

Leviathan

By Scott Westerfeld

- Summary
 - In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek is on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery. Alek forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts. So, "Do you oil your war machines or do you feed them?"
 - View the book trailer: <http://youtu.be/PYiw5vkQFPw>
- Read-alikes
 - [Airborn](#) by Kenneth Opal
 - [Airman](#) by Eoin Colfer
 - [City of Bones](#) by Cassandra Clare
 - [Clockwork Angel](#) by Cassandra Clare
 - [The Clockwork Three](#) by Matthew Kirby
 - [Fever Crumb](#) by Philip Reeve
 - [The Girl in the Steel Corset](#) by Kady Cross
 - [The Golden Compass](#) by Philip Pullman
 - [The Haunting of Alazabel](#) Cray by Chris Wooding
 - [Lamplighter](#) by D.M. Cornish
 - [Masque of the Red Death](#) by Bethany Griffin
- What is Steampunk?
 - Steampunk is a genre of fiction with a technology twist that is set in the Victorian era (beginning of 1900s). The technology twist changes history - for good or evil.
- About Scott Westerfeld
 - Scott Westerfeld is the author of eighteen novels; some are for adults and some are for teens. He is best known for my four sets of books for teens: Leviathan, Uglies, Midnighters and The New York Trilogy. He was born in Texas, and splits his time between New York City and Sydney, Australia (and has more frequent flyer miles than you do!) to be in summer all the time!
 - Adapted from and more info here: <http://scottwesterfeld.com/about-the-author/>
- Reviews
 - School Library Journal: /* Starred Review */ Gr 7 Up— This is World War I as never seen before. The story begins the same: on June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife are assassinated, triggering a sequence of alliances that plunges the world into war. But that is where the similarity ends. This global conflict is between the Clankers, who put their faith in machines, and the Darwinists, whose technology is based on the development of new species. After the assassination of his parents, Prince Aleksandar's people turn on him. Accompanied by a small group of loyal servants, the young Clanker flees Austria in a Cyklop Stormwalker, a war machine that walks on two legs. Meanwhile, as Deryn Sharp trains to be an airman with the British Air Service, she prays that no one will discover that she is a girl. She serves on the Leviathan , a massive biological airship that resembles an enormous flying whale and functions as a self-contained ecosystem. When it crashes in Switzerland, the two teens cross paths, and suddenly the line between enemy and ally is no longer clearly defined. The ending leaves plenty of room for a sequel, and that's a good thing because readers will be begging for more. Enhanced by Thompson's intricate black-and-white illustrations,

Westerfeld's brilliantly constructed imaginary world will capture readers from the first page. Full of nonstop action, this steampunk adventure is sure to become a classic.— Heather M. Campbell, formerly at Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO --Heather M. Campbell (Reviewed September 1, 2009) (School Library Journal, vol 55, issue 9, p176)

- Kirkus: /* Starred Review */ The fate of many rests in the hands of an Austrian schoolboy and a British airman, both in disguise. Alek is the son of the recently assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, hiding from European nations hostile to his father. Midshipman Dylan is really Deryn, a girl passing as a boy in order to serve in the British Air Service. Alek has fled home in a steam-powered Stormwalker, one of the great manned war machines of the Central Powers. Meanwhile, Deryn's berth is on a massive airbeast, a genetically engineered hydrogen-breather, one of the Darwinist ships of the Allied Powers. The growing hostilities of what is soon to become the Great War throw the two together, and Darwinists and Clankers must work together if they all want to survive. Two Imperial forces meet, one built with steam and the other built with DNA, producing rich, vivid descriptions of the technologies that divide a continent. The setting begs comparisons to Hayao Miyazaki, Kenneth Oppel and Naomi Novik, but this work will stand—or fly—on its own. (Science fiction. 12-15) (Kirkus Reviews, September 1, 2009)
- Publishers Weekly: /* Starred Review */ Launching a planned four-book series, Westerfeld (the Ugliest series) explores an alternate 1914 divided between Darwinists, who advocate advanced biotechnology, and Clankers, masters of retrofuturistic mechanical engineering. Austria-Hungary's Prince Aleksandar is whisked away into the night by trusted advisers; he soon learns that his parents, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and Countess Sophie, have been murdered and that he has been targeted by prowar Germans. Half a continent away, Deryn Sharp successfully passes as a young man to join the British Air Service; her bravery during a catastrophic first flight aboard a genetically enhanced jellyfish ("The creatures' fishy guts could survive almost any fall, but their human passengers were rarely so lucky") earns Deryn a post on the living airship Leviathan. The fortunes of war lead Aleksandar and Deryn to the Swiss Alps, where they must cooperate or face destruction at the hands of the Germans. The protagonists' stories are equally gripping and keep the story moving, and Thompson's detail-rich panels bring Westerfeld's unusual creations to life. The author's fully realized world has an inventive lexicon to match—readers will be eager for the sequels. Ages 12–up. (Oct.) --Staff (Reviewed August 24, 2009) (Publishers Weekly, vol 256, issue 34, p62)
- Movies
 - [A Series of Unfortunate Events](#)
 - [The Golden Compass](#)
 - [Around the World in 80 Days](#)
 - [Chitty Chitty Bang Bang](#)
 - [Sherlock Holmes](#)
 - [Steamboy](#)
- Airships
 - Check out this video with Scott Westerfeld: <http://youtu.be/Z44bV-P2eCU>
 - Resources
 - [PPLD Catalog Search for Airships](#)
 - [U.S. History Databases and Resources](#)
 - [airships.net](#)
 - [Airship Specs](#)

- [Airships Before & After WWII](#)
 - [Recent \(2011\) Military Efforts](#)
 - [Certifying your Airship with FFA](#)
 - [1943 U.S. Naval Airship Service Group](#)
- Women in the Military
 - [PPLD Books about Women in the Military](#)
 - [U.S. History Databases and Resources](#)
 - [Resources from the National Archives](#)
 - [Women's Memorial Foundation](#)
 - [Photo Montage from Veterans Affairs](#)
 - [Military History Publications](#)
 - [Women's History Month 2012 by DOD](#)
- Bib
 - The images of The Golden Compass, Steamboy, The Time Machine, and Sherlock Holmes are from: www.movielic.com.
 - The image for Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events is from: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0339291/>
 - The image for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is from: <http://broadwaymusicalhome.com/images/merch/chittycd.jpg>
 - The image for Around the World in 80 Days is from: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0327437/>
 - The fabulous background is called Tearful Gears and is from: http://fc09.deviantart.net/fs44/f/2009/060/c/4/Steampunk_gears_by_tearful_oblivion.jpg
 - The reviews are from: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=noh&tg=UI&an=326937&site=novelist-live>
 - The book preview is located: <http://youtu.be/PYiw5vkQFPw>
 - The airship video is located: <http://youtu.be/Z44bV-P2eCU>
 - The image and caption of the women working can be found in our U.S. History in Context database: "Women working on an aircraft for use by the military in World War II. One woman looks on while the..." Historic Events for Students: The Great Depression. Ed. Richard C. Hanes and Sharon M. Hanes. Vol. 3. Detroit: Gale, 2002. Gale U.S. History In Context. Web. 11 July 2012.
 - The biography about Scott Westerfeld is from: <http://scottwesterfeld.com/about-the-author/>