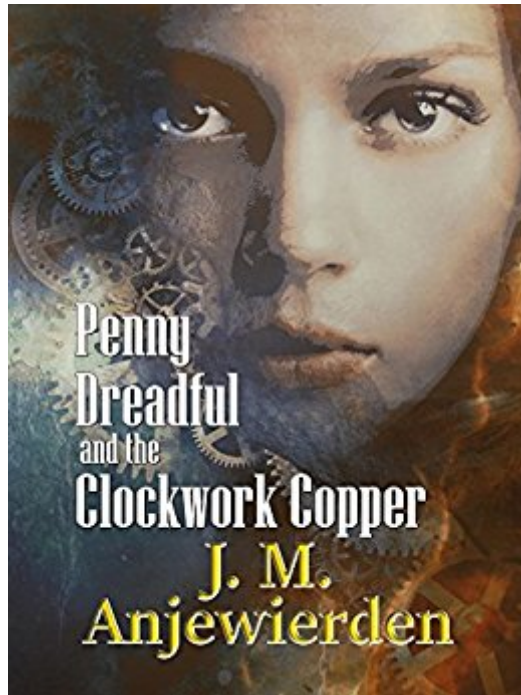




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Penny Dreadful And The Clockwork Copper



Synopsis

Viva-3 was built to discover secrets. But they made her too well. She's the perfect spy: the lethality and persistence of the police clockworks in a body that can pass as human. What the Empire's police don't know is that she doesn't have to obey their orders or her programming. She can think and decide for herself. And she's doomed if they find out. Viva is sent undercover with orders to unmask the city's vigilante hero, Penny Dreadful. She is supposed to stop his one-man war against the criminals of Monte-Ostrum. It will be dangerous, but just maybe Dreadful will be more useful as an ally rather than an enemy.

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Customer Reviews

Penny Dreadful and Nova are both wonderfully complex and engaging characters. I loved reading about their adventures. The plot completely drew me in to a strange world that I can't wait to explore in future novels. I would highly recommend this novel to anyone who loves adventure and intrigue. This was the first steampunk book I've read. My lack of experience with the genre did not deter from

my enjoyment in the slightest.

I read this as a Kindle Unlimited selection. This book will keep you up at night. Seriously. It's 3:30 AM and I just finished it. Oh, I could put it down, and did several times. But always in the back of my mind was the question of what comes next? I HOPE another book will result. This is too good a story to remain alone. It's the story of a personal struggle for justice. The notorious Penny Dreadful roams the empire's capital city, exposing corruption - especially corruption within the official justice system. How does the Penny Dreadful resolve the many violations of true justice rampant on the streets and ballrooms? And there is Viva 3, a -- I hesitate to call her a young woman, since she was built, not bred. But inside her clockwork consciousness battle two opposing edicts: one calls for Justice, the other for comfort. As she comes to the knowledge of her own purpose and desires, how will she achieve it? She is, after all, merely a construct. The author did a fine job in his first novel, *The Long Black*. This one outpaces that achievement. All I can say is that Anjewierden is developing quickly into a writer to keep an eye out for. He writes good stories. Now maybe I can catch some sleep!

This is a good, slightly different, take on Victorian Steampunk, set in a city/state that is increasingly revealed as truly and deeply dystopic. The heroines (one a rebellious young upper-class woman, the other an inexplicably self-aware organic android) find themselves defending themselves, and others, from the corrupt state, the true depths of the corruption of which, I'm not sure the young uppercrust scion every does truly grasp. There's a lot of world building going on here, and this is a nice introduction. Anjewierden could go a lot of interesting places with this world if he chooses to expand on this work.

We follow two young women through adventures in the big city. One is very young, an artificial person who became conscious by accident and is concealing it from her unsavory employers. The other is a noblewoman wanting to do more than her role allows. The ending sets up a sequel while still letting this book stand alone. I enjoyed the story and the vision of an alternate steampunk world. I'll be reading the next. There's some implied adult activity that might be unsuitable for the youngest teens, but it's handled subtly enough to not be noticed by most of them.

I obtained my copy of this book through the Kindle Unlimited program. Confession: I was hooked by the title. Not many books do that, but this one did. I only knew of a particular sort of nasty literature

with no redeeming characteristics as 'penny dreadfuls,' so discovering that this was the name adopted by the covert subversive hero; well, it just set the hook deeper. By the time I discovered that the Clockwork Copper referred to the second main character, I was utterly captivated.'Nother confession: "Clockwork" means "steampunk," right? And steampunk means a setting in Victorian England, unless we are given a different context. Well, I was Happily toddling along, when the author, artist that he is, informs me that the two moons are nearly full. I don't know exactly why that gave me such a feeling of relieve, but it did. I suspect it has to do it the discovery that these nasty things being done by these nasty people are not happening in MY home planet. Maybe not; it was a lovely touch, though. The theme of liberation runs through the story of each of the major and minor good guys. Even Jack, the rough ex-sailor who makes an all-too-brief appearance, finds his liberation from service to an unworthy master. Captain Shae; the high priest of Our Lady of Sorrows; even the head of the house of the protagonist; all of them are constricted by law or custom. Viva-3, the secondary hero, is just the most extreme example. In her case, the constraints are dark programming instructions, given by her masters. To overcome them, she has to first do her part, but that isn't enough; she is also like the Beast, who must be loved. Yes, the way is clear for the sequel. However, I want more back-story. Tell me more about Jack, Frederick, Captain Shae, and how Novella came to make her remarkable decisions. Not too much to hope for, is it?

I love the idea of this novel and Clockwork characters. Viva 3 is on the look out for Penny Dreadful to try and stop him. The other character that caught my attention along with Viva 3 and the mysterious Penny Dreadful is Novella who has great interactions with Viva. Many interesting twists kept my attention. I do hope there will be another book with Viva and company.

However, if typos, misplaced and missing words bother you, you'll find this book hard to read. That's the only reason it didn't get 5 stars. Although the book was really what's called young adult, I enjoyed it immensely, and I am definitely not young.

I really enjoyed this adventure. Never knew what to expect and was pleased that the author kept it clean. I'm hoping for more of these characters.

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