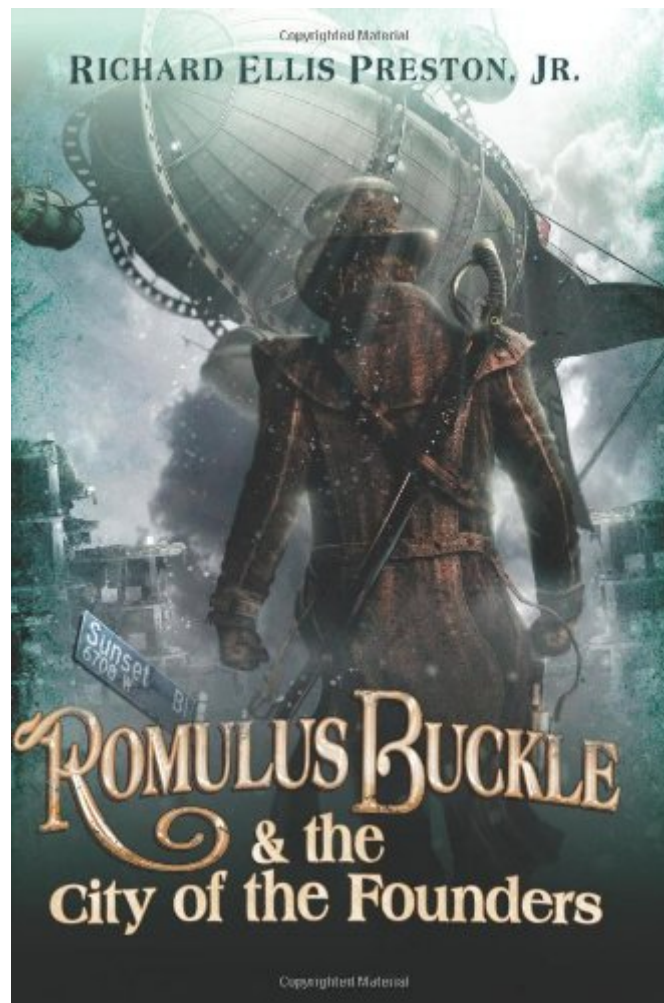




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Romulus Buckle & The City Of The Founders (The Chronicles Of The Pneumatic Zeppelin Book 1)



Synopsis

In a post-apocalyptic world of endless snow, eighteen-year-old Captain Romulus Buckle and the stalwart crew of the Pneumatic Zeppelin must embark on a perilous mission to rescue their kidnapped leader, Balthazar Crankshaft, from the impenetrable City of the Founders. Steaming over a territory once known as Southern California—before it was devastated in the alien war—Buckle navigates his massive airship through skies infested with enemy war zeppelins and ravenous alien beasts in this swashbuckling and high-octane steampunk adventure. Life is desperate in the Snow World—and death is quick—Buckle and his ship—,s company must brave poisoned wastelands of noxious mustard and do battle with forgewalkers, steampipers and armored locomotives as they plunge from the skies into the underground prison warrens of the fortress-city. Captain Romulus Buckle must lead the Pneumatic Zeppelin and its crew of never-do-wells on a desperate mission where he must risk everything to save Balthazar and attempt to prevent a catastrophic war which could wipe out all that is left of civilization and the entire human race.

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Customer Reviews

I love detail, and this book is full of details. Not the silly irrelevant kind that drive a reader mad, but the kind you are thankful for when you are taken deeper into the story and character narratives. Descriptions so clear they make your mind sing as you are easily transported to this place that, in this temporal realm, does not truly exist.

What I liked about the book:

1. The Characters. The multiple characters and wicked new post apocalyptic world are worth the details and character descriptions at the front of the book. Fantasy and Science Fiction fans will not have a problem with the narratives, and will most likely enjoy the details in the front of the book. I'm just going to tell readers more accustomed to the softer narrative genre to take the learning curve in stride, it is all there for good cause.
2. The action. There is no waiting for action, battles, thrill, or combat in this book. You get thrown into the story from the start and it presses forward in a fast, thrilling, and very entertaining way, with parts that even made me laugh out loud. I enjoyed the stress of flying a Zeppelin, the unusual in fighting flying dinosaurs, and the interesting in navigating hostile territory with a robot resembling an owl.
3. The environment. I read fantasy and science fiction so I can to be taken somewhere new and different and this is achieved in this book. The cultures and landmarks are relatable, but it was wonderful being taken 300 years past a world apocalypse, which transformed the face of planet earth. I found the result highly creative and entertaining.

The only reason I did not give this book five stars was my strict criteria that a five star read be something I might read again someday. I don't think I'll need to; this is a highly memorable and fun book.

I own this book in all three formats, The printed book has a beautiful cover and is printed well. The audible is read with impeccable form and the narrator really brings the story to life. This was one of my first forays into steampunk genre and I LOVED it, It is set in a world that is dark, and dangerous, but the locations are very well described. The author obviously knows the area well, and has truly made a masterful setting using a real life area in a post apocalyptic setting. I don't wish to give anything away, but the thought and structure put into the setting, and the airship are truly enormous, so much so that I am honestly wishing I could board a proper ridged airship and fly around with the likes of Buckle and crew! If I ever have the space I may attempt to build a functional scale model of the Pneumatic Zeppelin because in my mind the ship is a very near a real thing, the power of the authors words to bring his setting and characters to life, are impressive.

This is poor writing and a very weak story. I couldn't make it 30 pages in because I was so bored

with the predictable character names, predictable backgrounds, and just overplayed nature of all aspects of the story. I guess if it were the only book left in the world, I could read it, but only on that premise.

Hats with gears and copper tubing? This book might as well just say steampunk over and over. There's nothing remotely believable about anything. It's beyond ridiculous. It's a cash grab grounded on the popularity of steampunk.

I enjoyed the descriptive world. I usually speed through books, but this one made me Slow down to enjoy each character. Thank you, nice not to cringe from bad language.

I was continually enthralled by the author's ability to build a new world full of mysteries but without the complacent explanations of how our world turned into this one. How did humans survive the mustard gas? What was it like when electricity stopped working across the world? What happened to the martians? We learn to follow along with these interesting realities while the real story unfolds in realistic and exciting detail. Preston develops complicated but very believable characters throughout the story and introduces interesting interactions and relationships among them. I am downloading the second book in the series tonight and hope against hope that a third book will be available within the next few days.

I've always been intrigued with Steampunk from afar, and never thought I would pick up a novel dealing with the topic until Romulus Buckle & the City of Founders was recommended by a co-worker. Once I started reading Romulus Buckle I couldn't stop. The characters are well drawn and Preston's writing style keeps you interested page after page. The author paints a descriptive world that you can easily find yourself wrapped in. As you pound your way through the adventures you become vested in all the characters Preston has so generously laid in front of you. By the end of the novel you realize you want more and can't wait for the follow up to hit the shelves.

Though the worldbuilding that suffuses this book is interesting, often fascinating, the narrative writing is extremely weak. Dialog is stilted, characters are flat and inconsistent, all the tension is packed into one sequence towards the end, and there are revelations whose delivery and gravity are completely bungled. Worst of all, the book is a textbook for telling instead of showing. We can't go three pages without the narrative reminding us of the habits of Max's Martian blood or whichever

character traits Buckle is supposed to have this chapter, but it it rarely reflected in action or dialog. Then, it ends with no resolution but a weak sequel hook. There could have been something here, but it seriously needs a strong editorial hand.

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Romulus Buckle and the Luminiferous Aether (The Chronicles of the Pneumatic Zeppelin Book 3)
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