



The Celestial Globe

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After stealing her father's eyes back from Prince Rodolfo, Petra Kronos lives in constant danger. She and her tin spider, Astrophil, end up hiding out in London, where she learns more about her magical abilities. London has its charms (like Petra's attractive fencing master), but Petra needs to get back to Bohemia and her father.

Meanwhile, Prince Rodolfo is trying to locate a powerful object called the Celestial Globe. Petra's friends, Tomik and Neel, are searching for her and traveling with a band of Gypsies searching for the globe.

The race is on to see who will find the globe first, and who will make it out of this deadly chase alive.

The Celestial Globe Details

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Author : Marie Rutkoski

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From Reader Review The Celestial Globe for online ebook

David y biblioflick says

Sometimes, children books are better than the YA books nowadays. YA books (especially dystopia and/or fantasy) tend to complicate their plots and add some subplots, then throw a lot of romance, jaw dropping twists, and death of a favorite character, that make their heart ache. I'm done with the YA drama and cliché (not totally thought, choosing a really good and original few).

This is not better than the previous book, because there are two point of views to the story - the voyage and the training/detective story but it all tied brilliantly in the end. The voyage quite bores me but is necessary for the character development of Neel and Tomik and other minor/sub characters. The ending is really fitting as a second-middle book. Can't wait to read the finale of this series and the The Winner's Kiss, finale of The Winner's Trilogy. Reading the few chapters of both books, and I really see that both books will be brilliant.

Robyn says

In this book, the sequel to The Cabinet of Wonders, Petra was really annoying and didn't seem to be the same Petra from the first book. Here she was much more stubborn and never listened to anything anyone told her. I loved the mysterious John Dee and just wanted to slap Petra when she would not listen to what he was telling her. Yeah he was a little shady, but couldn't she keep her mouth shut and learn to play his game? I still enjoyed the adventure, but several times I had to stop, because she got on my nerves.

Ruby says

Starting a few months after the events in The Cabinet of Wonders, The Celestial Globe prepares you to look deep into the pasts of both Petra and her companions, Neel and Tom. When she and her father are attacked, Petra along with her tin spider, Astro, are rescued by the mysterious John Dee. He whisks her off to London to study her and her powers. Petra discovers she is a Chimera, a soul with more than one magical talent and begins a rigorous training program with Dee in the forefront and Kit teaching her how to use a sword. Meanwhile, Neel the thief and Tom, Petra's best friend take to the high seas to find her and the elusive Celestial Globe.

This book was definitely a good read as well as a pretty quick one. I would recommend it for readers who enjoy a good fantasy and who like mystery as well as some high sea fun. The romantic paths are very slight and are clean with a few kisses here and there. Gore is also minimal, but with sword play, you are going to get some blood. The characters are quick well described and the plot sucks you in. A page turner from the go....

Lucy says

I loved the first one dearly. I can't wait to read this one!

Patrick Burgess says

Much Better Than The First...

But again, I'm a little bit leery of Petra's lack of thoughtfulness, considering how everyone seems to think she's more observant than the average pubescent. Plus, what's with the attitude? Sure, she's a budding teenage rebellionist, but aren't we tired of these convoluted cultural stereotypes? If that even means anything without being grammatically oxymoronic? Or just moronic...

MUCH more enjoyable than the first, with some intriguing intrigue, and magical magickness, there's even a bit of inappropriate underage cheekiness which weirdly I DID think was inappropriate (which is hideously inappropriate of me to think inappropriate - what am I, someone's religious g-ma?).

Overall, fun, a little awkward again with the conflict contrivancing, but fun. Yep. Yup. Yo-pe.

Jacqui says

You want to know my pet peeve in books/movies? Bad plot devices and one of the worst offenders is making the main character unreasonable and a little obnoxious in order for them to not take good advice and thereby save the day in their own way. There is a workaround for this problem people! It would just take a little more ingenuity on the author's part.

It's such a shame that this episode in the trilogy suffers so badly from this plot device/character development as the rest of the story is totally intriguing and a great adventure/suspense novel. I will still read the last one in the series to see how it all pans out but at the moment it's looking like a bit of a chore.

Maureen E says

by Marie Rutkoski

Opening line: "Some days are just born bad."

