

# EXHIBITION HALL



So, I went to a castle.

That's right, a castle. It's in Calistoga, California and it's a winery. Castello di Amorosa and it's amazing. It's not steampunk, I know, but I couldn't resist a few photos from it! It was my friend Sarah's birthday, and she's a hard core SCAer, and thus she gathered folks in costumes and went to a cottage and a castle. It was awesome!

Now, there's a lot of stuff about to happen! There's the Nova Albion Steampunk Exhibition in Santa Clara at the Hyatt, and it's going to be amazing, as always. You should check out with <http://steampunkexhibition.com/> for more info.

The Lovely & Talented Linda and I are making a documentary series. It's called 5 Cons - A 21st Century Fandom Documentary Series. We're shooting at, wait for it, five different conventions! We'll be at Nova Albion, ConQuest, Westercon, WorldCon, and World Fantasy! It's going to be a lot of work,

and a lot of fun, and we'll be interviewing folks left and right. If you wanna be interviewed, and you're either at one of the cons, or just around anywhere where Me, Linda, or James Bacon will be, then you should talk to us! We're doing an IndieGoGo campaign at <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/5-cons-a-21st-century-fandom-documentary>. If you feel like it, you should support us! We're tryin' to document what Fandom is and will be! It's kinda a project that I hope will also be a snapshot of what larger fandom is and will be!

There's a lot of book stuff in this issue, and it's awesome that folks have been sending us books to read! Next issue will have more, and a theme! China Mieville! I'm almost done with Railsea, and of all the Steampunk authors, he's seldom thought of as one. I'm totally going to be writing about Perdido, which I consider the most important of all the Steampunk novels of the early 21st Century!



*Exhibition Hall 24 - March 2013*  
*Letters to [journeyplanet@gmail.com](mailto:journeyplanet@gmail.com)*



**Mr. Lloyd Penney**

Dear Chris:

Many thanks for Exhibition Hall 23! I have had the time to sit down and leisurely read this issue, and I will say right now, I might not have much to say about it...so much in it is outside of my own experience. However, that's never stopped me before...let's see how much of the page I can cover.

Great minimalist cover. I wondered if my older version of Adobe Reader wasn't showing everything, but nope, this is it, and it works well.

***I like those sort of simple cover things. There's an artist, whose name I am totally blanking on, does great images in just one corner!***

I have never followed Doctor Who in its earlier regenerations, and with its triumphant and popular return, I simply haven't had enough time to watch it. I learned with ST:TNG that life is too short to be chained to a television. So, I will try to see what I can say about the Doctor Who article.

***I'm not a bit Doctor Who (I think Linda got tired of answering my 'Who's that?' questions at Gallifrey last weekend)***

Hope you enjoy Nova Albion and Steamcon... just wish they weren't so far away! My source for books to review dried up, so I don't have access to the newest Resnick Weired West book. If someone will review it here, I'll consider going to my local SF bookstore and picking up a copy.

***It's probably not worth putting your own money out for if you can get it at a library. Wait, are there libraries in Canada? Wait, I've been to one. Whew, I didn't know if I'd let the secret of libraries out of the bag!***

I have been waiting for the newest Steampunk Magazine as well; I was promised that my latest loc to them would appear. However, looks like reality got in the way. But, I've just gone to their website, and while Allegra Hawksmoor and Magpie Killjoy are still involved with the magazine, someone named Katie Casey is now the editor. She says that issue 9 will be out soon, and they are taking submissions for issue 10. The Gatehouse Gazette had a good run, and each issue got a loc from me, too. I've been on the website a few times, but I just can't respond to a website the same way I can respond to a fanzine.

***The eMail I got about the Steampunk Guide to Sex said it was about to come out! Can not wait!***

The Jago & Litefoot graphic there...was that for a recording or a book or a CD? And, is it a spinoff from a Doctor Who episode?

***It's from teh audio adventures, which started in 2009 I think. I bought the first season at Gallifrey. It's a lot of fun, though I've only listened to the first episode, and I'll probably review it in the next issue!***

Mike Perschon's best steampunk books...we weren't able to go to Adrienne Kress's launch of The Friday Society in Toronto, and now we really regret not being able to go. It was steampunk dress, and a fine party to go with the launch. Next time this happens, we are definitely going. I gather the Rush steampunk album and the Kevin J. Anderson book are part of a unique box set...there's a real steampunk meme to the set, and there is an antiqued clock set into the box.

