hopkins when they spend so little time together in stories that are so small in scope.

Brother's Ruin and *Weaver's Lament* have both dealt heavily with uncovering largescale injustices that deeply affect the characters' lives, and these things also form the primary barrier to the central romantic relationship of the series. However, there's been very little forward movement on any front. The romance is limited to lingering glances and subtle chemistry, and the systemic injustice and probable evil of the Royal Society of the Esoteric Arts isn't confronted head-on and doesn't seem likely to be any time soon.

Though it's not without problems, *Weaver's Lament* is still an entertaining read. It just feels like it could have used about a hundred pages more of breathing room, mostly so that it could do a bit better justice to the new friends Charlotte makes at Manchester. It's not always a good thing when a story leaves you hungry for more.

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Pamela ?I Blame Wizards? says

Weaver's Lament is a pleasant enough distraction, but it fails to deliver anything of real substance. I'm not enjoying the serialised nature of the series, as each instalment is too short to go into any real depth and ends up feeling a little unsatisfying as soon as I got to the end.

I think my real problem is that everything feels either a little too on-the-nose, or poorly thought out. The characters have no depth, and the world doesn't make sense. I like the Steampunk fantasy aesthetic of the alternate history that *Weaver's Lament* tries to convey, but the very nature of magic in the world fails to work for me. Magic serves no purpose other than to power machinery. That's not enough for me to believe in the inherent importance of it since there are still mechanics at work that don't require magic. There is no development of how and why magic works, what The Royal Society is, or how Charlotte, the protagonist, is learning to deal with her latent magical abilities. With how short the novellas are, there's simply not enough information provided for me to become involved in the characters or the story.

One of the most significant issues I'm having is that the characters are mostly non-characters. Charlotte is a typical 'Mary Sue' type, her fiance, George, is essentially absent, Magus Hopkins exists just to be handsome and to create a meaningless love triangle, and Charlotte's brother, Ben, has no real personality or depth. The antagonist, Ledbetter, was developed a little more in the first book, but in *Weaver's Lament* is again, largely absent. Charlotte goes undercover as a mill worker, meets some new characters, feels sorry for them, and moves on after literally two days with no real personal development except to think 'maybe I'm a socialist now?'. There was simply nothing to invest me in the plot, characters, or world of the series.

Weaver's Lament is short, so can be read in a single sitting, so it's a fun distraction. But I just wanted more from it. I said this about the first book as well. The series has potential, but the books need to be longer, self-enclosed and with a lot more character development and world building.

Kaitlin says

This is book 2 in this novella series, and I always feel like these ones leave me wanting more. I love the concept of this world where the patriarchy is a terrible presence and the Royal Magical Academy is taking over much of the politics, governing and rule-making. There are plenty of men in high up positions who are

evil or corrupted, and we're following a young woman called Charlotte Gunn and her brother Ben Gunn.

Charlotte is a character you can't help but to like even though she definitely has a naive streak to her. She's a privileged lady who hasn't had to work much and has been involved in one or two magical dark adventures, but nothing too wild. In this book she is asked to help her brother find out what's causing breakages in the cotton mill her brother is hoping to take over, and so she goes undercover there.

Ben, Charlotte's brother, is by this point in the Academy and learning to control his powers and follow in the footsteps of many of the men who work for the Academy, in particular Ledbetter who seems to be a very nefarious character according to Charlotte's own discoveries. Charlotte is skeptical of the Academy and despite having her own powers she's keeping them hidden whilst she investigates the mill.

I definitely enjoyed this one and I feel like it's a series I'll definitely keep reading. As I said before I always want more from these books as they are so short, so I hope I will get more of an overarching story as the novellas go on. :) 3.5*s overall.

Koeur says

<https://koeur.wordpress.com/2017/11/0...>

Publisher: Tor

Publishing Date: October 2017

ISBN:9780765394101

Genre: Fantasy

Rating: 3.0/5

Publishers Description: Charlotte is learning to control her emerging magical powers under the secret tutelage of Magus Hopkins. Her first covert mission takes her to a textile mill where the disgruntled workers are apparently destroying expensive equipment. And if she can't identify the culprits before it's too late, her brother will be exiled, and her family dishonoured...

