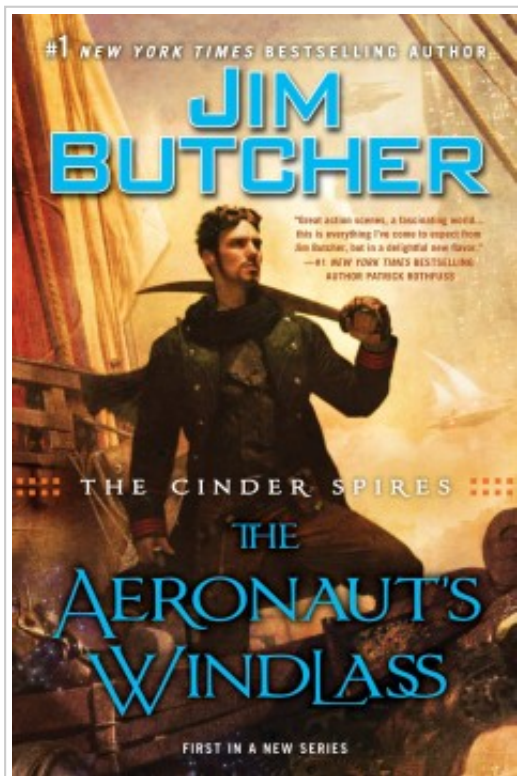


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The Cinder Spires: the Aeronaut's Windlass

by Jim Butcher

Price: \$27.95(Hardcover)

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Jim Butcher, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Dresden Files and the Codex Alera novels, conjures up a new series set in a fantastic world of noble families, steam-powered technology, and magic-wielding warriors... Since time immemorial, the Spires have sheltered humanity, towering for miles over the mist-shrouded surface of the world. Within their halls, aristocratic houses have ruled for generations, developing scientific marvels, fostering trade alliances, and building fleets of airships to keep the peace. Captain Grimm commands the merchant ship, Predator. Fiercely loyal to Spire Albion, he has taken their side in the cold war with Spire Aurora, disrupting the enemy's shipping lines by attacking their cargo vessels. But when the Predator is severely damaged in combat, leaving...

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What We Say

Jim Butcher is the best-selling author of two series: The Dresden Files has a wicked sense of humor and a wry male lead in a modern setting, with a great female sidekick; the Codex Alera uses the Roman Empire as a basis for a fantastical new world peopled with some vivid female supporting roles. But I'd say all those strands combine for perhaps his best work yet: a new series called The Cinder Spires. In the first book -- The Aeronaut's Windlass -- you've got world building vaguely based on steampunk mythology and noble houses fighting. You've also got pirates, a wry male lead with a strong sense of honor, a wicked sense of humor by one and all and not one but two terrific female leads that to me dominate the story. There's Gwen, the noble born daughter who is sophisticated and bold and determined to prove herself via service in the royal guard. And you've got Bridget, who is also nobly born (technically), but shy and unused to society yet proves remarkable when she too is called to service. Did I mention the cats? They talk and have their own alliances. Bridget's boon companion is Rowl, who is vastly superior to humans and has an hilarious perspective on one and all. Did I mention the cat-like half-breeds, if I can be so crass in describing the not-quite respectable warrior-born who are marvelous fighters? Did I mention the frightening silk-weavers, creatures from a nightmare? Did I mention the etherealists, half-batty witches and wizards of a sort who go insane processing the energy around one and all but can use it to fight and predict and shape the future? Butcher sets all of this in motion with energy and verve. The women are thoroughly winning, the men often their equal (albeit usually overwhelmed), the action non-stop and thrilling. There's a modest, very modest, false step towards the end when Captain Grim keeps interrupting a climactic battle to explain strategy to Gwen just so we can follow what's going on. As if. That minor quibble aside, this has an assurance and depth of character that marks this novel as one of the year's best and Butcher's new series as one to be hungrily anticipated. A cat would surely do better, but you can't expect much more from a human. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"Wow. Just wow. Beware fellow readers, herein lies adventure that will keep you from food or rest...It is as if Jules Verne, H. Rider Haggard, Patrick O'Brien and...well, Jim Butcher all got together and wrote a book. Steampunk done very, very right. Butcher proves yet again that he is an amazing storyteller."—#1 New York Times bestselling author Patricia Briggs

"This is Jim Butcher at his best, drawing a fully realized, richly detailed, and downright fun literary world where fearless aeronauts ride the aether, brilliant wizards struggle with doorknobs, and a thirty-pound feline warrior keeps a pet human named Little Mouse. It's steampunk meets magic with a dose of sci-fi for seasoning. Buy it and read it. You'll be glad you did."—New York Times bestselling author David Weber

"So Jim Butcher is writing futuristic dystopian steampunk? You had me at Jim Butcher, actually. But the rest is cool too.... Great action scenes, a fascinating world, and characters of a sort I've never seen before. Yup. This is everything I've come to expect from Jim Butcher, but in a delightful new flavor."—#1 New York Times bestselling author Patrick Rothfuss

"Butcher...

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