



The Clockwork Scarab

Colleen Gleason

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Evaline Stoker and Mina Holmes never meant to get into the family business. But when you're the sister of Bram and the niece of Sherlock, vampire hunting and mystery solving are in your blood. And when two society girls go missing, there's no one more qualified to investigate.

Now fierce Evaline and logical Mina must resolve their rivalry, navigate the advances of not just one but three mysterious gentlemen, and solve murder with only one clue: a strange Egyptian scarab. The stakes are high. If Stoker and Holmes don't unravel why the belles of London society are in such danger, they'll become the next victims.

The Clockwork Scarab Details

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From Reader Review The Clockwork Scarab for online ebook

Sandra (LadyGrey Reads) says

[time travel/person entering a fictional story (hide spoiler)]

Cora ? Tea Party Princess says

5 Words: Sherlock Holmes, Time Travel, Steampunk.

So this was a bit of a surprise for me. For one, it absolutely flew by. It ended and I was actually surprised because despite everything wrapping up quite nicely, I was prepared for more.

Jayne Entwistle does a fabulous job of reading this. The next book in the series is on my audible wishlist and so are a few of her other readings.

I liked the distinct voices. Even if I wasn't paying attention to the beginning of the chapter, where it told you who the narrator was, I was never lost. It wasn't just the voices that the actress was giving the characters were different, it's that the characters themselves were so distinct.

This plays on Sherlock canon, adds a dash of Steampunk and a touch of time-travel, picks up some Bram Stoker on the way and then runs madly into the wild, flailing its arms around hoping to pick up some ancient Egyptian lore. And it's excellent.

Mary ♥ says

5/5 stars

That was when I realized that, somewhere along the way, she'd ceased being Miss Stoker and had become Evaline.

FRIENDSHIPS BETWEEN WOMEN ARE A FEW OF THE MOST TOUCHING LOVE STORIES
END OF STORY

I read Clockwork Scarab pretty early on, as it was one of my first books for my challenge. I remember that back in January, I had this huge craving for everything Victorian and Steampunk as I was working on a new story idea. And this book totally satisfied that craving to some level. It had so many things that I love in books, with a few mentions being strong female friendships, romance, unlimited action and mystery, thoughts and beliefs on feminism and woman rights, and a wonderful, era appropriate and utterly **cognoggin** writing.

I don't know if I loved Mina or Evaline the most, although in truth, I probably loved both equally. Each one inspired me in a different way, Mina to always be witty and strive for the best and Evaline to be quick, patient and never give up. As for the boys, I absolutely loved sassy, clumsy and cute Dylan but not at all Pix, because it is common knowledge that 'perfect bad boy' characters get on my nerves, although I know a lot of

people love them. I thought Evaline deserves so much better, someone to match her bossy attitude and careful but also emotion filled thinking.

Another thing I really liked was the research the author did (I seem to check the research too often the last months), not only story wise, and background wise for the Stoker family, but also in the way Victorian people talked and acted. The mythological and fantastical elements absolutely blew my mind, and if we exclude one minor Dylan related detail that I had seen coming from miles away, I found myself eager to turn the pages one by one, excited about what would happen.

The writing was quick, careful and the plot flew by very quickly, but that is to be expected in a story about cults, mysterious disappearances and the niece of Sherlock Holmes and the sister of Bram Stoker in a badass female dynamic. Egyptian myths, hidden objects, balls and crypted invitations, gun fights and crazy plans are only a few of the things that appear in this book, and if you are looking for more, it also features vampires, time travelling and thieves.

Overall, I totally recommend this both for people who want to start reading steampunk and for people who want a fast paced and very clever story. It's a new fandom, I have nothing more to say.

It would be a little bit pitiful if I said "Please read it", but please read it :D

Have a great summer ♥

Mine just started, actually ♥

Stay strong and beautiful ♥

~Mary

Athena Shardbearer says

"Miss Alvermina Holmes, Niece of the famous Sherlock and daughter of the indispensable Sir Mycroft Holmes."

"Miss Evaline Stoker, granddaughter of the famous Yancey Gardella Stoker, great-grandniece of Victoria Gardella-both vampire hunters of excellent repute. Her elder brother, Bram happened to be an acquaintance of my uncles, and I understood Mr. Stoker was writing a novel about a vampire name Count Dracula."

Oh, I really enjoyed this one. I think this is fluff read but at its best. I have this guilty pleasure, I watch cheesy British TV and love it, so reading this was like watching those shows, but with a little history mixed in and strong minded MCs.

