



Unseemly Science

Rod Duncan

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Unseemly Science

Rod Duncan

Unseemly Science Rod Duncan

In the divided land of England, Elizabeth Barnabus has been living a double life - as both herself and as her brother, the private detective. Witnessing the hanging of Alice Carter, the false duchess, Elizabeth resolves to throw the Bullet Catcher's Handbook into the fire, and forget her past. If only it were that easy!

There is a new charitable organisation in town, run by some highly respectable women. But something doesn't feel right to Elizabeth. Perhaps it is time for her fictional brother to come out of retirement for one last case...? Her unstoppable curiosity leads her to a dark world of body-snatching, unseemly experimentation, politics and scandal. Never was it harder for a woman in a man's world...

Unseemly Science Details

Date : Published May 5th 2015 by Angry Robot

ISBN : 9780857664273

Author : Rod Duncan

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Steampunk, Fantasy, Mystery, Fiction, Alternate History

 [Download Unseemly Science ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Unseemly Science ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Unseemly Science Rod Duncan

From Reader Review Unseemly Science for online ebook

Yvette (bookworlder) says

This second entry in The Fall of the Gas-Lit Empire series is well worth the read. Elizabeth Barnabus, intelligence gatherer and fugitive from justice, returns as the narrator and main character. Also returning are various characters including Julia Swain, now more friend than pupil and proving herself to be a worthy partner in intrigue for Elizabeth.

Unseemly Science picks up some few months after the end of The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter, with Elizabeth again dressed as her twin brother on her way to see a hanging. Death is an even more prevalent theme this time, and Elizabeth's peril seems even greater as political machinations threaten to send her back to the Kingdom and into the clutches of the Duke of Northampton.

5 out of 5 stars with a high recommendation to anyone who has read the first book of the series. If not, I would definitely recommend they be read in order. Great for fans of Steampunk, character and plot-driven stories, alternate history, mystery, or a well-written adventure tale.

This review refers to a free ebook copy read courtesy of the publisher, through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review. My full review may be read at my Wordpress blog: <http://wp.me/p5Tcfi-F>

Tabitha says

Unseemly Science picks up not long after the events of The Bullet Catcher's Daughter. There are several plotlines going, a few which tie together and some that are left open by the end. It has to leave us wanting more right? While I enjoyed this installment I felt that the first book had more oomph but I definitely plan to continue reading. But I must say the promise of romance went largely unfulfilled. I thought I saw a mention of romance somewhere in a blurb or in the cover...maybe I'm mistaken. Anyways, I think I'm one of the hardest readers to please when it comes to romance. Often I find myself thinking there is too much but rarely do I think there is too little. And by the end of this second I really thought there was not enough. If you could even call it a romance (which I wouldn't) it's the slowest building one ever. But something is definitely going on between Elizabeth and John Farthing. Some readers will no doubt like that super slow development because it's probably realistic considering the circumstances between the two of them.

Things to expect

- a much larger role for Elizabeth's friend Julia Swain. I like that she was even more prominent of a character in this book because I feel that often books don't give enough time to positive female friendships.
- several mysteries for Elizabeth to solve. One involves the leader of a women's charity group that Julia recently joined. I personally felt the way in which Elizabeth became curious about this lady was just strange and forced. Hence a big chunk of the first part of the book did not work well for me.
- a law is soon to be passed that will require the extradition of all fugitives from the Kingdom to be deported from the Republic back to the Kingdom. Elizabeth is of course caught heavily in that mess.
- John Farthing seems to always pop up when she is in trouble and again he wants something from her - the bullet catchers handbook that she was given at the end of the first book.
- we see a character return from the first book and I think he'll be sticking around. I'm all for this!
- Elizabeth still remains aloof to me as a character but I do believe we get closer to her in this novel.
- I'm a little bit confused by the time period. When I read the first book I assumed it was taking place during

the Victorian time period. But in this book Elizabeth goes to the library and specifically asks for research reference journals from 1996 to 2001. I might be remembering the years wrong but they were definitely recent years. So maybe it just has a Victorian feel?

I can tell this is a series well worth sticking with. The characters are engaging and the mysteries are great to follow. The ending of Unseemly Science left me wanting to know just where Elizabeth will end up next as she always seems to be on the run.

Wing Kee says

Better, more focused and paced better.

