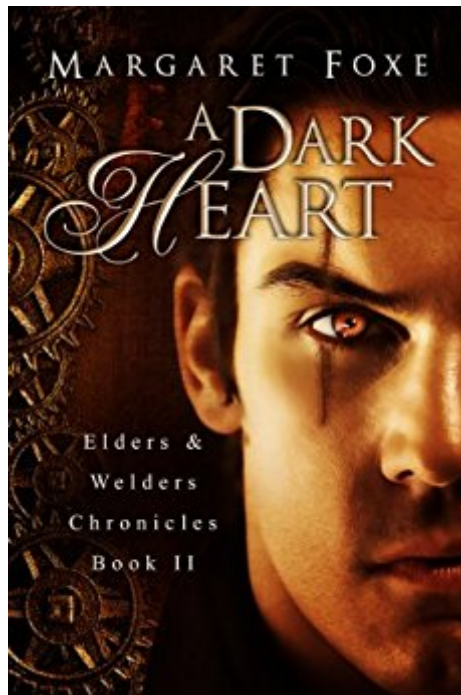




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# **A Dark Heart (Elders And Welders Chronicles Book 2)**



## Synopsis

A Dark Heart Book Two in The Elders and Welders Chronicles London, 1897: Lady Christiana Harker once committed a grave sin against her kind when she saved Inspector Elijah Drexler's life by turning him into a vampire. Christiana's bold act has only driven Elijah deeper into an impenetrable darkness, fueled by morphine, nightmares, and a constant thirst for blood. Elijah has no room left in his heart for anything but his quest for vengeance against his childhood tormentor, a quest that he fully expects to end with his own death. But when the mysterious Duke of Brightlingsea requests Elijah's help in locating a doomsday device that could level half of London, Elijah's personal vendetta becomes entangled with a secret war being waged among the immortal Elders. Just when Christiana finally accepts that her long-held love for the Inspector will forever be unrequited, however, a catastrophe brings them together, forcing Elijah to finally confront his feelings for Christiana. But will Christiana's love be strong enough to weather the terrible truths buried deep in Elijah's past? And will Elijah find the strength of will to finally cast off his demons and let love into his dark heart? This Victorian steampunk romance is recommended for adult audiences.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just finished and am in shock by ending. Must have book 3. Was reading happily along with the frustrated romance of Lady Christina aka Ana and the wrong headed Inspector, with the usual dangers, misunderstandings, and a few vampires thrown in making for a very nice Steampunk romance. Suddenly the action amplified and peripheral characters came to the front as nothing was what you thought throughout the first 3 quarters of this book. I am still stunned by the revelations. It's not a cliff hanger in that the original romance story line is resolved (although I suspect that there is a bit more to that), but it brought in the next big twist and it is a doozy! Oh, I hope that book is coming soon. My advice, read this series. You will need to keep an eye on this talented author, who has also written a humorous Regency Romance *THE DUKE'S HOLIDAY* under the name Maggie Fenton.

You need to be prepared to dig into this book. I had to force myself to be persistent, and it was worth it in the end, but that's why 3 stars instead of 4. This book is initially quite disturbing and not for the faint of heart. I am not going to pull punches here because you should know this going in: the main character was sexually and physically abused as a young boy, which is where the story starts, and some of the descriptions of the abuse are graphic. To give credit where it is due, Foxe makes Elijah a character who you definitely sympathize for if not empathize with. And, the villain (one of them, anyhow) is absolutely vile and abhorrent. But, this makes the book and the actual plot really hard to get into. After *\*Prince of Hearts\**, the first book in this series, I was not expecting such a dark tale. It starts with Elijah's history and then jumps to about a year after *\*Prince\** ends. Lady Christiana, who I expected to appear immediately, doesn't make an entrance until what feels like is deep in the book. Another reason for the 3 stars: I was expecting a romance, and this is far more a redemption story than it is a romance story. Don't get me wrong; it has romance, but it's clouded by the darkness in Elijah's past and his need for revenge and redemption. The romance angle feels small in comparison to the story arc that Foxe is building. I did not feel that Lady Christiana was served well in this book. She grows, but it's such shallow growth compared to Elijah's. I almost can't see them together. She's too forgiving and ordinary and nice, and he's such a dark, deep guy. I didn't entirely buy the chemistry between them, and there are some aspects of their early attempts at romance that will be disturbing to readers. Now, the story-arc that Foxe is building is really complex and cool. If not for the comments above, I would have given 4 stars for the uniqueness and depth of the story-arc. This book feels like a filler-book - a way for Foxe to introduce some new, necessary characters and to push some information and foreshadowing (some obvious, but I can

live with that). \*Dark Heart\* starts as a revenge and redemption story for Elijah, but ultimately weaves together more of the Elders than expected. Sasha and Aline feature in this book, as do Rowan and Brightlingsea. We also get a couple of new characters; I particularly liked Percy Parminter. Characters are connected in unexpected and interesting ways - some ways only hinted at in this book - and the plot in future books is opened tremendously. As I put in my title, this is disturbing but riveting. Be prepared to dig in. Be prepared to set it down and walk away. Be prepared to be so curious that you pick it up again and push through the darkness. The light at the end is definitely worth it.

Well written and certainly entertaining. I have enjoyed both books in this series and plan on continuing to the conclusion.

fabulous series....didn't think I would like it however, Margaret Foxe kept me wanting to turn the pages...have read all three and waiting for more from her...

Loved A Dark Heart, the second installment in the Elders and Welders Chronicles. Elijah Drexler's agony, with his tormented past, his love/hate for Lady Christiana, his unrelenting revenge...wow. Ana is just brilliant when she's finally had enough and takes charge of her life. And the villain...horrible and vile and truly awful. It was great to have characters from Prince of Hearts also be integral to this story, and the epilogue (the dastardly epilogue!!) sets up the third book which I already want. Now. This is a wonderfully written series, with characters you come to love (and drool over), and a plot that just sizzles with romance, adventure, steampunk inventions, and a whole lot of mystery and intrigue.

A steam punk novel this one is set in an alternative London. The characters are fantastic and very much like what you would find in a good Regency novel. So with the two worlds combined you can have twice the fun.

Have not read as yet

I was actually a little nervous about this... I enjoyed the first book of the series so much I was afraid anything after would fall a bit flat. I should not have worried though- I got just as lost in this story, and just as attached to the characters. In fact, I may have enjoyed this more, as I was already

familiar with them and they only got richer and more developed. Cannot wait until the next!

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