My loc...the fonts I often use are...A Caslon Swash, A Garamond Alt Italic, Agatha, Algerian, American West, Bellevue, Betty Noir, Big Top, Brochure, Campanile, Cast Iron, Diamond Inlay, Fancy Pants, Harrington, Nickelodeon, Old Town, Playbill, Pointedly Mad, Trinigan, Verve, Victorian

Inline Shading, Vtks Revolt, and Woodcut. I could send them to you, but it's probably best for you to download them yourself. I need to get more information about Smofcon...it's being held in the Royal York Hotel downtown, which may mean local fans may not be able to afford to attend. Right now, the membership is prohibitive, and we may not be able to go.

***Sadly, this year, we're not making it to Canada. I wanted to go to AdAstra, but not this year with all teh work we'll be doing shooting at the 5 Cons. I think I have all but one of those fonts... I think Cast Iron is the only one I'm missing, and not for long!***

Made a good sale recently...some of the earrings I make were sold to a local gift shop and tea room, and that's financing fresh stuff for the show we will be doing this year.

Hey, I made it past the page after all! Time to go, a busy couple of days ahead. Take it easy, and more to come, I will assume.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

***You're the man, Mr. Penney!***



# A Steampunk's Guide to Sex

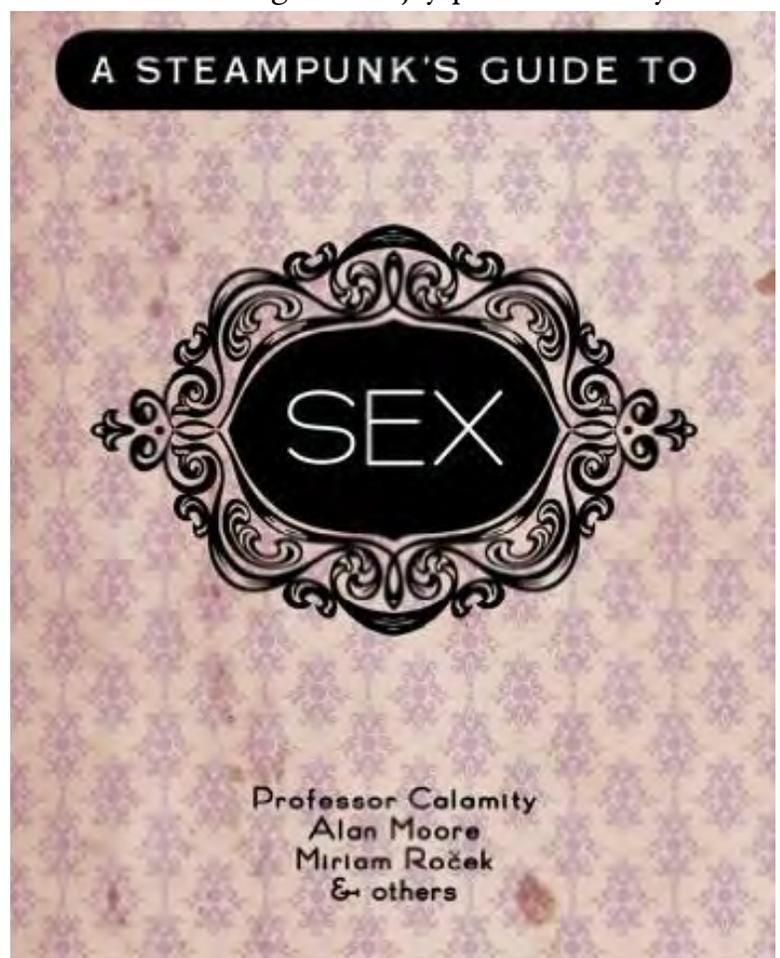
## Reviewed by Michaelina Zmijewska

Like a delicious box of assorted hand-rolled artisan chocolate truffles, *A Steampunk's Guide to Sex*, published by Combustion Books, has something for everyone. Care for a taste? How about steam powered vibrators, a guide on *How to Can-Can*, recipes for preparing aphrodisiacs according to 19th century recipes, or a fascinating and highly informative essay on the risks taken and ingenious methods used by printers and booksellers to smuggle pornography during the 19th century? This eclectic, tintype studded book is a delightful romp through a diverse array of topics concerning sex and sexuality both in the contemporary subculture and during the reign of Victoria. It informs and delights without denigrating into vulgarity or cliché, and leaves the reader with a plethora of topics to ponder and savor.

