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# Chasing The Star Garden (Airship Racing Chronicles Book 1)



## Synopsis

Top 10 Finisher: Best Steampunk Novel of 2013, Preditors & Editors Reader's PollChasing the Star Garden is a B.R.A.G. Medallion® recipient for excellence in writing. "If you like your lofty steampunk sexy and adventurous, give this story a try." "I admit to loving the inclusion of Lord Byron in this way because who doesn't love to fantasize about what he might have been like." "The characters were awesome! Love, love, love this book. Definitely some very dark elements, but the author does not leave that untouched and explains Lily's past with much realistic compassion." "A captivating tale from the complex characters to the breathtaking world-building." London, 1823. It has been one of the worst days in Lily Stargazer's life. She lost the London leg of the World Airship Grand Prix. A harlequin shoved a kaleidoscope down her pants, told her to fly to Venice, then threw himself from her airship tower. And her lover, Lord Byron, is living in exile abroad. What's a girl to do? For Lily, the answer is easy: drink absinthe and smoke opium. Lily's efforts to drown her problems fail miserably, and she soon finds herself at the heart of an ancient mystery which has her running from her past and chasing true love along the way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book begins with a suicide, opium addiction, absinthe, sex involving pain and drawing blood, a hangover complete with vomiting and yet another lover all in the first 3 chapters. But if you can get past all that dark set-up the rest of the book gets better and better! An unusual mix of steam punk, historical romance and mythology, this novel captured my attention and I read it all in one sitting. The romance part of the ending was a little rushed but all in all the book was satisfying and worth reading. I enjoyed it very much and though I didn't expect to like it so well as I did, I admit to being pleasantly surprised. Loved how the backstory explains so much of what is happening in the present and how the stories and characters all intertwined to come together into a fun read.

\*This audiobook was provided by the author, narrator, or publisher at no cost in exchange for an unbiased review courtesy of AudiobookBlast dot com, at my request. Lily comes in second in the airship race, but losses to the American's, again. She's disappointed. But then a harlequin races through the crowd to her. An assassin? But he grabs her and tells her to go to Venice and puts something down the front of her pants before jumping off the tower they stand on next to the airships, to his death. His body lay below with three points, the same shape that's in the symbol on her stargazer sail. This story starts right off! The event of the race ends with a leap of faith. There's drinking, drugs, swearing, and hot steamy moments. Lily has her debts and her loves of drinking, drugs, and hot steamy moments. Oh does she love the men. Since she uses her prize money to pay her debts, one of her lovers, Lord Byron, talks her into going to Venice. He gives her the money to make the trip reasoning she was specifically given the kaleidoscope for a reason. This is another marvelous selection of voice to go with the story for Melanie Karsak. Libby is perfect for the characters and world. Libby is talented in accents. She has a British accent that fits the characters and thickens when need be for other characters. She even does Italian, Scottish, French and more accents. The way she speaks for each character is as she is the character. She differentiates many with tone, accent, and feeling in their voices. Outstanding job. Libby has intensified the character development through voice. I love listening to the flight of the airship. Lily and her small crew is talented and the descriptions are of the visuals not the technical of how it's done. But the use of the air and storms is wonderful. Do be prepared for fowl language, opium dens, and steamy sensual moments with Lily Stargazer. Melanie has taken us into a dark side of the world where drugs numb

the senses and where woman are viewed as things. Melanie brings Lily through a dark past to a present that she can live with. But it's a journey that Lily has to make to come to grips with her past and be who she is. She has her friends around her to help. There's her crew for a time but most of all it's Sal, the Italian tinker, that helps her. She also finds a new friend in Celeste who helps guide them to find the statue her family is tied to. Lily's past comes back, front and center for her. A past that she's long forgotten when she was abandoned at the orphanage. Then, a past that she keeps locked away with opium surfaces and is what draws her to help find the Aphrodite statue that is so treasured by its strong following. Yes, Aphrodite. Which also connects Venus and the sensual feeling of the book as a whole. This is an interesting blend of clockworks and steampunk elements with the height of love and steam. This all intersects with Lily and her life. This story feels like a love story at its core. A love of ones self and finding that the past does not define who they are now. Then, when they accept themselves they find love with another. Beautiful story and meaning mixed with a surrounding I love, clockworks, airships, adventure and fighting.

This book was amazingly tough and uncompromising in its realistic details. This dark steampunk fantasy a slew of interesting characters, their backgrounds, and how it all twists together. Lily, the lead gal, is a swearing, drowning her sorrows in opium smoking, liberal, hard cut, and vulnerable. She has a few long lovers, one who pays for her to pursue a wild expedition to find out what a recently received missive means (handed in death, by the way). What follows is a dark, epic adventure in politics, balloon racing, goddess worshipers, and possibly love. Readers also get a look into the veiled and flawed past of Lily; how this builds her into her current character and where all her pluck arises from. The characters were awesome! Love, love, love this book. Definitely some very dark elements, but the author does not leave that untouched and explains Lily's past with much realistic compassion. Loved the details and the book never lacked in action, adventure, and heart pounding emotions. The audiobook version was nicely done in a well read voice and depiction of characters.

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