World: The world building is good, it's the best thing about this series. It's dense, it's detailed and the England created here and the world here is interesting with the changes in history. I will say that being a steampunk book there is not a lot of that here at all which is disappointing, plus Duncan seems to mix up steampunk with mad science (although they are similar they are slightly different).

Story: I liked this story a lot more than the first one, there is a lot more forward momentum and the story flows much better. The stakes are clearly defined and it is also tied to the world building which I really enjoyed. I like the idea of the two countries and how they interact, the politics and the characters caught in between. The ice and cold setting was also a nice change of pace and created an interesting setting for the story. The villain and the mad scientist storyline was also interesting and I enjoyed it. I will say that this is the story is better in every way over the first book.

Characters: Argh, still the same problem as the last book. I'm starting to think that Duncan can't write interesting characters, or if they are they have the personality and internal monologue of a boiled potato. Elizabeth is bland, boring and barely reactive, or maybe she is but Duncan's writing feelings like someone without any intonation at all and just meanders and drawls and this is what we have for most of the characters. The added time we spend with Julie is nice and she is an interesting character and her personality does lend itself for readers to relate with more but overall the characters are an issue. The villain this time around is very mwaa haa haa and with this bland style of writing it become mwa haa zzz.

Better in almost every way except character...which I am starting to think it's a writing style issue.

Onward to the next book!

Richard Derus says

Rating: 4.5* of five

Well, that was clumsy of me. I managed to delete the link to my real review of this delightful book! It is here.

2017 UPDATE The first book in the new series featuring Elizabeth Barnabus, titled The Queen of All Crows, arrives at Author Duncan's home! Watch the Big Moment here!

Jacey says

I read the first Elizabeth Barnabus book some time ago, but I was surprised how much of it I'd retained in my mind when I started in on the sequel. Post revolution the country is split into two, roughly north and south with the south ruled by aristocrats, and the repressed north very puritan-like. Elizabeth Barnabus, brought up in a travelling circus in the south, has fled to the north to escape being sold to the Duke of Northampton. Women have no standing in northern society, so - a mistress of disguise - she leads a double life, as both herself and her own invented brother, taking commissions as a private detective. In this book she's running from the law as the north and south prepare to sign an extradition treaty and begin to round up all the exiles in preparation for sending them home, something likely to be the death of most of them. Elizabeth gets mixed up with a charity that hides secrets, follows the trail of ice thieves and ends up discovering a world of bodysnatching and unseemly experimentation. I enjoyed this enough to go straight on to the third book in the series: *The Custodian of Marvels*.

Talitha (Victorian Soul) says

Unseemly Science doesn't begin with the bullet-like plot trajectory seen in The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter. There's more complexity to the story because of some of the events of the first book. Although it wasn't a slow beginning, it lacked the instantaneous hook the previous book had, and adds more grim moments when you wonder how much of the first book's *joie de vivre* was due in part to Elizabeth's outlook.

The cover of this book should tell you a lot about it- I haven't encountered a more fitting cover for the second installment of a series. After reading this book for an hour or so, it gives you that slightly sinister feeling of hairs being raised on the back of your neck. Who's out to get Elizabeth this time? Or should the question be, who's not out to get Elizabeth this time?

The political angles of this series continue to evolve. In the previous book, Elizabeth escapes what would amount to slavery by fleeing to the oh-so-sexist Anglo-Scottish Republic again. Because the influential person who was looking for her in the Kingdom has learned of her continued existence, tensions against immigrants in the Republic have risen. As a result, Elizabeth has to rely on more than her own finely honed instincts to survive in this book.

I had worried going in that this book might be too romantic compared with its only slightly romantic predecessor- and my fears were allayed when Elizabeth Barnabus continued to be her very independent self. Not that I don't like romance in a story, but certain stories have heroines who it would take a good deal of time to warm to the idea of 'loving' someone, and Elizabeth Barnabus is one of them. Although there are moments where you wonder if she screwed her head on right that morning, the only romance this book has to offer is epic slow-build, which I love.

One of my favorite parts of the book was one of the plot twists, which, as a science-fiction-minded junior high school student (and a fan of all things macabre) I had done a lot of research on. This element, which will not be named (because I hate spoilers and it happens late in the book) was well-executed and the perfect fit for a book that has a certain chill going on. It made me mentally tip my fedora to Mr. Duncan and declare, "Well played, sir".

