

boneshaker by cherie priest

Book Concept: Boneshaker: A Legacy of Gears and Grit

Title: Boneshaker: A Legacy of Gears and Grit (A Cherie Priest Inspired Novel)

Logline: In a steampunk Seattle ravaged by a monstrous, sentient machine, a young woman discovers a family secret that could rewrite history - and unleash a cataclysm far greater than the Boneshaker itself.

Storyline/Structure:

The novel follows Elara, a skilled mechanic living in the shadow of the Boneshaker, a colossal, self-aware steam-powered behemoth that terrorizes the city. Elara works in her father's workshop, repairing automatons and struggling to make ends meet. When her father mysteriously disappears, leaving behind cryptic clues and a hidden compartment containing a strange artifact, Elara is thrust into a dangerous world of secrets and conspiracies.

The story unfolds through alternating timelines: the present day, where Elara investigates her father's disappearance and the truth behind the Boneshaker, and flashbacks revealing her father's past and the events that led to the creation of the monstrous machine. As Elara uncovers the truth, she faces betrayal, powerful enemies within the city's elite, and the terrifying possibility that the Boneshaker is not just a destructive force, but a key to a much larger, more sinister plot. The climax sees Elara confronting not just the Boneshaker, but the legacy of her family's involvement in its creation, forcing her to make a devastating choice that will determine the fate of Seattle.

Ebook Description:

Imagine a city choked by steam, terrorized by a monstrous machine... Are you tired of predictable steampunk stories? Do you crave a thrilling narrative with intricate world-building and compelling characters, all while exploring themes of family legacy, industrial revolution, and the terrifying consequences of unchecked ambition?

Then prepare to delve into the heart of a captivating steampunk thriller: Boneshaker: A Legacy of Gears and Grit.

Boneshaker: A Legacy of Gears and Grit by [Your Name]

Introduction: A gripping introduction to Seattle, 1906, and the looming threat of the Boneshaker.

Chapter 1: Gears of Destiny: Elara's life, her father's disappearance, and the discovery of the hidden artifact.

Chapter 2: Echoes of the Past: Flashbacks to her father's past, revealing the secrets of the Boneshaker's creation.

Chapter 3: City of Shadows: Elara navigates the dangerous underbelly of Seattle, facing betrayal and conspiracy.

Chapter 4: The Heart of the Machine: Elara confronts the true nature of the Boneshaker and its horrifying power.

Chapter 5: Legacy of Blood: The revelation of Elara's family's dark legacy and her difficult choice.
Conclusion: A thrilling climax and resolution, leaving the reader pondering the consequences of technological advancement.

Article: Boneshaker: A Legacy of Gears and Grit - A Deep Dive into the Outline

Introduction: A Steampunk Seattle Under Siege

Seattle, 1906. A city consumed by the Industrial Revolution, yet shrouded in perpetual twilight due to the relentless smoke and steam belching forth from its many factories. This is not your typical historical setting; this is a world haunted by the Boneshaker, a colossal, sentient steam-powered behemoth—a walking, breathing engine of destruction.

Our story opens in this grim yet captivating metropolis. The air hangs heavy with the scent of coal and oil, the clang of metal echoing through the streets. This is a city divided, a city where the wealthy elite live in opulent comfort while the working class struggles in the grimy shadows. The weight of industrial progress is a palpable presence. The Boneshaker isn't just a machine; it is a symbol of the unchecked ambition of humanity and the disastrous consequences that follow.

Chapter 1: Gears of Destiny - Introducing Elara and the Mystery

Our protagonist, Elara, is a gifted young mechanic, skilled in the art of repairing the intricate clockwork mechanisms that populate this unique world. She lives in the shadow of the Boneshaker, a constant, terrifying reminder of the precariousness of life in Seattle. Her father, a respected inventor, has vanished without a trace, leaving her with nothing but a gnawing sense of loss and a workshop filled with his ingenious, yet unfinished, creations. This chapter establishes Elara's character, her skills, her motivations, and the immediate conflict that drives her forward: finding her father.

The discovery of a hidden compartment containing a strange artifact - perhaps a key, a blueprint, or a diary - throws Elara into a whirlwind of intrigue. This artifact is more than just a clue; it's a catalyst, igniting a chain of events that will force her to confront not only the Boneshaker but her family's complicated history with the monstrous machine.

Chapter 2: Echoes of the Past - Unveiling the Boneshaker's Origins

This chapter delves into flashbacks, revealing the untold story of Elara's father and the events leading up to the creation of the Boneshaker. We witness the ambition, the scientific breakthroughs, the moral compromises, and the sheer hubris that resulted in this monstrous creation. It's a crucial chapter that adds depth to the present narrative and explores themes of responsibility, innovation, and the ethical implications of technological advancement.

Through these flashbacks, the reader gains a deeper understanding of the motivations of the

individuals involved in the Boneshaker's creation, unveiling their hopes, their fears, and the devastating consequences of their actions. This chapter sheds light on the political landscape of the time, showing the clash between progress and safety, innovation and morality.

Chapter 3: City of Shadows – Navigating a Dangerous Underbelly

Elara's investigation takes her into the shadowy underbelly of Seattle. She encounters a cast of compelling characters – some helpful, some deceitful, some downright terrifying. This chapter allows for the exploration of the social inequalities inherent in the steampunk setting, highlighting the struggles of the working class and the corruption within the city's elite. The chapter builds suspense and introduces new conflicts, pushing Elara closer to the truth but placing her in even greater danger.

