



# Curtsies & Conspiracies

*Gail Carriger*

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## Curtsies & Conspiracies Gail Carriger

*Does one need four fully grown foxgloves for decorating a dinner table for six guests? Or is it six foxgloves to kill four fully grown guests?*

Sophronia's first year at Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality has certainly been rousing! For one thing, finishing school is training her to be a spy--won't Mumsy be surprised? Furthermore, Sophronia got mixed up in an intrigue over a stolen device and had a cheese pie thrown at her in a most horrid display of poor manners.

Now, as she sneaks around the dirigible school, eavesdropping on the teachers' quarters and making clandestine climbs to the ship's boiler room, she learns that there may be more to a field trip to London than is apparent at first. A conspiracy is afoot--one with dire implications for both supernaturals and humans. Sophronia must rely on her training to discover who is behind the dangerous plot--and survive the London Season with a full dance card.

In this sequel to *New York Times* bestselling *Etiquette & Espionage*, class is back in session with more petticoats and poison, tea trays and treason. Gail's distinctive voice, signature humor, and lush steampunk setting are sure to be the height of fashion this season.

## Curtsies & Conspiracies Details

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Author : Gail Carriger

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Genre : Science Fiction, Steampunk, Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Historical, Historical Fiction, Vampires

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# From Reader Review *Curtsies & Conspiracies* for online ebook

**Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

*“What’s a man like down there?”*

*“Oh.” Sidheag wrinkled her nose. “Unimpressive. They have,” she gestured toward her own nether regions with one hand, “a sort of dangly sausage—lacks tailoring.”*

Brilliant description, brilliant!

If ever there was an enjoyable book featuring a Mary Sue of a heroine, this is it. Despite my rating, I liked reading this book, because it was a funny, quick, fast, very light read. My main problem: that's just it. There is absolutely zero complexity in the book, it was funny, but there was absolutely nothing more to it. It is completely devoid of substance with an utterly convoluted plot. And really, **was there a need to include a love triangle when the main character in the book is all of 15 years old.** Was it necessary to make her so completely perfect, so utterly capable, so tremendously intelligent, so flawlessly absorbing, particularly to the male sex?

*[Sophronia] had not yet received lessons in seduction, or she might have understood the appeal of sharp confidence, a topping figure, and green eyes. All Sophronia’s intellect was directed at something other than attracting male companionship. These things combined to make her particularly appealing to gentlemen.*

Fifteen years old, ladies and gentlemen. Our main character is fifteen years old, with the unconscious seduction of a young Lolita. With the brilliant analytical skills of a young Holmes. With the philosophical brain of Archimedes.

I liked Sophronia, despite her blind perfection, but she could have been so much more. **My enjoyment of the book is impeded partially by the lack of complexity and the absence of any sort of depth within this book's characters, be they main characters or part of the side cast.**

I can't give you a summary for this book because I'm not quite sure what I just read. There will be no detailed plot/character analysis because the **characters are so utterly tongue-in-cheek that it's impossible to provide a criticism of them** without realizing "well, she's SUPPOSED to be so completely trite and superlatively annoying because she is meant to be a satire of an YA fiction trope." I'm sure there is a way to critically analyze literary satire. My brain's just not quite that far-reaching yet.

No summary. Why? Half an hour after reading it, I remember absolutely nothing about it, and I can't even tell you what the hell the main plot was. I don't know what the mystery is, neither do I know how the plot was resolved. I had a lot of fun reading it, it was tremendously humorous. But that's it. I don't know what I just read beyond the humor, beyond the whimsical characters and the funny little steampunk world in which our book is set.

I can't tell you what the book is about, what the big spy-related plot is, but I can tell you that Monique is a bitch. That Dimity is in love with Lord Dingleproops. That Vieve is a 10-year old girl who likes to dress as a boy. That there is a love triangle, in which the sootie Soap and the supercilious Lord Felix are both in love with our Queen of the Mary Sues (I like her, but there is absolutely no denying that she is a Mary Sue) Sophronia. I can tell you that Sophronia carries around a little dog-thing (Bumbersnoot) as a purse. Those

minute details, I can tell you.

**Those minute details, I remember. Just not the central plot itself. I'm dead fucking serious.**

There are a lot of good things about this book. I said it was a quick read and a very amusing one, and it really was. The writing is awesome; it is funny, it is flippant, it doesn't take itself seriously at all. I laughed more than once.

