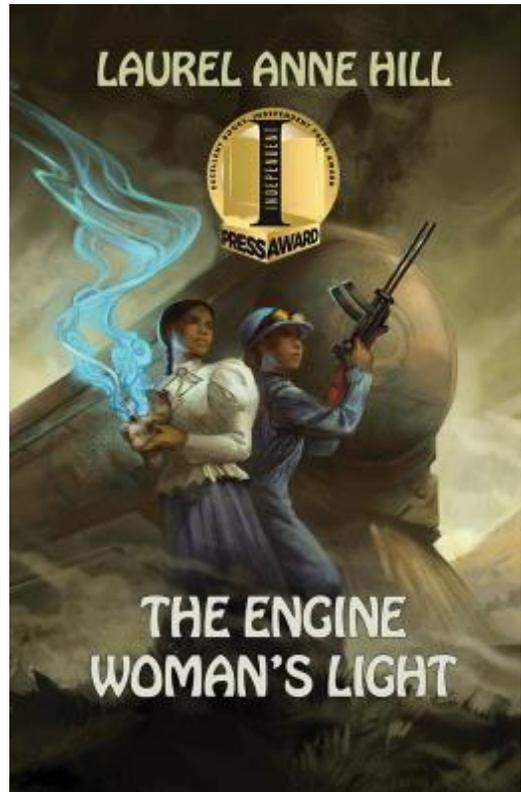




The Engine Woman's Light

By Laurel Anne Hill

A mystical vision of an airship appears to fifteen-year-old Juanita. The long-dead captain commands her to **prevent California's thrown** away people—including young children—from boarding trains to an asylum. **That institution's** director plots murder to reduce the inmate population. Yet to save innocent lives Juanita must take lives of the corrupt. How can she reconcile her assignment with her belief in the sacredness of all human life? And will she survive to marry her betrothed? Juanita sets out despite inner trepidation to sabotage the railroad. Her ancestor Billy, the ghost of a steam locomotive engineer, guides her. Then bit by bit, she discovers the gut wrenching truths all of her ancestors neglected to reveal. **Come visit Juanita's world**—an alternate nineteenth-century California—where spirits meet steampunk, where both love and anger emanate from beyond the grave.



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**WINNER, Gold, Fantasy/Sci-Fi
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In this dystopian YA novel set in an alternate, steampunk-y version of California, a teenage girl gets mystical visions of tasks that she must perform to save her people. Many sci-fi and fantasy novels are organized around a quest. Although Juanita does indeed solve problems and cover some ground, these are secondary to her maturing understanding of herself, history, the Shadow World, and relationships in both the spirit and human realms. Like Ursula K. Le Guin, Hill (*Heroes Arise*, 2008) pays attention to the anthropology of her invented culture in ways that enrich the story greatly, often in details that subtly underscore how the society both resembles and differs from our own. A coming-of-age story that thoughtfully blends mysticism and adventure.

Kirkus Starred Review

About the Author

Laurel Anne Hill grew up in San Francisco, California, with more dreams of adventure than good sense or money. Her close brushes with death, love of family, respect for honor and belief in a higher power continue to influence her writing and her life. Laurel is the author of the award-winning novel, *Heroes Arise*. Her published short stories and nonfiction pieces total forty. She continues to serve as a participant at many science fiction/fantasy conventions.

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