



## Gideon Smith and the Mechanical Girl

By David Barnett



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### Gideon Smith and the Mechanical Girl By David Barnett

Nineteenth century London is the center of a vast British Empire. Airships ply the skies and Queen Victoria presides over three-quarters of the known world?including the East Coast of America, following the failed revolution of 1775.

London might as well be a world away from Sandsend, a tiny village on the Yorkshire coast. Gideon Smith dreams of the adventure promised him by the lurid tales of Captain Lucian Trigger, the Hero of the Empire, told in Gideon's favorite "penny dreadful." When Gideon's father is lost at sea in highly mysterious circumstances Gideon is convinced that supernatural forces are at work. Deciding only Captain Lucian Trigger himself can aid him, Gideon sets off for London. On the way he rescues the mysterious mechanical girl Maria from a tumbledown house of shadows and iniquities. Together they make for London, where Gideon finally meets Captain Trigger.

But Trigger is little more than an aging fraud, providing cover for the covert activities of his lover, Dr. John Reed, a privateer and sometime agent of the British Crown. Looking for heroes but finding only frauds and crooks, it falls to Gideon to step up to the plate and attempt to save the day...but can a humble fisherman really become the true Hero of the Empire?

David Barnett's Gideon Smith and the Mechanical Girl is a fantastical steampunk fable set against an alternate historical backdrop: the ultimate Victoriana/steampunk mash-up!



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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The year is 1889. The place is an alternative world where the U.S. has lost the Revolutionary War; the East Coast is controlled by Great Britain and the West Coast by Spain. The characters are searching for answers to a dangerous mystery. Gideon Smith is a young, grief-stricken, and incredibly naive man who will stop at nothing to find the mysterious being that dragged his father, a fisherman, and his father's crew into the dark sea one foggy morning. Bram Stoker is seeking material for his first book (yes, the Bram Stoker), only to discover several corpses completely drained of blood. Wondering how both horrific encounters are connected keeps the reader turning page after page. Although some early parts of the story are not well developed and some characters are flat, the latter half of the book more than makes up for the story's rocky start with twists, turns, humor, and adventure. In the end, Barnett's new book proves to be a worthy addition to the steampunk genre. --Alison Downs

### Review

"A triumph of the modern pulp genre. Funny, clever and superbly executed...I guarantee you'll have fun as you breeze through this first adventure of Gideon Smith, and I commend it to you all. I'm already anxious for the next one." ?*George Mann, author of The Immortality Engine*

"A great-hearted, rollicking romp through the many worlds of classic pulp--loads of fun." ?*Nick Harkaway, author of The Gone-Away World and Angelmaker*

### About the Author

DAVID BARNETT is an award-winning journalist, currently multimedia content manager of the *Telegraph & Argus*, cultural reviewer for *The Guardian* and the *Independent* on Sunday, and he has done features for *The Independent* and *Wired*. He is the author of *Angelglass* (described by *The Guardian* as "stunning"), *Hinterland*, and *popCULT!*

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Arthur Bennett:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled Gideon Smith and the Mechanical Girl? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have different opinion?

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The book Gideon Smith and the Mechanical Girl give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You

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