



Chainbreaker

Tara Sim

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Clock mechanic Danny Hart knows he's being watched. But by whom, or what, remains a mystery. To make matters worse, clock towers have begun falling in India, though time hasn't Stopped yet. He'd hoped after reuniting with his father and exploring his relationship with Colton, he'd have some time to settle into his new life. Instead, he's asked to investigate the attacks.

After inspecting some of the fallen Indian towers, he realizes the British occupation may be sparking more than just attacks. And as Danny and Colton unravel more secrets about their past, they find themselves on a dark and dangerous path--one from which they may never return.

Chainbreaker Details

Date : Published January 2nd 2018 by Sky Pony

ISBN : 9781510706194

Author : Tara Sim

Format : Hardcover 473 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Lgbt, Science Fiction, Steampunk

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From Reader Review Chainbreaker for online ebook

Stephanie says

FRODO WAS ALIVE BUT TAKEN BY THE ENEMY

Christy says

I loved:

1. The rich & diverse set of characters & settings
 2. Colton, being so brave!
 3. "Time shivered"
 4. Getting answers in book 2! (Like for real why can't this happen more often)
 5. Everything go buy this book right now
-

Pauline Fireheart says

3,5/5 stars

★ Summary ★

This is the second installment in the Timekeeper trilogy. Danny is now leaving in Enfield with Colton. The threat he received a few months back is still fresh on his mind when he's asked to fly to India to investigate on fallen clock towers. Little does he know how dangerous this trip will be for him.

★ Writing ★

The writing style is eloquent and gripping. But I have one huge issue with this book: it is written from a third person limited point of view. This results in an annoying lack of depths to the characters. I can't really care about them when they are so flat. They have so much potential especially Colton who's a clock spirit. I would enjoy this books a lot more if it were written from an omniscient point of view.

★ Characters ★

I enjoy the development of the friendship between Daphné and Danny. I wish we could have gotten more about their relationship in this book.

The relationship between Danny and Colton has so much potential as well but it really needs more substance. Colton is truly the highlight of this book. I am so happy that he got dedicated chapters. He took matters into his own hands and lived quite the adventure in this book. Plus, his ignorance of human ways is adorable.

★ Plot ★

The steampunk aspect of the story is less prominent in this book than it was in the first one. I love the Indian

setting. I am not very well-versed in Indian culture so I really enjoy the few glimpses I got throughout this book. I also enjoyed the Greek Mythology element in the story.

The whole terrorist attacks intrigue is interesting and while reading the book I never knew who to trust or not. I was kept guessing, true, but at the same time the storyline didn't feel really cohesive and I was often wondering where the author intended her story to go. There are still a lot of question that needs to be answered. Hopefully, everything will wrap-up nicely in the third book.

★ Overall ★

This is a good book but I wasn't satisfied while reading it. Like I said many times in this short review, I kept wishing for more. Even the cliffhanger, in the end, left me unimpressed.

Laura says

I am her agent, and I can't wait for this to come out for the public to read!

Lyra says

So, I don't have time to do a more complete review of this book that I will later, but I have two points that I'll leave right now:

- 1) Massive, overwhelming cliffhanger alert! Oh my wowzers! Cliffhanger!
- 2) I still really liked this book, despite the cliffhanger. I just wish that I'd known it was a cliffhanger so I could have waited until book 3 came out and I could have had it ready to read right after. CLIFFHANGER!

12/2/2018

ACTUAL REVIEW:

I'm getting so behind on my reviews it's absurd!

Ok, so I intensely liked this book. A lot. Despite the fact that it's a cliffhanger, which I would have kind of expected if I'd known it was the second book of three (**I did not know this**). I thought it was a lot better in quality than the first book and I *adored* the fact that we had steampunk going on in somewhere other than England (woot woot!). The romance factor of this book took a steep decline because Colton and Danny spent the overwhelming majority of the book separated doing their own things, but hopefully that will change again in the third book. Speaking of Colton, I liked him *way* better as a person in this book; he and I had **issues** in the first book. The supporting cast was also supper neat, and I loved that there was a lot of moral ambiguity going. Because I'm a pretty loyal person, I felt a strong pull to side with one...side...but I know it wasn't that simple, so I tried not to go with that. I'm hoping the third book can continue on with the shades of moral grey and not just dump us with "Oh, yes, one side was right all along and there was only the illusion of grey." I hate it when books do that. We shall see!