*Dimity was so pretty and chattery, she quite overpowered the average male. Many gentlemen were unable to cope with abundant chatter, which is why they so often married it.*

It is absolutely amusing, **the book is rampant with silliness**. The characters are a parody of British high society, complete with utterly ludicrous names, like the previously mentioned Lord Dingleproops, Professor Shrimpdittle, or else absurdly apostrophed names, like Miss Plumleigh-Teignmott.

**The steampunk setting can best be described as "twee."** We have gadgets and gadgets aplenty. We have whoozits and whatzits galore. Odd little thingamabobs, a steam-powered toy puppy. An "electrosplit goopslimer port." A "Thrushbotham pip-monger swizzle sprocket." There are mechanical maids---clangermaids, mechanical footmen---or rather, footmechs. Airships and dirigibles. Steam-puffing mechanical objects. Oddgobs. It is all terrifyingly, delightfully cute.

The school setting itself was pretty awesome, and I wished there were more insights and lessons for me to learn within the incredibly interesting-sounding classes. Seriously, where were these classes when I was still in school. We have classes on "drawing room music and subversive petit fours," "Hive and pack dynamics as part of the modern aristocratic system," "rapid walking in full skirts," "tea and delusions," "portion allotment, puddings, and preemptive poisonings."

The discussions in classes were the best part of the book, for example, during a lesson in "distribution, use, and application of stealth spy rocks," the class had this amazing discussion on men's facial hair.

*The discussion evolved to the interesting question of whether a gentleman could tattoo a secret message upon his chin, then grow out his beard, thus transporting said message into enemy territory with no one the wiser. Would a man want a message permanently upon his chin? That was the quandary. And could one legitimately ascribe nefarious intent to any man with a full beard as a result?*

*"I've always thought beards suspicious," said Dimity with conviction.*

Me too, Dimity. Me, too.

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## **Giovanna says**

**"Our biggest concern is what you get up to when we are not watching. Because, if nothing else, this test has told us you are probably spying on us, as well as everyone around you."**

Ah Gail Carriger has done it again! I like this series even more than The Parasol protectorate; it's so funny and clever...and I must admit, quite refreshing. Also I have the cutest ship ever \*cough\* Soap \*cough\*

After her first tests at finishing school Sophronia, since her friends are acting weird, decides to take matter in

her own hands and sneaks around the school, trying to discover useful information. That's how she comes across a useful and interesting piece of information: there may be a trip to London, that also might hide something much more interesting than a simple school trip.

I read The Parasol Protectorate series this summer and, while I was really pleased with the story and the witty banter, there were things that weren't, in my opinion, "complete". This series is much more polished. The world-building is well-done, the characters are well-developed and the plot is always interesting. Also since this series is set years before The Parasol Protectorate some characters that I had come to know and love appear. I loved Madame Lefoux and here I loved Vieve; she's just as funny as a ten-year old girl as she was when met Alexia. (Uhm using the past tense is so strange, since, well, The Parasol Protectorate series is set after this series...)

But in my opinion the characters are the best thing Finishing School has. They are 14/16, which is quite refreshing because they don't behave like ya characters (----> no idiocy), and they are quite fun and witty. I love Sophronia and her friends and while I see the similarities with the "old" characters, these are much better. Alexia sometimes felt forced to me and with Sophronia that never happened. The romance is really subtle and cute, because so far there's very little of it, since our dear main protagonist has just realised that there might be someone who wants to attract her attention.

*"So, did you hold back during that test?"*

*"Maybe a little," Sophronia admitted.*

*Soap grinned. "That's my girl."*

*Sophronia glared at him. He was getting familiar.*

*"You are, miss." He continued to grin.*

*"I'm my own girl, thank you very much."*

*"No, what's a man like down there?"*

*"Oh." Sidheag wrinkled her nose. "Unimpressive. They have - "she gestured towards her own nether regions with one hand - "a sort of dangly sausage - lacks tailoring"*

A refreshing and funny ya series, I can't wait to read Waistcoats & Weaponry.

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## **Freckles says**

Tahle série je prost? úžasn? roztomilá.

Quite lovely, indeed.

