



# Charmed Vengeance

*Suzanne Lazaar*

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## **Charmed Vengeance** Suzanne Lazear

In the Faerie realm, Noli Braddock's relationship with her best friend V has grown into something more. But V's mother, Faerie Queen Tiana, has ruled that they are forbidden to see each other. Returning to the mortal realm, Noli joins the crew of her brother's air-pirate ship, the Vixen's Revenge. There she discovers that her brother has hired the scallywag Faerie huntsman, Kevighn Silver. While serving as shipmates, Kevighn and Noli learn that the Earth Court King plans to find a forbidden artifact--one that will bring destruction to everyone Noli loves.

## **Charmed Vengeance Details**

Date : Published August 8th 2013 by Flux (first published August 1st 2013)

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Author : Suzanne Lazear

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# From Reader Review Charmed Vengeance for online ebook

## Sarah says

I loved the first book in this series for the faerie aspect of it, but I fell in love with Charmed Vengeance for the Steampunk aspect. This book is packed with airships, air pirates, shootouts, murder, a life-or-death quest, and broken hearts. I dare say that Suzanne's stepped up her game in this book, driving it full-force from start to finish.

While Charmed Vengeance brings back characters from Innocent Darkness that I knew and loved, it also introduced new characters that are as endearing as they are fierce. You get to meet Vix, the strong and honorable airship Captain, Jeff, Noli's missing brother, and a whole crew of pirates.

The story centers on 2 parts, Noli's escapades as an airship pirate, and V's quest. While these two things may seem unrelated, Suzanne manages to weave a tangled web that leads our two characters full circle and back to each other, and ending the book with murder, vengeance, and great lead-off for book 3.

I had the pleasure of getting an ARC of FRAGILE DESTINY, the 3rd book in this series, and I must now run off to devour it. If you haven't read this series, you should give it a try. Suzanne takes each book further than the last and I, for one, can't wait to see where it goes.

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## Aparajitbasu says

**Original Link to the review at my blog Le' Grande Codex - [here](#)**

This is an early review..... Innocent Darkness was just the beginning ..... and I will try to keep this spoiler free too if I can. Presenting ***The Aether Chronicles #2 Charmed Vengeance by Suzanne Lazear.***

Here is the summary of the book:

*In the Faerie realm, Noli Braddock's relationship with her best friend V has grown into something more. But V's mother, Faerie Queen Tiana, has ruled that they are forbidden to see each other. Returning to the mortal realm, Noli joins the crew of her brother's air-pirate ship, the Vixen's Revenge. There she discovers that her brother has hired the scallywag Faerie huntsman, Kevighn Silver. While serving as shipmates, Kevighn and Noli learn that the Earth Court King plans to find a forbidden artifact--one that will bring destruction to everyone Noli loves.*

Innocent Darkness was a fantastic Steampunky-Supernatural introduction to Lazear's imagination of the faery.... Charmed Vengeance on the other hand is the road map, the stage preparation for the next book (whatever it is called).

Essentially the book diverges into three separate journeys or stories, if you would call it. Noli, V & James, and Kevighn Silver-Tongue. They all deal with the consequences of their actions in the first book.... kinda like Newton's third law of motion . Noli fights to keep the foreground against the Sprite that resides in her. V or Steven or Stiofan, at the behest of the High Queen is forced to break his bond to Noli (the command itself is enough for us to want to hurt the Queen) and sent on a quest with James to find an unusual amusement for

her. And Kevighn in the human realm after being exiled from Faery.

Noli, still the society rebel now joins her brother aboard the Vixen's Revenge as an engineer, be as far from home as possible while nursing a broken heart. But with faith enough in her love for V to know that this is just temporary before her finds a way for them to be together again. Charmed Vengeance had another plus point in the mix a lot of us complained with the short us of the steampunk mecha and the visibility of the elements that made steampunk what they are..... Rejoice for we finally get our wish, as the author explores the Steampunky side of her universe aboard the Vixen's Revenge and on solid grounds.