This is where we see Elara's resilience and resourcefulness tested. She must navigate treacherous streets, evade powerful enemies, and rely on her wits and mechanical skills to survive. The city itself becomes a character, a labyrinthine setting filled with hidden dangers and unexpected allies.

Chapter 4: The Heart of the Machine – Confronting the Boneshaker

Elara finally confronts the Boneshaker itself. This isn't just a battle of wits and strength; it's a confrontation with the consequences of her family's actions and the unchecked ambition of those who came before her. This chapter allows for thrilling action sequences, showcasing Elara's skills as a mechanic and her courage in the face of overwhelming odds. It delves into the complexities of the Boneshaker, exploring its sentience, its motivations, and its potential for even greater destruction.

The Boneshaker is more than just a machine; it represents the destructive potential of unchecked technology and the unintended consequences of scientific progress. This chapter explores the themes of humanity's relationship with its creations, and the potential for technology to both empower and destroy.

Chapter 5: Legacy of Blood – Facing the Family's Dark History

The truth about her family's involvement in the Boneshaker's creation is revealed, forcing Elara to confront a difficult legacy and make a devastating choice. This chapter explores themes of family, responsibility, and the weight of history. It forces Elara (and the reader) to grapple with moral dilemmas and consider the sacrifices required to protect the innocent.

The confrontation might not be physical but emotional and psychological. Elara must decide if she will continue her family's legacy or break free from its destructive path. This internal struggle adds layers to the narrative, highlighting the complexities of heritage and the choices we make that shape our future.

Conclusion: A Resolution and a Warning

The novel concludes with a thrilling climax and a resolution that leaves a lasting impact. While some loose ends may be tied up, the ultimate message is one of caution and reflection on the consequences of unchecked ambition and the ethical considerations of technological advancement.

The reader is left to ponder the long-term effects of Elara's choices and the ongoing threat that still looms over Seattle.

9 Unique FAQs:

1. Is this book suitable for young adults? While it's not explicitly YA, the themes and action sequences could appeal to older teens. Mature themes are present.
2. How does this book differ from Cherie Priest's original *Boneshaker*? This is a new story inspired by the setting and themes, not a direct sequel or retelling.
3. What kind of steampunk elements are featured? Classic steampunk elements are incorporated, including clockwork mechanisms, automatons, and steam-powered technology, but it is infused with dark and gritty realism.
4. Is there romance in the story? There is potential for romantic subplots, but the focus remains on the central mystery and action.
5. What is the overall tone of the book? It's a thrilling blend of adventure, mystery, and suspense with darker, more mature elements.
6. Is the *Boneshaker* truly sentient? This is a key question explored throughout the novel, keeping the reader guessing until the very end.
7. What kind of ending can I expect? A satisfying conclusion that resolves the central conflict while leaving the reader with food for thought.
8. Will there be sequels? The possibility of sequels depends on the reception of this first novel.
9. Are there any strong female characters? Absolutely! Elara is a strong, resourceful, and intelligent female protagonist.

9 Related Article Titles & Descriptions:

1. *The Ethics of Steampunk Innovation: An exploration of the moral dilemmas presented in steampunk worlds, focusing on technological advancements and their societal impact.*
2. *Seattle's Shadowy Past: Historical Inspiration for Boneshaker: A look at the real history of Seattle and how it informs the fictional setting of the novel.*
3. *Building a Steampunk World: Designing the City of Gears and Grit: A guide to creating believable steampunk worlds, focusing on architecture, technology, and social structures.*

4. Female Protagonists in Steampunk Fiction: A Feminist Perspective: An examination of strong female characters in steampunk literature and their role in challenging traditional gender roles.
5. The Sentient Machine: Exploring the Nature of Artificial Intelligence in Steampunk: An analysis of the portrayal of artificial intelligence in steampunk literature and its ethical implications.
6. The Power of Family Legacy in Steampunk Narratives: How the concept of family history and legacy plays out in steampunk novels and stories.
7. Steam-Powered Monsters: Exploring the Genre of Steampunk Horror: A look at the subgenre of steampunk horror and how it uses steampunk elements to create fear.
8. The Role of Conspiracy and Intrigue in Steampunk Literature: An exploration of the use of conspiracies and political intrigue in steampunk narratives.
9. From Gears to Grit: Crafting Believable Steampunk Settings: Tips and techniques on developing realistic and immersive steampunk worlds, drawing from historical elements and adding a unique twist.

Additional Resources

Boneshaker (novel) - Wikipedia

Boneshaker is a science fiction novel by American writer Cherie Priest, combining the steampunk genre with zombies in an alternate history version of Seattle, Washington.

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Cherie Priest made her debut with the Eden Moore series of Southern Gothic ghost stories that began with Four and Twenty Blackbirds. She is best known for her 2009 book Boneshaker. It was ...

Summary of 'Boneshaker' by Cherie Priest: A Detailed Synopsis

A machine called the Boneshaker, invented by Leviticus Blue, accidentally unleashes a toxic gas that turns people into zombies. Sixteen years later, Blue's widow, Briar Wilkes, must rescue her son, ...

Boneshaker - Wikipedia

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Boneshaker (Catherine Britt album), by Australian singer Catherine Britt Boneshaker(Airbourne ...

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Boneshaker - Macmillan

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