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## **Galatea says**

### UPDATE REVIEW

OLD: I'll probably be ambushed and hanged for saying this, but... I kinda liked the "rake-in-training" from the other school. He was an intriguing character and I don't know why, it looked to me like Sophronia wasn't too oblivious to his charms (the descriptions from her point of view kinda imply that she thought he wasn't too bad (big underestimation here, girls)). In comparison with Soap it's just... dunno... like they are just plain friends, with no romantic feelings involved between them. Hopefully we'll see in this book how it goes.

And besides, I don't think anybody would be too happy if Sophronia ends up with Soap. Her family is obviously rich, the school she attends obviously has different marriage plans for its students - all who graduated apparently married rich or important people - and it would obviously be hard for them to be together (we are considering the era here) since (again) obviously the differences between classes is very important (as it usually is with epic steampunk books). So um... I'm siding with the rake on this one. You have to admit he's a keeper (>w<)

NEW, WARNING, SPOILERS AHEAD: Put my paws on it the moment my computer clocked said 5th of November and finished the book in two hours O.O verdict:loved it! oh boy, where to start. it was witty, fast paced, awesome, soul engaging and every other adj you can think of. it's no secret that i adore steampunk, but this one rocked, especially for a young adult book. And we find out the rake-in-training's name! FINALLY! hes name is Felix. \*swoons\* and he is a viscount \*swoons again\* but only because his father is the duke and we know how these things go. he can't have the duchy title until his old man is six feet under, if you'll excuse my language. and he's a viscount \*swoons once again then quickly gets up when she realizes that he is most certainly under aged which would make yours truly a pedophile\*. ahem, moving on. did i say his name is Felix? yes, yes i did. Gosh, i love the name. They finally spend some time together in this book, but not nearly as much as i would have liked. since i would have liked them to spend every moment of this books together, you can just ignore me. A new conspiracy pops up and of course it's up to Sophronia to make everything work and save the day ( and her friends, while she's at it), while of course being careful with her petticoats and not being found out by the teachers. Vampires are involved, kidnapping too, a flash meeting with a charming blond vampire, more of the handsome werewolf teacher and some flashy experiments. Long thing short, anything you would want from a steampunk novel. Plus a few lessons in espionage. So 5 stars from me since it was worth the wait. the one thing i did not like though, was that our charming Sophronia seemed to be stalling in the love department. Now, i do get it this is kind of young adult, but i wasn't expecting a full on ten page sex scene in a flying school. Ahem. pardon my speech. But Felix is more than interested in her; the poor boy - devilish rake with a charming smile - even asked to court her. He is obviously so into her he would need help to snap out of his fascination. Another slightly annoying thing was that towards the end of the book, Sophronia's feelings towards Soap had slightly slid from pure friendship to ... something more, no matter what she tried to say to herself and deny. so, yes it's a love triangle, or at least the beginning of one, but um i don't think there's much competition, really. i mean, Sophronia isn't a nobody. her family, although not titled, does have some means and a future duke, well, that is the highest a girl can get. I loved everything about this book, except perhaps for Sophronia's hesitation regarding Felix and Soap. One moment she was trying to discourage Felix by invoking reasons even she didn't believe, the next she was flirting with him and liking it while at the same time scrounging up reasons why this was not good. Mixed feelings, girl, i get it, but not this mixed. Cut the poor boy some slack. And Soap? Soap is nice and reliable and funny, but i can't seem to imagine him anything more than a very good friend, despite his spontaneous bouts of jealousy concerning Felix and his attachment to Sophronia. Even she admitted Soap was nothing more than a friend despite some spontaneous thought about how nice he is... in a completely non-friendly way and more like love interest way. Well, fun ending with Monique. i know you all wanted to see that viper on the bottom of the Thames, i know you did, you rascals. Well, she doesn't get that ending, but at least she might be out of the picture. Oh boy, i think that's enough spoiler material for now. My advice? Go get the book, fellow readers and steampunk fans especially if you read the first novel of the series:D it's well worth the money and the time.

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**L. says**

Ješt? lepší než první díl! :D

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## Jenny (Reading Envy) says

This series is just a lot of fun, and even better in audio, performed by Moira Quirk. She handles the silly names and bizarre situations with the formality required for any proper lady. I was reminded of this series and the rest of Gail Carriger's series that I've started and not finished when I talked to Rose Davis on the Reading Envy Podcast - she had just listened to the first book of the newest series, Prudence, and when I knew I was going to spend half the day in the car driving to and from a workshop, I downloaded this immediately.

