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Behemoth (The Leviathan Trilogy)



Synopsis

The behemoth is the fiercest creature in the British navy. It can swallow enemy battleships with one bite. The Darwinists will need it, now that they are at war with the Clanker Powers. Deryn is a girl posing as a boy in the British Air Service, and Alek is the heir to an empire posing as a commoner. Finally together aboard the airship Leviathan, they hope to bring the war to a halt. But when disaster strikes the Leviathan's peacekeeping mission, they find themselves alone and hunted in enemy territory. Alek and Deryn will need great skill, new allies, and brave hearts to face what's ahead.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up "This book continues the hard-driving, action-packed adventures of Alek, heir to the throne of the Austrian empire and current British prisoner of war, and Deryn Sharp, a midshipman assigned to the Leviathan. Their loyalties to their respective governments and philosophies are tested as their friendship grows; Alek is an Austrian Clanker and Deryn an English Darwinist. After the Leviathan is damaged by a German attack, Alek and his personal guard escape the airship and join a revolutionary group dedicated to the overthrow of the sultan of Istanbul. Meanwhile Deryn has been sent to sabotage a key military blockade in the Istanbul harbor. But true havoc doesn't ensue until the teens are reunited. This dynamite novel incorporates factual events of the early months of World War I: the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, Churchill's confiscation of an Ottoman Empire warship, and the instability and revolution within the Empire. However, the elements of steampunk, biological and mechanical technology, sheer over-the-top adventure, and great storytelling make

this a must-have addition to any speculative fiction collection. Thompson's sumptuous full-page illustrations capture the goings-on and contribute to the cinematic feel of the book. Jane Henriksen Baird, Anchorage Public Library, AK © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Things slow down just a wee bit in this sequel to the WWI alt-history *Leviathan* (2009). Here, the focus shifts more onto wartime politicking than smash-dash battling, but Westerfeld maintains a steady influx of the series' real strength—the superbly imagined mechanical contraptions and genetically crafted creatures. The bulk of the story takes place in Istanbul, as both the Clankers (Austria-Hungary and Germany) and Darwinists (England and Russia) are intent on swaying the Ottoman Empire in their favor. British midshipman Deryn (still disguised as a boy) and Prince Alek (heir-in-hiding to the throne of Austria-Hungary) continue to find themselves squarely in the thick of things en route to a nicely tied-together climax featuring the title beastie. Anyone needing a good visual for what makes steampunk so alluring should look no further than Thompson's intricate illustrations—black, white, and gray rarely look so vivid. Although there are messages about the futility of war and a burgeoning love story, this is first and foremost a high-concept action series, and Westerfeld knows how to pound a pulse while tickling the imagination. Grades 7-10. --Ian Chipman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I stumbled upon this series after finding and devouring his *Uglies* series. *Leviathan* was an awesome book, and I loved the concept of evolved animalesques versus the mechanical technologies of the world. Scott Westerfeld has a knack at bringing so many aspects of life now into question in his novels. While *Leviathan* was great at introducing us to its alternative steam-punk culture, *Behemoth* helps develop the characters of Prince *ArchDuke* Alek and middy *MR. Sharp* Deryn. I especially enjoyed seeing Deryn growing up with new responsibilities, challenged loyalties, and blossoming love. It is also very amusing when another strong female character Lilit is added to create a convoluted yet innocent love triangle between the three main figures. One thing I was a little disappointed in was the fact that this book was not based in the mind-blowing evolving world of the Darwinists. Reading about the complex eco-culture of the *Leviathan* gave me a huge thrill as to the possibilities of our own future. But I guess this is to be expected. *Leviathan* is devoted to the world of the Darwinists, it is only fair that *Behemoth* is immersed in Clanker-land, a place with its own technological wonders. All I can say *Behemoth* has got me extremely excited for book three. And

unfortunately Behemoth has JUST come out, so it's going to be a really long wait. PS. did I mention this series is gorgeously illustrated? My Kindle does not do the graphics justice but even there the fantastical details are extremely alluring.