This is, of course, the sequel to *The Cabinet of Wonders*. Petra Kronos returns. This time she is trying to readjust to life with her cousins and father after her excursions to Prague. Unfortunately for her, her time there was not uneventful, and she attracted quite a bit of attention.

The book wasn't quite what I was expecting somehow--I think I had thought that it would focus on the new relationship between Mikal and Petra. What I got was quite different, and yet I ended up loving it just as much as the first book.

I'll try to avoid spoilers, but I will just say that John Dee remains an enigmatic figure. From the very little I know about the historical person, this seems quite appropriate. Petra is still a sympathetic character, although some of her responses show a growing complexity. Some of my questions from the first book got answered, while others linger.

I loved the interactions between Tomik and Neel. All too often when any sort of triangle, whether love or

not, is set up, the only relationships that are really explored are the ones between the opposite genders. I liked seeing the boys and their dealing with each other.

BUT! The absolute best moment of the whole book! The one that caused me to emit squees of joy! Shakespeare discussing the fact that Bohemia is not a landlocked country in a world where it arguably isn't! I read that line and then I stopped reading and sat there for a minute. Then I said, "Did she just do what I think she did?" Then I decided that she did. And it was awesome.

I'm looking forward to a third book.

Book source: public library

Book information: Farrar Straux Giroux, 2010; middle grade

The Cabinet of Wonders

Kailey (BooksforMKs) says

I liked this second book in the trilogy better than the first! In the first book, there was a lot of explanations and random minor characters, but in this book we have a more solid story and better pacing, I think.

Petra is on the run again from the evil Prince of Bohemia, and her friends, Neel and Tomik, are swept into her adventures. The mysterious spy/ambassador John Dee is back, and he tries to train Petra to use her magic, but she is an unruly student.

My favorite character by far is Astrophil, the metal spider with an encyclopedic brain. He's so wise and intelligent and loyal! I just love his snappy dialogue.

Petra is courageous to the point of stupidity, but I love her for it. I think she has trouble seeing things as they really are. She assumes that things will turn out well if you just do your best, or that you can trust people to keep your secrets, and that just isn't the case. She tends to run headlong into danger with all kinds of good intentions, so it's a good thing Astrophil is there to hold her back sometimes. He's that voice in her head giving a word of caution.

I loved seeing Neel and Tomik hating each other, and fighting, and then slowly becoming friends. Those two are such different characters, but they both love Petra.

The plot really surprised me! I was fascinated with the weird characters and their magical abilities. The plot twist hit me out of nowhere, and I loved how the different story threads all came together. Murder, betrayal, animals made of metal, elemental spirits, gypsy folklore, espionage, politics, and especially magic- this book has it all!

Crowinator says

I wrote this review of the first and second books in this series on my Livejournal blog a while ago and forgot that I never copied it over, but now that I've received the third one for review, I thought I should, because I love this series and it doesn't get enough attention. My review was prompted by a post I read (back in 2010) about the lack of kick-butt female heroines for middle grade girls, and that made me want to put in a plug for

this fantasy series, the *Kronos Chronicles*. This is one of those series that falls under the radar, at least at my library, but it is quality storytelling with a unique historical setting, mechanical steampunk elements and magic that is integrated well into the world, and very engaging protagonist, Petra Kronos. It's also a series that grew on me: I read the first one and liked it okay, and it didn't seem extra-special, but weeks after finishing it I would find myself thinking of it fondly and wanting to read it again. The second book, which I really liked, only cemented my love.

The series takes place in historical Bohemia at the end of the 16th century, so already the setting is different and very colorful. Magic has very specific, limited uses, often related to craftsmanship: Petra's father can manipulate metal and has created creatures such as Astrophil, Petra's highly-literate, talking tin spider; her friend Tomik works with glass and can do things such as trap/create lightning in a bottle. Petra's powers are more mysterious, and in fact the strangeness of her abilities is one of the focal points of *The Celestial Globe*.

In the first book, Petra's father goes to Prague to build the world's largest astrological clock; unfortunately, the Prince of Bohemia, who commissioned the work, steals her father's eyes so that he cannot ever repeat this amazing feat. Petra, being more than a little stubborn and proactive, decides to go to Prague herself, infiltrate the Prince's castle, and steal back her father's eyes. She is aided by the Roma people, in particular a boy named Neel, whose magic enables him to use phantom fingers to steal from people and pick locks. Her mission is complicated by the discovery that the Prince has enchanted her father's eyes and actually wears them, and a further discovery that the clock her father created is part of one of the Prince's nefarious schemes to rule the world. John Dee, the British spy, simultaneously aids Petra and uses her for his own purposes, but he is instrumental in her quest.