I didn't predict the twists that Unseemly Science threw at me. Not only is this book much darker than its predecessor, it also keeps you in more suspense, which is a feat considering I compared *The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter* to a spy novel. All in all, this book met my expectations and left me wondering how long I have to

wait before I get my hands on the next installment of the series. I recommend this to everyone who loves independent heroines and alternate history plots with some science fiction elements blended in.

Rating: 4.5 of 5 Stars for a sequel that takes a macabre turn!

Disclaimer: I was given a free advanced e-copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. My opinion remains as forthright as ever.

As posted on my book blog, Victorian Soul Critiques.

Stephanie Swint says

Even better than the first - which I thought was unlikely. Rod Duncan's Elizabeth is a wonderful character. My fingers are itching to pick up the third book but I need to delay ...

Crittermom says

Unseemly Science returns us to the captivating world introduced by Rod Duncan in *The Bullet-Catchers Daughter*. After her narrow escape from the Kingdom, Elizabeth Barnabus has found refuge in the Republic and a close friend in her student, Julia Swain.

Difficulties soon arise. Rumors say there is to be an extradition treaty signed by the Republic and the Kingdom. Republic officials are requiring Kingdom immigrants to check in weekly with police, and post identification on their windows. As indentured servitude to a lecherous old duke awaits Elizabeth in the Kingdom, flight may be her only option.

Meanwhile, Julia, wishing to study law, has joined with the charitable organization run by Mrs Raike. The northern ice farmers are being cheated and Mrs Raike has requested her assistance, as well as that of Elizabeth and her "twin" brother, the investigator. Suspicious of Mrs Raike's intense interest in the ice farmers plight, and anxious to avoid capture, Elizabeth travels north to join Julia.

Her investigation uncovers something far more unsettling than missing ice. Elizabeth will need to use all of her knowledge and skills from *The Bullet-Catchers Handbook* if she is to stay alive, keep her friends safe, and defeat a powerful and untouchable foe.

While technology is important, the focus of the novel is on Elizabeth and her dual life. Duncan does a superlative job detailing how Elizabeth transforms herself into her "twin" brother, both in appearance and mannerisms. Elizabeth Barnabus is an intelligent and resourceful heroine. She is brave and self-reliant, but not needlessly reckless. Her powers of observation and ability to read people serve her well. This makes her an appealing heroine. Julia, with her faith in human nature, and ebullient personality is a good foil for the more cynical Elizabeth.

The political dichotomy between the Kingdom and the Republic plays an important role in *Unseemly Science*. The Kingdom, run by the aristocracy, allows women to study at University and own property and businesses, but it also allows slavery. The Republic has no slavery, but women are relegated to the home, and there are strict regulations on what is "proper" for women. Playing the role of her brother allows Elizabeth unrestricted movement, and the ability to earn a living as an intelligence gatherer in the Republic.

But at the same time, her experiences and her secret make her reluctant to trust.

Readers will empathize with the tension felt by Elizabeth, and her desire to protect her friends as well as evade authorities.

Unseemly Science is easily as engrossing as *The Bullet-Catchers Daughter*. This exciting steampunk mystery will delight fans of character driven science fiction and fantasy. Rod Duncan has created an amazing and richly detailed world, filled with believable characters and ripe with political intrigue. The resourceful Elizabeth Barnabus is a memorable heroine, and I can't wait to find out what her next adventure will entail.

I received a copy of Unseemly Science from the publisher and netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

Elaine says

Describing this book as steam-punk is not exactly accurate, as the author does a masterful job of convincing the reader that you just happened to have landed yourself in the middle of a world where some forms of technology have developed to the current age, and yet men and women are walking around in close-to-Victorian garb. Some parts of this story are to be expected -- a country divided in half by a wall where life develops in different places on different parts of the wall. In our part of the land women have developed ahead about a century or so, while just across the border women are treated as emotional toddlers who lack the head for business. This story has been told a number of times in different ways but the real treasure in this book is how the author takes this story and makes it sing.

The heroine is plucky, which of course we expect, but somehow she leaps off the page. And yes, she is smart, even when all around her doubt her. But even with this somewhat expected character sketch, I found myself rooting for her, and all of the various characters that came and went. Most of all, I love the idea of a not so secret security agency called a Patent Office that monitors worldwide activities without a single computer.

