



## The Clockwork Three

By Matthew J. Kirby

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Giuseppe is an orphaned street musician from Italy, who was sold by his uncle to work as a slave for an evil padrone in the U.S. But when a mysterious green violin enters his life he begins to imagine a life of freedom.

Hannah is a soft-hearted, strong-willed girl from the tenements, who supports her family as a hotel maid when tragedy strikes and her father can no longer work. She learns about a hidden treasure, which she knows will save her family -- if she can find it.

And Frederick, the talented and intense clockmaker's apprentice, seeks to learn the truth about his mother while trying to forget the nightmares of the orphanage where she left him. He is determined to build an automaton and enter the clockmakers' guild -- if only he can create a working head.

Together, the three discover they have phenomenal power when they team up as friends, and that they can overcome even the darkest of fears.

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## **The Clockwork Three** By Matthew J. Kirby Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #475525 in Books
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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-7—Giuseppe is an orphan, living as a violin-playing busker under the thumb of an evil padrone named Stephano. Frederick is apprenticed to Master Branch, a clockmaker, while in secret trying to create a clockwork automaton in the form of a man. Hannah is a maid at a hotel, trying to support her family, and particularly her desperately ill father. Giuseppe finds a green violin that sounds more beautiful than anything he has ever heard, which he hopes will earn him the money for passage back to Italy. Frederick is hoping to pass his exams to become a journeyman, but he can't seem to find a way to make his automaton work just right. Hannah is nearly fired from her position, but then is given a job by the mysterious Mrs. Pomeroy, who is living in the hotel. There is talk of a treasure somewhere in the hotel's hidden passageways that would give Hannah the money she needs to make her father well. As fate (or coincidence) would decree, the paths of these three young people become interconnected. Only together can they find the way to solve their problems. What starts out as a promising retro-style adventure falls apart at the end with too many sequences of the kids in peril and an ill-advised and poorly handled sequence in which Frederick's clockwork man becomes animated. Still, *The Clockwork Three* shows promise and may be enjoyed by fans of Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Scholastic, 2007).—Tim Wadham, St. Louis County Library, MOα(c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

In his ambitious novel, Kirby weaves together a good amount of reliably alluring elements. Initially distinct plotlines follow three children in an unspecified Victorian-era-ish American city: Giuseppe plays the fiddle on street corners for spare change, hoping to have enough left over after paying his wicked padrone for a ticket back to Italy; Hannah works as a hotel maid where she learns of a hidden treasure that may save her ailing father; and Frederick, an apprentice clockmaker, figures that the automaton he is crafting in secret will allow him to become a journeyman. The trio of strands coheres nicely as Kirby twists wisps of mysticism into the clockwork elements, clear-eyed environmentalism into the dour urban grittiness, and a timeless sense of family and friendship into the bold, can-do adventuring. Though he sometimes spells things out a little too bluntly and can't escape a bit of contrivance to wrap everything up in the end, this remains a strong debut effort with memorable characters, hearty action, and palpable atmospherics. Grades 5-8. --Ian Chipman

Review

Praise for *The Clockwork Three*:

\* "In this riveting historical fantasy . . . debut novelist Kirby has assembled all the ingredients for a rousing adventure, which he delivers with rich, transporting prose. Mixing fantasy and steampunk elements with subtle urban mythology, Kirby's immersive story can be read as a modern morality play or a satisfying stand-alone tale." -- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"[M]emorable characters, hearty action, and palpable atmospherics." -- *Booklist*

"Part mystery, part adventures, part science project, *The Clockwork Three* is as imaginative as it is fun. Kirby's attention to detail and descriptive powers are fantastic. . . ." -- *Deseret News*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Willie Burroughs:**

The book *The Clockwork Three* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So just why must we leave the great thing like a book *The Clockwork Three*? A few of you have a different opinion about e-book. But one aim this book can give many data for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you may give for each other; you may share all of these. Book *The Clockwork Three* has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can look the enormous world by available and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Ellen Kelsey:**

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#### **Dorothea Proffitt:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love *The Clockwork Three*, you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

#### **Teresa Hanson:**

A lot of people said that they feel weary when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt that when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose the book *The Clockwork Three* to make your current reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading talent is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the sensation about book and studying especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to open a book and go through it. Beside that the book *The Clockwork Three* can to be your friend when you're experience alone and confuse using what must you're doing of this time.

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