



2013

The Clockwork Three by Matthew J. Kirby

Tessa Joy McMillan
tessajoycmillan@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

McMillan, Tessa Joy (2013) "The Clockwork Three by Matthew J. Kirby," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss3/7>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Author: Kirby, Matthew J.

Title: *The Clockwork Three*

Year of Publication: 2010

Publisher: Scholastic Press

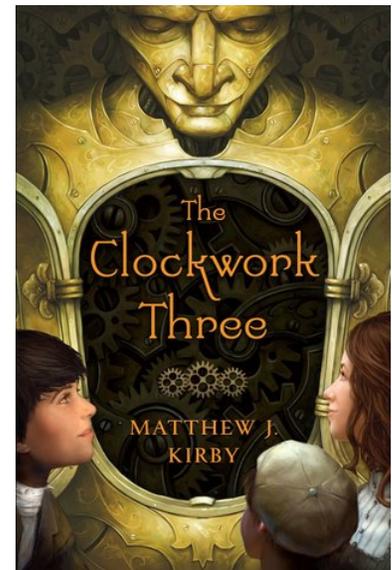
ISBN: 9780545203371

Number of pages: 386

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate; Young Adult

Keywords: Orphans; Friendship; Cooperativeness; Fantasy; Steampunk; 19th Century



Review:

An unusual friendship is born among three children. Giuseppe is an orphaned Italian boy gifted in music, but cursed with a malicious employer. Frederick is also orphaned, but blessed as an apprentice to a gifted clockmaker. Hannah, the only support for her family, was a maid at the Gilbert Hotel, but she recently became the assistant to the mysterious Madame Pomeroy. As their friendship progresses, the children find that by working together they can help solve each other's personal problems amidst perilous adventures. In the end, Giuseppe is able to legally leave his employer and return to Italy, Frederick is able to become a journeyman and master clockmaker, and Hannah is able to completely support her family by becoming the overseer of all the maids at the hotel.

Kirby based the character of Giuseppe on actual events, but even with this basis in fact, readers need to be aware that this story is not historical fiction. The supernatural is a key theme in the book. An illustrated map of Kirby's fictional city would have added to the novel because Kirby repeatedly addresses street names, building locations, and parks in the story. Some readers may find it hard to imagine the city's layout and remember important locations without any visual reference. On the whole, Kirby mixes the best elements of *Oliver Twist*, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, and *The Mysterious Benedict Society* into creating his first novel.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

TEXT © The Children's Book and Play Review 2013