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The Silver Skull (The Elemental Web Chronicles Book 2)



Synopsis

Lady Olivia is not all she seems. Trained for marriage to an assigned political target, her skills lie in programming household steambots to serve tea, dress her hair... and sound the alarm while she picks locks and listens at doors. Humiliated by a failed assignment, she decides to redeem herself by tailing a suspected double agent. Lord Rathsburn must flirt with treason. Struggles to cure a horrible disease have met with unexpected complications. The cells he engineered can make a man's bones unbreakable, but the side effects are fatal. He believed the research terminated... until his sister was kidnapped by a German count. Her ransom? A cure. Piloting a stolen dirigible, he uncovers an unlikely stowaway, Lady Olivia. Arriving together at a crumbling castle, an impossible task is set before them: cure the count's guardsmen. Amidst their fake marriage, a very real growing attraction, dying guardsmen and escalating hostilities, Lady Olivia and Lord Rathsburn are thrust deep into the world of international medical espionage from which there may be no return.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed *The Silver Skill*, second in the series. In fact, I think I liked it even more than the first one, *The Golden Spider*, which was also a nice read. Renwick hits on all cylinders here, the romance is nicely built, taught and has good tension, the setting of the crumbling castle was awesome and the steampunk devices all top notch. This novel reads as something more of a classic spy drama, which often puts the characters into a great deal of danger and steampunk Bond-esque intrigue. WELL DONE! Dare we hope there might be a prequel around Olivia's father the Duke of Avesbury and his wife (who may not be the society mama she seems)? I have to say, any man who can raise three daughters (biologist, neuroscientist and a programmer/engineer/spy) has to be interesting himself.

It's a good thing the author had the first chapters of this book at the back of the first one because otherwise I wouldn't have bothered with Lady Olivia's story. Yet, as it turns out, she's even more fascinating than Lady Amanda and is yet another tired Victorian/steampunk trope turned inside-out to make her into something fresh and new. The medical science in this book again showed the author's background perfectly, and I tore through it - thank goodness for being on a low-demand vacation! I can't recommend this series enough and am hoping for a third soon!

The second book in this series continues to deliver the right mix of steampunk. Olivia was easier to like than her sister in the book as she lacked her hard edge. Ian makes a sound here.

I loved reading *The Silver Skull*! This is the second story in the *Elemental Web Chronicles* and even better than the first one, which I also loved. The story of Lady Olivia and Lord Rathsburn was totally absorbing, drawing you in further and further into their lives, making you want more of them. Anne Renwick's writing envelops you in her story, making you part of the story, rooting for the characters, hissing at some, and making you want more for them all. Her ability to pull you in and see the steampunk world also makes you want to, or wish you could, utilize the technology, too. I highly recommend Anne Renwick's books and I can't wait for the next story.

It's not quite 5 stars but close enough. Perhaps it's for bad timing and if I managed to read it in one sitting, as I wanted to, it would be. But life happened and I couldn't. Another thing is too much of

scientific (physiology) in this sequel. It does show perfectly the author's background but it could be a touch too much. I am a healthcare provider and it distracted me from the fantasy world I tried to immerse myself into. However, this is a personal thing and don't let it dissuade you from reading this series because it's really, really good. Like I said in the heading, next please and soooooon!

These Elemental Web Chronicles are great! So great I want to see more, do not forget previous characters Amanda, Sebastien, Ian, and Olivia. Then there's Mr. Black, Wei, and a whole list of other characters in this universe. How about a foursome jaunt? Details of the next assignment to Scotland, how do things work out for Elizabeth?

I enjoy Victorian steampunk stories and this one was not bad at all. Not as good as *The Golden Spider* in my opinion. Story line was good and quite fascinating, but dragged on a bit. All in all not a bad book, but not amazing.

I loved this book. The story was well done. There was action/adventure, romance, villains, and pirates. It was an exciting read and well worth the cost. I could not put the e-reader down. This is book two of a series. I am truly hoping for more of this series and it is a guaranteed buy for me. The series is currently following the sisters in a family. I would, however, like to see Black and Wei get their own stories. You do not have to read the series, each book stands alone. The characters from the first book are mentioned and make an appearance. I am eagerly awaiting the next book.

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