The Finishing School series (where eligible women are learning how to properly finish a person, as in end their life!) takes place almost entirely on a giant school shaped dirigible, and all the chapters are named after tests since Sophronia is going through her first major evaluation. There is a situation bringing the men's mad scientist school into their vicinity, and as you can imagine, fun hijinks ensue.

Because my current bedside read is a book in another Carriger series (Changeless), it was most interesting to realize that there are some characters that crossover, despite the fact that the finishing school books take place 15 years ahead of the Parasol Protectorate.

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## Lindsey Rey says

[4.5 Stars]

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## Hayat says

Curtsies & Conspiracies is an excellent sequel to Etiquette & Espionage and the **Finishing School** series is quickly becoming one of my favourite fun YA series to read and Gail Carriger is now my favourite steampunk writer. I Can't wait to read more about Sophronia's madcap adventure and mischief at Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality.

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## Maria V. Snyder says

Book 2 of a new series by Gail Carriger. I've downloaded the audio book and listened to this on my road trip to North Carolina. I love Gail's books - they are funny and smart and quirky, and the characters are proactive and intelligent and willing to do what it takes to help their friends. I loved the inclusion of a few characters from her Parasol Protectorate series, who I miss! The actress who reads these books is perfect. I can't read one of Gail's books because I'm not as good as the reader and it seems flat! I've a number of series now that I'll only listen to :).

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## **Ashley \*Hufflepuff Kitten\* says**

[Monique won't be back at school in the next book (hide spoiler)]

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## **Natasha ? says**

OK. I am in love this this series covers! I mean LOOK!

They are just... AMAZING!

And I'm just about to start reading Etiquette & Espionage so I'm hoping that the stories are as good as the covers!

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## **Kaitlin says**

This series is shaping up to be super fun and I definitely think it's growing on me much like the Parasol Protectorate series did. I really enjoy the adventures on board Miss Geraldine's dirigible and seeing our characters start to grow a little more with each adventure they embark on is great.

Sophronia is once more our main character and she's an amusing one to follow. Her constant inquisitive nature means that she's always involving herself in whatever is happening, but usually she's trying to help her friends Sidheag, Dimity and Vieve.

In this adventure we see the crew of the dirigible as they float to London on a mysterious trip to see new experiments in the aether. The Steampunk elements come through a bit more in this series I feel and I really like that.

We also have the inclusion of some of the boys from Bunson's school for evil geniuses on board and this brings a new dynamic to the plot and characters.

Overall I really enjoyed this and seeing some of the characters from Parasol Protectorate again was super exciting!! (a certain vampire rove) Can't wait to go onto book #3 soon!

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## **Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says**

It would appear that Gail Carriger gets even more bold and hilarious with each new book she writes. *Curtseys & Conspiracies* is her most enjoyable work since *Soulless*, her debut, and it is by far the most outrageous and ridiculous thing I've read in a very long time.

By far the best thing about Carriger's books is the language. As a non native speaker, I get to learn so many phrases and expressions, most of them outdated, but endlessly entertaining. In terms of language use in steampunk, Gail Carriger is, I dare say, the best.



It is impossible not to admire Sophronia for her ability to keep a tight rein on so many things at once. I wasn't particularly fond of her the last time around, but this time she proved to be quite admirable. She was always a step ahead of everyone else, even when her peers resented her for it. If there's one thing I appreciate above all, it's an intelligent, self-assured heroine, and Gail Carriger's always are.

A slight love triangle is forming around Sophronia. The unsuitable boy we all know and love is still very much a part of her everyday life, but another boy has entered the picture as well, one of much higher social standing. However, Sophronia is so focused on various conspiracies and blissfully unaware of it all that it's impossible to blame her for putting herself in such a potentially painful situation. I, of course, am rooting for the underdog, but I don't see how that could possibly work out.

*Sophronia had no idea why Felix was so intent upon her. She had not yet received lessons in seduction, or she might have understood the appeal of sharp confidence, a topping figure, and green eyes. All Sophronia's intellect was directed at something other than attracting male companionship. These things combined to make her particularly appealing to gentlemen. Soap could have told her that.*

Carriger continues to ridicule high society, their endless rules and norms, things they find offensive and embarrassing. It is a constant source of humor with sharp and intelligent criticism underneath. In this too, she is unparalleled.

