



The Haunting of Tram Car 015

P. Djèlí Clark

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The Haunting of Tram Car 015 returns to the alternate Cairo of Clark's short fiction, where humans live and work alongside otherworldly beings; the Ministry of Alchemy, Enchantments and Supernatural Entities handles the issues that can arise between the magical and the mundane. Senior Agent Hamed al-Nasr shows his new partner Agent Onsi the ropes of investigation when they are called to subdue a dangerous, possessed tram car. What starts off as a simple matter of exorcism, however, becomes more complicated as the origins of the demon inside are revealed.

The Haunting of Tram Car 015 Details

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Author : P. Djèlí Clark

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From Reader Review The Haunting of Tram Car 015 for online ebook

Cece (ProblemsOfaBookNerd) says

A monster-of-the-week story set in a well worn, beautifully expansive world. It is unique, charming, and deeply magical in a way that only asks for more stories to be told.

Acqua says

Another novella from the author of *The Black God's Drums!* And look at that cover!

Marzie says

Set in an alternate world Cairo in 1912, *The Haunting of Tram Car 015* offers a world in which djinn walk and work freely with humans. Agents Hamed Nasr and Onsi Youssef of the Ministry of Alchemy, Enchantments and Supernatural Entities have been assigned to figure out how to fix a haunted tram car. Superintendent Bashir thinks it's a ghost who attacked a woman on the tram but Hamed doesn't believe in ghosts since in the Ministry's thirty years of operation, none has ever been proven. He thinks whatever is haunting Tram Car 015 has to be a djinn. But what if he and Bashir are both very wrong? Their pursuit of solving this haunting takes them from z'r-practicing Sufi spiritualists to dollmakers, and along the way we meet a gendershifting djinn who smells of jasmine, honey and cinnamon, and an a freed automaton.

An utter delight. I'd love to see a full length novel in this world, frankly. I want more Hamed, Onsi, Abla, Naadiya, Fahima and Jizzu!

I received a paper review copy in exchange for an honest review.

Holly (The Grimdragon) says

“Quite dreadful. No one liked desk duty. It often seemed half their job was paperwork as it was. Who joined the Ministry for the thrill of filling out endless reports, in triplicate no less? Then again, he thought dismally, neither did they expect to spend their days haggling with government bureaucrats over haunted tram cars.”

I have yet to read P. Djèlí Clark's *The Black God's Drum*, but it's high on my TBR list! From what I understand, *The Haunting of Tram Car 015* is set within the same world as Clark's short story published in 2016 on Tor.com, *A Dead Djinn in Cairo*. It's an alternate steampunk Cairo, that takes place in 1912. A fantasy filled with magic, djinn, ghouls and a haunted tram.

Even though I have never read Agatha Christie, this puts me in mind of something she would write. Perhaps

because it is a murder mystery that takes place on a form of public transportation? Like if Christie wrote a Sherlock Holmes novel.

Historical fantasy is a tough genre for me to lose myself in. It's surely a difficult task, consciously fictionalizing the past. It can be quite limiting. I'm such a lover of world-building and finding myself immersed in the details, that when it comes to a historical setting, sometimes it just doesn't captivate me as much. This is an instance where I think I would have enjoyed *The Haunting of Tram Car 015* more if it was a longer story. Or maybe it wouldn't have resonated with me at all in that case. WHO EVEN KNOWS?!

This was charming, diverse and well-written. It just didn't fully come together for me, but YMMV. A lot of people are going to dig this!

(Thank you to Tor.com Publishing for always sending me random surprise book mail!)

The quotes above were taken from an ARC & are subject to change upon publication

Kay says

Another solid one from Clark. This novella felt more deeply developed than *The Black God's Drum* but is equally exquisite. This stories also addressed issues (though tangentially) of feminism and empowerment. I am still out on the epilogue but I am definitely yearning for more stories from this world.

Caleb Masters says

P. Djèlí Clark returns with another excellent novella bursting with warm characters and a fantastic world that left me craving more. Set in an alternate 1912 Cairo, this steampunk-djinn-noir follows two agents, Hamed and Onsi, in the Ministry of Alchemy, Enchantments, and Supernatural Entities as they investigate a haunted tram car. Clark packs so much story and vibrant detail into his book that I kept wishing for more time with his characters or for him to turn down another back alley of Cairo to see what wonders he'd cooked up. A great follow-up to 'The Black God's Drums' and a cementing of P. Djèlí Clark's place as a rising star of fantasy literature.

Tor.com Publishing Quest: 7/122 read!

Megan says

P. Djèlí Clark has this indescribable writing style that just...fills my soul. I don't know if it's his brilliant word choice or his syntax or his tone that feels like summer heat sticking to your skin despite the cool breeze or if it's the way his plots slowly unfold like a puzzle gently clicking into place, piece by piece until the full picture is suddenly, beautifully revealed, and it's *stunning*. Whatever it is, I love it.

The Haunting of Tram Car 015 has the same brilliant alternate-history worldbuilding as *the Black God's Drums*--it's not the same in content, in alterations, but it is the same in its carefully crafted blend of mythology, magic, technology, and history. It's a beautifully put together world. The magic of this alternate

Cairo is true to the history of the city, fits it so perfectly because it was grown there, sown there, *belongs*. The characters fit, too, brilliant as their desert sun. It's not a story that could happen anywhere else, the characters don't fit in other settings--they are perfectly placed in their setting, and it's just... *satisfying*.

I honestly think that I could read anything, everything that Clark has ever written and will ever write and not be disappointed. He's magic.

James Latimer says

Review to follow.

Rachel (Kalanadi) says

A pitch-perfect investigative story, characters and worldbuilding I thoroughly enjoyed, *and* I had a big smile on my face by the end. I love this alternate history version of Cairo! And setting an investigation of a haunted tram car during the lead up to a vote on women's suffrage was *immensely* and unexpectedly satisfying.

Longer review to come...