What are the contents of this 145-page 5" by 7" tome? Nestled within five chapters are 26 articles, three sub-articles, by a dazzlingly diverse array of contributors comprised of a delightfully multifaceted representation of the Steampunk Lifestyle. Artist / contributor Margaret Killjoy provides the layout and the introduction "Learning about Sex," as well as the tasteful erotic tintypes interspersed between articles.

The topics of the book are intelligently presented and range from light to dark, mostly humorous, penned in a style that is as natural as a chat over coffee with a friend. Examples of works on the lighter side include Molly Crabapple's cultural commentary "The Can-Can Dancer & The Prince of Wales" and "Mettle in Your Merkin: Victorian Sex Slang," a sampling of popular vernacular assembled by Professor Calamity from popular erotic novels of the United States and England circa 1840-1899. Alan Moore's "Whitechapel: Murder and Prostitution in 19th Century London" gives a daunting yet compassionate topical overview of the realities facing the residents of 19th century Whitechapel district.

Is it worth the \$10 cover price? Absolutely! My only complaint would be a lack of bibliography. I thoroughly enjoyed the highly informative, lovingly written articles and wanted to read further on many of the topics.





# Etiquette & Espionage

Reviewed by Debbie Bretschneider

*Etiquette & Espionage* is the newest Steampunk novel from Gail Carriger. It is a young adult novel, but an excellent read for adults, as well. In many Steampunk novels, the author tries to immediately go into details about what makes the world of this novel different from all others. Ms. Carriger on the other hand, introduces us to our heroine, Sophronia Temminnick, first, then shows us how things are different in this novel. In the first three pages, we

learn that Sophronia is a younger sister, is curious, is not afraid of mechanical devices, and that is 1851. A paragraph on the third page gives you a hint that you are not in Kansas:

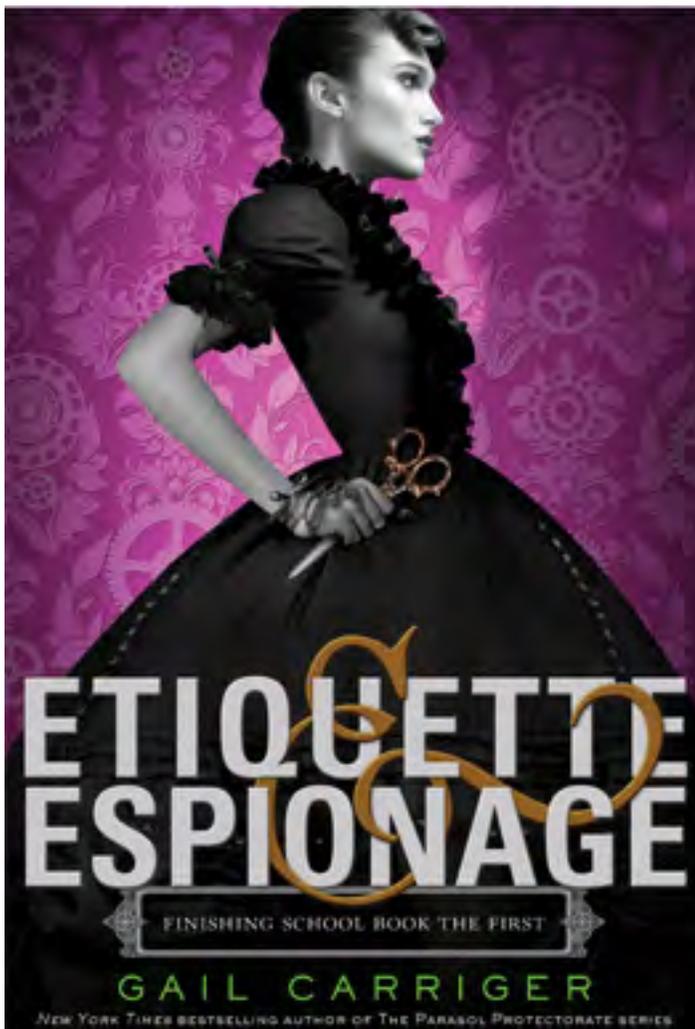
“Mrs. Barnaclegoose was a large woman of progressive inclinations — which is to say she supported vampire and werewolf social reform, played a good deal of whist, kept a ghost in her country cottage, and even wore the occasional French gown. She accepted that dirigibles would be the next great means of transportation and that soon people might fly through the wether. She was not, however, so progressive as to accept flying food. She squealed in horror.”