Revisiting Miss Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality in *Curtsies & Conspiracies* was such an enormous delight, I find myself impatient to meet with everyone again. The third book is titled *Waistcoats and Weaponry* and scheduled for release in 2014.

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## **Anne says**

Very good 2nd book in the series.  
Enjoyed it a lot!

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## **Eden says**

Probably the most disappointing aspect of *Curtsies & Conspiracies* is the writing. Gail Carriger is the author of an adult steampunk series and the first book in this series, *Etiquette & Espionage*, suffered from no such problems (or diminished ones, at any rate). Therefore, the jarring leaps between limited 3rd-person POV and omniscient, the awkward dialogue tags and the telling rather than showing make for an unsatisfactory, bumpy read.

This is especially evident in contrast with the voice. At times, Sophronia's 3rd-person thoughts add delightful humour and panache in a style perfectly befitting the time period. Then you encounter one of the aforementioned road bumps, and much of the steam leaves your reading experience.

The large cast of characters is used effectively to keep the narrative's tension taut at all times—sometimes

too effectively. While Sophronia's bevy of girlfriends, love interests and professorly acquaintances add texture and variation in her interactions, there are so many of them that some begin to feel like *deus ex machine*, only becoming involved when Sophronia needs them.

In addition, the love triangle between Sophronia, Soap and Lord Mercer is established firmly, but it remains to be seen whether any meaningful depth will be attributed to the choice between the two. This, in fact, is symptomatic of another problem: the lack of growth in Sophronia. She struggles overtly with one major decision, but it doesn't seem to have any impact on her actions or even thought processes, making her seem rather flat.

In regards to the plot, the larger picture is effectively set up for a conclusive resolution in book 3, but at times I found myself simply lost in the muddle of conspiracies Sophronia was ferreting out. Conclusions seem to be jumped to, and connections that seem too obscure are in fact made. The climax is a chaotically fun bright spot at the end of the novel, just like the previous book, that brings to a head all of the various plot threads tangled throughout the book.

*Curtsies & Conspiracies* retains the distinct steampunk flair that was the trademark of the first book in this series, but problems spot the book from storyline to depth. This novel may be enjoyable if you don't look too hard, but to follow the plotlines, you'll have to.

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## **Cora ? Tea Party Princess says**

**5 Words: Science, fantasy, plotting, school, tea.**

There's something about Gail Carriger's steampunk world that I can't get enough of. In fact, it's not just something. It's everything. I freaking love it all.

With each book I fall even more in love.

I loved finding out even more about the characters I love. And that was a fantastic introduction to Lord Akeldama, the only thing this serious had been missing was that crazy teapot.

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## **R Z says**

I mean, this series is just really cute, okay? And this book made me laugh out loud quite a few times. I had fun reading it, and that's what matters.

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## **Faye\* says**

Another fun instalment of the Finishing School series by Gail Carriger! I'm enjoying these a lot and flying through them in no time. I actually think I should slow down a little, I have been a bit distracted during the last one and I'm sure I've missed several details ??

Again, I have to say, these books aren't perfect, the story and resolutions are far too convenient at times and I guess they are targeted at a far (far!) younger audience than myself. I don't care, though, they are just so fun

to listen to (Moirra Quirk does a wonderful job narrating these by the way), this is kind of a "feel good series" for me now, and I'm looking forward to part 3. :)

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## **Dark Faerie Tales says**

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales.

Quick & Dirty: Carriger knows how to write paranormal, for all ages. A wonderful and riveting sequel.

Opening Sentence: "Miss Temminnick."

The Review:

Gail Carriger has done it again with *Curtsies & Conspiracies*, the second book in the *Finishing School* series. From vampires, to aether technology, and a conspiracy well worth conspiring about, Carriger has hooked me again. This book has captivated me from the first few pages until the very end. Carriger has left me wanting more, enough so that I'll have to reread this book again to satisfy my literary hunger. Let me explain why I'm gushing so much.

