



The Dark Unwinding

By Sharon Cameron



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From the award-winning author of *Rook* comes a delicious and twisty tale, filled with spine-tingling intrigue, juicy romance, and dangerous family secrets.

When a rumor that her uncle is squandering away the family fortune surfaces, Katharine Tulman is sent to his estate to have him committed to an asylum. But instead of a lunatic, Katharine discovers a genius inventor with his own set of childlike rules, who is employing a village of nine hundred people rescued from the workhouses of London.

Katharine becomes torn between protecting her own livelihood and preserving the peculiar community she grows to care for deeply -- a conflict made more complicated by her developing feelings for her uncle's handsome apprentice. As the mysteries of the estate begin to unravel, it is clear that not only is her uncle's world at stake, but also the state of England as Katharine knows it. With twists and turns at every corner, this extraordinary adventure will captivate readers with its thrills and romance.

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The Dark Unwinding By Sharon Cameron Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7-10-Katherine Tulman, 17, faces an impossible decision when she arrives at Stranwyne Keep, in 1852. Her avaricious aunt wishes to seize the profitable estate and orders Katherine's visit so that she may declare her husband insane. Upon her arrival, however, Katherine learns that her eccentric uncle's clockwork factory employs hundreds of individuals plucked from workhouses. Doing her aunt's bidding would undoubtedly send them back into poverty. Katherine receives a warm welcome from her likely autistic uncle and a quirky village girl, Mary Brown. Her uncle's brooding assistant and his aunt treat her with greater suspicion. Katherine wonders if she, like her Uncle Tully, is losing her grip on reality as she struggles with nighttime visions. She must decide between her self-interest and her uncle's well-being even as more sinister characters begin to emerge. Cameron's debut novel reads like a steampunk fantasy. Detailed descriptions of the keep and grounds make for admirable world-building. Secret passages, canals, and Victorian furnishings drip from every page. Tully's clockwork creations seem wondrous, even eerily animated, adding to the story's chilling sense of dread. The villain's identity will be obvious to readers, and Katherine wavers overlong in her deliberations, but teens are not likely to mind as they experience Katherine's romantic and moral dilemma. Hand this to fans of Kenneth Oppel or Libba Bray, and readers who pursue history, invention, or romance. They will find Cameron's scientific fable to their taste.-Caitlin Augusta, Stratford Library Association, CT(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Seventeen-year-old Katharine Tullman is faced with an onerous task: her mean-spirited and acerbic Aunt Alice is sending her to Stranwyne to commit her Uncle Tully to an asylum, thus saving the family fortune that he is rumored to be depleting. While he is admittedly strange—he would probably be labeled autistic today—his estate and fantastical creations are providing the means to rescue families from the poorhouse, allowing them to live together as they care for him and the property. First-time novelist Cameron has based this delightful tale on the fifth Duke of Portland's Victorian estate, Welbeck Abbey, which provided work for poor families in a similar manner during the 1850s. A Sue Alexander Award winner, Cameron has created characters worthy of this larger-than-life estate and a plot that is as convoluted and surprising as the house itself. With villains morphing into friends and friends morphing into foes, the novel, while perhaps not an easy sell, will reward those readers who enjoy historical fiction served up with a dash of the strange, the mysterious, and the romantic. Grades 7-12. --Frances Bradburn

Review

Praise for *The Dark Unwinding*:

A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection

Winner of the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award

"Utterly original, romantic, and spellbindingly imaginative." -- *USA Today*

"Haunting thrills unfurl..." -- *Entertainment Weekly*

"Gripping twists, rich language, and an evocative landscape." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"[A] singularly polished piece." -- *The Horn Book*

"A strikingly original, twisty gothic tale that holds surprises around every dark corner." --Judy Blundell, author of *What I Saw and How I Lied*

Praise for *A Spark Unseen*:

"Gripping... [an] absorbing, intelligent adventure." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Ponce:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Typically the *The Dark Unwinding* is kind of book which is giving the reader capricious experience.

James Rodriguez:

Reading a book for being new life style in this season; every people loves to study a book. When you go through a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The *The Dark Unwinding* provide you with a new experience in studying a book.

Henry Woods:

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Janice Wilson:

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