Also, the presence of the Sprite inside Noli gives us a rare view into her mind as she struggles with her two personalities for control. And what began as separate journey converges together at the end, where they find out exactly what is brewing in the land of the Faery at the moment.... Oh ! I am so ending my tirade abruptly because I definitely don't think I can contain it any longer and it would all come out spoiling it for you all.

Suzanne Lazear did a good job with this one. As I already explained, this book is but the bridge that we need to cross that connects Innocent Darkness to the bigger happening of the future. the plot and the way of presentation just like the first book is easy enough to understand and creative enough to keep our thoughts and imagination going like a hyperdrive accelerator (sorry couldn't resist using a futuristic ref. here). The author maintained the dynamics between the characters and I'm definitely happy that the idea of a love triangle remains just an idea and nothing else..... there is a big supernatural confrontation coming in, if Noli's vow at the end of the book is to be maintained..... and might I say I'm already excited for what it would mean for us readers and the characters.

*"Charmed Vengeance proceeds to delight us in its own assorted charmed ways"*

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## **Maria says**

I started this book with a little trepidation because the first book in this series, Innocent Darkness, felt too derivative of other books in the YA/Fantasy genre. I had just finished reading Holly Black's "The Modern Faery's Tales" trilogy, which deals with the same mortal/faerie world dichotomy. Both Black's published trilogy (Black published hers 2004-2007) and Lazear's deal with the same question of a magical plane that must be fed on the blood of a young female sacrifice every seven years, and the major difference seems to be that Lazear has moved the timeline a century earlier to the 1900's to make it compatible with the steampunk elements. (And, as an aside, a sword that turns into a pen? Percy Jackson, anyone?) But Lazear is better at building the relationship between the parallel worlds, and the writing seems less conflicted in tone, so I was eager to see where the second book would take her cast of characters.

I am pleased by how Lazear's young adult novel is appropriate to the age of the intended audience, even though some readers have commented that they find the chaste nature of Noli and V's relationship beyond unbelievable. Given the time period of the novel and the very real danger of pregnancy, it makes sense that these two would choose not to make things even harder for themselves. As an adult reading this novel I felt like Charmed Vengeance manages to explore the complex nature of evil in the human and faerie realms without overreaching; the cruelty and menace of both feel plausible, not like an attempt at shock value or to make the book 'street' enough for teens to think it sufficiently cool to read. The idea of human sacrifice is more clearly defined in Lazear's novel: Here the sacrifice is necessary to save not just the faerie world, but

the human one as well. The two worlds are indelibly intertwined and, without the pact, both worlds pay a terrific price. The nature of sacrifice, and the ethical questions that surround it, simply seems handled more intelligently and doesn't condescend to the teen audience, which I found refreshing. And it also helps that the story is moving in the direction of solving the ritual sacrifice problem.

The 'head hopping' in the book is a little worrisome, because it interferes with the flow of the story. In this book we get far more of Noli's viewpoint, and the reader experiences her unwilling possession by an earth sprite, which feels a lot like mental illness. I liked this POV, and I think this part of the story, which requires Noli to develop new coping strategies, to be interesting. I still think she's impetuous and strong-willed at all the wrong times, but her inner conflict makes for good reading. But then the POV jumps to V and James, and I wasn't quite so impressed with the moments we spent in V's head, watching him struggle with his brother. James is dealing with a loss of his own, and he behaves like a wackadoodle two year-old lothario hybrid. It makes things almost absurdly tough for V, and this element of the story is inconsistent, unpredictable, and sometimes downright bizarre.

My biggest complaint about the first book was with regards to the use of steampunk elements, and this no longer seems to be an issue. I adore steampunk. I love the thematic explorations with regards to race and gender, the questions it asks about humanity's interaction with technology and how it changes us, and the enormous environmental cost humans inflict on our planet in the search for the next marvel. In this book, airships are one of the most common modes of transport, and their use is organic and natural. I am still concerned by how there are hoverboards and flying cars, but these exist in a world still (bizarrely) lit by fire. They've managed to invent a flying car but can't handle an incandescent light bulb? Steam powered gadgets and gizmos exist in the faerie realm, but the reader doesn't spend any considerable time there in this book, so this is a non-issue.

