



The Dark Unwinding

By Sharon Cameron



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From the award-winning author of *Rook* comes a delicious and twisty tale, filled with spine-tingling intrigue, juicy romance, and dangerous family secrets.

When a rumor that her uncle is squandering away the family fortune surfaces, Katharine Tulman is sent to his estate to have him committed to an asylum. But instead of a lunatic, Katharine discovers a genius inventor with his own set of childlike rules, who is employing a village of nine hundred people rescued from the workhouses of London.

Katharine becomes torn between protecting her own livelihood and preserving the peculiar community she grows to care for deeply -- a conflict made more complicated by her developing feelings for her uncle's handsome apprentice. As the mysteries of the estate begin to unravel, it is clear that not only is her uncle's world at stake, but also the state of England as Katharine knows it. With twists and turns at every corner, this extraordinary adventure will captivate readers with its thrills and romance.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7-10-Katherine Tulman, 17, faces an impossible decision when she arrives at Stranwyne Keep, in 1852. Her avaricious aunt wishes to seize the profitable estate and orders Katherine's visit so that she may declare her husband insane. Upon her arrival, however, Katherine learns that her eccentric uncle's clockwork factory employs hundreds of individuals plucked from workhouses. Doing her aunt's bidding would undoubtedly send them back into poverty. Katherine receives a warm welcome from her likely autistic uncle and a quirky village girl, Mary Brown. Her uncle's brooding assistant and his aunt treat her with greater suspicion. Katherine wonders if she, like her Uncle Tully, is losing her grip on reality as she struggles with nighttime visions. She must decide between her self-interest and her uncle's well-being even as more sinister characters begin to emerge. Cameron's debut novel reads like a steampunk fantasy. Detailed descriptions of the keep and grounds make for admirable world-building. Secret passages, canals, and Victorian furnishings drip from every page. Tully's clockwork creations seem wondrous, even eerily animated, adding to the story's chilling sense of dread. The villain's identity will be obvious to readers, and Katherine wavers overlong in her deliberations, but teens are not likely to mind as they experience Katherine's romantic and moral dilemma. Hand this to fans of Kenneth Oppel or Libba Bray, and readers who pursue history, invention, or romance. They will find Cameron's scientific fable to their taste.-Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Seventeen-year-old Katharine Tullman is faced with an onerous task: her mean-spirited and acerbic Aunt Alice is sending her to Stranwyne to commit her Uncle Tully to an asylum, thus saving the family fortune that he is rumored to be depleting. While he is admittedly strange—he would probably be labeled autistic today—his estate and fantastical creations are providing the means to rescue families from the poorhouse, allowing them to live together as they care for him and the property. First-time novelist Cameron has based this delightful tale on the fifth Duke of Portland's Victorian estate, Welbeck Abbey, which provided work for poor families in a similar manner during the 1850s. A Sue Alexander Award winner, Cameron has created characters worthy of this larger-than-life estate and a plot that is as convoluted and surprising as the house itself. With villains morphing into friends and friends morphing into foes, the novel, while perhaps not an easy sell, will reward those readers who enjoy historical fiction served up with a dash of the strange, the mysterious, and the romantic. Grades 7-12. --Frances Bradburn

Review

Praise for *The Dark Unwinding*:

A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection

Winner of the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award

"Utterly original, romantic, and spellbindingly imaginative." -- *USA Today*

"Haunting thrills unfurl..." -- *Entertainment Weekly*

"Gripping twists, rich language, and an evocative landscape." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"[A] singularly polished piece." -- *The Horn Book*

"A strikingly original, twisty gothic tale that holds surprises around every dark corner." --Judy Blundell, author of *What I Saw and How I Lied*

Praise for *A Spark Unseen*:

"Gripping... [an] absorbing, intelligent adventure." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Therese McGaha:

This *The Dark Unwinding* book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That *The Dark Unwinding* without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry *The Dark Unwinding* can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *The Dark Unwinding* having fine arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Lisa Knight:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some study before they write with their book. One of them is this *The Dark Unwinding*.

Stacey Stern:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love *The Dark Unwinding*, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Marie Nitta:

Beside this particular The Dark Unwinding in your phone, it may give you a way to get more close to the new knowledge or data. The information and the knowledge you are going to get here is fresh from your oven so don't possibly be worry if you feel like an aged people live in narrow community. It is good thing to have The Dark Unwinding because this book offers to your account readable information. Do you at times have book but you do not get what it's interesting features of. Oh come on, that wil happen if you have this in the hand. The Enjoyable agreement here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss the item? Find this book and read it from today!

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