Petra does return home at the end of the first book, but not before the Prince learns who she is, so the second book starts with him sending his Gray Men to either kill or kidnap her. With the unsolicited help of John Dee, she escapes again, but then he quite infuriatingly imprisons her in his home in England, for her own good, of course, with his two unusual daughters (one who can open rifts in order to travel through space, and one who can close the rifts), so that he can teach her magic and swordplay. And while this is all going on, Tomik and Neel end up together with the Roma to search for the two Celestial Globes, which enable whole groups of people to find all the rifts that already exist and travel among them (it makes more sense when you're reading the book, I promise). Of course, the Prince of Bohemia (who is evil mostly because he is almost childishly spoiled) is really keen to get these Celestial Globes as well.

Petra is a great character -- she's intelligent, determined, very stubborn, but also more than a little naive and impetuous. Her impatience and unwillingness to cooperate gets her into trouble a lot, especially with John Dee, who is always a step ahead. Her efforts to best him are entertaining, but when she finally outwits him, it may not be in her best interest. (We won't find that out until Book Three.) His delight over her scheming (and his scheming in return) is one of the highlights of this book for me. He is such a Machiavellian character, delicious with amusement but quite menacing when he chooses to be. He is in this one a lot, which is probably why I enjoyed it more than the first book.

This is a really unique series. Fantasy with such a strong female character for ages 8/9-11 are rarer than ones for ages 12-up. Also, in an age of fat fantasies, these books are short, making them far more accessible to young readers than those 400-500 page tomes they expect middle graders to read nowadays. (The second book, while being 300 pages, is published in a trim size with a larger typeface, so it's really more like 200 pages, and the first one is the same.) I think they fill an important niche that is only made better by the fact that they feature strong characters, lots of action, and even a touch of (very innocent) romance in this second one.

Shelli says

Ugh. This series is really going downhill. The plot is fairly solid, the storytelling and writing are fine, but if I was annoyed with protagonist Petra Kronos in *The Cabinet of Wonders* (see my rather lengthy review at <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>), then I am damn near fixin' to strangle her in *The Celestial Globe*.

Once again, our "hero" Petra is a study in bipolar contrast (where by bipolar I am not referring to the psychiatric condition, but rather literally relating to two opposite poles). Here at age 13, she is mostly portrayed as super-self-sufficient, mature, brilliant, wise, magical, strong, etc., but for reasons I cannot possibly comprehend because it rarely serves the plot, she occasionally flies off into childish outbursts not typical of ANY 13-year-old girl, especially not one as super-self-sufficient, mature, brilliant, wise, blah blah blah as Petra is. In one chapter, she will be compassionate and sensitive to moral ambiguity, in the next, she becomes an immutable absolutist. She is forgiving to the one character who betrayed and really seriously screwed her over (view spoiler), yet is *unrelentingly* hostile to someone (view spoiler) who continually sacrifices to protect her. (To be fair, yes, that second person did manipulate and was dishonest to her at the outset of the previous book, but *no more so than Petra did and was to him*. But if he said to her, "Please don't saw your foot off," she would, simply to defy him.) Author Marie Rutkoski writes Petra into very complex, subtle, and mature interactions (except with the aforementioned enemy-in-her-own-mind character), and then later has her flying off the handle with that same person, unilaterally deciding to ignore or shut them out when giving that person (usually a dear, dear friend!) the benefit of the doubt and a simple, honest sit-down (something which she **is** certainly shown as capable of) would solve the problem. I don't know; maybe she really **is** clinically bipolar? None of the other characters suffer from this unevenness. Unfortunately, it is hard to fully enjoy what would otherwise be a delightful read when you constantly want to smack the hero upside the head and tell her to grow the bloody hell up.

Cindy says

I have waited a year and half for this book. When I read *Cabinet of Wonders* I NEEDED this book. I have to admit now I need the next book.

This book took readers to England and used many historical characters while having the main focus be on the "fictional" characters. There is every bit of fantasy and humor in this book that makes it a great read. The chapters are on the short side so before one knows it the book is over with.