"Miss Holmes, Miss Stoker. There are many young men your age who are called into the service of their country. Who risk like and limb for their queen, their countrymen, and the Empire. Tonight, I as, on behalf of Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales: will you do what no other young women are called to do, and place your lives and honor at the feet of your country?"

Its London 1889 and these two young women are brought together to find missing young women,

specifically socialites. Mina and Evaline together makes me laugh and want to cheer them on. They live in a time of oppression of women and the way they are to lead their lives and they make the best of it. They get into all kinds of trouble, encounter dangerous situations but always have each others back. There were times I did roll my eyes but I put it to the time period.

A dozen young women were seated or half reclined on the cushions. They were arranged in lounging, unladylike poses. Florence would have fainted at such an improper display: loose hair falling over their shoulders, missing gloves, and stockinged feet. But it was the bare ankles exposed by their bunched up skirts that was the worst offense.

I think this is a good beginning to an interesting series. I'm recommending this one to my cousins daughter. On to the next one.

P.S. Bram Stoker and Sherlock Holmes make an appearance!

also, loved the narrator!

Mariana says

Al leer la sinopsis de esta historia, lo primero que llamó mi atención fue el hecho de que la autora uniera los linajes de Sherlock Holmes (personaje ficticio creado por Conan Doyle) con el de Stoker (escritor irlandés, autor de Drácula).

Me sorprendió más aún que fueran chicas adolescentes las que protagonizan esta historia y que todo estuviera situado en un Londres steampunk. Hasta aquí, todo suena como un combo ganador.

Reseña completa: <https://vikingalectora.wordpress.com/...>

Teresa says

WOW!!! I really don't know where to start here. This book was one of those perfect reads...escapism at its very best. Its a page turner, and its one of those books that make me feel as though I could become a mystery fan after all. The juxtaposition of chapters (Gleason writes one chapter from Ms. Holmes' viewpoint, and another as Stoker's, back and forth as needed for the story to rip along) is absolutely stunning. I found myself reliving my youth, curled up with this book on a cold winter's night with a cup of hot chocolate. I was reminded of my love affair with Nancy Drew as a child. I know time travel, steampunk, Victorian balls & soirees, vampire hunters, and 'real life' literary characters seems as convoluted as can be, but Gleason manages to pull it ALL together flawlessly. This dust jacket HAS GOT to be one of the most beautiful book covers I have ever seen. It has the coolest Steampunk scarab on the front! It makes me wish so badly to be a 'cognogin'! If you are a fan of Steampunk, you need to read this. If you are a fan of Y.A., you need to read this. If you are a mystery fan, you need to read this. Basically, *everyone* just **needs** to read this!

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

"Miss Holmes. Miss Stoker. There are many young men your age who are called into the service of their country. Who risk life and limb for their queen, their countrymen, and the Empire. Tonight, I ask, on behalf of Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales: will you do what no other young women are called to do, and place your lives and honor at the feet of your country?"

This book, while by no means perfect, was just a lot of fun. It is mostly plot-driven, without much character development nor depth. It is also bogged down by some truly stupid insta-loves and love triangles.

Overall, I would still recommend this for a is a light, easy, fun read.

"Yes, I am willing,"

Miss Adler was offering me a way to prove that, despite my gender, I was a Holmes in more than mere name and the size of my nose.

The setting is London, 1889. **This is a steampunk novel, but it is *steampunk light*. It can barely be called steampunk, because this is just a more mechanized, steam-powered version of Victorian London.** The elements of steampunk are there, but they are so very minor as to be almost nonexistent in the book. Victorian ideals and beliefs still prevail. We have steam-powered engines, trolleys, electricity is outlawed, we have robot-like machines used around the house to help ladies put on corsets and practice dancing without a partner. London is just a little bit different.

I disliked the new carriages, propelled by a steam engine and with no visible driver or engineer. They ran on some sort of magnetic tracking system. Ever since the Moseley-Haft Steam-Promotion Act had been passed by Lord Cosgrove-Pitt and his Parliament, everyone in London had been keen on them and anything else that could be mechanized and automated.

Our heroines are Alvemina (who understandably prefers to be called "Mina" instead of her full name) Holmes, daughter of Sir Mycroft Holmes and niece of the famed Sherlock Holmes. Neglected by her father and abandoned by her mother, she is highly deductive (and thinks quite highly of herself), impulsive, completely lacking in social graces, and not altogether familiar with common sense, however book-smart and practical she is. Mina claims to be a scholar, and an admirer of her uncle's work. To be honest...I didn't find her too terribly smart, despite her self-professed assertion of being brilliant.