The cover of this edition simply has to be noted because it is stunning. A young lady in Victorian dress is in a field of snowy white, captured for a moment between two trees, with half sketches of men with bowler hats looking on. Only in drawing back do we see that this could be a simple scene from the book or a stunningly frightening face. Well done! I'm hooked on the series and can't wait to read the next book.

Kristi says

Review to come shortly over on Adventures in Sci-Fi Publishing- needless to say I loved this. It was a great change of pace from my usual reads with just enough of the fantastical to keep me interested. A steampunk style mystery that favours story and plotting over steampunk aesthetic trappings it was a refreshing read. Slower paced and less of the no holds barred adventure that the UF and action-adventure readers out there are used to but definitely worth picking up and trying. The main female protagonist, Elizabeth, was a huge treat as she's a great and surprising female lead for this genre- not your typical fantasy/UF heroine, she's a feminist in an authentic way that makes her relatable.

* Huge thanks to Angry Robot for providing me with the ARC

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

Unseemly Science continues the engaging story of Elizabeth Barnabus as she struggles to survive a steampunk Britain. This time, aided and abetted by friend/tutor Julia and orphan Tinker, her 'brother's' investigations will take a macabre turn. At the same time, political machinations will greatly put Elizabeth's safety in jeopardy. The writing is as crisp, worldbuilding deep, and characters as nuanced as the first book. This is a worthy second volume in what is turning out to be a fantastic series.

Story: Elizabeth has her boat but has paid a great price for it. But the safety is short lived as the her status as an exiled expat becomes jeopardized. Friend/student Julia, meanwhile, has found a cause to assist - a woman who helps orphans and homeless. When Elizabeth immediately senses something very wrong with the charitable organization, she and Julia will be thrown down a rabbit hole for the only organization to be exempt from the Patent Board - the medical profession. It will take all of Elizabeth's mettle and cleverness to not only get to the underbelly of an insidious organization - but to also keep from being imprisoned and extradited back to the Royalists.

The heart of the story will always be Elizabeth's wit and resourcefulness. For once, we have a heroine with whom we can see why she is so desired by the Duke to add to his possessions. But with Unseemly Science, the exquisitely crafted worldbuilding and informed details come to the fore. From ice miners to physicians, Author Duncan does the same with the science that he does with the world: extrapolates and then pushes it to a very believable next degree. It all makes terrifying sense in a world gone very awry.

Although Elizabeth still has a 'case' here, the plot mostly revolves around her surviving/dodging/avoiding being returned to London and the Royalists. The investigation into the ice miners and the charity organization really take a back seat as the story intricately weaves the plot points together. Quite a few of the characters from the first book are in the second (Tinker, Julia, Bessie the boat (who has a secret of her own), the handsome Patent Board officer) so transitioning into this second book is seamless. Aspects of the first book also reappear in the second - the art of disguise, surprises, plot twists, and the edge of desperation that constantly permeates every action by Elizabeth. Things are never as they first seem in the Gas Lit Empire. But changes at the end of each book also mean that the story never stagnates; author Duncan ends the books firmly but also in such a way that the situation will be escalated in very intriguing ways.

Although the setting is contemporary, this definitely has a steampunk feel that the author has thought out cleverly. Owing to the power of the Patent Office to control inventions and the rise of the Luddite movement through the group winning a Revolution that partitioned Britain, the steampunk trappings and low tech of the world make complete sense. The Patent Office is there to ensure that no country pursues weapons that can be used against another; nor any device that would be 'unseemly' and affect the quality of life of man. They ensure the diesel empire never emerges. I applaud Duncan for creating a steampunk that wasn't post apocalyptic in origin nor randomly developed.

In all, I am greatly enjoying the series and look forward to the next book. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

Kara-karina says

The continuation of *The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter* might not be as flashy as some other steampunk novels, but it's solid as a rock.

They say the devil is in the details, and the sinister feel of *Unseemly Science* is perfectly shown with minute details. It's very visual, with an underlying sense of urgency and terror driving the plot. I would even call it a Gothic novel akin to Ripper series by Amy Carol Reeves.