The action jumps from event to event without dragging on and on and making it seem like it will be forever before something happens.

The characters are all very three dimensional.

Many people say it isn't important to read *Cabinet of Wonders* but I disagree you have to in order to understand what is going on. There are a lot of things that happen in this book that are a result of the first and it just wouldn't make sense if you didn't read the first one.

I LOVE the spider his brute honesty and humor is what makes me love the book even more.

There was a bit of an odd start as the author tried to bring readers up on what happened in COW but didn't do it as smoothly as some other authors. But after the first page or so it was smooth sailings :)

I can't wait to see what element of history and fiction Rutkoski brings to the next novel but I'm sure it'll be great.

Kristine says

The Celestial Globe is the second book to the Kronos Chronicles series by Marie Rutkoski. After Petra come home from stealing back her father eyes, the prince send Graymen monster after her. She is then whisk away by her ally, John Dee, to London with the help of his daughter that can travel from one place to another instantly. She and her pet spider Astrophil is then kept by John and taught on how to improve her magic skills and fencing lesson with a cute teacher, named Kit. Back at home her best friend Tomik go through a warp hole that take him to a beach where he meets Neel, Petra partner in crime in the last book. Neel and Tomik embark on a journey to find Petra and the Celestial Globe. People would kill for this Globe and it is up to them to solve the Globe location and get back to their home.

This book is better than the first book. It has more action and a better climax than the last. It kept me on my feet because once you are so into some chapter it switch gear and follow the other character journey. It taught the reader that not everything is as it seem and sometime you doubt the wrong people. This is a great book if you like adventure and teen romance. It also combine some character from our history so the reader would be entertain with our history popping up here and there in the story. Marie combine history, adventures, and love, in this next sequel of the Kronos Chronicles.

Michelle says

The author is a bit green but great story. Appropriate for all ages

Charlyn says

Petra has drawn the attention (and not always the good kind) of Prince Rodolfo and John Dee. From reading the first book, we know that the prince is evil, but John Dee is a mystery. When Petra finds herself in his care in London, her first wish is to escape, even though the man has obviously saved her. But she is apart from her father and her friends, totally dependent upon Astrophil and Dee's household. Tomik, who set out to search for her, has problems of his own--he has been made the slave on a ship of gypsy pirates, including Neel, the nimble-fingered lad who was able to pick locks in Book I.

And what ties their stories together: the celestial globe. Many are seeking it: among them, the pirates who've taken Tomik, those among the courtiers in Queen Elizabeth's realm, and Prince Rodolfo. And who can help them: Petra, whose increasing powers make her more valuable. And what does Petra want? Only to rejoin her father and her friends in Bohemia again.

I enjoyed this book, but I also wondered if the intended audience wasn't more directly YA than in the first book. The passages dealing with boy-girl relationships will appeal to a young female reader, but I'm not so sure about the younger boys. The swordplay and the gore of the Gristleki are definite pluses for a male audience, but kisses and a broken heart?

It will be interesting to see where the next book takes Petra.

Cat says

I have the pleasure of knowing this series' author, so that always brings special delight to the process of reading these books, thinking about their influences, and connecting them with Marie's personality and areas of intellectual expertise. In this book's case, that was especially rewarding because I met Marie while we were both in Harvard's English department Ph.D. program, and she was studying Renaissance literature. This installment in the Kronos Chronicles frolics and fences in Renaissance England, introducing us to a version of Kit Marlowe and another of William Shakespeare.

This second book picks up mid-stride where the last book left off. It introduces some challenging plot twists for the heroine and stresses her continuing coming-of-age between a romance subplot and a potentially very serious loss. Rutkoski brings together Petra's two best friends (and potential love interests? we shall see), Tomkin and Neel, and plays up their rivalry, which works splendidly, since they were conveniently separate in the first book and hence seemed like doubles rather than competitors. The tensions between them work very well in this book, especially since they get to express them on a pirate ship, and what's more fun than a pirate ship?

I was more captivated by the Czech/Bohemian angle in the first book than I was by Elizabethan England in this book, but that's just personal taste. Astrophil the mechanical spider is still a wonderful character (very reminiscent of a Philip Pullman daemon), and Petra is gaining levels as a character as she steers further away from familiar home. I am very much looking forward to the third installment, which, if the end of this book is any indicator, may well be set in India.