Ms. Carriger’s books happen in Victorian England - but with a twist. Werewolves and vampires are part of society and everyone knows they are about. It doesn’t mean they are not dangerous, but this is Victorian England and there are rules to obey. Ms. Carriger’s other series, *The Parasol Protectorate*, emphasizes the werewolves and vampires much more than *E&E*. This series has the subtitle, *Finishing School*, but when Sophronia gets to the school she discovers it’s a school for female espionage.

There is a mystery that by the end of the book Sophronia, with help from friends, solves. If you have read the *Parasol Protectorate*’s books, you will recognize some names in this book! I recommend this book as well as *The Parasol Protectorate* books.

*Etiquette & Espionage* came out in hardback on Feb. 5, 2013. No news on paperback, but it is available in audio book as well. There will be a sequel. I was fortunate enough to receive an Advance Reading Copy when my husband attended Comic Con.

Unfortunately, he did not get it signed.





# Six Gun Snow White

Reviewed by Chris Garcia

My Greatgrandmother used to tell stories.

Ohlone stories. Mexican stories. Anglo stories. She'd not tell them as you'd read them, she put herself into the stories. She was the little girl born of Coyote and his second wife. She came across La Llorona at the river. She was even the one who made it clear the Emperor wore no clothes. She told these stories to my father, though never to me, the kid who only met her once, too young to remember any of it.

Dad never really told me them either. Movies were my medicine. Dad told me how his grandmother would tell the stories, how she would throw her voice as best she could. Dad told me this, but the tales but the telling, and I wondered at even that. I didn't get many stories told to me as a kid. Dad would, eventually, pass on all his adventures to me in the form of long, detailed, often braggadocious tales. These were almost always tinged with a sort of laughing regret over how foolish he had been. This

was the family I came from: one that revels in telling the tales, truth be damned, though always present in varying amounts.

There are times I read a story that makes me feel like I'm on that side of the fire, like I'm watching my Greatgrandmother, older 'an Tom Parr, calling the characters by their familiar.

And reading *Six-Gun Snow White* by Catherynne M. Valente, I could feel that from the first page, the first paragraph.

