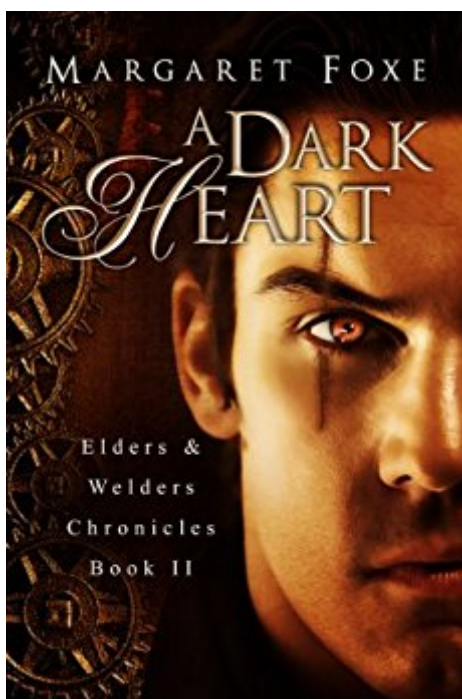


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A Dark Heart (Elders And Welders Chronicles Book 2)



Synopsis

A Dark Heart Book Two in The Elders and Welders Chronicles London, 1897: Lady Christiana Harker once committed a grave sin against her kind when she saved Inspector Elijah Drexler's life by turning him into a vampire. Christiana's bold act has only driven Elijah deeper into an impenetrable darkness, fueled by morphine, nightmares, and a constant thirst for blood. Elijah has no room left in his heart for anything but his quest for vengeance against his childhood tormentor, a quest that he fully expects to end with his own death. But when the mysterious Duke of Brightlingsea requests Elijah's help in locating a doomsday device that could level half of London, Elijah's personal vendetta becomes entangled with a secret war being waged among the immortal Elders. Just when Christiana finally accepts that her long-held love for the Inspector will forever be unrequited, however, a catastrophe brings them together, forcing Elijah to finally confront his feelings for Christiana. But will Christiana's love be strong enough to weather the terrible truths buried deep in Elijah's past? And will Elijah find the strength of will to finally cast off his demons and let love into his dark heart? This Victorian steampunk romance is recommended for adult audiences.

Book Information

File Size: 4083 KB

Print Length: 284 pages

Publisher: Margaret Foxe (November 21, 2013)

Publication Date: November 21, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00GWZY4N6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #35,119 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #51 in Books

> Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #61 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks

> Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Steampunk #463 in Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > Romance > Historical Romance > Victorian

Customer Reviews

You need to be prepared to dig into this book. I had to force myself to be persistent, and it was worth it in the end, but that's why 3 stars instead of 4. This book is initially quite disturbing and not for the faint of heart. I am not going to pull punches here because you should know this going in: the main character was sexually and physically abused as a young boy, which is where the story starts, and some of the descriptions of the abuse are graphic. To give credit where it is due, Foxe makes Elijah a character who you definitely sympathize for if not empathize with. And, the villain (one of them, anyhow) is absolutely vile and abhorrent. But, this makes the book and the actual plot really hard to get into. After *Prince of Hearts*, the first book in this series, I was not expecting such a dark tale. It starts with Elijah's history and then jumps to about a year after *Prince* ends. Lady Christiana, who I expected to appear immediately, doesn't make an entrance until what feels like is deep in the book. Another reason for the 3 stars: I was expecting a romance, and this is far more a redemption story than it is a romance story. Don't get me wrong; it has romance, but it's clouded by the darkness in Elijah's past and his need for revenge and redemption. The romance angle feels small in comparison to the story arc that Foxe is building. I did not feel that Lady Christiana was served well in this book. She grows, but it's such shallow growth compared to Elijah's. I almost can't see them together. She's too forgiving and ordinary and nice, and he's such a dark, deep guy. I didn't entirely buy the chemistry between them, and there are some aspects of their early attempts at romance that will be disturbing to readers.

[...] was provided with an ARC in exchange for an honest review - and holy moo, did it ever change my mind about paranormal science fiction/steampunk Disclaimer: I don't like Werewolves, Ghosts or Vampires in my Science Fiction. The very thought of Vampires in Space makes me cringe. I'm not even that much of a Vampires in paranormal romance fan, because let's be honest - sparkly Vampires crying about their lost humanity and the wet-blanket girl their dead heart has fallen for has flooded the market with s****. Vampire Romance has become a laughable shade of what it once was when Vampires were monsters, which sucks (ha-ha), because I used to love the genre. Luckily, there have been some recent books that are slowly turning the Genre around. I consider Steampunk to be a branch of Science Fiction. When my first venture into Steampunk, *Prince of Hearts* (also by Margaret Foxe) included a side character who was a twist on the vampire legend, I wasn't sure how I felt about it. I was conflicted. My conflict arose because my science fiction mind was going "NO- NO- NO, No blood sucking paranormal vamps in science fiction!" But, Foxe had already endeared the character to me before it was revealed and her writing had sold me on a 5 star book. I liked what she did with the incorporation and blurring the lines between Steampunk, Science Fiction and

Paranormal. It was a genre bender - so in the end, I told my Scifi mind to shut the heck up and enjoy the ride. Then, Foxe sent me a copy of A Dark Heart - a book that focuses on a steampunk vampire. Because of Foxe's writing style and talent, accepting the review request was a no-brainer. I think she could write a book about two werewolves hanging out on a space station with a 'Mars needs more women' trope storyline and I'd read it.

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