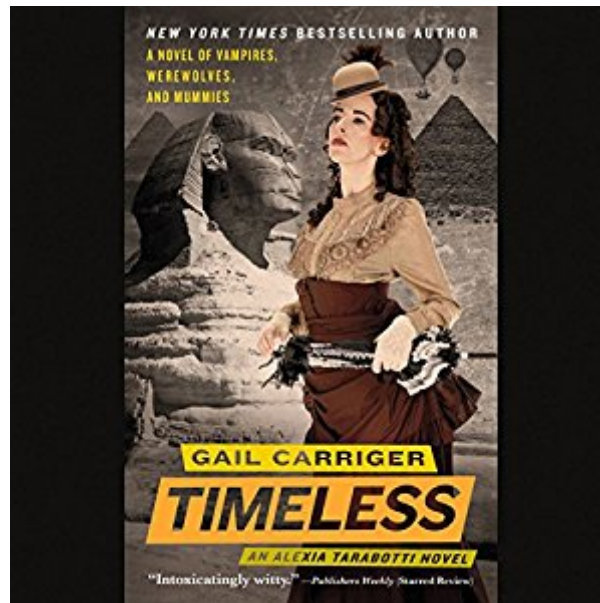


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Timeless: The Parasol Protectorate, The Fifth



Synopsis

Alexia Tarabotti, Lady Maccon, has settled into domestic bliss. Of course, being Alexia, such bliss involves integrating werewolves into London High society, living in a vampire's second best closet, and coping with a precocious toddler who is prone to turning supernatural willy-nilly. Even Ivy Tunstell's acting troupe's latest play, disastrous to say the least, cannot put a damper on Alexia's enjoyment of her new London lifestyle. Until, that is, she receives a summons from Alexandria that cannot be ignored. With husband, child, and Tunstells in tow, Alexia boards a steamer to cross the Mediterranean. But Egypt may hold more mysteries than even the indomitable Lady Maccon can handle. What does the vampire Queen of the Alexandria Hive really want from her? Why is the God-Breaker Plague suddenly expanding? And how has Ivy Tunstell suddenly become the most popular actress in all the British Empire?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Timeless is another adventure with Alexia and the vampires and werewolves of London. In this installment, Alexia and friends travel to Egypt to find out more about the God-Breaker Plague and who is responsible. The same great characters, excellent writing and entertaining storylines as the first four books. This one wraps up more questions that have been around since the beginning of the series. Mostly to do with Alexia's father and the the God-Breaker Plague from the second book. Overall 4.5 out of 5 stars. This series has been amazing to read! It has made me laugh out loud while I was reading it which isn't easy. I tend to pick out the bad things about books more easily than the good things and this series just didn't have anything that I could pick out as being bad. The

books were written wonderfully without being overly descriptive or boring. The characters were very believable and not at all flat. The story was original and very interesting. For the series overall, I give 4.5 out of 5 stars. I recommend this series highly for anyone who enjoys supernatural stories that are also humorous with a strong female character. I am sad that there are no more of these books but I am looking forward to reading the Custard Protocol series which comes after this one and the Finishing School series which comes before.

***NO SPOILERS**It is so very sad when a series you love comes to an end, even when you know there is a spin-off on the way, you know it will never be the same and you have to say goodbye to characters that you have come to love so much. The Parasol Protectorate series was one that snuck up on me. Souless was fantastic, but it wasn't love at first sight. I had issues getting used to the writing, but when I did, I was absolutely done for and sucked into the world of Alexia and co. After 4 amazing books (Souless, Changeless, Blameless and Heartless), Timeless is the one that will put an end to the Journey that began in Souless. I will miss every single one of the characters Gail Carriger has created, that I just hope such longing can be appeased with the spin-off, even if just a little bit. Timeless will answer a lot of questions that the series has created and leave some open for the spin-off. I love Alexia and Maccon and we get a lot of interactions between them in Timeless. They are one of my favorite couples ever! We also get some chapters in different POVs, I don't want to spoil anything, but even I though I didn't love these extra POVs, I did thoroughly enjoyed the secondary storylines and specially the surprise romance we got to witness. Timeless is such a bittersweet goodbye to the characters I have come to adore so much. I will miss the flamboyant Lord Akeldama, Alexia and Lord Maccon's tribulations and adventures, but I am looking forward to seeing what the spin-off will bring and I do hope we will get to see my favorite characters at least in the background. My life definitely would be incomplete without them. Originally Posted at Welcome to Larissa's Bookish Life {...}

The Parasol Protectorate series has just kept getting better as it's gone along, and 'Timeless' did not disappoint me. I think it's the best of the series. All of the characters are handled well, Carriger's descriptions are both vivid and precise, and her dialogue, as always, sparkles with wit and humour. Like the rest of the series, this is steampunk with a fine froth and a sense of humour. 'Timeless' jumps two years forward from 'Heartless', two years that have been peaceful -- well, as peaceful as anything is likely to get in the Maccon household. Then Alexia gets, by way of the local vampire queen, a summons to appear with her daughter in Alexandria (yes, the one in Egypt) before

Matakara, the oldest vampire living. At the same time, Sidhaeg -- Conall's multi-great-granddaughter and Alpha of his old Scottish pack -- shows up, looking for her missing Beta, who had been in Egypt on a mission for her. The Beta reappears, but gets murdered before he can get more than a few words out to Alexia. So Alexia packs up her family -- and the Tunstells and their acting troupe -- and heads out via steamer (werewolves being notoriously poor floaters). From there, the story whirls through a sequence of mishaps, supernatural political entanglements, and strange occurrences. The action clips along at a great pace, both in Alexandria and back at home, as the Maccons abroad and the wolf pack back at home both try to sort out the mystery of the God-Breaker Plague. The really great thing here is Carriger's ability to not forget character development amidst all the action. For a lot of the book, that really shines in Biffy and Lyall, though we do get a fair bit out of Alexia and Conall as well. Biffy's swiftly becoming my favourite character in the whole series, really, because he goes through such a transformative journey from when we meet him to the end of this book. Without giving too much away, Carriger handles the various aspects of his personality and relationship dynamics really well, with a lot of tenderness and a lot of psychological awareness. She handles the expanding cast of characters without sacrificing any emotional realism, and she jumps back and forth between the two plotlines in a way that makes sure the reader never loses sight of what's going on. I've said throughout the series that Carriger is at her best when she's writing for herself, with her own style, rather than emulating other genres, and in 'Timeless', she seems to have trusted that impulse entirely. There are no moments of narrative awkwardness, where the story feels like something else has collided into it from the outside; rather, we are treated to the continuing adventures of Alexia et al in Carriger's own witty voice. It's a delight. My only criticism is that the denouement ties up a little too quickly. I could've used a bit more exploration of the new constructs our characters find themselves in at the end of the series, about how they're going to move forward from here on out. Ultimately, it just ended way too soon; I could have happily spent a lot more time with these characters. 'Timeless' is an adventure story that manages to be lighthearted and emotionally tugging at the same time. Carriger gives us characters we can care about, but without ever taking herself too seriously. The series as a whole has fantastic energy, superb wit, and a sparkle that I've yet to find in other steampunk literature. The Parasol Protectorate series is just plain fun. I'm tremendously sorry to say goodbye to this series, but I'm delighted that Carriger's world will be continuing in the YA Finishing School Series and the adult Parasol Protectorate Abroad series. The former will take place some twenty-five years earlier in the AU's history; the latter is due to feature our Prudence, all grown up and taking on the world. Both are due out in 2013, and I eagerly anticipate their arrival.

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