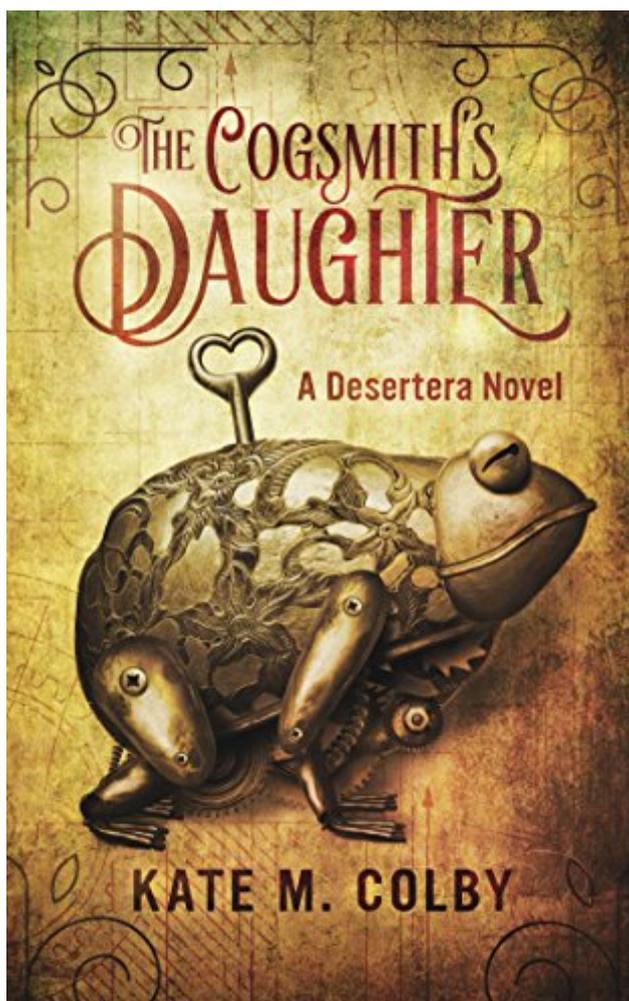


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The Cogsmith's Daughter (Desertera #1)



Synopsis

In a desert wasteland, one king rules with absolute power and unquenchable lust, until the Cogsmith's daughter risks everything for vengeance. Two-hundred years ago, the steam-powered world experienced an apocalyptic flood. When the waters dried up, the survivors settled around their moored steamship in a wasteland they named Desertera. Believing the flood and drought were caused by a scorned goddess, the monarchs demanded execution for anyone who commits the unforgivable sin of adultery. Today, King Archon entraps his wives in the crime of adultery, executing each boring bride to pursue his next infatuation. Most nobles overlook King Archon's behavior, but when Lord Varick's daughter falls victim to the king's schemes, he vows revenge. When Aya Cogsmith was a young girl, King Archon had her father executed for treason. Orphaned and forced to turn to prostitution for survival, Aya dreams of avenging her father's death. When Lord Varick approaches Aya with plans for vengeance, she agrees to play the king's seductress even though it puts her at risk for execution. Packed with high-society intrigue, dappled with seduction, and driven by revenge, *The Cogsmith's Daughter* is a steampunk fantasy novel with the perfect mixture of conspiracy and romance. Join Aya's quest for vengeance. Buy *The Cogsmith's Daughter* today. -----Praise for *The Cogsmith's Daughter*

- - Jonas Lee, Author of *A Time to Reap* and *A Time to Live* "Perfect balance of excitement, romance and suspense!"
- - Zachary Paul Chopchinski, Author of *The Curious Tale of Gabrielle* "Fiction, at its best, should take you away from your reality ... Kate M. Colby, the author, hooked me, kept me interested, and made me look forward to her future works. Well done!"
- - Fia Essen, Author of *Ariel* and *Anna* -----Other books in the Desertera series: *The Courtesan's Avenger* (Desertera #2)