Stacee says

I was super excited about this book. I had really enjoyed the previous one, so I couldn't wait to get back into this world.

One of the best parts of the first book for me was the relationship between Danny and Colton. This story has them separated for nearly the entire book. And while we get to learn about Colton's backstory {which was super awesome}, I wasn't captivated by either of the separate threads.

Plot wise, there's a lot going on and yet it felt like nothing was happening at the same time. I was bored for a while and honestly thought about DNFing. When it got to about 80%, it really started to pick up and I was intrigued to see what was going to happen.

Overall, it was an interesting enough story to keep me reading and it had a good ending, but I didn't see the spark that everyone else did. However, I'm definitely interested in the next book.

****Huge thanks to Sky Pony Press for providing the arc free of charge****

Sandra (LadyGrey Reads) says

Magic, he thought, conjuring the image of Colton wreathed in golden threads, is not rational.

After the events of *Timekeeper*, Danny Hart has become the permanent Mechanic for the Enfield Tower - which allows him to spend most of his time with Colton, who has now become an individual that all of Enfield know and love. Soon, however, black clouds appear on the horizon - both at home and at work. Danny has no idea how he's going to tell his newly returned father that he is gay and finds a way to escape that; by accepting an assignment in India, where clock towers have been bombed *but* time has not stopped. The assignment does, however, mean leaving Colton behind - and once in India, it slowly becomes apparent that things are not as simple as Danny and co-worker Daphne hoped they would be.

Danny acts as an individual that constantly questions right and wrong, such as the British treatment of the Indian population (there are a lot of realism here, so if you do not know a lot about the colonial history of Britain-India, this book will teach you some stuff), as well as the right and wrong of his own relationship with a clock spirit. And it is brilliant, because as a reader you find yourself pondering the same things - and it pulls you deeper into the story. Adding the perspective of Daphne, you get even more complications as she has Indian blood but is too pale to be considered Indian by the soldiers the two mechanics end up living with.

At the same time you also get to find out more about Colton's past as he starts to have strange flashbacks of his life before he became a clock spirit - and you realize there's a lot of things that have been covered up and forgotten. Something that Danny also figures out when he encounters the people responsible for blowing up the clock towers. A lot of things that need to be explained in the next book in this regard!

I did feel that there were quite a few segments that stretched and lagged a bit, which is why I cannot give this

a full 5 stars, but at the same time the more action packed chapters were *brilliant* - and *THAT ENDING!*

Rachel Strolle says

Well, f*ck

Rachel says

THAT ENDING ???

K. Wolf says

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR PAIN.

FULL SPEED AHEAD.

(When does the next one come out again?!? DAMN THIS WAS SUCH A GOOD BOOK.)

YA Wednesdays says

WHY, TARA,

WWWWWWWHHHHHHHHHHHHYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY
 YYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY??????????????????

Mel (Epic Reading) says

Be prepared, I'm about to gush. This is probably the most underrated Young Adult/Teen series of the last 5 years. I am so disappointed every time I see how few people have read Tara Sim's Timekeeper series. Not only does this series have a cool time premise, but it also features a male hero who is gay. And oh my goodness is his boyfriend just the best!

No Second Book Syndrome

Generally in most trilogy series (especially fantasy) there is second book syndrome that happens. It's when the book is really just a stepping stone from book 1 to book 3. Second books tend to have little real action, no true climax curve and end on a cliffhanger. And while there is a cliffhanger in Chainbreaker, there is no way you can say nothing happens or that there isn't enough action. In fact there might be more action and events happening in Chainbreaker than in Timekeeper.