Elizabeth is on the run again. The Republic and The Kingdom are on the brink of signing an extradition treaty, and the refugees from The Kingdom are being rounded up into the camps. At the same time, Miss Barnabus's protege, Julia, is embarking on her first investigation. The ice disappears from the ice factory, and she needs to find the perpetrators of the crime. She asks Elizabeth to join her, and our heroine is forced by the circumstances to do just that.

The crime is not simple, and the more the girls dig, the more they understand just how much danger they are in. At the meantime, not content to wait for the Treaty Duke of Northampton puts a bounty on Elizabeth's head, and she has a lot of people searching for her. After a horrifying threat, Julia is sent home and only a promise of freedom sends Elizabeth into the depths of ice factory to discover the chilling truth.

I really enjoyed Elizabeth's character. She is a vulnerable young woman, but she is tenacious and she uses her wits to get what she wants. There are no dramatic, all-out fights, but she is not equipped for those. Still she refuses to run away and leave her friends in trouble so she tries her best to outsmart the villains.

John Farthing is an interesting guy as well. Any sort of relationship between him and the heroine is impossible, and yet, there are hints of their building feelings even if they don't know about them themselves.

The plot is complex and very well-made. *Unseemly Science* might not be a book you'll read in one seating, but it's a book you'll be driven to finish. It's understated and devilishly clever. Recommended.

Jasper says

Originally posted at: <http://thebookplank.blogspot.com/2015...>

Last year saw Rod Duncan's first fantasy novel, *The Bullet-Catchers Daughter*, after having written four hard crime novels. This was one of my favourite book of 2014 in the Steampunk category. *The Bullet-Catchers Daughter* for me was a perfect mixture of the normal and the arcane. The whole setting and ambiance that Rod Duncan had created with Elizabeth Barnabus was just a pleasure to read. In this second book that stakes are once again placed pretty high on Elizabeth, as if her adventures in the first book weren't enough!

Unseemly Science picks up almost directly after the events of *The Bullet-Catchers Daughter*, Elizabeth had found a new life in the Republic, after having fled the Kingdom. There she lives on her boat close with her

friend Julia Swain. One day when Elizabeth is out and about she witnesses the hanging of the duchess Alice Carter, which quite frankly shocks her core. After this her friend Julia informs her that she wants to sign up to work for a new charitable organization run by Mrs. Raike. For this new job Julia has to travel north to the ice-farmers and missing ice. However Elizabeth had to stay "home" and we see occasional letter correspondence between Julia and Elizabeth. During Julia's stay in the north Elizabeth encounter a lot of problems on her own. She, as an Kingdom immigrant, has to report every other week at the office. Now with a lot more rules coming to pass, living circumstances aren't that great, with this comes the fact that the person she relied the most on, Julia is now far away. Torn with many things, Elizabeth decides that it might be better to go up north as well and she from the start isn't quite taken by the charm that Mrs. Raike has. Now from this part the story really starts, as Elizabeth uncovers a whole can of "unseemly science" and truths that many people would have preferred not to have been made to see the daylight. We all know that Elizabeth is not all that she seems to, doubling as her brother Edwin Barnabus, other character aren't also all that they seem to say they are... Elizabeth is once again head over heels in an adventure... an adventure that requires all her skills and knowledge gained from *The Bullet-Catchers Handbook*, but will it be enough?

Rod Duncan has a really good way of writing, it will get your attention from the start and places you directly in the story. *Unseemly Science* does have a much darker storyline than what was shown in *The Bullet-Catchers Daughter*, but looking at Rod Duncan's background it might have been expected, and just a note, it is not for the worse at all, the divided England that he is showing isn't a pretty place to live so why cover it with roses and make it shine when it really is a bad place to be in, well when you are in the position of Elizabeth that is. Overall the story picks up with a much easier pacing than the first and it takes a while for the actual investigation to start but in the early stages of the book there was for me a really nice exposition found in how Rod Duncan went about and described the current setting and something that were related to the world.

As for the characters, I am really impressed with Elizabeth, she is precisely the feisty girl that I got to meet in the first book, of course the things she has been planning and the situation that she has been through have definitely shaped her personality. This transition is clearly noticeable and continues all throughout this book as well. She is placed into more than once precarious and highly dangerous situation, the one in which she was captured still sticks with me, Rod Duncan described this in such a grim way, but Elizabeth kept to her cheery and spirited self. With Elizabeth there comes a second character, that of her brother, Edwin, who she also plays. I liked how Elizabeth navigated the streets with this 'alter-ego' it gives a glimpse of how women are looked down and frowned upon. Elizabeth is a wonderful character, full of wit, a lot of fun to read about. Next to Elizabeth, her friend Julia also gets more time to her development and Rod Duncan develops her into a worthy and in the short and long run as an important character. Though the separation of Julia and Elizabeth wasn't that nice, the early letter communication showed that both parties admitted that they didn't act in the right way. This must be true friendship.

