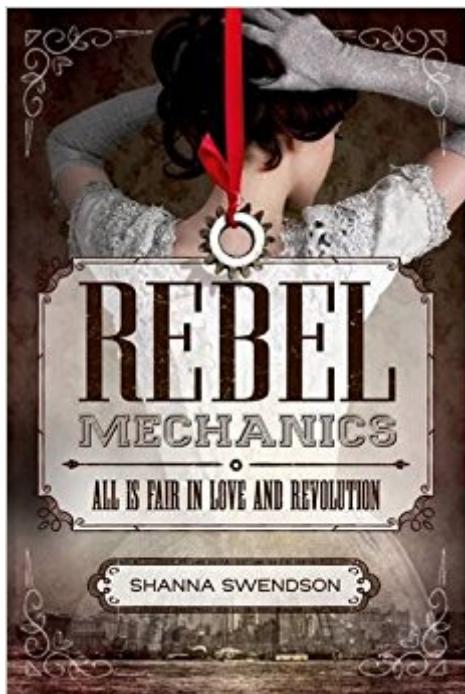


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# Rebel Mechanics: All Is Fair In Love And Revolution



## Synopsis

What if British magic kept the American Revolution from ever occurring? It's 1888, and seventeen-year-old Verity Newton lands a job in New York as a governess to a wealthy leading family—but she quickly learns that the family has big secrets. Magisters have always ruled the colonies, but now an underground society of mechanics and engineers are developing non-magical sources of power via steam engines that they hope will help them gain freedom from British rule. The family Verity works for is magister—but it seems like the children's young guardian uncle is sympathetic to the rebel cause. As Verity falls for a charming rebel inventor and agrees to become a spy, she also becomes more and more enmeshed in the magister family's life. She soon realizes she's uniquely positioned to advance the cause—but to do so, she'll have to reveal her own dangerous secret. *Rebel Mechanics: All Is Fair in Love and Revolution* by Shanna Swendson is a fast-paced, romantic young adult novel full of intrigue and starring a strong, spunky heroine. "Steampunk fans will enjoy this gadget-filled costume drama." -Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10 •It is 1888, and the Magisters, the magical British upper-class, rule the American colonies after their devastating victory in the American Revolution. The rebels now look elsewhere—to science and engineering—for the power to help them overthrow British rule. Seventeen-year-old Verity Newton comes to New York City looking for work and is quickly

swept up in the revolutionary fervor of the young mechanics, engineers, and scientists who befriend her. Even the handsome, young magister who has hired her as a nanny for his nieces and nephew seems suspiciously sympathetic to the cause. So when Verity's rebel friends and developing love-interest ask her to become a spy among the magisters, she takes up the task. But in so doing, she puts her own secrets at risk of exposure. Verity, although only a professor's daughter, has magical abilities. Steam-powered and magic vehicles, electric dynamos, and other interesting inventions pepper the exciting steampunk setting of this rollicking, campy adventure that moves along at the pace of a charging train. New secrets unfold every chapter, speeding toward the action-packed ending that easily sets the scene (and the love triangle) for a follow-up novel. Recommend to fans of Gail Carriger's "The Finishing School" series (Little, Brown). VERDICT Overall, a predictable story that's a whole lot of fun. — Mariah Manley, Salt Lake City Public Library --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"Verity, a spunky, highly believable, well rounded character . . . keeps the reader turning the pages." It is 1888, and the Magisters, the magical British upper-class, rule the American colonies after their devastating victory in the American Revolution. The rebels now look elsewhere to science and engineering for the power to help them overthrow British rule. Seventeen-year-old Verity Newton comes to New York City looking for work and is quickly swept up in the revolutionary fervor of the young mechanics, engineers, and scientists who befriend her. . . . Recommend to fans of Gail Carriger's "The Finishing School" series. . . . a whole lot of fun." -School Library Journal "Steampunk fans will enjoy this gadget-filled costume drama." -Kirkus Reviews

I don't want to make this book all about romance..BUT LORD FRICKIN ADORABLE HENRY!!! figured if I don't go ahead and get my squealing about him out of the way I won't be able to focus on this review about the other happenings of this book. Seriously though, this book has it all. Fearless female lead (Verity). Ridiculously adorable man (Lord Henry). Steampunk ( all the awesome machines). Alternate history. Magic (which determines the hierarchy of the citizens). Revolutionaries. Rebel Spies. Secret Reporters. Danger. You name it, this book has the goodness, which is exactly what made me want to read this title. Oh and the cover, which screams all of those things. (Also I got my hardcover in yesterday and it is indeed GLORIOUS!) I won't lie though, even with all the things the premise and cover have going for it, I was a little hesitant about Rebel Mechanics initially. It