Behemoth (Leviathan) by Scott Westerfeld Read 7/13 > p104, Completed 7/22/16. In Leviathan Part 2, Behemoth, the story has landed in part one of Mr. Sharp's goal of Istanbul. Up to this point a VIP guest scientist, the granddaughter of The Great Darwin himself (in this alternate steam punk history) is forcing the Leviathan, to Istanbul. In this alternate history the Leviathan, is a mighty British military airship. For imagery, think of a Zeppelin but much larger and genetically manufactured from something like a Blue Whale, double or tripled in size, filled with hydrogen, and operating like its own entire ecosystem. Our VIP Darwin relative declares her purpose is to keep the Ottoman Empire out of the war with a mysterious gift that we learn are eggs containing some genetically designed creature of the VIP's own making. Complicating things in this alternate history is Churchill having confiscated a great warship built for, and already paid for, by the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Mr. Churchill is hoping his actions will keep the Turks out of the war, and additionally give Britain a military advantage with the Sultan's warship. (Which is actually quite similar to real history stories.) Sounds complicated but this is still the double story of the young royal child mentioned in the Leviathan review, on one hand, and the ever more capable Mr. Sharp on the other. In Behemoth several characters are well developed. The VIP geneticist, the young royal teen and his several attendees, and the ever precocious and young Mr. Sharp (airman extraordinaire). Mr. Sharp believes he is barely competent, yet seems at the center of all disastrous situations, and manages to trip, stumble, or against his better judgment, take action that he probably be hung for, that usually results in a miraculous salvage from certain disaster for tens, hundreds, and even thousands of people, depending on the imminent disaster that is looming. While we are being walked through the strategies, diplomacies, and maneuvering of an alternate steam punk version of World War One, it is still being seen through the eyes of these two young people who seemed plucked from their lives and into the thick of all things, dangerous, frightful, and fattening. My similar reviews cut and paste: [...][...] See my reviews here:

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Leviathan was just the start of Deryn and Alek's adventure. Now that they've arrived in

Constantinople/Istanbul to complete Dr. Barlow's mission of gifting the eggs to the Ottoman Emperor, it's Alek's chance to run away with his men. But the escape plan goes wrong. Alone in the streets on Istanbul, Alek is dragged into the politics of the place and ends up joining a band of rebels looking to overthrow the sultan! Meanwhile, Deryn has been sent on a special mission, that if fulfilled will bring everyone closer to meeting the behemoth. But her plans also go awry! The Leviathan has left and now she's stranded, and there's really no other option than to join Alek...or so she keeps telling herself. With Behemoth Scott Westerfeld returns stronger than ever with adventure, action, and steampunk like you've never seen before! In this second book of the Leviathan trilogy we get deeper into the politics and alliances of the war. Westerfeld does a great job of incorporating real events and twinning others to suit this lighter fantasy version of what we know as WWI. Of course, what makes it so fun is that the story revolves around Alek and Deryn. Deryn slowly realizes her feelings towards Alek run a wee bit stronger than she imagined. There's a certain tension to their scenes now that wasn't there before, especially with the loris laughing every time it says "Mr. Sharp." I never knew when Alek would finally get it. The beautiful Lilit also adds complications to the whole thing, and jealousy is certainly a new emotion for Deryn. Alek is very fond of his best friend, confides in Deryn, and counts on her for everything, but he still doesn't know her secret. In this book he's trying his hardest to bring about peace; he sees the rebellion as an opportunity to reach that ultimate goal. He also gets to see the real consequences of war, death and destruction. I loved the meltingpot that was Istanbul, with both Clanker and Darwinist influences. The walkers were pretty amazing, being machines but keeping the forms in organic and animal shapes. Thompson does an amazing job of illustrating them all! I would just stop reading to examine each and every one of his drawings. Be prepared to read about Tesla cannon's, spottiswoode rebreather armor, perpicacious loris, ironclads, vitriolic barnacles and many other marvels in this steampunk world Westerfeld has imagined. Onwards to read Goliath!

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