Nimbus: A Steampunk Novel

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The story of NIMBUS: A STEAMPUNK NOVEL follows Jude Finley, a new recruit aboard the Gangly Dirigible, an airship that extracts water from rainclouds. Having only lived above the Skyline for a year, Jude is still getting used to the way things work in the world above the clouds. While working aboard the airship, Jude and his friends uncover a secret which may or may not help them against a growing uprising that could spell doom for everyone on the planet.

Meanwhile, Demetrius Rucca, wheelchair-bound son of a prominent religious leader, begins recruiting followers for his own subversive cause. As allegiances are sworn to him and his followers grow, he begins to discover the new powers that lie within him. This power could be the salvation Demetrius is looking for–or it could be the destruction of the known world.

Nimbus: A Steampunk Novel Details

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From Reader Review Nimbus: A Steampunk Novel for online ebook

Lynn Green says

In the second part of *Nimbus: A Steampunk Novel*, we follow the further adventures of Demetrius Rucca and Jude Finely as they fly around in their sky world aboard Rucca's pirated ship, the *Primrose Doubloon* and Jude's ship, the *Gangly Dirigible*. Each chapter alternates between the book's two main characters. Both Rucca and Jude are hosts to mysterious and very powerful beings called "fawns", referred by humans as "fogspawn." Rucca's fawn is named "Malrok" and Jude's is named Altza. Altza provides Jude with a little background into how they came to inhabit their word in the form of a fog that is injurious or even lethal to humans.

Mining in this world released the subterranean fog into the part inhabited by humans. At first the fawns were hunted by humans till they grew too powerful and inhabited the area between the sky dwellers and subterranean folks living in the Burrows where they toil as miners drinking filthy water, fresh, pure water being a luxury in this world.

The fawn's make Rucca and Finley nearly invincible, but with a catch. The fawns must take over their hosts to be effective, something Rucca is unwilling to do except in a crisis, and Jude is unable to do for reasons Altza has of its own.

I enjoyed the way that the characters were developed in this part of the serial. Rucca, though the antagonist of the series, is complex. His "bonding" with Malrok came because of his father, not of his own choosing. He is no two-dimensional villain. He shows kindness and concern for his allies and subordinates, but he has been a helpless cripple for many years and enjoys the power Malrok gives him over those who oppose him.

Jude is on the opposite end of Rucca, who is the son of the high priest of his world. Jude has escaped the Burrows by signing on to a ship owned by a powerful business leader. He became Altza's host by opening a holding prison where Altza was locked for many centuries. He clearly wishes he were not a fawn's host, but is willing to help Altza find out about his family, news Altza does not welcome.

The main weakness in the series is its settings. Keeton and King write a Steampunk novel with very little development of the Steampunk technology. Rucca, for example, is confined to a steam wheelchair, but there is no accounting for how it is powered or works. For example, how does one heat the steam? how is the exhaust, if there is any, dealt with: It simply is, for the sake of being Steampunk, a steam wheelchair.

However, the series is engaging, and a very quick read. Keeton and King give the two characters engaging cliffhanger endings in this part of the series. I look forward to seeing how they are resolved in the next installment.