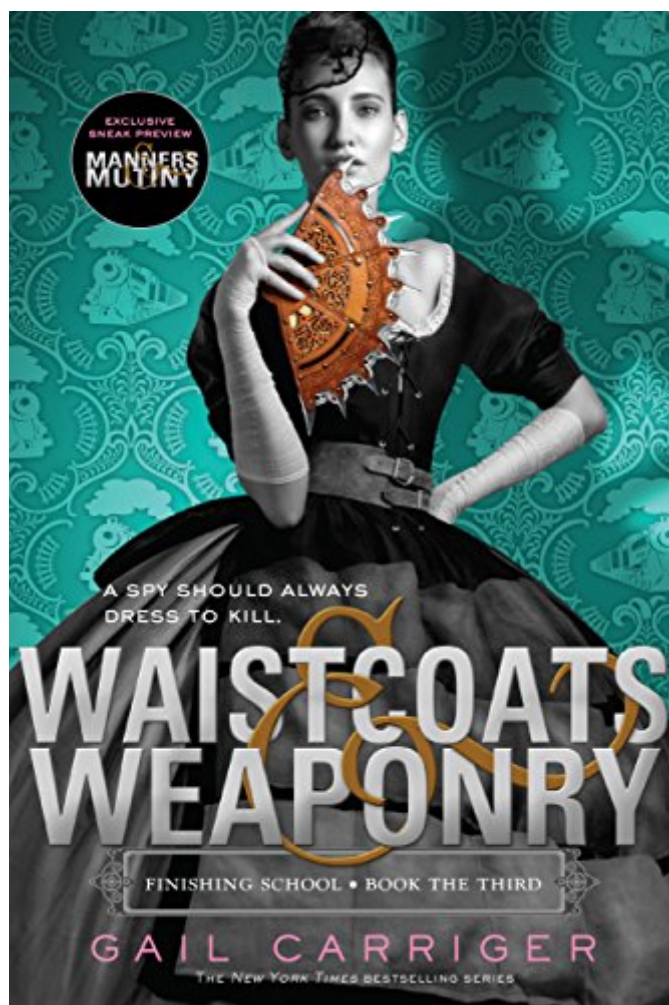


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Waistcoats & Weaponry (Finishing School Series Book 3)



Synopsis

Class is back in session....Sophronia continues her second year at finishing school in style--with a steel-bladed fan secreted in the folds of her ball gown, of course. Such a fashionable choice of weapon comes in handy when Sophronia, her best friend Dimity, sweet sootie Soap, and the charming Lord Felix Mersey hijack a suspiciously empty train to return their chum Sidheag to her werewolf pack in Scotland. But when Sophronia discovers they are being trailed by a dirigible of Picklemen and flywaymen, she unearths a plot that threatens to throw all of London into chaos. With her friends in mortal danger, Sophronia must sacrifice what she holds most dear--her freedom. Gather your poison, your steel-tipped quill, and the rest of your school supplies and join Mademoiselle Geraldine's proper young killing machines in the third rousing installment in the New York Times bestselling Finishing School series by steampunk author Gail Carriger.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the third book in the Finishing School series. Sophronia is enjoying school and has just begun working with a bladed fan, which she believes may become her favorite weapon of choice. Things get serious when Sidheag gets word that there is serious trouble with her pack back in

Scotland. The gang form a plan to use a birthday party to get Sidheag back up to Scotland. When things go haywire with the mechanicals at the party, the group makes an escape and hijacks a train which contains a former classmate and now nemesis, working for the vampires. In addition to their mission, Sophronia is also thinking about the contrasts between Sooty and Lord Felix and the possibility of finding a patron to further her career goals. Their mission becomes more complex when they unravel a deadly plot and Sophronia must choose which side she will support.

