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Behemoth (Leviathan Book 2)



Synopsis

The behemoth is the fiercest creature in the British navy. It can swallow enemy battleships with one bite. The Darwinists will need it, now that they are at war with the Clanker Powers. Deryn is a girl posing as a boy in the British Air Service, and Alek is the heir to an empire posing as a commoner. Finally together aboard the airship Leviathan, they hope to bring the war to a halt. But when disaster strikes the Leviathan's peacekeeping mission, they find themselves alone and hunted in enemy territory. Alek and Deryn will need great skill, new allies, and brave hearts to face what's ahead.

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Customer Reviews

I stumbled upon this series after finding and devouring his Uglies series. Leviathan was an awesome book, and I loved the concept of evolved animalesques versus the mechanical technologies of the world. Scott Westerfeld has a knack at bringing so many aspects of life now into question in his novels. While Leviathan was great at introducing us to its alternative steam-punk culture, Behemoth helps develop the characters of Prince *ArchDuke* Alek and middy *MR. Sharp* Deryn. I especially enjoyed seeing Deryn growing up with new responsibilities, challenged loyalties, and blossoming love. It is also very amusing when another strong female character Lilit is added to

create a convoluted yet innocent love triangle between the three main figures. One thing I was a little disappointed in was the fact that this book was not based in the mind-blowing evolving world of the Darwinists. Reading about the complex eco-culture of the Leviathan gave me a huge thrill as to the possibilities of our own future. But I guess this is to be expected. Leviathan is devoted to the world of the Darwinists, it is only fair that Behemoth is immersed in Clanker-land, a place with its own technological wonders. All I can say Behemoth has got me extremely excited for book three. And unfortunately Behemoth has JUST come out, so it's going to be a really long wait. PS. did I mention this series is gorgeously illustrated? My Kindle does not do the graphics justice but even there the fantastical details are extremely alluring.

Behemoth (Leviathan) by Scott Westerfeld Read 7/13 > p104, Completed 7/22/16. In Leviathan Part 2, Behemoth, the story has landed in part one of Mr. Sharp's goal of Istanbul. Up to this point a VIP guest scientist, the granddaughter of The Great Darwin himself (in this alternate steam punk history) is forcing the Leviathan, to Istanbul. In this alternate history the Leviathan, is a mighty British military airship. For imagery, think of a Zeppelin but much larger and genetically manufactured from something like a Blue Whale, double or tripled in size, filled with hydrogen, and operating like its own entire ecosystem. Our VIP Darwin relative declares her purpose is to keep the Ottoman Empire out of the war with a mysterious gift that we learn are eggs containing some genetically designed creature of the VIP's own making. Complicating things in this alternate history is Churchill having confiscated a great warship built for, and already paid for, by the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Mr. Churchill is hoping his actions will keep the Turks out of the war, and additionally give Britain a military advantage with the Sultan's warship. (Which is actually quite similar to real history stories.) Sounds complicated but this is still the double story of the young royal child mentioned in the Leviathan review, on one hand, and the ever more capable Mr. Sharp on the other. In Behemoth several characters are well developed. The VIP geneticist, the young royal teen and his several attendees, and the ever precocious and young Mr. Sharp (airman extraordinaire). Mr. Sharp believes he is barely competent, yet seems at the center of all disastrous situations, and manages to trip, stumble, or against his better judgment, take action that he probably be hung for, that usually results in a miraculous salvage from certain disaster for tens, hundreds, and even thousands of people, depending on the imminent disaster that is looming. While we are being walked through the strategies, diplomacies, and maneuvering of an alternate steam punk

version of World War One, it is still being seen through the eyes of these two young people who seemed plucked from their lives and into the thick of all things, dangerous, frightful, and fattening. My similar reviews cut and paste::[...][...]See my reviews here:
<https://smile..com/gp/profile/A3AT7TI6FXN6WM>

Leviathan was just the start of Deryn and Alek's adventure. Now that they've arrived in Constantinople/Istanbul to complete Dr. Barlow's mission of gifting the eggs to the Ottoman Emperor, it's Alek's chance to run away with his men. But the escape plan goes wrong. Alone in the streets on Istanbul, Alek is dragged into the politics of the place and ends up joining a band of rebels looking to overthrow the sultan! Meanwhile, Deryn has been sent on a special mission, that if fulfilled will bring everyone closer to meeting the behemoth. But her plans also go awry! The Leviathan has left and now she's stranded, and there's really no other option than to join Alek...or so she keeps telling herself. With Behemoth Scott Westerfeld returns stronger than ever with adventure, action, and steampunk like you've never seen before! In this second book of the Leviathan trilogy we get deeper into the politics and alliances of the war. Westerfeld does a great job of incorporating real events and twitching others to suit this lighter fantasy version of what we know as WWI. Of course, what makes it so fun is that the story revolves around Alek and Deryn. Deryn slowly realizes her feelings towards Alek run a wee bit stronger than she imagined. There's a certain tension to their scenes now that wasn't there before, especially with the loris laughing every time it says "Mr. Sharp." I never knew when Alek would finally get it. The beautiful Lilit also adds complications to the whole thing, and jealousy is certainly a new emotion for Deryn. Alek is very fond of his best friend, confides in Deryn, and counts on her for everything, but he still doesn't know her secret. In this book he's trying his hardest to bring about peace; he sees the rebellion as an opportunity to reach that ultimate goal. He also gets to see the real consequences of war, death and destruction. I loved the meltingpot that was Istanbul, with both Clanker and Darwinist influences. The walkers were pretty amazing, being machines but keeping the forms in organic and animal shapes. Thompson does an amazing job of illustrating them all! I would just stop reading to examine each and every one of his drawings. Be prepared to read about Tesla cannon's, spottiswoode rebreather armor, perpicacious loris, ironclads, vitriolic barnacles and many other marvels in this steampunk world Westerfeld has imagined. Onwards to read Goliath!

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