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Customer Reviews

Desertera is a world without water, or at least without much. Imagine a steampunk world in which the steam has dried up, and the denizens are living without their technologies. There's a huge division between the rich and the poor. The king, a despot who has set himself up as the only voice of law in the kingdom, has just married for the tenth time--the first nine wives having been executed for adultery. Aya Cogsmith had a happy life with her father, until the day that he disappointed the king and was summarily executed. With no other family, she ended up on the streets, and eventually at The Rudder, a house ill repute doing the kind of work that "illed" the repute. Then, she gets an opportunity. A Lord approaches her with a plan to take down the king, and promises to help get back her father's old shop if she'll assist him in trapping the king. Of course, it's more complicated than it seems on the surface. Not everyone's motivations are what they say they are. Some people's word is worth more than others. And Aya is risking her life, heart, and happiness on a chance for something better. I really enjoyed this story. Aya was an intriguing and complicated woman, with believable motivations. Watching her navigate the intrigues of court life was fascinating, and allowed the author to show us the world without losing the story to the world-building, always a tricky balance in created-world stories like this one. There was a good balance of romance, mystery, and conspiracy. The bleakness doesn't overwhelm the hope, nor does it feel like the struggles of the characters are pushed aside too easily. Everyone, even the villains, is complex and nuanced. In this way it's a book with something for everyone. If I have one complaint, it's that a surprise at the end was not a surprise to me. But it was a surprise to Aya--believably so--so it still worked.

I was instantly intrigued by the plot of *The Cogsmith's Daughter* and pre-ordered the book a few weeks ago. I went into it with unusually high hopes, seeing as I've never read any works by this author before. I have to say, Colby's writing did not disappoint. As the reader, you are instantly drawn into a beautifully unique world. The blending of steampunk with desert wasteland seemed to work quite well. In fact, the setting was one of my favorite things about the book. Colby does a fantastic job of drawing you into the web of her storytelling. From moment one, you can almost feel the gritty desert winds sweep you along on Aya's journey of growth and revenge. With all the intrigue, you won't want to put the book down till it's finished, and probably not even after that! The only issue I have is I really wanted to know what was behind that blasted door, and I thought for sure a certain important item would open it. Oh well. I suppose I'll just have to wait for the next book to see where it leads!

I was so excited for this book because I have read some pieces from Kate in the past. And I was not disappointed! I stayed up late to read this book and I couldn't have put it down if I tried. The dystopian themes and plays on modern phrases (like saying someone was just another buckle in the corset? Clever!) made me feel like I was inside the characters' heads and world, and none of the dialogue was forced, which made for an easy read. The depth of certain characters was refreshing, and I look forward to the continuation of the story. I like having it in my virtual library, but can't wait to be able to put it on my bookshelf as well! Wonderful job, Kate, and I really can't wait to see what you do and where you go next, both related to this series and with your writing career!

Disclaimer: I received a free ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review. *The Cogsmith's Daughter* promises intrigue - and oh boy, are you going to get it! These are high-end conspiracies carried out with twists and turns around every corner. One was a little too transparent for my preferences, but on the other hand several others caught me entirely by surprise. Overall, the picture painted of Desertera, its court and the characters is a vivid and engaging one, and I hope to see more of it in future titles in this innovative and entertaining series.

This story has more twists and turns than any boa constrictor or terrifying amusement park ride!!!! You follow a young girl from the upper middle class who falls to the depths (through no fault of her own) and yet rises like a phoenix. to discover her own worth and help a kingdom of people as well!

Kate let me have an ARC for an honest review. That said, I was so into the story I bought myself a

copy so I could have access to it on any device. The Cogsmith's Daughter is now entering into my bookshelf of Gimme More! The story itself intertwines with an apocalyptic steampunk world alongside the dystopian royalty line of stories like Game of Thrones. Aya as the main character gives a genuine presence as we follow her journey to try and avenge her father while overturning a malicious king. Kate's way of blending words into a world is astounding and I cannot wait for the next one.

This was a delightful story filled with wonderful characters. It was wonderful to watch Aya grow and become a woman who knew her own heart. I am so looking forward to the next book in the series. Highly recommended!

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