I will repeat the complaint I have with the V/Noli/Kevighn love triangle. (Does every YA novel have to have one? This convention is getting stale, I think...) The triangle would be a useful plot device if it seemed like there was any possibility that dark-haired Kevighn SilverTongue stood a chance against blond Steven Darrow (Gag! A dark v. light binary!), but it really does feel like a foregone conclusion that Steven will get the girl. I truly detest how forced this element is in the book, but I think that Lazear is moving away from the "I say no with my mouth, but yes with my eyes while I look at you over the shoulder of my True Love" dialogue and narrative. Love triangles are meant to be complex and conflicted and, while there really doesn't seem to be much of a challenge to Steven's and Magnolia's feelings for each other, Kevighn's unrequited, almost courtly, love is growing on me. If you must have a love triangle then feed it well, and I don't mean in the last chapter of the book as part of a cliffhanger.

I also find the amount of repetitive phrases to be mildly annoying, and I think teen readers will also pick up on this. Both Magnolia and Steven's brother James refer to him as a "fussy old bodger," and the boys' single profanity (?) is "flying figs." Magnolia really, really doesn't want to be a "dollymop." The repetition has the unintended consequence of limiting these worlds, and I was disappointed that new language wasn't introduced in this second installment. I hope to see the introduction of new vernacular in the remaining installment(s).

Overall, while I thought there were some problems with the novel, I enjoyed reading it, and I can recommend it to others (though I would hesitate to mention the steampunk elements and stick to a faerie description). I also wouldn't hesitate to put this in a classroom library as it will definitely appeal to teens.

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## Aubrey says

I read this right after re-reading the first one, why, I do not know. I think just because I had already checked the book out from the library. Though I will say this one was slightly better than the first, though I did skip through most everything that was Stephen and James, because I did not care about that part of the story. I just wanted to get through it as best as I could.

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## Shelley says

\*Genre\* YA Steampunk

\*Rating\* 3.0

\*My Thoughts\*

Thanks to an ill-worded bargain with Faery Queen Tiana by Steven V Darrow, Noli isn't a human any longer. Tiana basically turned her into an adult Sprite. The only thing V did right is to join his brother James in preventing Noli from fully transforming into a Sprite forever. What makes things worse for Noli is when V is forced into breaking her protection bond by Tiana that sends her over the emotional cliff.

The Sprite has made it hard for Noli to concentrate or be herself and it doesn't go unnoticed especially from her own brother Jeff who she joins on the Vixen's Revenge airship or Jeff's kickass girlfriend Captain Vix Adler or Kevighn Silver-Tongue who somehow manages to find his way onto the Vixen's Revenge. I think there is more to Jeff and Vix's story, especially when it comes to their dealings with the Fey, and I hope Lazear doesn't just sweep them aside as not being important to the overall picture.

Noli is a character that is hot and cold for me. I like the fact that she's tinkers with machines and wants to break the 1900's stereotype that women of a certain statue are expected to marry at a young age while leaving things she actually loves behind which is Flying Figs. I love the fact that apparently the Sprite has given Noli a bit of her own magic that comes in handy from time to time. I didn't much care for the fight with the Sprite over going to parties, wearing beautiful dresses, and shiny things that need beautifying or the fact that the Sprite takes over at the most inopportune times when Noli is needing to be sharp and on her feet. I also hope beyond hope that Lazear stops with the fatal attraction between Kevin and Noli. It is kind of disturbing on so many levels especially since she's only 16 and he's not really a good guy when you get right down to it.

As for V (Steven) and his brother James (who is suffering from the loss of his love Charlotte), they are ordered by Queen Tiana into going on a quest to find something highly unusual and entertaining for her. Can I just say that she's a really, really awful mother and be done with it? Good. Although, Uncle Brogan isn't the cat's pajama's if you dig and is as psychotic as Tiana is. V is still trying to figure out a way to fix Noli before it is too late. After all, it is his mistake that cost Noli her humanity in an effort to get her back home. V and James are challenged at each and every turn since Tiana likes to play her reindeer games hoping that something terrible happens to the boys. In the end, an awful event sends them back to Faery and revenge is definitely a dish best served cold.