Her partner-in-crime, reluctantly thrown together, is Evaline Stoker, of Colleen Gleason's *Gardetta Vampires* family series. She is a vampire hunter, who is feeling a little bored and more than a little helpless at her current situation (London is sadly lacking in vampires to hunt, since her famed ancestor Victoria has pretty much killed them all, half a decade or so ago). Evaline is the opposite of Mina. She is beautiful, socially graceful and active, and **as much as Mina is a scholar, Evaline is a warrior, despite her quiet front.** She is a vampire hunter, and she does know how to kick some asses.

The two young ladies (and they are very young, 18 or so) are enlisted by Irene Adler of Sherlock Holmes fame, to investigate the deaths of some young society ladies. **Along the way, they encounter mysterious Egyptian clues, secret societies, and mysterious young men---one of whom might even be a time traveler.** He wears strange pants! His shirt has no buttons and a word that looks like AEROPOSTA on it. And he carries a strange device...

I pulled the device from my pocket. It looked like a small, dark mirror, but its window or face was black and shiny and reflected a bit of light and no clear image. About as big as my hand, it was slender and elegant, made of glass and encased in silver metal. I turned it over and noticed the faint image of an apple with a bite out of it.

I don't know if it's an unintended joke on the Apple theme...but Evaline's mentor is named Siri.

Both Mina and Evaline are very different, and they are initially distrustful and judgmental of each other. Mina is dismissive of Evaline's skills and personality, based on her beautiful exterior.

According to The Venators, the vampire hunters of her family were endowed with superior physical strength and unnatural speed. I wondered if it was true. She certainly didn't appear dangerous.

And Evaline is similarly disparaging of Mina's braininess, calling her a "gawky brain-beak", which is also a dig on Mina's appearance, since Mina has unfortunately inherited the famous Holmes beak-like nose.

Despite their initial dislike of one another, they slowly warm to each other, and become appreciative of one another's strengths. **They are not perfect, and both act really, really idiotically at numerous times in the course of their investigation.** Mina walks into dangerous situations alone, without any defense, as well as invites a perfect stranger (a MAN, no less) to stay over at her home, knowing of the danger and the ridiculous impropriety of it. Similarly, Evaline acts like an impetuous fool, and completely blow their covers on more than one occasion. **However, they are excellent foils to each other**, since they are both there to bail the other out when one is endangered. Their partnership grows to be one of trust, and maybe even friendship.

That was when I realized that, somewhere along the way, she'd ceased being Miss Stoker and had become Evaline.

Not quite a friend, but no longer a stranger.

There is not much character development in this book...both characters start off being unsure of themselves and their situation in the world, and are eager to prove their worthiness. They do accomplish that, to an extent, but **that's the magnitude of their maturity. There is not much beyond that.**

My major complaint with this book is the forced romances. Thankfully, Mina and Evaline never did fight over a guy, but I found their respective love interests to be such a stupid stretch. **One of the two characters not only falls into insta-love, but also gets involved in a stupid love triangle.** The other gets involved with some mysterious young man who speaks in an exaggerated Cockney accent, who makes an appearance at pretty much every place she turns up (in this day, we'd call that a stalker), and kisses her silly at every chance. And naturally, our lovestruck heroine is intrigued. BY A COCKNEY-ACCENTED STRANGER NAMED PIX. LIKE PIXIE.

/facepalm

Regardless of the stupidity of the numerous romances in this book, it was a fun read. **Recommended for people who want something light that doesn't require them to think too much.**

Ariel says

This was super fun! The best aspect, by far, was that we were playing with some fascinating characters: the niece of Sherlock Holmes and the sister of Bram Stoker! It was neat to see what the author chose to do with the characters. I also really enjoyed the setting: I've barely read stamp punk, and this was a cool foray into the genre!

As for negatives, I'd say that I really didn't feel chemistry between the main leads and the plot was pretty

simplistic.

Review coming to YouTube soon!

Ferdy says

Spoilers

This wasn't as good as Gleason's *Gardella Vampire Chronicles* (which I loved), but it was still a fun read.

-*Clockwork Scarab* was essentially a run-of-the-mill murder mystery with steampunk elements, plucky heroines, and not-so-great love triangles. There were some parts that dragged and some aspects that were a tad over the top... like the secret Egyptian cults, the cartoonish bad guys, and the random time travel arc, it was a bit much.

-I don't usually like dual POV's but it worked quite well in this. Mina (Sherlock Holmes's niece) and Evaline (vampire slayer/Bram Stoker's sister) were both decent enough protagonists. I much preferred Mina over Evaline though, she was more likeable and interesting, whilst Evaline was a little dull and TSTL.