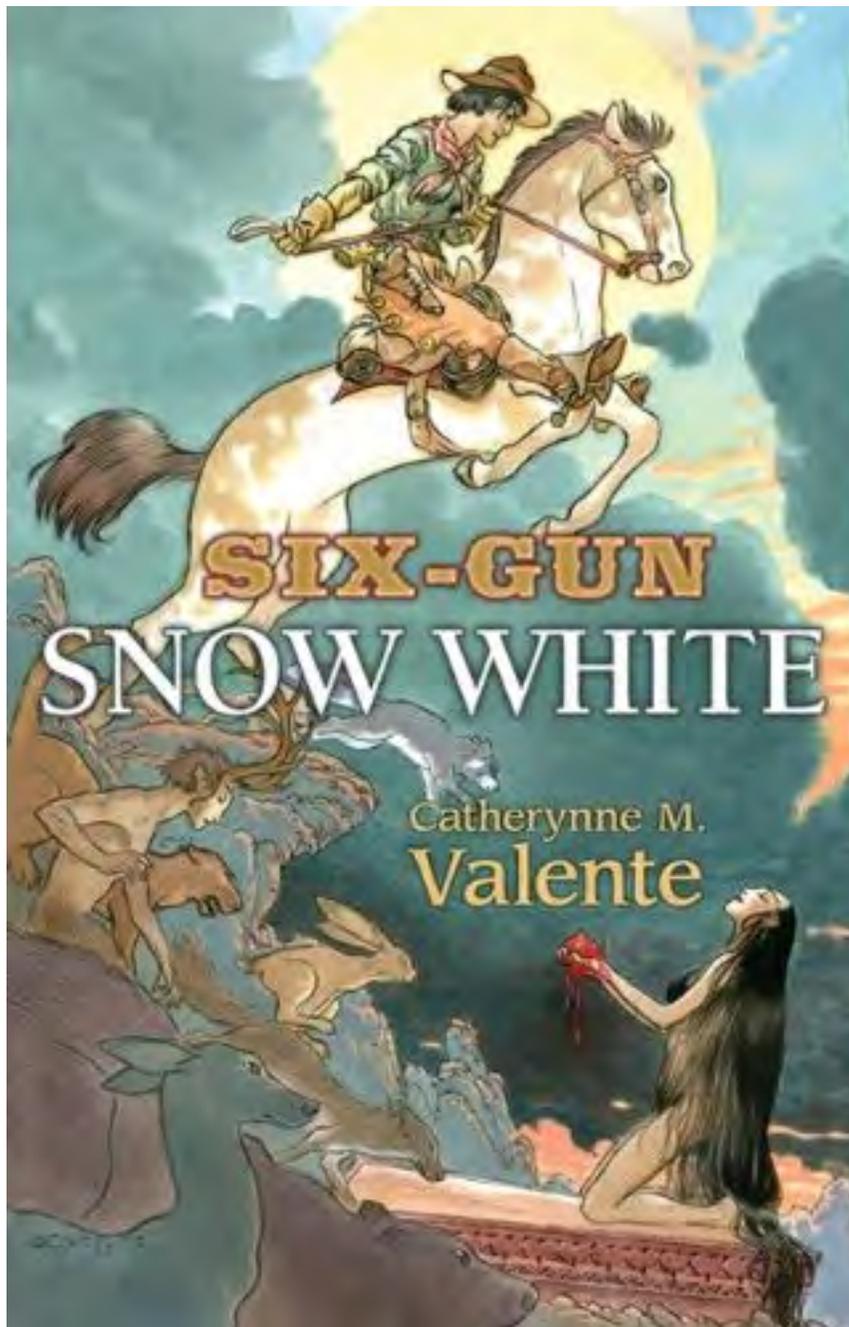
I have always hated the phrase Show Don't Tell. That might be one of those things that you hear over and over, and then when someone does the Tell so well, makes you feel like you've been duped, been lied to by people who just don't know the joy that is being told a good tale. It's like the 'Thou Shall Not Use Voiceover' things that they push and push at you in Film School. We hear the story from Snow White at first, who has another name, though she no longer

remembers what it is. That's a theme in the book: characters that no longer have their names. Some of them are forgotten by our narrators, some are simply not there. We do get some, for the 'dwarves', but mostly, it's identifiers like Mrs. H or Deer Boy.

Oh yeah, the story. You know it a bit, don't you? Here, it's a story of a young lady in the West of the 19th Century. The West that my Greatgrandmother would have been born into. Snow White's papa was a Silver Barron, the kind that builds a castle on the coast of California, and he was lightning-struck by a Creek woman named Gun-That-Sings. Their union, forced as it was, led to the creation of Snow White, given a name that was taken away and replaced by the sarcastic remark of her step-mother. Like my

Grandmother, who was half-Ohlone herself but grew up away from it, Snow White is half-Creek, but doesn't fit into it. She is left alone, mostly. She's treated well, until her father marries a woman who is at least half-witch. That leads to abuse and teaching in the form of abuse and the eventual running away from the Silver Legacy.

That leads to the heart of the story, and also where the narrator changes from Snow White in the first to some other speaker: a speaker of great insight, and more importantly, a speaker who can tell the tale as if they were born inside it. They tell the story, as sure as Greatgrandma's cigar smoke, and the story is beauty in the harsh, luxury in the heavy. The image of the West that we all have bred



inside of us is there, glorious and violent as a Tarantino picture. The Snow White story, perhaps the perfect example of the European fairy tale, is so vivid set among the rough and tumble. But, for the most part, Valente doesn't lay in the fields of the West we know so well. Yeah, she gives us the Outlaw Town, and it fits the Seven Dwarves so perfectly, and there's a lovely and painful section of a mining camp, but there's also a surreality to the Valente West that Snow White journeys through. It's like the forests that so many European fairy tales happen in: it is not real, never was, but it feels real to us because those fears and suspicions are baked into our bread. We know without being told.