Sophronia's studies in espionage are disturbed when a friend of hers gets a urgent letter from home. Something troubling has happened regarding Sidheag's werewolf pack and like a true friend and intelligencer Sophronia must do something in the matter. But like always Sophronia manages to get herself and her group of friends tangled in an even bigger scheme that concerns the Picklemen and the vampires. This, like the other books in the series, is a fast paced and fun book. Things are getting more serious and Sophronia must soon choose a side and choose where her heart lies. I'm excited to start reading the last book in this series and find out how this all ends.

The dangers mount in book 3, as all the girls mature. Sophronia as usual is resistant to the budding male-female relationship potential as both Soap and young Lord Mersey are attracted to her, and even Pillman almost ends up engaged when her Mother catches them alone in the garden. In this book everyone's loyalty, values and finally their affiliation are put to the test. This is Steampunk at its best. The 3 books of this YA version predate the Parasol Protectorate and contain several characters that will reappear much more maturely in the next series. Although I have read this backwards, I believe that the most enjoyment would be in starting here and then going into the rest. The YA classification in no way subtracts from adult reading anymore than it did in the Harry Potter series. In fact those who miss HP will find Gail Carriger a witty, fun, well written series that will more than satisfy you. I am hoping for another book in the Finishing School Series as although this concluded well, I am wondering what will be happening to Soap, Lord Mersey, Sophronia and the rest.

Carriger plays well with irony and Victorian mores, and really enjoys foiling expectations, which is always great fun, but this book is better than the rest. It begins to delve more deeply into the characters' attachments to one another, and adds the complexity of emotional bonds and conflicts to the fun and piquant wit of the series as a whole. Sophronia and Soap, especially, prove to be

much more interesting people than before, and Sidheag comes into her own as more than a brusque, straightforward, rather mannish relief to the froth and frivolity.

Not my favorite of the series. Definitely still had Sophronia's great voice and wit, with some really hilarious lines and moments. I'm used to noticing the "moments" that move the plot and the "outline" or whatnot, since I'm a writer myself, but with these books I'm never sure where things are going or what the plot line is. Which is good, I suppose, since I'm still always ploughing through them as quickly as I can manage. I'm not in love with where I see the love subplot with this one going. I like both choices, quite a bit, actually--even Felix for all his faults. Content: Language: 0 Sex: 3+ (A lot more innuendo in this one, as always spoken of *delicately* in all cases. Most of it has to do with encountering werewolves and their nakedness when they've changed. The girls also begin the book with a "seduction" class, and there is innuendo there as well.) Violence: 2 Overall Rating: PG-16

From book 2 I could've guessed that the series was heading into serious love triangle territory, but I was hoping that it wouldn't become the prime focus. However, it really felt like the main plot in this book was Soap vs. Felix, and Sidheag's werewolf troubles were only a side plot. Not only was this disappointing because love triangles are an annoying trope in YA, but it was also disappointing because Sidheag is my favorite of the girls and I would've loved for her to have a larger role in this book. I also just don't like Felix at all, especially for Sophronia - if you're going to create a love triangle, you should at least make both guys likable. The ending was also a bummer - I was already disappointed that Vieve wasn't in this book, but now it appears that 2 of my other favorite characters will become largely absent from the series. I'm probably going to read spoilers before I decide whether or not to read book 4.

I've been a fan since the very beginning, and while I'm not the sort to write reviews I do read an average of six books a week.... Well, I do! It's my escape from the mundane. Ms. Caringer writes such rich and complex novels it is easy to get lost in her alternative history. There is always a little whimsy, a slash of magic, a pinch of intrigue, and a good portion of romantically fascinating situations. I'm glad her series is culturally diverse without making a huge issue of it. I can't wait for the next book in this series and if you've never read her books, do so! They are each a lovely treat.

I felt like this story was short for the price of the ebook, and the storyline was a little meandering. That being said I did appreciate the further development of characters and the further world building.

I did think that the twist at the end was a little easy. I also dislike that the main conflict wasn't solved and instead was deferred. As with a lot of Miss Carrigers books this one seemed to meander along until the end where twists and conflict deferment occurred. The humor of previous books was very much still in play and kept things entertaining.

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