-I was disappointed that Mina and Evaline didn't really get along, they had a mostly antagonistic relationship. Yea, I really wasn't impressed that both of them judged the other from the get go, they didn't even know each other yet they made all sorts of bitchy judgements. They had more of a friendship at the end, but I find it annoying that apparently most female characters just can't get along from the get go.

-Evaline and Mina's characters were kind of cheesy. Mina was smart (kind of), socially awkward, and obsessed with solving things — so she was basically a young, female Sherlock. Whereas Evaline was reckless, idiotic, and full of herself — she was the typical YA 'kickass' warrior heroine. It would have been better if they hadn't been quite so predictable as characters.

-The love interests weren't all that impressive. There was too much insta-lust going on for my liking, the girls fell for the first guy that took an interest in them. The only love interest that I was impressed with was Grayling, he had a good personality and his chemistry with Mina was rather sweet. Evaline's fella wasn't my cup of tea at all, he was the typical-cocky-in-love-with-himself-manslut type hero.

-The Dylan/time travel arc didn't fit in with the rest of the story. I didn't see the point of his character at all.

All in all, an enjoyable enough read.

**ARC from Edelweiss

Wanda says

Something a little different for my real-life book club—a steampunk novel. A perfect, light little book for reading during the heat of August, when who really wants to exert themselves too much?

It's a young adult novel, but it's charm is dependent on the reader having some familiarity with Sherlock

Holmes and Bram Stoker. The stars of this show are Mina Holmes (Sherlock's niece) and Evalina Stoker (Bram's much younger sister). Each of them are talented in their own rights, Mina as a thinker and reasoner like her uncle, Evalina as a vampire hunter. Brains and brawn, in other words.

When the two young women are forced to work together, their innate independence stands in their way to begin with. But resistance is futile, and they find themselves relying on each other more & more. Of course, there are love interests introduced for each one—a law man and a rapsallion, just to emphasize their temperamental differences! Since neither woman expected to find a suitable romance, they are surprised & confused by this state of affairs.

While this book will never achieve the durability or popularity of the original Conan Doyle or Stoker creations, it is cute and fun, and I will probably read at least one more book in the series.

Jacob Proffitt says

[Like the stupid nonsense about Dylan--a boy from the future shows up for no reason? Seriously? Shows up in a story that can't *actually* be in the past because, hello,

Sophi says

What was this book? It seemed like the author was just taking every modern teenage book plot and mashing them all together into a less than pretty sculpture of undefined mess.

There was steampunk, there was mystery, there was Sherlock Holmes, there were vampires, there was time travel. And all this left me thinking: WTF?!

First of all, the characters. The POV switches between the two main characters, Mina Holmes and Evaline Stoker. They literally sound almost exactly alike except Mina won't shut up about how smart she is, and Evaline won't shut up about how strong she is.

Plus, while Mina Holmes constantly talks about how brilliant her mind and deductions are, when it actually comes down to it, her brilliant reasoning isn't all that impressive. Not to mention Mina constantly does idiotic things, contrary to how "smart" she is. I mean, inviting a guy you barely know, whom you just bailed out of jail, to stay with you alone at your house? Not only wildly inappropriate for the supposedly Victorian era, but downright stupid. Then, she has the nerve to act surprised when he sneaks out and steals back his cell phone from her bedroom. You're lucky he didn't murder you in your sleep, you idiot.

Then, we come to Evaline. A vampire hunter. Her POV was slightly more bearable than Mina's for two main reasons.

1. She doesn't give lengthy explanations for every tiny detail and why it is or isn't important.
2. She doesn't pretend to be smarter than she is.

Also, when she does stupid and impulsive things, it's more believable, because she is characterized as being impulsive, unlike Mina.

Which brings me to my next annoyance. The characterizing. There was so much potential everywhere that wasn't properly seized. Evaline is supposed to be this super awesome vamp hunter, but she's never actually killed a vampire. She's squeamish about blood. Her mentor up and disappeared. Why is none of this taken any further than a couple of lines? Mina's father is never around, and her mother just up and left one day. At the risk of sounding like a TV therapist, "how does she feel about that?" And it can't just be sad. Duh, she's sad, but WHAT ELSE? Is that why Mina acts like such a know it all, because her mother left and she's trying to prove her independence? Beats me. It's not like the author ever gives us any insight. Every time it seemed

like the characters were given some depth, the author dismisses it and moves on to more important things like how much it rains in London (um...duh).