I recommend *Six-Gun Snow White* to every reader, but to me, it's a story told to me by someone who is neither reliable or unreliable: they are simply someone who has put themselves into the story, just like Greatgrandma used to do. Even Snow White, the base on which this house was built, admits she's not reliable. Perhaps she has invented the entire thing, even the later narrator. Perhaps we are being lied to, or perhaps it really is the commonest of stories that's being polished up like a dug ruby. The fact is, whoever the narrator is, they're telling us the story and we're sittin' there listenin' and it works.

Dammit, it works.

# The Society of Steam Book 3: Power Under Pressure

## Reviewed by Diane O.

Pyr brings us Andrew Mayer's third book in the *Society of Steam* Book series. Not having read Books One or Two, this was my introduction to the series. Without a doubt, Mayer serves up a thick slab of Steampunk fun for his readers. The machinery, the gadgets, the people, the setting are pure Steampunk, a glance through a window darkly into a different New York City.

I liked this tale more than I wanted to. It is a delightful yet strange mixture of cockamamie adventures and utterly serious interludes. Moral tale or a farce, I have no clue. Tongue in cheek humor about ethnic stereotypes or shallow undeveloped characters, I have no clue. It's like a Steampunk version of *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*: Enjoy it for the sheer camp of it all and don't over think its literary value.

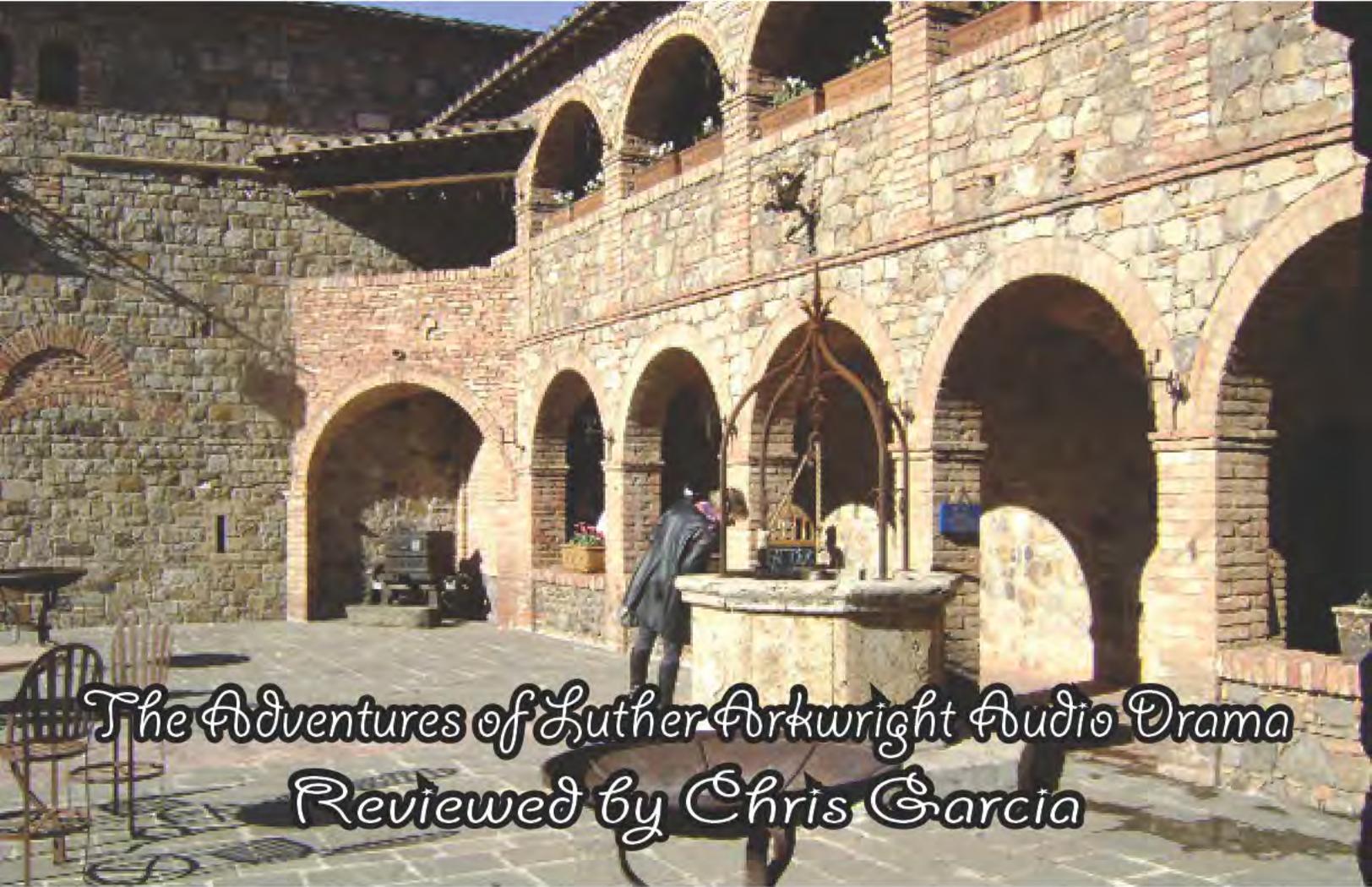
The non-stop cliff hangers serve as the backdrop for the real action: Moral choice and transformation. Sarah Stanton, wending her way through a maze of hazards. Emilio and Viola, the Automaton and the Shell, Nathaniel and Anubis, Lord Eschaton and his thugs, the Jack Knives, Gruesser, Le Voyageur. A tale of conflict and compassion, death and destruction. Lord Stanton changed everything. The stage is set, the questions asked. How important are family loyalty, race, class, good breeding and justice? Who gets to be counted as a human? At stake, humanity.