Kevighn Silver-Tongue is the character who started all of Noli's troubles by luring her into Faery then forcing her into eating Fey food which pretty much guaranteed that she wouldn't be leaving any time soon. As we soon find out, he has been exiled from Faery and is no longer Tiana's huntsman. He tries to find any

kind of work in order to keep him in booze and opium. It's no surprise that he eventually ends up finding a way onto Noli's ship and discovers that things have definitely changed and not exactly for the best. There is an interesting side story in regards to Kevighn which I won't spoil other than to say that things are getting really, really interesting, and the end game should be fascinating to read about.

Because this is the middle novel of the Aether Chronicles trilogy, there are more than a few questions left that need to be answered. What will happen to Noli? Will she and V find a way to cure for her being bound to the Sprite or will she remain in Faery and give up her humanity for good? Will her brother and Vix play any part in the next installment? Will the evil Tiana meet her match, and will V and James get revenge on Brogan and reclaim their fathers crown?

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## Angela says

This review and more reviews can be found at: <http://framed-in-words.blogspot.co.nz/>

Final rating: 3.5 stars

Firstly, I would like to thank author Suzanne Lazear, Flux Books and Net Galley for providing me with an ARC of *Charmed Vengeance* (Innocent Darkness #2) for an honest review. I really enjoyed my time while reading it and appreciate the offer.

*Charmed Vengeance* picks up pretty much straight after the events of *Innocent Darkness* and after Charlotte's sacrifice, the reader sees Noli back at home in the human world tinkering with her tools once again. However, she is also greatly changed after the events of the previous book. Noli seems older and wiser yet more fragile than before due the experiences she had as well as the ever-constant presence of the tree sprite. In this book, we see her internal struggle with the sprite in trying to establish dominance in her own body. The reader sees how hard Noli is trying to stay true to herself but is constantly under siege from her own head. Every second that she isn't careful, she can turn into a persona that she has always despised. Looking deeper, it can also be seen as a theme of finding oneself. Noli is trying to stay true to who she is and through out the book, she really finds who she is while comparing the differences between herself and the sprite. Although she may think she knew herself before, many interesting and surprising discoveries are made about herself during her journey in the airship. I admire Noli's ability to fight on and stay concentrated even when she is in pain. She is courageous and willing to help. When she is determined, she will definitely do what it takes to finish her task. Furthermore, I liked how she didn't need to rely very much on men to do what she wants. She was not a weepy girl without brains. Noli is a heroine the reader can really relate to and admire.

However, compared to the last book, there are also aspects of Noli's character which I didn't enjoy as much. She is much more fragile in this book and seems to soften quite a lot from her strong character and demanding presence in book 1. In book two, she seems much more gentle and reliant on other people to think for her. I know that the sprite has messed up her head pretty badly, but I've got to say, I miss the strong-willed, kick-ass mechanic/engineer that tinkers with tools and hands on things all the time.

My favourite character however, is Jeff. Noli's brother is caring, hilarious and strong-willed. He is the kind of big brother I'd love to have. He helps Noli in every way he can. In a way, Jeff is very similar to Noli

(especially the Noli in book 1) and thus he can predict Noli's actions and care for her thoroughly. He also knows Noli well enough to feel it if something is wrong. Unlike a lot of the sibling relationships in other books or even in real life, Jeff puts his younger sister above anything else and make her the most important responsibility he has. He's always taking care of her and worrying about her. That's really sweet. The awkward moments of Jeff always manages to make me laugh and his regard for women really made him impossible to dislike.

On the other hand, I got really annoyed at Steven. He just didn't seem to focus on anything this entire book and is like a combination of a brainless zombie plus an over-cautious pussy. Although some of what he does is right, but James just seems much more likable than he is in this book. His younger brother James seems to be the older brother many times as the story unfolds and is much more relaxed and understanding than Steven. This book made me like Kevighn so much more and it also makes the reader sympathise when him. Uhhhh, I really didn't want to like him, but...