In *Curtsies & Conspiracies*, Sophronia is nearing the end of her first year at Mademoiselle Geraldine's *Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality*. While one would originally think that it is a school for lessons in proper etiquette and manners, but alas they are training her to become a spy! During one of Sophronia's late night jaunts around the school, she stumbled upon a conspiracy. From the looks of things, this conspiracy is of catastrophic proportions! A sudden field trip, a stolen device, and a traitor amongst the midst is the perfect recipe of a conspiracy! Of course, Sophronia must rely on everything she has learned to solve the mystery. But how much danger will she find herself in?

Sophronia is just as amazing as she was in *Etiquette & Espionage*. I feel that she has grown a little more mature, but still containing that wicked gleam in her eye. I feel that she's more daring, calculating each step and step after that. I enjoyed reading her voice. For a main character that's set in a paranormal world, her voice is relatable and realistic.

Carriger always has a great supporting cast, and in *Curtsies & Conspiracies*, the ones I loved came back just as fun, just as snarky, and definitely just as entertaining, if not more. Vieve, the sootie that Sophronia became close friends with, has a more defined role this time. She's a lot of fun! She's young, she's smart, and definitely compliments Sophronia's antics. Carriger's other characters all play important parts, and I enjoyed revisiting with them all.

I love stories that are set in historical times, and to add a paranormal element is even better. Carriger has always described her settings in a way that plays like a movie in my mind. Her descriptions are very detailed and vibrant. But the part that impresses me the most is that most of this story takes place aboard the ship. It's amazing how a ship transforms into this whole other world.

*Curtsies & Conspiracies* is a fantastic read filled with a daring adventure with engaging characters. I highly urge you to read this, and *Etiquette & Espionage* if you haven't already.

Notable Scene:

Sophronia could feel her shoulders tensing and fought to keep them down. Were my choices correct? Do they want the expected route, or is it better if I did something out of the ordinary? Will they send me down? Sophronia was in ever greater fear that her sojourn at Mademoiselle Geraldine's might come to a premature end. Only half a year ago she had resisted finishing school with every fiber of her being, until she realized Mademoiselle Geraldine's offered no ordinary education. Now she dreaded the possibility of returning home to her former life.

Lady Linette said, "Everyone's results are given together. You will receive your final marks in front of your peers."

Sophronia's heart sank. This explained the pale faces of the other girls – anticipated trauma.

FTC Advisory: Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette Book Group provided me with a copy of *Curtsies & Conspiracies*. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

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## **Agn? says**

### **WHAT IS IT ABOUT?**

Gail Carriger's "Curtsies & Conspiracies" is the second book in the young adult fantasy series *Finishing School*. It's Sophronia's second semester at Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality where she is being trained on etiquette, style and... espionage. The 19th century is an era of inventions, and thus the dirigible school is heading towards London to witness a history-changing experiment. But the young ladies at Mademoiselle Geraldine's are more excited about their traveling companions, a number of evil geniuses-in-training from Bunson and Lacroix's Boys' Polytechnique. After attempted kidnapping of her best friend Dimity, however, Sophronia realizes that there is a conspiracy being plotted in London and they are heading straight into it! Sophronia has no choice but to put her training in use in order to reveal the scheme and to protect her friend.

### **THUMBS UP:**

1) *At least as good as the first book.*

I really liked "Etiquette & Espionage," the first installment in the *Finishing School* series (I reviewed it here!), but the second book was even better. Or maybe it's just me getting hooked. In any way, Carriger's writing didn't cease to be both super stylish and hysterically funny and thus "Curtsies & Conspiracies" turned out to be another hilarious, sophisticated, ridiculously creative yet realistic Victorian-era steampunk adventure with lovable characters, supernatural creatures, mechanicals and mechanimals, and LOTS OF STYLE!

2) *Romance.*

The first book had no romance and I was actually glad it didn't. If used amateurishly, romance can bury a great story under multiple layers of cheesiness and thus ruin the whole book. However, the second book has some romance and I am really glad it does. It's truly the best of a kind romance - it's cute, innocent and very stylish. And the dosage is perfect too as there is just enough romance to cause that warm tingly excitement and leave you wanting more!

**VERDICT: 4 out of 5**

If you liked the first book in series, definitely read this one as well. “Curtsies & Conspiracies” is at least as good as “Etiquette & Espionage.” I personally prefer the second book, but it’s most likely due to addition of some innocently cute and stylish romance :)

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