Every element in *Unseemly Science* make this book a terrific addition to *The Fall of the Gas-Lit Empire* series. With *Unseemly Science* Rod Duncan ventures into a new direction when it comes to the setting of the book, it is darker it is grimmer and I think that with the third book it might become even more so, as the world that Elizabeth lives in, is on the brink of a change, of a revolution. The world that Rod Duncan showed in the first book is greatly build upon and explored further. Just as with the world, Rod Duncan neatly keeps on developing his characters to the fullest and makes them even more lovable. Rod Duncan is definitely on the right track with this series. I am eager to find out what the third book, *The Custodian of Marvel* will have in store for Elizabeth as well as for me.

Ruthie Jones says

I read *The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter* in 2015, so it took me a little bit to become reacquainted with the characters. Once I settled in, I was hooked!

Elizabeth Barnabus is one of my favorite female protagonists. She's brilliantly flawed, but her gritty determination, loyalty, and fearlessness when pursuing justice make her unforgettable.

Unseemly Science definitely has some unseemly science. No spoilers! Elizabeth's journey to expose this unseemliness is filled with determining who to trust and not to trust, staying the course, and remaining true to herself and her friends.

And Elizabeth accomplishes all of it while being both herself and her fictitious brother, Edwin, as the situations warranted.

The Steampunk vibe is minimal, but I still love it for its dazzling plot and well-developed and interesting characters. And now I must read the next one in this series, *The Custodian of Marvels*. I won't wait so long this time!

“Unseemly conduct was like sewage – everyone knew it existed, but no one wanted to be reminded of the fact.” ~ chapter 17

“We use our eyes to see the world. But, as every conjurer knows, it is the mind that makes meaning.” ~ chapter 19

“To form a useful question one needs knowledge. This is the paradox of ignorance.” ~ chapter 22

“For good or ill, knowledge has ever threatened the settled order. A keg of gunpowder may make matchwood of a sturdy house. But a book can set the world on fire.” ~ chapter 30

“ ‘Don’t you understand? Medical research is never unseemly.’
‘It is the most unseemly science of all.’ “ ~ chapter 33

Frank Errington says

Review Copy

Unseemly Science is the followup to the well-received first book in the series *The Fall of the Gas-Lit Empire*. In both books there are some elements of Steampunk, certainly an element of Alternate History, and the feel of a classic Sherlock Holmes story as told by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Rod Duncan continues to weave these elements deftly into a wondrous tale of mystery and intrigue.

Slipping back into the world Rod Duncan has created for his characters to play in was a bit like putting on a well-worn, comfortable, pair of gloves. Set in the not so United Kingdom following a civil war which left Englad split into two separate countries, the Kingdom and the Anglo-Scottish republic.

The back-story of Elizabeth Barnabus follows. Elizabeth once lived in the Kingdom with her father. Through

no fault of his own, and thanks to the Patent Office. his daughter is forced into the servitude of a Duke of the Kingdom. Before that could happen , Elizabeth escaped to the Republic where we find her 6 years later helping her "brother" in his business as a private detective.

In this new volume there is talk of an extradition treaty looming between the divided countries. This would not bode well for our heroine. While trying to avoid the authorities, Elizabeth stumbles onto a dark mystery putting her very life into jeopardy.

To be honest, I didn't care for Unseemly Science as much as I did The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter. For a good part of the book the writer broke no new ground, bringing back the same characters from book 1, but once we got into the mystery in the second half of the book, I found it much more enjoyable.

In addition I found the notes that begin each chapter to be very entertaining, particularly those from The Bullet-Catcher's Handbook.

Unseemly Science Book 2 in The Fall of the Gas-Lit Empire series is available now in both paperback and e-book formats from Angry Robot Books. No word on book 3, but if this one is a success, I wouldn't be at all surprised.

Recommended. BTW, this story works as a stand-alone, but I would recommend reading book 1 as well.
