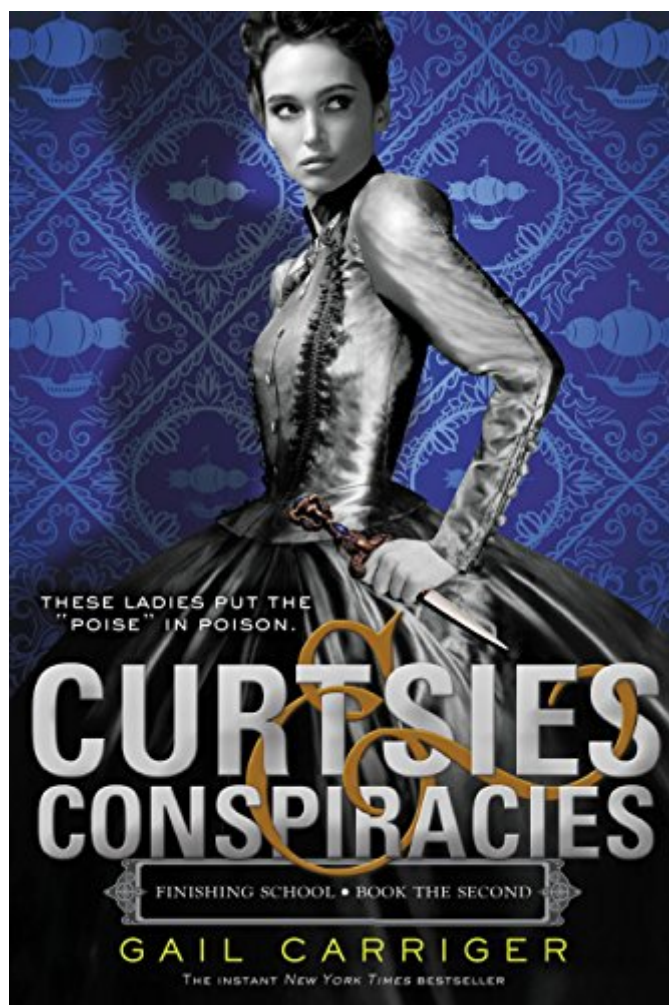


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# Curtsies & Conspiracies (Finishing School Series Book 2)



## Synopsis

Does one need four fully grown foxgloves for decorating a dinner table for six guests? Or is it six foxgloves to kill four fully grown guests? Sophronia's first year at Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy for Young Ladies of Quality has certainly been rousing! For one thing, finishing school is training her to be a spy (won't Mumsy be surprised?). Furthermore, Sophronia got mixed up in an intrigue over a stolen device and had a cheese pie thrown at her in a most horrid display of poor manners. Now, as she sneaks around the dirigible school, eavesdropping on the teachers' quarters and making clandestine climbs to the ship's boiler room, she learns that there may be more to a field trip to London than is apparent at first. A conspiracy is afoot--one with dire implications for both supernaturals and humans. Sophronia must rely on her training to discover who is behind the dangerous plot and survive the London Season with a full dance card. In this bestselling sequel to New York Times bestselling *Etiquette & Espionage*, class is back in session with more petticoats and poison, tea trays and treason. Gail's distinctive voice, signature humor, and lush steampunk setting are sure to be the height of fashion this season.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sophronia and her friends have returned to school and continue to learn about etiquette and espionage. But school has barely just started before things become complicated. Boys from Bunson, a school for evil geniuses, come aboard the school to accompany the girls to London to witness an experiment where a new technology, that might affect both humans and supernaturals, is tested. And to top it all off someone seems to be after Dimity, so Sophronia has to keep a close eye on her best friend while trying to figure out what exactly is going on. Like the first book this is a fast and fun read with even more complications for the main characters to deal with.

Have you ever found yourself starting a book and no matter how hard you try, you just can't get into it? That was me for *Curtsies and Conspiracies*, the first time around last year when it was released. I recently after seeing the cover for the third book was inspired to give it another go and this time I made it to the end. I have to admit though that as far as covers go, this series has the most awesome covers and don't you think the cover model looks slightly like Keira Knightley. This series is set in a Finishing school that is in fact something else - it is also a Spy school where they teach Etiquette and Espionage and now in Book #2 *Curtsies and Conspiracies*. This book starts off with the 6 monthly test of the new students and it is not surprising that Sophronia gets the highest scores, what is disappointing to her though is that her friends or the people she thought were her friends are snobbing her. Now she must in order to save the school from Vampires and Werewolves who are planning a war against each other as both have secret insider knowledge about the school and the happenings of the new technology. Sophronia must enlist the help of ten year old Vieve and her coal-mining friend Soap to uncover and solve the current mysteries above board their school which we discover is in fact - a floating air steamship. Unlike the first book, this one focuses more on the Supernatural side of the Spy world rather than the interactions and actions of Sophronia and her classmates. If you are on the lookout for a Spy Steampunk Paranormal teen novel, then look no further with Book #2 in the Finishing School series "*Curtsies and Conspiracies*".

I like this YA series even more than Carriger's adult series... but then, I'm a sucker for "school" novels, especially ones with a twist. This has great characters, a wonderfully realized environment, and a nicely complex plot. And I totally adore the idea of a girls' "finishing school" that teaches them how to be formidable! This is the second book in the "Finishing School" series, and is at least as good as the first one. Although you could probably start here, you'd miss a lot by skipping #1. In case this is not enough: airships! Evil genius academies! Teenage girls learning decorum AND

espionage! Robot pets! Even elaborate meals! Really, this is so much fun! (The vampires and werewolves are mostly irrelevant, if one has started to get bored with such.)

This is an enjoyable, over-the-top young adult book. The protagonist is a young teenage female in a steam punk version of Great Britain. She is going to "assassins and espionage" school in a world that also has vampires, werewolves and mad scientists. I would classify this as a light cozy, light mystery well done fun read.

The second half of Sophronia's first year (or maybe it's the middle part of her first year. All I know is a lot happens to the wily girl and I see plenty more on the horizon.) is just as deadly and dangerous as the first half. With the added bonus of boys. Boys from the boiler room and a duke's son and her best friend's brother and a vampire or two. (Where are the werewolves? I ask. Their lack is a disgrace! WHERE ARE THE WEREWOLVES!?!?! I should probably point out that the lone werewolf NEARLY made up for the lack, but my inherent love of werewolves makes me demand MOAR!)\*ahem\* So. Sophronia. She's ingenious and sneaky and she can ferret out the inner secrets of the teachers and students of the school faster than anyone else. Which is fortunate because there's a lot of STUFF going on that needs to be taken care of. I'm torn about the love triangle because as much as I like Soap, I can't see anything coming of it due to the fact that the girls are conditioned to expect they'll have their husbands picked out for them. I mean, this is a THING at the school. A THING. Like, they might be told EXACTLY who to marry to advance the cause. Or whatever. While I like Soap, I really liked Felix. Because, well, he amuses me. Fast paced and appropriately ridiculous at times (OMG! The NAMES! LOL!), I'm completely looking forward to the next book. Because I sense more werewolves. And that's always a plus for me. -Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

This book begins the Finishing School series and takes you into a whole new steampunk world. This world includes mechanical servants, mechanimals, vampires and werewolves all of whom you come to love and disdain, depending on the character. Loved this book. Love the whole series!

Book 2 of The Finishing School series is an excellent continuation of Sophronia Temminik's adventures. It's amazing how much goes on in a school for ladies to become intelligencers. At 15, Sophronia has lots to learn and applies her lessons well. Such fun!

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