Review: Not much to say here. Good writing, interesting characters and a storyline that kept you interested. As this is a novella, it rates a max 3 stars due to the truncated nature of the work. There is a mild love triangle that does not attempt to over run the plot which was refreshing. Why Charlotte is always dumbed down and confused is a state that could wear thin in a full length novel. As it is, this world begs for expansion.

The Captain says

Ahoy there me mateys! I received this fantasy eARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. So here be me honest musings. If ye haven't read the first book in this series, brother's ruin, then ye might want

to skip this post and go read the first book. Worth the read. If ye keep reading this log then ye have been forewarned and continue at yer own peril

It was excellent fun to get back to this next installment of Charlotte Gunn's story, and it was another quick read. Charlotte is asked by her brother, Ben, to visit in Manchester where he is currently studying and working in a mill. But it's not just a friendly family visit. Someone is sabotaging the mill and Ben needs Charlotte's help. Of course, Charlotte agrees because she is awesome and goes undercover to solve the case.

The mill was an interesting setting and I loved some of the new characters that were introduced. I enjoyed the mechanics of how the Royal Society of the Esoteric Arts's magic helps run and use the mill. I love Charlotte and Hopkins. Charlotte continues to struggle with her magic and the potential for going "Wild."

I personally would have preferred more character development and less naivete from Charlotte. I don't really like the developing love-triangle even though there was no question that it was going to happen from the very beginning. I would have loved more details and explanations of how the magic worked. That said, I was satisfied with how the novella ended and am interested in the tantalizing hints of what may happen next.

I certainly will be reading all the other books in this series and now consider Emma Newman an auto-buy author. Both her sci-fi and fantasy are great. So if ye haven't read any of her books, hoist those sails and get moving!

So lastly . . .

Thank you Macmillian-Tor/Forge!

Check out me other reviews at <https://thecaptainsquartersblog.wordpress.com>

Melanie says

ARC provided by Tor in exchange for an honest review.

1.) Brother's Ruin ★★★

Weaver's Lament picks right up where Brother's Ruin left off; our main protagonist, Charlotte, is still reeling from the events that took place, while also trying to uncover secrets that many higherups are trying to keep hidden. Charlotte also lives in Great Britain in the 1850s, where people are still ignorant and believe that a woman's place is in the house and only in the house. Charlotte is trying to appease her family and fiancé that feel this way, but Charlotte is a very talented illustrator, who sells her work under a man's pen name. Obviously, this book has a lot of social commentary about women's rights and equality, but the main plot of each book is truly about Charlotte uncovering a mystery.

And this mystery is brought to Charlotte's attention by her brother that she helps in Brother's Ruin. I'll be honest, I actually really hate her brother and I wish Charlotte wasn't such a good sister to him. Charlotte's brother, Ben, has finished his studies with the Royal Society and is now an apprentice that is overlooking the operation of a textile mill. Yet, someone or something is sabotaging the machines and the mill, so he asks Charlotte to go undercover to try to see who or what is causing the problem.

The Royal Society is for people with magical powers and it helps them learn to harness their powers in a way that won't make them turn wild. Turning wild happens to magic users who don't turn themselves in to the Royal Society for training. Oh, and Charlotte is a super powerful magic user who has yet to turn herself in.

Charlotte, while working with Magus Thomas Hopkins, quickly discovers what is happening behind the scenes of the mill. But more importantly, she discovers the unfair and inhumane treatment of the workers who have nowhere else to go and are stuck in a cycle of oppression working at the mill and eventually dying at the mill with no opportunity for advancement. This book beautifully talks about social constructs and the oppression cycles we put groups of people in, without a chance to better their lives, but while always belittling them for not "breaking the cycle." Charlotte becomes very aware of her privilege, and I hope in book three we get to see her act on this information.

But this was a quick read that I really did enjoy. Also, the angst is just killing me between Charlotte and Hopkins at this point. I also feel like there are 100 different threads going in 1000 different directions, and I need to know all the secrets of the Royal Society and this world. I cannot wait to pick up the next installment in this series and I'm so thankful I was able to read this one before the end of 2017!