Next order of business, the relationships between characters. Or lack thereof. At no point during the story did I feel like Mina and Evaline were a team. Sure, at first, they're supposed to be at each other's throats, having just met and all, but at no point did their friendship actually feel like it became a friendship. It felt like they went from acquaintances to... slightly warmer acquaintances. And don't even get me started about the love interests. Emphasis on the plural. How many more love triangles can I handle? Not many more, I can tell you that. They are SO old and tired. Luckily the two main characters didn't fight over the same guy, but they did turn into complete idiots whenever any of these guys were around. It's annoying when women talk about how they want to prove their worth in a world where men are in charge, and then fall to pieces whenever men are around.

Anyways, this leads nicely into my next topic to pick on: Dylan. WTF????!!!!!! What is the point of him? No seriously, What is the point?! At no point was he in any way important to the character development in the story, the worldbuilding, the plot, or the mystery solving process. He literally falls out of the sky, jumps around a few pages, and causes general confusion because OMG he's a time traveler! He does absolutely nothing for the story. If he weren't there, there would be no difference, except the plot would've been less confusing. I kept waiting for him to be relevant, distracting myself from everything else that was going on, but IT NEVER HAPPENED!!! The only reason he's there is to provide a love triangle for Mina, which btw, also would've been better to leave out. I honestly think I've discovered one of the most pointless characters in a book ever. Nothing about Dylan is resolved at the end of the book.

Let's talk about worldbuilding, shall we? It was pitiful. It's got all the modern conveniences, but steam powered. I thought there would be more conflict later on with the whole electricity vs. steam thing, but guess what? It wasn't important. Just another point the author dropped in and never explored.

Also pitiful? The plot itself. The mystery could have been good, but there were no secret twists and turns. At no point during the story did I say, "Wow, I wonder what happens next!" It was all very linear and not at all clever or intriguing like a certain detective I could mention, or even the Enola Holmes series. The only thing that I couldn't figure out was the gender of the villain. Which was SO important that it seemed like one of the only things the main characters could think about at any given time.

So to sum it all up, the book wasn't that good. The mystery was tepid at best, the characters were flat, the world wasn't explored properly, Dylan existed, and the love triangles were laughable at best. Not one I'd recommend.

Regan says

I REALLY ENJOYED THIS A REVIEW WILL COME LATER PEOPLE

Emma says

An enjoyable enough YA romp through steampunk London. There wasn't anything terribly original about the plot or characters but I enjoyed this version of London with its different levels and its steam streamers and various other devices and where electricity is illegal. I don't think I'm likely to continue the series though.

Lisbeth Avery {Domus Libri} says

I'm afraid that Colleen Gleason was trying just *too* hard with this book. The Clockwork Scarab was Gleason's

first venture into YA and it seems that she wanted to put in all her great ideas for YA but it didn't work out that well. The Clockwork Scarab is a bookish chimera; with vampires, Sherlock, steampunk, time travelers, and cults centered on ancient Egyptian goddesses.

Most of the aspects blended fairly well, except for the time traveling. It felt like it was slapped in because it had no *real* impact on the story. Dylan, the time traveler, wasn't even a major character. He had maybe one major plot changing appearance and that's it. He was really only in the novel for comedic effect.

There was one time where Dylan was explaining to Mina that he plays hockey and how it works. In the book, Mina had absolutely no idea what hockey was. I'm sorry but hockey was invented in the early 1800s and it would have been popular already by 1889.

The Clockwork Scarab is set in a (subtle) steampunk London, which was really interesting and unique. Most steampunk Londons are vastly different from the original London but here, it's barely altered. London is still as Victorian as ever, except not there are steam-powered robots to help dress people.

The main characters, Mina and Evaline, were not really my favourite characters. Neither of them were interesting at all. I found Mina to be too much of the classic 'smart girl' trope (aka poor social skills, unable to get friends). She had very little actual originality. Not to mention, despite her 'intelligence', I didn't really find her all that smart.

Evaline was somehow even less interesting than Mina. I don't know what to say about her because she wasn't really *anything*. At least Mina had some emotion and personality, while Evaline had pretty much nothing going for her.

The story was incredibly interesting. I know I say that a lot in this review but it's really just that. It's just really entertaining and interesting (here's a new drinking game: take a shot every time I say the word interesting). The mystery was one that I actually felt interested in, instead of only reading because I have to. I don't often feel like that lately so it was a welcome surprise.

The Clockwork Scarab was an ~~interesting~~ enjoyable read, which kept me going. It was definitely a fun book to read and I would recommend it to someone looking for a nice, light read.