Don't count on a Victorian Finishing Schools for Young Women for help.

Forget traditional trial by fire.

In Mayer's *Power Under Pressure*, you are dipped in an acid bath of action and transformed by the pressures around you. Are you game enough to risk it all and play or will you be collateral damage?





## The Adventures of Luther Arkwright Audio Drama Reviewed by Chris Garcia

I love audio dramas, because, as we've established before, I love being told stories. There are a lot of great radio dramas from the 1930s, 40s and 50s. In fact, I've talked about one of them in an issue of Journey Planet (Issue 5 <http://journeyplanet.weebly.com/>) and I try and listen to as many of them as I can. So, the good folks at Big Finish caught my attention.

You see, Big Finish Productions does audio dramas based on various UK media properties. They've done everything from Blake's 7 to Judge Dredd, but they are best known for their Doctor Who audio adventures. They've done so many Doctor Who adventures that the table they had at Gallifrey was HUGE! Mostly, they've done adventures with the surviving pre-revival Doctors - Tom Baker, Peter Davidson, Colin Baker, and Sylvester McCoy. They can't actually do post-revival doctors, though that may change someday.

They've also done side characters from various shows, my personal favorites are Jago & Litefoot from the Talons of Weng-Chiang serial (which I talked all about last issue!), but they've also done several other things that are worthwhile.

One of which is *The Adventures of Luther Arkwright*.

Based on Bryan Talbot's comic serial that ran off-and-on between 1978 and 1989, Luther Arkwright is the only being that can travel between Parallels; universes that are significantly different, where so many different types of history have happened. Evil Disruptors have kept the English Civil War going, and Luther can use his powers to combat them across the Parallels.

This is a 2005 production, and all the trademarks of the Big Finish productions. There are wonderful sound effects, music and excellent voice-acting. In 2005, David Tennant was chosen as Luther Arkwright, just as he was about to be picked to play Doctor Who. He's excellent as Luther, and Paul Darrow as Cromwell. It's so well recorded, but even moreso, it's easily followable. Audio dramas can be difficult to follow, a trouble I've had with a couple of the Doctor Who Adventures, but here, it's easy to trace and exciting!

You can get *The Adventures of Luther Arkwright*, and all the other Big Finish productions, at <http://www.bigfinish.com/>