The plot was more enjoyable than the last book, I liked the separation of Noli and Steven (V) in some parts of the book (hmmm I can't give away too much) and felt that gave both of them a breather in their relationship. The airships are awesome!!! :D However, at parts the plot is still a bit slow (especially during James and V's side of things...). Hopefully, next time, some more powerful aether fighting actions will be here and that Noli's character will be stronger.

Overall, a great read! Bravo Suzanne Lazear, for the creative story.

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## **Sarah says**

(Source: I own a copy of this book.)

After really enjoying Innocent Darkness, I was looking forward to reading Charmed Vengeance. Unfortunately though, this book did not live up to its predecessor at all.

I didn't really like any of the characters in this book, other than the one person who died in the prologue; most unfortunate. Noli whined a lot in this book, she moaned and winged about things, and then just ran off and did her own thing as usual, while V was mostly absent.

The storyline in this just bored me. I thought that this book would be more steampunk than the first one, and while that was true, it wasn't more interesting. I found all the stuff that happened on the air ship to be less than entertaining, and I found it hard to find anything interesting in here at all. There wasn't anything overtly bad about the book, it was just boring.

The romance was basically non-existent. Noli and V had a chat at the beginning, and then didn't really see each other for the rest of the book.

The ending was a bit of a cliff-hanger, and there was an unexpected death, but I'm afraid I just didn't care by that point.

Overall; nowhere near as good as the first one,

4.25 out of 10

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## **Abbie says**

I really liked the first one in this series, but this one was boring.

Noli was an okay character in the last book, but in this one, i didn't like her.

She whined a lot, and had loads of annoying moments.

I didn't really like any of the other characters either. The one i liked the most in the last book wasn't in this one for very long!

I spent the majority of the book bored. The story just didn't interest me at all.

There was only one bit that i found slightly interesting, which is really bad for a book this long!

Overall, disappointing.

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## **Stacee says**

I liked this one a lot more than the first one. It was fast paced and I loved following the various characters.

Noli's "battle" was interesting to watch unfold, I can't wait to see what happens with that whole situation. And the dynamic between her and her brother was fun to read.

The ending was fantastic and makes me really eager for the next book.

**\*\*Thanks to NetGalley for providing the arc in exchange for an honest review\*\***

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## **Gretchen Hohmeyer says**

I'll be the first person to admit that I wasn't entirely thrilled by the first installment of this series, but I was interested enough to request the second book. Sadly, as many "middle" novels have been showing me these days, I sometimes think that some series should not be trilogies. Or people at least need some new conventions for middles of series.

Thanks to V's intervention, Noli had not become the braindead sprite Queen Tiana was hoping for. Instead, Noli shares her mind with the consciousness of a sprite, and control of the body isn't always hers. Determined to get rid of her meddling sons, Queen Tiana forces V to go a-questing with James for "something to amuse her." While V is gone, Noli's Grandfather discovers the squalor that her and her mother have been living in and tries to force them to go to Boston. Determined not to be married off by Christmas, Noli runs off with her brother Jeff to be the engineer on his airship. Imagine her surprise when Kevighn Silver signs on to be the ship's new gunner.

So, middle book convention #1 is obvious: the male and female love interests get separated and have to go off on their own adventures. Personally, I found V and James's quest pretty boring, and only interesting when it supplemented Noli's. Noli's adventure was the one with most of the excitement and the questions and answers. Also, the romance between Jeff and the ship's female captain Vix was really cute.

Noli herself still makes me happy as a main character. Her new added problem of having a sprite in her head, trying to make her girly, was a fun addition. It was actually my favorite part of the novel. She continued to be my shining light throughout the novel, even when I started skipping.

And I did, sadly, start skipping. Like I said, James and V's story just seemed to be filler, only letting us know that Queen Tiana had dropped the gloves. Otherwise, they were just running around and offering comic relief. I would skip through portions of their journey, because what was going to happen and how it connected to Noli was clear from the outset.

I did really like the switch of scene for Noli, and the family connection was nice. It was great to see a good steampunk side to this story for once, even though the focus was still on the fae. The questions and new elements that were brought in were also interesting. Like I said, I mostly read through and enjoyed Noli and the sprite's problems.