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Antonio Diaz says

Emma Newman continúa adentrándonos en esta curiosa revolución industrial apoyada y potenciada por la magia, en lugar de por las fuentes de energía conocidas.

Un absoluto placer que se lee como si nada. Además de con un giro muy interesante y más oscuro.

Ahora a esperar la siguiente :)

Beth says

I have a bad habit of not reading very far outside the comfortable lines of my preferred genres. Usually when anything "steampunk"ish or that takes place in a Dickensian London comes around, I give it a pass. In the case of Emma Newman's "Industrial Magic" series, however, I'm glad that I took the chance. Both the first story and Weaver's Lament, the second in the series, have been just lovely to read.

Charlie, Ben, and Mage Hopkins return to the story, with Charlie continuing her secret mage training and again helping Ben out of a tight spot while trying to correct another social injustice. I find Charlie (and her oh-so-Victorian flirting with Mage Hopkins) to be quite charming. While I could easily see myself reading full-length novels in this setting, I do appreciate the fact that there is no unnecessary padding here. I suspect doing smaller vignettes such as this gives the author a lot more flexibility for where to take the story in the future. I'm quite satisfied with Weaver's Lament and look forward to the next one. I definitely recommend this series.

(Note: I received this ARC from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.)

Evelina | AvalinahsBooks says

4.5 stars

Do you like *petticoats, Victorians and magic?*

What about *a female heroine*, who, while a little bit lost and flustered, *is kickass despite not knowing it herself?*

And would you care for *a would-be love triangle that is forbidden in more ways than I care to list?*

If you said YES, YES and YES, *then I don't understand why you are STILL not reading this series.*

Especially seeing as how it's called *Industrial Magic???* Even if I didn't know what it was about, the name of the series alone would hook me!

It's really hard for me to review this book because *I'm evidently a fangirl.* I reviewed the first part of this series when I was still but a wee blogger lass, and I do feel like maybe my review didn't really do it justice or reach a big enough audience. *But that still doesn't explain why this book isn't more widely known??*

So since this is the second book in the series, I'm not going to tell you much about the story. For that you'd have to read the first book. Plus, I don't want to take away the pleasure! Instead, I'm going to try and tell you why I love this series as much as I do.

Reason #1. The Magic System

Now I'm not your biggest specialist on magic systems in books, as I don't tend to read a whole lot of fantasy. But correct me if I'm wrong – I'm not sure magic is used as a means of production, powering engines and clocks and basically running the economy in any other fictional world? Or at least, maybe not in this way? Magic in this book is not a tool to assert status, to get your own end. Magic is almost an affliction, cause it means your only place in society is a... rich prisoner. The Magi are not allowed to marry (*for reasons I will not spoil*), nor are they allowed to even stay with their families. They are rich and strong (*but not really powerful*), they are the victims of their own power which they have not chosen to wield, and they can not run from it. But they can try. *And this is largely what the second book in the series is about – trying to outwit your fate.*

Reason #2. The Heroine

It might just be me, but I feel like Charlotte, our main character, is just the right amount of wit, smarts, capability, and yet childish egoism, naivete and klutziness. She's a wonderful heroine! She makes an equal amount of mistakes and blunders as feats. Which she tends to discount as belonging to her own abilities. She does not know her own feelings. Charlotte is as lost in her own wishes, her state and her romantic inclinations as any traditional Victorian novel heroine. I absolutely love that about her. *Perhaps I feel like she's a little bit like me.*

Reason #3. This Series Could Go On And On

And I hope it will! It's one of those series like *The Rivers of London* by Ben Aaronovitch – urban fantasies

that have their own spectacular world that you want to get lost in again and again, and you're safe in the knowledge that it's not one of those books which has three parts and then ends. Oh no, this series will hopefully go on and on till I get tired of reading it, which, in turn, I hope to never do! So bring on the drama.

Dear Emma Newman, please keep writing this series. If only just for meeee! (*I know, I am so selfish...*) I know I will keep waiting for the third book just as much as I've waited for the second one.

I thank Tor Books and Emma Newman for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange to my honest review.

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