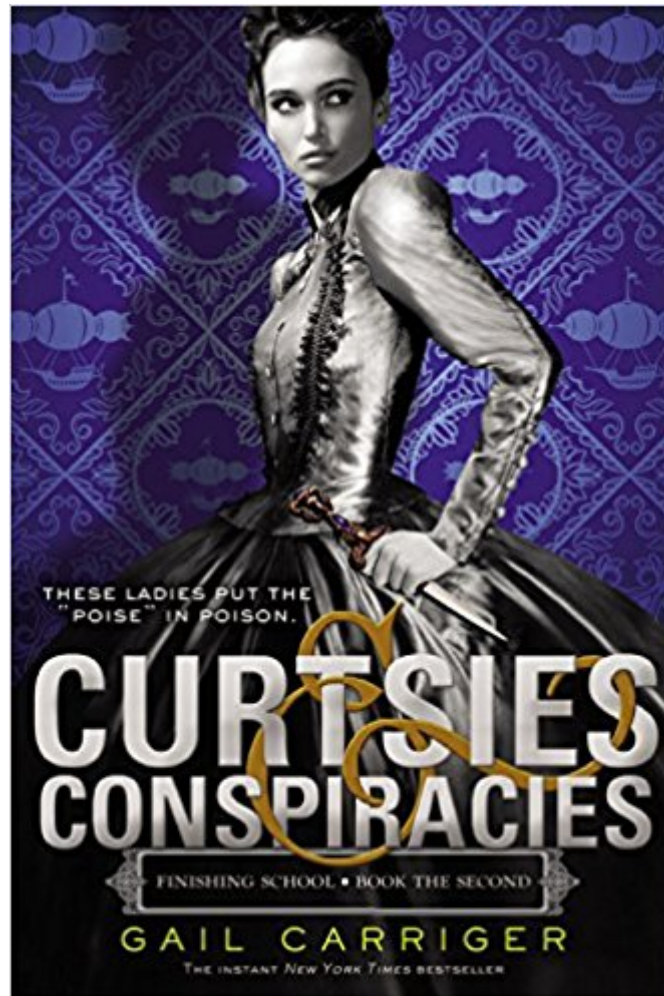




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Curtsies & Conspiracies (Finishing School)



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.

Customer Reviews

Starred Review Six months ago, Sophronia was a covert recruit in Mademoiselle Geraldine's Finishing Academy (*Etiquette & Espionage*, 2013). Now she's earning top marks in such areas as "tea and delusions" and "portion allotment, puddings, and preemptive poisonings." While her etiquette "ahem" still needs work, her naturally curious and calculating mind is so adept at espionage that even the teachers are wary of her. So when the floating school journeys to London to witness a technological breakthrough "travel through the aethersphere made possible by a new guidance valve" Sophronia suspects that this is more than just a field trip. While the other girls plan shopping trips and parties, Sophronia uncovers a conspiracy to control the patent and production of the valve, which every faction has a stake in. Carriger's second steampunk adventure exceeds the first with its (slightly) more plot-driven story, but the fun, again, is in watching ever-practical Sophronia sneak and scheme her way into sometimes dangerous, sometimes riotously funny, situations and even learn a few sobering lessons about consequences along the way. New characters, including a pesky lord enamored of Sophronia, round out an already quirky but lovable group of friends/collaborators. We repeat: This witty, lighthearted series is not to be missed. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** The short nine-month span between first and second volumes says much about the publisher's eagerness to

capitalize on the heat. Fans won't have a second to breathe. Grades 8-11. --Krista Hutley
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for New York Times bestselling *Curtsies & Conspiracies*:* "Teenage and adult fans alike will rejoice that Carriger retains her flair for musical prose, over-the-top names, clever wit, and strange yet helpful mechanical devices of all kinds. Carriger's blend of comically exaggerated characters and madcap action will easily win over readers once again." Publishers Weekly (starred review)* "Carriger's second steampunk adventure exceeds the first... the fun, again, is in watching ever-practical Sophronia sneak and scheme her way into sometimes dangerous, sometimes riotously funny, situations.... We repeat: This witty, light-hearted series is not to be missed." Booklist (starred review)

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