

AWARD WINNING STEAMPUNK AUTHOR MELISSA COLEMAN TAKES OFF WITH HIDDEN CITY OF ALCHEMY

"An exciting ride through a steampunk world filled with adventure. Surprises around every corner!" - Madolyn Locke, award-winning author of *The Quilt*; "I was taken out of my seat from the first page, and I came back to my world delightfully impacted by her craft and imagination. If there are more Hidden Cities to be explored, sign me up!" - G. Russell Gaynor, International best-selling novelist and screenwriter With accolades like the above, you can see what's on the horizon for Steampunk author Melissa Coleman, and it's not just airships and zeppelins. The Australian writer has been working hard on her upcoming novel release to bring readers a unique mix of steampunk, fantasy, historical fiction and just a tad of romance. The 5-star Readers Favourite author said the novel launch date will be made known next week, along with the cover release. "All good things take time and patience, and that's been my attitude throughout the inspiration process of this book – Hidden City of Alchemy – it's taken me well over two years to create." "I've taken the creative process to the next level which is the production process. After my editor, Georgina Ballantine, finished scrutinising my words, HCOA moved on to design and formatting of the interior and exterior of the book." "It's very exciting!" she said. Hidden City of Alchemy is a tale of alchemic science, unique automatons, a smart heroine with an odd nose (a hereditary defect from her father's side), and a secret society. Set in London and Paris in 1925, smart and somewhat defiant Elizabeth Peters discovers a dangerous family secret in a hidden diary after her mother is kidnapped by German spies. She is sent on a whirlwind adventure from London to Paris while learning the shocking truth about her ancestor and about a chemical which could destroy humankind, if it should fall into the wrong hands. FREE PREVIEW – HIDDEN CITY OF ALCHEMY BY MELISSA H COLEMAN The hail of gunfire from the motor-wagon increased, smashing one of the lanterns and spilling kerosene down one side. Lizzie fired again, pulling the trigger until no bullets remained inside the gun and the hammer clicked against the firing pin. With more gunfire from the vehicle behind, an errant spark from a ricocheting bullet caused the liquid to ignite. Flames roared up the side and she flinched back, almost losing her grip on a swearing Albert. He turned towards her. "We have to jump." Is he mad? Jump where? Seeing her hesitation, Albert stood up on the driving board, putting one booted foot on the wooden dash. Before she realised his intention, he gathered her towards him, lifting her easily with one strong arm. She found herself clutched to his broad chest with her arms around his neck. With a grunt he leapt, and in that weightless moment her heart rose with his momentum, threatening to beat out of her chest. They landed square on the back of one of the fire-panicked horses. His arms around her, he gathered the excess rein in one hand and reached between their bodies. Despite the danger, or perhaps because of it, even the back of his gloved hand across her corset sent electric tingles through her as he pulled out a wickedly sharp knife. She moved with him as he leant forward to cut the traces and free the horses from their confinement. As the horses leapt away, she gripped the gun tightly, making sure it would not fall. She wanted to reload, as she heard the motor-wagon in pursuit behind the flaming clarence. How would they survive this? The burning carriage rolled out of control behind them, jounced wildly, the remaining reins tangled in the front wheels. With a jerk the burning clarence pitched end over end, smashing into the cobblestones with a thunderous crash. The horses, now freed, whinnied in fear and raced forward. Clutched against Albert's chest, Lizzie heard the motor-wagon slam into the carriage and swerve into a wall. FOR MORE: If you would like more information, please contact Cindy Rochstein – 0437 094 049. For more on Cindication, email: cindy@cindication.com / www.cindication.com -ends-

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