



Mechanica

By Betsy Cornwell

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Nicolette's awful stepsisters call her "Mechanica" to demean her, but the nickname fits: she learned to be an inventor at her mother's knee. Her mom is gone now, though, and the Steps have pushed her into a life of dreary servitude. When she discovers a secret workshop in the cellar on her sixteenth birthday—and befriends Jules, a tiny magical metal horse—Nicolette starts to imagine a new life for herself. And the timing may be perfect: There's a technological exposition and a royal ball on the horizon. Determined to invent her own happily-ever-after, Mechanica seeks to wow the prince and eager entrepreneurs alike.

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Mechanica By Betsy Cornwell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6–10—This inventive and subversive "Cinderella" retelling features Nicolette "Nick," who at 16 discovers the existence of a basement workshop, complete with a furnace, glassblowing apparatus, and other mechanical tools powered partly by fey magic. In secret, she makes mechanical steampunk creatures and devices, skills learned as a child while helping her inventor mother. Nick's been in servitude to her stepmother and stepsisters ever since her father died when she was 10, shortly after his remarriage. The King has banished the fey from the palace and kept his remaining son and heir Christopher sequestered from public view for fear of losing him to fey assassins like the Queen and his older son. No fey goods or magic are allowed in Esting. The protagonist secretly sells some of her creations at Market, but her dreams of selling enough to become independent are soon dashed when her stepfamily discovers some of her contraptions. They destroy them and jeeringly begin calling her Mechanica. Will she still be able to create something to show at the Exposition Gala & Ball that's being held by Prince Christopher to celebrate Esting's inventors and artisans? Readers looking for an atypical fairy tale will find this refreshing because it relies less on traditional romance or happy endings, and more on living independently and unconventionally, loving freely, and being able to choose your own destiny. VERDICT Fans of Marissa Meyer's *Cinder* (Feiwel & Friends, 2012) will gravitate to this tale.—Sharon Rawlins, New Jersey State Library, Trenton

Review

"With a unique mix of steampunk and the maker movement, *Mechanica* introduces a smart, strong, talented heroine who may be able to find her prince, but doesn't necessarily want to."

—BookPage

"If you are a fan of fantasy or fairy tale retellings, you'll love *Mechanica*."

—Miss Literati

"Combines a feminist Cinderella story with a beautiful steampunk world."

—Hypable

"Betsy Cornwell twists Cinderella to her own unique take, and *Mechanica* will definitely please readers."

—USA Today

"Cornwell creates a diverting plot starring a unique cast of characters."

—RT Book Reviews

"Sure to appeal to fans of Marissa Meyer's *Lunar Chronicles*. . . With a strong focus on making your dreams happen no matter what, this feminist fairy tale breathes new life into an old favorite."

—Bookish

* "A smart, refreshing alternative to stale genre tropes."

—Kirkus, starred review

"*Mechanica* has a thoroughly modern theme and teaches young readers to find their passion and become self-reliant."

—VOYA

"Readers looking for an atypical fairy tale will find this refreshing because it relies less on traditional romance or happy endings, and more on living independently and unconventionally, loving freely, and being able to choose your own destiny."

—*School Library Journal*

"Fans of fairy-tale updates will find it easy to lose themselves in this bright, romantic story, whose hero shows she can not only have it all but also do it herself."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Readers who can't get enough of the growing steampunk trend will happily pick this up."

—*Booklist*

About the Author

Betsy Cornwell is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Tides*, *Mechanica*, and *Venturess*. She graduated from Smith College and was a columnist and editor at *Teen Ink* before receiving an MFA in creative writing from Notre Dame, where she also taught fiction. After grad school, she ran away to Ireland to live with the fairies, and she now resides in a small cottage on the west coast with her horse-trainer spouse. To learn more, visit her at www.betsycornwell.com, on Twitter at @Betsy_Cornwell, and on Instagram at @BetsyCornwell.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carrie Rivas:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading any book, we give you this *Mechanica* book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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