

Leviathan

By Author, Scott Westerfeld

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Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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In the confusion of World War I, the Darwinist Allied forces, using biologically engineered animals, go against the Clanker Central Powers, who use mechanical walkers.

Prince Aleksander of Hohenberg is on the run after his parents Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie are killed. With the help of his few confidants, he flees from those out to get him for his new heir status. Deryn Sharp is a young girl who dreams of serving her country in the air. One problem: she's a girl. She disguises herself as a boy to board the *Leviathan*. Over the course of these events, the prince and the cross-dressing airman meet.

The beginning to me was pretty lackluster. As Deryn finds her place on the *Leviathan*, Alek struggles to adapt to his circumstances. Admittedly, I'd considered abandoning the book, but I am grateful I did not. The real gem of this book was Alek and Deryn's chemistry. Together, they make the story feel colorful with hilarity and warm feelings. Though they are uneasy with one another, it is still an interesting dynamic that makes you want to read more. It is an understatement to say they are my favorite leads of any book.

I would recommend this to literally anybody 10 years or older. It is a young adult book, and it's mainly the reason why I became an avid reader of YA. If you are interested in steampunk and historical fiction, I would bother you endlessly about this trilogy. Read it if you have even an inkling of interest.

Recommended Titles:

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Fires of Invention by J. Scott Savage

The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Johnathan Stroud