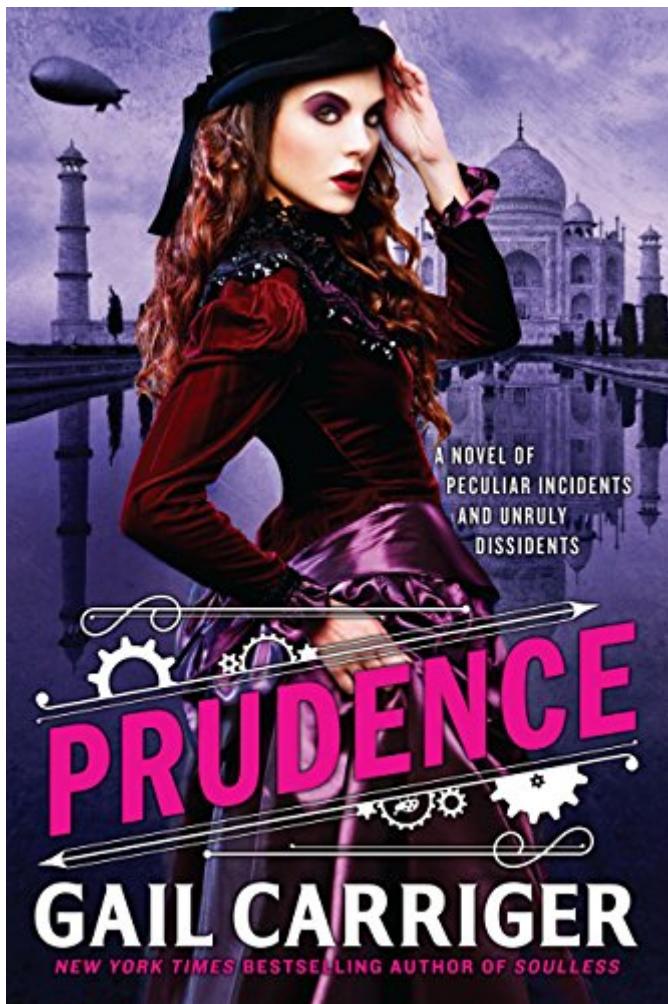


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Prudence (The Custard Protocol)



Synopsis

Introducing the Custard Protocol series, in which Prudence travels to India for Queen, country...and the perfect pot of tea. When Prudence Alessandra Maccon Akeldama ("Rue" to her friends) is bequeathed an unexpected dirigible, she does what any sensible female under similar circumstances would do -- she christens it the Spotted Custard and floats off to India. Soon, she stumbles upon a plot involving local dissidents, a kidnapped brigadier's wife, and some awfully familiar Scottish werewolves. Faced with a dire crisis (and an embarrassing lack of bloomers), Rue must rely on her good breeding -- and her metanatural abilities -- to get to the bottom of it all...The Custard ProtocolPrudenceImprudenceFor more from Gail Carriger, check out: The Parasol Protectorate SoullessChangelessBlamelessHeartlessTimelessFinishing School (YA)Etiquette & EspionageCurtsies & ConspiraciesWaistcoats & WeaponryManners & Mutiny

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Customer Reviews

All of Ms. Carriger's previous books have been loads of fun, and I expected nothing less here...and I wasn't entirely disappointed. I'd give this four stars, except the sloppy editing took away some of my enjoyment--pallet, palate, and palette are three different words that mean three different things. You

can't use "pallet" for all three. Just saying. One or two typos are fine, but this went beyond that--I got the impression somebody hurried through the process and didn't care. So, a one-star penalty for rushing. Overall, this was mostly character development for what will (I hope) become a series, and very enjoyable. It lacks some of the richness of the earlier books, like "Soulless", although the author's clever use of language is thankfully still very much front and center. As other reviewers have said, you don't need to have read the Parasol Protectorate series to enjoy this, but you may find that you want to read that series to get the backstory on the adult characters.

Prudence is the first book in a new series set in Gail Carriger's Parasol Protectorate/Finishing School world. It's set almost two decades after the end of the Parasol Protectorate series and features the children of the main characters from that series as they set off on their own adventures. I enjoyed returning to this world and many of the characters. I really enjoyed the occasional peek at old characters. The one character I didn't really care for was Prudence herself. She was a little too impulsive and overly arrogant for me, as her arrogance was really based on her abilities rather than her skills and knowledge. The beginning of the story was fun, but the plotline took a bit too long to emerge, and even when it did, it was very muddled, as if Carriger wasn't sure where she was going with the story. Most of the ending fell flat for me, though it picked up again in the last chapter as Prudence and her company pull themselves together for the next adventure. Overall, some good characters and a solid world, but a shaky beginning to a new series. I will be reading the next book to see if Prudence can find her legs.

Rue, Prim, Percy, and Quesnel take The Spotted Custard to India! Gail has done it again. I knew I would enjoy the story because I have loved everything she has ever written, but I didn't expect a story that rivaled so the Parasol Protectorate series. The Parasol Protectorate world, the one in which all of Gail's series are set, is the most wonderful and complete world I have ever had the pleasure of traveling to. It is somehow simple enough (or explained well enough) to not need a novel of its own to be familiar with but still has enough going on to be thoroughly enjoyable. The main players are humans, vampires (dictating fashion), werewolves (all involved in the military), a preternatural, and a metanatural. When touching a supernatural, preternaturals remove the super and leave them in human form. When a metanatural touches a supernatural, said metanatural takes on the qualities that make the supernat super and keep the touched human until sunrise or a certain distance has been met between the two. Prudence (the infant inconvenience of the Parasol Protectorate's main couple) is sent to India by her father to look into opening a tea-growing

business. On the way there they discover the trip has turned into much more than that; they have to solve a kidnapping and a tea napping, stumble their way around Bombay, and figure out how a lioness fits into it all. For those familiar with the preceding series, I have no doubt that this story will enthral and excite. We see the return of many of our most beloved characters and the way some of them have grown (up) and changed is just really lovely. If you have not read the Parasol Protectorate series, please do. Prudence will mean that much more to you. 100/5 Stars

I think this is a rather tame start to a new series by comparison to the the bang of the two previous series. Rue is also very tame in comparison to the two previous heroines, but considering how much control the adults had over her childhood and how much freedom the other two had, I can't really blame her. Rue is a metanatural, able to steal other supernatural's shape and abilities when she touches them. Even by supernatural standards, she's a freak, so she'd been raised in very controlled circumstances. Her parents -- a werewolf and a soulless, to keep her alive, had to give her up, to be raised by a vampire. While wild and a tad spoiled, Rue is very much a lady, and a tad sheltered-- even if surrounded by dangerous creatures of the night. So when she's given her first task by her vampire father she jumps at the opportunity of adventure and freedom from several sets of parents. With her ragtag crew they set off to India where they discover a new set of were-creatures. Except they might also floated into a age old supernatural civil war. I found all the characters interesting and useful in their own right. Again, they seem rather tame by comparison to the two other series, but still rather interesting. While not necessary to read the other two series before this one, I would still recommend it. As I would recommend this series to all the fans of Parasol Protectorate and The Finishing School series.

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