NOTE: Spoilers for book 1 are below! You're been warned!

Diverse Depth

There are so many topics Sim tackles in Chainbreaker; the most prevalent being the relationship between our

lead hero Danny and his yummy (if I do say so myself) time spirit boyfriend. We are lucky enough in Chainbreaker to see the world from multiple points of view including that of the time spirits and other stakeholders around Danny.

Chainbreaker takes on politics (not unlike London's political climate today), racism (towards India's population), homosexuality and even the dynamic of having a best friend or colleague that are the opposite gender of you. For an easy to read, fairly fun series, it really does tackle a lot of every day realities that teens are living and breathing. The average adult reader might find there's nothing special about some of these comments or moments; but if I imagine myself as a teen I feel there is a lot of nuggets of information to be gained just by reading the story. Most important is these tidbits of social culture and tactics to use are not lectured but subtly placed in a way that people will consume them without even realizing they've consumed an ideal or perspective. It helps that more than half the book takes place in India (which our author knows well and portrays honestly).

Time

I know my book 1 review rants and raves about the time construct in this series but I just have to bring it up again. As Sim progresses in the story of book 2 we learn a lot more about how time got set-up the way it is and why. Without giving away any spoilers let me just say that it's beautifully constructed and I adore the worldly span that we are given in regards to how time passes on Earth.

Male Lead

A lot of young adult books these days are female leads who went from being no one to being a 'chosen one'. This past holiday I was searching for a new series for my 13-year-old nephew and I realized how few teen books have a male lead AND aren't just about a boy falling in love with some fancy girl. It's so refreshing to have our lead boy in love with another boy in the Timekeeper series. Additionally there isn't a lot of macho crap (like Maze Runner) or wooing the 'princess' type concepts here. Instead Sim gives us an average boy who is good at his job and falls in love with a spirit that complicates his life. There's such a genuineness to the core story that I can easily relate to and I feel will reverberate down the age groups. I also like that because we jump perspectives enough (and Danny isn't an annoying macho hero) this is a book that both girls and boys, men and women will equally enjoy because it has enough diversity and changing points of view. But even if we stayed with Danny 80% of the time he's such a well-built, realistic character that I believe anyone could find a way to relate to him.

Overall

I won't hide that there is a good chunk of romance and yearning in this middle book; but I wasn't annoyed by it and so I can confidently say there is a lot of action and plot that happens throughout so I don't think it's overwhelming (like some recent teen books).

Truly this is an underrated series that I'd love to see get a lot more attention!

Emily says

Tara is the devil, and this book is DEVILISHLY GOOD. ???

Lola says

Timekeeper is a great series for both readers who are new to the steampunk genre and those who have years

of experience.

Because, really, how many books have you read that focus mainly upon clock towers + mythology + gay romance? It sure is a first for me.

This is a series that does not lack originality. I read the first book two years ago and I remember complaining about the amateur-ish writing and one stereotypical character.

Well no need to worry. Tara Sim has learned a lot these past two years. Her writing has become more professional and her characters have gained three-dimensionality. Daphne was a character I could not stand in the first book but in this one I absolutely could not wait to learn more and more about her.

It's an adventure and a mystery. Danny is sent to India with Daphne to find out why clock towers are destroyed and especially why time goes on as though nothing happened when it's supposed to stop. Danny and Colton are therefore separated for almost the entire story, but it's an important separation that allows both characters to meditate on their feelings for each other and their own selves.

I can't wait to read the final book. Boy am I intrigued by the ending. Bonus: the hardcover is astoundingly gorgeous!

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Traci Chee says

I loved it so much, I blurbed it! Order your copies, folks. You won't want to miss this incredible sequel!

***Chainbreaker* is an elaborate tale of magic, gods, and the beautiful, unfortunate humans caught in an ancient titanic struggle. You'll cheer. You'll cry. And once you enter this world, you'll never want to leave.**