Sadly, I had started skipping so much that I started skimming Noli's part, too, just because I had so much figured out already. Nothing in the book really surprised me, and—again—it was more filler than anything else. I feel like all the exciting things will happen in the third and final installment, now that Noli and V have gotten their obligatory self-spirit-journeys or whatever out of the way.

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## **Justine Winans says**

(Originally posted on <http://www.theyalitchick.blogspot.com>)

Fans of Innocent Darkness will definitely not be disappointed by Charmed Vengeance, which - in my opinion - is actually better than the first. Lazear is just continuing to improve the Aether Chronicles, and I am excited to follow the rest of the series.

Charmed Vengeance still explores all of the characters of the debut novel, while diving deeper into their stories and testing them in new situations. New characters - like Jeff and the other air pirates - are added, and their development is excellent. Noli continues to be an excellent protagonist, and her personal plot and conflict kept intrigue the entire time.

Innocent Darkness read as almost three separate parts, but Charmed Vengeance manages to keep a more consistent plot that is still refreshingly interesting. From the very first page, the novel is an attention-grabber. I did not find any slow portions during the read.

The air pirates were definitely a welcome to read about. I remember hearing the idea in Innocent Darkness and instantly wanting to know more about them. The airships were exactly the kind of the steampunk that I was looking for in the novel. The adventure that followed them was my favorite part of reading.

The Aether Chronicles just keeps getting better and better, and Charmed Vengeance is a must-read. Enchanting and action packed, readers will continue to fall for the series, unable to put it down.

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## **Heather says**

This is the second book in the Aether Chronicles Series and is definitely not a book that can be read as a stand alone. Just to let you know, there will be spoilers if you haven't read the first book.

Noli is having a hard time in this second book. The sprite inside her is taking over for periods of time and she can't remember anything while the sprite is in possession of her body. To make matters worse, V. is forced to break the sigil she wears that gives her the protection of his house, essentially breaking their understanding that they will marry. But Noli isn't the type to faint and die from things like this. Noli is the type to fight and trust that things will get better and she and V. will get back together. And she isn't going to wait for it to happen. I love how Noli fights against the sprite who likes fancy dresses and pretty shiny things, a big hindrance while Noli works on a big shiny engine on Jeff's airship. Sometimes the sprite and Noli can share consciousness, but sometimes, Noli wakes up to the horror that the sprite has done. It's horrible only because the captain of "Jeff's ship" is Vix, a female women's rights activist who isn't prone to pretty things like fancy dresses and shiny things.

Jeff, Noli's brother, shows up at just the right time and is a great addition to the characters in this series. He is ultra protective of Noli as are all of his shipmates. He knows something happened to her and that sometimes she seems to disappear even now. He is very worried about her, and as he is in love with Vix and she him, they share their worries. We also find out that, though some of his actions are illegal, some of his illegal actions involve rescuing kidnapped children. And for that, I can certainly forgive him for being an airpirate!

V. is in this one again and YAY! for that. I love that everything seems to not work out too easily for V. He travels with James and we get to learn a little more about him. It's fun to see the two of them questing together. But what I love most is seeing how much V.'s mission is to get back to Noli.

The world is once again 1901 alternate United States. More or less the same, but steampunk and some of the states are altered. There is a war with Hawaii called the Pineapple Rebellion as they try to retain their independence from the United States. And the state of Deseret which is a fictional state and one of the author's own creation. There is child trafficking which, according to the author did happen (and continues) at the turn of the century. Airships, machines, and the Otherworld all intermingle. The Fae mingle with the human world without most of the human's knowing. However, the Otherworld and the Human world are co-dependent and without balance in one, there is no balance in the other. This was a theme that was explained in *Innocent Darkness*. It continues in this novel.

The story is very interconnected. Noli runs away from her mother and grandfather who want to take her to Boston for "The Season". She is on Jeff's airship, *The Vixen's Revenge* (there's a story in that name, I'm sure) but it's not Jeff's ship, he's just the pilot. The captain and owner is Vix, the woman Jeff is in love with and who Noli has to convince that she's not a "lady" but an engineer and feminist enough to be on board the ship. A problem for sure with the sprite inside of her. V. has to make good on the favor he promised his mother the Queen Tiana which becomes a quest. He drags James along who is, understandably, in sad shape. That quest becomes another quest and Queen Tiana, as well as fellow members of the Otherworld hinder them at every turn. And then it seems that the world has Noli and V. just missing each other at every port and turn. It was a cross country race despite the fact that they weren't trying to find each other. A shocking ending concludes this fast paced and breathless novel.