sounded to good to be true and IÃ¢â€šÃ¢ve been lured in by steampunk before only to be swiftly let down, several times. This one though, definitely held me up all the way through. It was light but also full of mystery and intrigue. The mix was really well done. The setting of the alternate history was really vivid. It was easy for me to be able to imagine the world Verity lived in and the things she participated in. I very easily could see this as a movie done in black and white, and the rebels meeting up and doing all the stealthy things with their machines to fight the system. This book really did a good job of pulling me in COMPLETELY. I actually really loved all the characters. Verity and Lord Henry are definitely my favorite. She is quite fearless and does what she thinks needs to be done especially when people she cares about are involved. Lord Henry is quite dorky but also intriguing and mysterious. I love VerityÃ¢â€šÃ¢s role as the governess for Lord Henry to his nephew and nieces. IÃ¢â€šÃ¢m really hoping to see even more interaction with them in the next installment. IÃ¢â€šÃ¢m really intrigued by the oldest, Flora, I see so much potential character growth for her and I hope that is something that happens in the next books. IÃ¢â€šÃ¢m also really intrigued by the kidÃ¢â€šÃ¢s Aunt Eleanor. I think she has quite a few secrets and I would love to see if IÃ¢â€šÃ¢m right on some of them. As for the rebels that Verity meets, I like some of them, Lizzie, Colin, Nate, but Alec rubbed me the wrong way from the get go. I donÃ¢â€šÃ¢t think heÃ¢â€šÃ¢s a bad guy per say, he just really made me twitch from the beginning. Some of the characters had quite a few secret identities along the way and I think their reveals were really well done. I really canÃ¢â€šÃ¢t say that there was anything that I didnÃ¢â€šÃ¢t like about this book. Honestly when I was done I just kind of stared at it with a grin and wanted to just hug it for days. Then yell at it to give me kissing because gosh darnit itÃ¢â€šÃ¢s needed! As much as I love the potential shipping I can do with this book, the romance aspect seriously is not that big of a thing in the book. I just have hopes and dreams. LOL If you could buy one book today, I definitely suggest this one! So go. Buy it.

I adored reading that! My god, was that some delightful fun. Adorable boy, fun rebel shenanigans, a feisty yet practical heroine, plays on a bunch of tropes, and alternate history to boot.. If you love stories about governesses, nobility, magic, New York City, steampunk gadgets, or--must be said again--completely adorable boys, read Rebel Mechanics, because reading it was pure pleasure. It's short and zippy and not too deep, but sometimes that's perfect. I'm so full of SQUEE. (And I toooooally ship the ship, yessiree.)Rebel Mechanics is set in an alternate Victorian New York City, the largest city in an America that never gained independence from Britain, namely because the British nobles could do MAAAAAGIC. So the plebeian Americans are ruled by the magister class,

and there is a huge class divide and uneven power and all sort of things I love to see in a good revolution tale. Our heroine, Verity Newton, is a non-magister daughter of a university professor, come to the big city to be a governess for three wealthy magister children. Already we're firing on all cylinders, trope-wise and Gillian-wise, because I LOVE GOVERNESS TALES thank you Charlotte Bronte. Plain strong obscure fierce of heart governesses FTW And then things REALLY start off delightfully because the very first scene is Verity's train being robbed by BANDITS, hot flirty bandits, of course, and she whaps the hot flirty bandit on the head with her bag, and yes, Verity, yes. Yes yes yes. That should give you a very good idea of the sort of tone and feel you'll get in Rebel Mechanics. Reading this book was a JOY. A tropey, fluffy, fun, steampunk, magical JOY. Verity is practical and feisty and intellectual, and she harbors a Deep Secret. She gets caught up in the rebel movement that is trying to overthrow the magister leading class through STEAMPUNK MECHANICS, since all kinds of technology that could challenge the pervasive usage of and reliance on maaaaagic is verboten. There are airships and magical carriages and steam-powered buses and all sorts of fun things. NOW. ROMANCE-WISE. I've seen lots of people decide to pass this book by for love triangle reasons, and that sads me for multiple reasons, namely 1) THIS BOOK IS LOVELY PLEASE READ IT 2) I wouldn't classify this as a love triangle per se, more like she has two different romantic OPTIONS and her (mild spoilers) desire for them doesn't overlap, it's more like a bait and switch 3) THAT SHIP IS THE SHIP OF DREEEEEEAMS. It is sosososososososososo cute. Seriously, I'm trying very hard not to be spoilery, but one of the boys is SO GOD DAMN CUTE and Kristen in her review compared him to the Tenth Doctor and THIS IS NOT AT ALL A BAD COMPARISON. I'm so excited for book two and this ship. I love this ship. Stake me to this ship and leave me where with the fluffs and the cutes. Like sure, the twists are predictable and it's a very LIGHT read and seems very much like the BEGINNING of a series, meaning most of the seriously seriously good stuff is to come, but oh, my heart needed this book. Totally preordered myself a finished copy, yes I did. So I can have Lord Henry all to myself.

This summer I had the privilege of reading "Rebel Mechanics" by Iain M. Banks. I'm a dorky huge fan of young adult fiction, but this was my first steampunk novel. The story quickly draws you in with its inventiveness and "what if" factor. The tale takes place in an 1800s alternate history where American colonies are still under British Rule. MAGICAL British rule. Magic=FUN!! I loved this light hearted, creative read. The characters are likable, quirky, and eccentric. If you love spies, revolution, magic and rebels, this book does not

disappoint. Shanna Swendson is the talented writer of another fun “magical” series called “Enchanted” “Rebel Mechanics” on the Texas Lone Star Reading List, and am honored to call Shanna a friend, past co-worker, and part of my church family. I read “Rebel Mechanics” in a week! a massive achievement during summer months for this busy mom. I just ordered my copy of the 2nd book, “Rebel Magisters”, and can’t wait to dive in. 5 stars Shanna!

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