



2010

Magic Under Glass

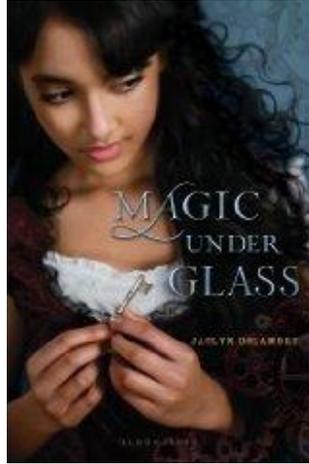
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Dolamore, Jaclyn. *Magic Under Glass*. Bloomsbury, 2010. ISBN 9781599904306. \$16.95. 240p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

Subject: Robots--Juvenile fiction; Magic--Juvenile fiction; Singers--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

As a "trouser girl," Nimira is poor and far away from home. When a handsome sorcerer, Hollin, appears after one of her performances it seems as if all her dreams may come true. He takes her back to his home so she can practice singing with a piano-playing automaton made by fairies. Nimira is surprised, however, when the strange automaton tries to speak with her. She learns that the automaton is a lost fairy Prince named Erris—a problematic discovery because humans and fairies are at war. As she spends more time with Erris, Nimira begins to fall in love with him. When a member of the sorcerer's council appears and wants to destroy Erris she decides to risk everything to save him. With the help of Hollin and his wife she manages to defeat the evil sorcerer and bring Erris back to life—almost. He's still part machine and must be wound with a key.

Readers will enjoy the growing romance between Nimira and the helpless Erris. The secondary plot which revolved around Hollin and his wife, however, seemed less important to the story, despite its "Jane Eyre" feel. The world Dolamore has created is intriguing, filled with historical details and magic to give the fantasy a richer feel. The writing is solid, though the pacing feels a bit off at times. The ending leaves something to be desired, as the fate of the fairy Prince is never fully resolved, possibly making room for a sequel. Fans of Libba Bray and Juliet Marillier will enjoy this almost-historical fantasy.

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