No second book syndrome here. Though it might take a page or two to get going, this novel is fast and action packed, full of adventuresome air pirates and questing faeries, nefarious otherworlders and our lovable Noli and V. and another couple to fall for Jeff and Vix! The ante has been upped in this series! Noli is still the key even if she wasn't sacrificed and I can't wait to read the next book in this series!!

I received a copy for a review from the publisher through NetGalley. I was not compensated for my review. The opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Pam says**

Noli loves V but due to the Faerie Queen Tiana they can't be together or even see each other. While Noli's mom would like to see her become a proper lady that just isn't in the cards. She goes aboard an air ship with her brother and discovers a new danger. Kevighn Silver is aboard and looking for an artifact. Her brother has been hired to find it not knowing it can cause horrible destruction.

I loved the first book in this series and I have to say I think I liked this one a little more. I would suggest reading them in order. Noli has never really been a weak character and in this book she has a lot to deal with. She has so much going on you may think she seems weak at times but the more you read the more you see that isn't so.. She has had her heart broke but goes on. I love how she doesn't want to be a typical girl and all the adventures she finds her self in. Her brother has a bigger part in this book and I enjoyed getting to know him better and Vix. Vix is a woman after my own heart. She is not a girly girl by any means. There is still Faerie, dangers and so much more in this book. It feels more fast paced and you really can't put it down as you have to see what happens next. I eagerly look forward to the next book.

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## **Isis says**

When her true love, Steven, is forced to break their magical bond, Noli Braddock decides to join her brother on the crew of the Vixen's Revenge.

With its gleaming brass, dark wood, and spotless clockwork gears, the Vixen's Revenge is a beautiful airship. But Noli discovers a dangerous secret beneath its polished exterior--the crew has been hired to steal dozens of priceless Otherworld artifacts. Desperate to keep her past Otherworld experiences hidden from the airship crew, Noli fears that if she doesn't risk telling her own secrets, the stolen artifacts will be used to destroy both of the worlds she loves.

Praise: "[Lazear's] imagination soars as high as her airship, and it will have readers hooked."--  
Kirkus Reviews

**WARNING:** If you haven't read the first book in this series yet, read no further as this review contains spoilers for book One. Plus, the first book is a very entertaining read. \*Personal irritant - the large number of grammatical errors I discovered in the e-book version I read. There were missing words, incorrect words, punctuation mistakes, etc. It's almost as if the e-book version was simply not edited or proofread prior to release.

There's plenty of action in this book, but just as importantly this book shares some very important lessons that each of the main characters learn as they mature. Noli has finally returned to her mother's home in Los

Angeles, after her stay at Findlay House, and experiences journeying through the Otherworld. Though her mother is unaware of the fact that Noli wasn't at Findlay House the entire time, she knows something is different about her daughter. She sees the physical changes in Noli, which lead her to believe that her daughter is now a 'lady.' The same changes that came from making a bargain with the Faery Queen, who spitefully turned Noli into a Sprite. While beautiful, Sprites are not known for their intelligence or focus, instead they enjoy parties, nice dresses, tea parties. In short, they are exactly what Noli was struggling against becoming, vacuous Society dolls.

Thanks to the quick thinking by James and V, Noli retains much of her original self, but she constantly struggles with the Sprite for control over her mind and body. Yet this new situation is actually good for Noli in some aspects, for she learns to share with the Sprite. In doing so she discovers there is more substance to the Sprite than she shows, she simply doesn't enjoy thinking, the same way Noli doesn't want to be shallow like the Sprite. She also learns some magical skills, which will be useful later.

Like Noli's lessons learned through her dealings with the Sprite, V also learns some important lessons of his own. He learns to rely upon James more often, which is good training for the when he takes back the earth court in the Otherworld, assuming he'll be successful when the time comes. But a very important lesson that James has learned and shares is good for all the readers as well, and that is to live in the moment, everyday, all the time.

