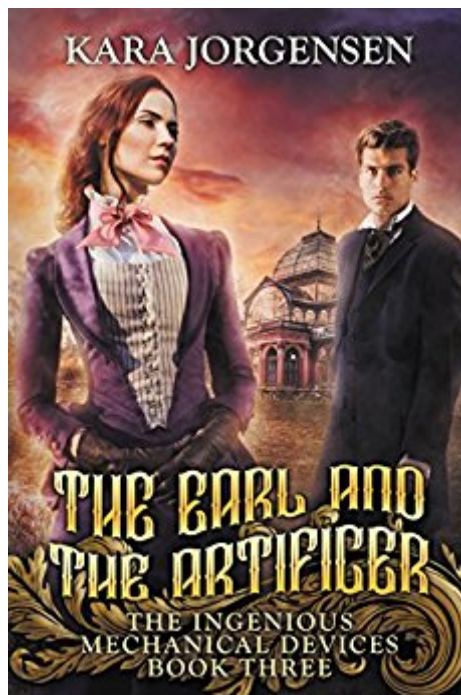




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The Earl And The Artificer (The Ingenious Mechanical Devices Book 3)



Synopsis

What mysteries lay buried beneath weeds and dust? Following their wedding, Eilian and Hadley Sorrell journey to Brasshurst Hall, his family's abandoned ancestral home. As Eilian struggles to reconcile his new roles as husband and earl, he finds the house and the surrounding town of Folkesbury are not as they first appear. Behind a mask of good manners and gentle breeding lurks a darker side of Folkesbury. As the Sorrells struggle to fit in with the village's genteel society, they find their new friends are at the mercy of Randall Nash, a man who collects secrets. Soon, Eilian and Hadley become entangled in a web of murder, theft, and intrigue that they may never escape, with the manor at the heart of it all. Something long thought lost and buried within Brasshurst's history has been found—something worth killing for.

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Customer Reviews

The Earl and The Artificer is the third book in the Ingenious Mechanical Devices series (that started with The Earl of Brass). In this instalment, Hadley and Eilian have just been married, and are

moving into the all but abandoned Sorrell family estate in the countryside. But though the house has been standing empty, Brasshurst Hall is full of secrets. Told within a richly described Victorian setting, this story is wonderfully well-layered. On one hand, there are beautifully handled scenes from a budding marriage that is not without complications. The emotional dimensions here are beautifully handled, and I would recommend the book for those aspects alone! But *The Earl and the Artificer* is also a delightfully suspenseful read. Thieves, murderers, and intrigue-makers all tread the streets in Folkesbury; the trouble for Eilian and Hadley is to figure out who is who. I thoroughly enjoyed this read and its well-crafted cast of characters, whom I'm hoping to see more of in future books from Kara Jorgensen!

As with any genre, steampunk novels vary in quality and in style. Finding an author whose work you enjoy, whose story worlds you like to visit again and again, is something to be treasured and shared. The first time I read one of Jorgensen's Ingenious Mechanical Devices novels, *The Winter Garden*, my area was under a tornado warning. The TV was on in the background spouting alerts and I started reading on my iPad to keep my mind off the storm. The fact that it held my attention speaks volumes. Jorgensen's new novel, *The Earl and the Artificer*, is book three in her Ingenious Mechanical Devices series, but works just as well as a stand-alone novel. The novel continues the story of the two main characters, Eilian and Hadley, from *Earl of Brass*. The characters have married and moved on with their lives as the new Earl and Countess of Dorset, but their personalities remain on track. Potential Minor Spoilers It is not too big of a spoiler to tell you that the first chapter opens with Hadley elbow-deep in steamer engine innards, covered in grease, trying to fix their burned-out vehicle: Leaning into the front of the cab, she brought her face close to the boiler as the heat of the kettle stung her cheeks. The metal coils of the heating element had melted into a blackened cake that smelled of burnt hair. Using the sides of the hood for leverage, she pivoted back until her satin boots met the road's white gravel. Staring down at her cream dress, already streaked with soot and grease, she sighed and wiped her hands across it before smoothing a lock of henna hair behind her ear. Of course her new white dress becomes filthy and in this state she has to meet their new neighbors and their cousin, Randall Nash, who seems to judge her appearance rather harshly. Both Eilian and Hadley are having a hard time adjusting to so many changes in their lives, and part of the novel revolves around the new dimensions in their relationship as husband and wife and, of course, setting up their household in a Gothic-style mansion reminiscent of the BBC's *Downton Abbey*. Add to this a mixture of steampunk devices and somewhat magical-seeming elements that are not simply thrown-in for effect but are actually

integral to the story. There is a treasure at Brasshurst Hall hidden in the ruins, but to discover it Eilian and Hadley have to brave physical threats and overcome the emotional debris of his tragic family history. Suspense builds as the story continues, as does the sense of impending danger. Without giving away too much, I will just say that the resolution will not be something most readers will expect, but it fits perfectly with the story world and the characters. I recommend *The Earl and the Artificer* for anyone who enjoys a Victorian-style steampunk novel filled with intriguing characters, mystery, suspense, and danger.

Where do I start, I was eagerly anticipating this book after finishing *Earl of Brass*, Jorgensen has a way with characters. I have said it before, and I will say it again, I love the characters she crafts. They come to life on the page. They struggle with things we all struggle with, sexuality, identity, self worth. In this latest installment of the Ingenious Mechanical devices Hadley and Eilian struggle with their new positions as Earl of Dorset and Countess of Dorset, the two characters' insecurities were beautifully painted, and seeing something other than a perfect married life was really refreshing. Interwoven within the narrative is a mystery surrounding the Gothic Mansion they had inherited that will keep you turning pages until the end to figure out how all these players interconnect.

Loved the steampunk setting, the plot and the characters. BUT, the Dorsets need to consummate their marriage. Hadley didn't get married so she could have another brother. She married to have a husband!! And yes. They clearly love each other very much and yes Eilian is shy but I don't see how Hadley's frustration and unrequited desire will not eventually kill her love. Consummation need not be graphic--perhaps implied at a picnic or among Roman ruins? 4 Stars. Elle Greene

Excellent Story, left me wanting more.

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