Even Kevighn learns some lessons, the main one being that you can always go home. After letting the Faery Queen down, at least in her insane mind, Kevighn feels he has nothing of value left. He wallows in the mortal world, indulging in his personal vices, at least until something calls him back to the Otherworld. Once he returns, he returns all the way, going back to his roots, where he learns that family will take you in even when no one else will.

The lessons to be learned are demonstrated in fascinating ways, and sometimes it takes numerous attempts before they are taught to the writer's satisfaction. Most of the lessons involve exciting action, with edge of your seat thrills that keep you turning page after page. Each time you think it's safe to relax something new occurs, dragging you right back into the action. Certainly a sequel with legs, which can only lead me to believe that the next book in the series will be at least as good, and more than likely it will be better as Ms. Lazear continues to use her charismatic characters to explore her well developed world.

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## **Stéphanie says**

What can I say. I was charmed by *CHARMED VENGEANCE*. From the first few chapters, I was hooked and could not let go. It's definitely not a book to read as a stand-alone. It should be read as a series, and while book one might not have been a favorite of mine, it's worth pushing through since this sequel is definitely better on so many different levels. It's more steampunk, more adventure and more torturous romance.

So many things are going on in this book, yet Lazear is able to keep track of things wonderfully. One thing flows nicely into another and the result is a fantastic novel. First, Noli is forced by her mother and grandfather to leave Los Angeles, but instead of joining them in Boston, she decided to run away with her air pirate brother, Jeff. She runs away, not only because she despises the idea of taking part in Boston's high society, but also because her "boyfriend" V (Steven) has broken up with her, and fleeing to become an engineer of a pirate ship seems so freeing. Noli suspects there's a reason why V has broken things off and

knows he's not allowed to tell her. In fact, V has been ordered by his mother, the Fae Queen to go on a quest to find her something "entertaining". And ordered to break things off with Noli. Kevighn Silver, cast out of the Otherworld, is a fae just living day to day as an air pirate but one thing leads to another and is drawn into Noli and Jeff's pirate life. Like I said, many things happening at once but everything happens for a reason.

The characters remain pretty much the same as in book one yet have grown and evolved because of what they've been through. Noli has been transformed into something fae by the Queen, and she is living with a sprite personality in her head. She's still the same herbal enthusiast/genius mechanic she was in the past but now, with this girly and ditsy sprite personality living in her head, she sometimes has episodes where it's hard to control who's in charge, her normal self or her sprite self. Her brother Jeff notices this, but because she can't fully explain her situation to the mortals she's living with, she feels very alone and confused. I'm still on the fence about believing this split personality because I know deep down Noli would never paint flowers on the engine of an airship, yet for some reason she allows the sprite to entertain the idea that everything can be pretty and paint the engines. I guess "allow" isn't really the right word, because Noli has trouble controlling the sprite but it's still hard to grasp the idea of the dueling personalities, especially since the original Noli was portrayed as such a strong-willed character.

I'm glad we were able to learn more about Jeff's air pirate life. The airship life is definitely steampunk and it gives the novel a more steampunk feel, which in my opinion was lacking in the first book. While INNOCENT DARKNESS concentrated more on fae and Otherworld elements, this sequel allows us to see the characters develop in different situations. Feminism is a strong theme in the book and I particularly like what Jeff says to his female captain, Vix: "You work for women to have choices. This means they should have any and all options—not just the ability to wear trousers and take on men's jobs, but the right to wear skirts and stay home with the children if they so choose. The point is they have a choice." (p. 73)

Suzanne Lazear succeeded in developing a wonderful alternate reality world. She has envisioned a steampunk America where Hawaii hasn't joined the United States and territories inside the continent exist apart from the USA. The fact that it's steampunk allows her to have some liberties and the paranormal aspect allows her to add an air of mysticism to the story. At the end of the book, many story lines are left open, yet this installment has satisfied me. I'm anticipating a wonderful follow up to this novel and I can't wait to see what happens between Noli and Steven.

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