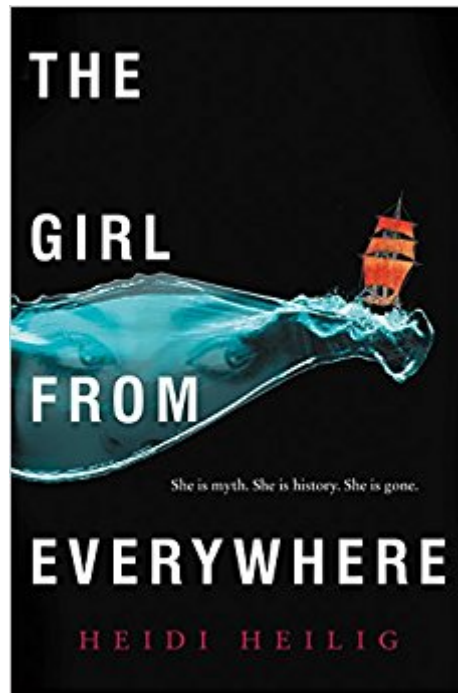




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The Girl From Everywhere



Synopsis

The Girl from Everywhere, the first of two books, blends fantasy, history, and a modern sensibility. Its sparkling wit, breathless adventure, multicultural cast, and enchanting romance will dazzle readers of Sabaa Tahir and Leigh Bardugo. As the daughter of a time traveler, Nix has spent sixteen years sweeping across the globe and through the centuries aboard her father's ship. Modern-day New York City, nineteenth-century Hawaii, other lands seen only in myth and legend • Nix has been to them all. But when her father gambles with her very existence, it all may be about to end. Rae Carson meets Outlander in this epic debut fantasy. If there is a map, Nix's father can sail his ship, The Temptation, to any place and any time. But now that he's uncovered the one map he's always sought • 1868 Honolulu, the year before Nix's mother died in childbirth • Nix's life, her entire existence, is at stake. No one knows what will happen if her father changes the past. It could erase Nix's future, her dreams, her adventures . . . her connection with the charming Persian thief, Kash, who's been part of their crew for two years.

Book Information

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Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Pirates #47 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction >

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Fiction > Time Travel

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • Nix has spent all of her 16 years with her father as a time-traveling pirate aboard a physical ship, navigating into the margins of historical maps to reach his ultimate goal • returning to Honolulu in 1868, the time and place of Nix's birth, to save her mother, who died when Nix was born. Nix's home is the sea and her family the ship's crew, and while she

adores traveling and dreams of navigating on her own, she fears the end of her father's journey. If he can save her mother, Nix will no longer exist. Can she find a way to strike out on her own and reunite her parents? History and mythology fans will love this fast-moving ride through time, where mythological maps take Nix and the crew to real places with items and creatures true to the map's design. Nineteenth-century politics involving the Hawaiian royal family and control over the islands create mystery and danger as Nix endeavors to discover her mother's identity, reconcile with her father, and accept her feelings for Kash, the Persian thief who has become her closest friend on the ship. VERDICT This must-have fantasy adventure will appeal to fans of Rick Riordan's "Kane Chronicles" and Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner's "Starbound Trilogy," (both Disney-Hyperion). —Kerry Sutherland, Akron-Summit County Public Library, OH --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

“History and mythology fans will love this fast-moving ride through time, where mythological maps take Nix and the crew to real places with items and creatures true to the map’s design.” —*cs* design
[This must-have fantasy adventure will appeal to fans of Rick Riordan’s “Kane Chronicles.”] —*cs* “Kane Chronicles.” —*cs* (School Library Journal (starred review)) —“One of my absolute favourite reads of 2016, Heidi Heilig’s debut captured me completely from the first page. A lushly written time-traveling adventure with an imaginative magical twist, real heart and real heartbreak, and a major dash of swoon.” —(Alwyn Hamilton, author of *Rebel of the Sands*) —“A skillful mashup of science fiction and eclectic mythology, enlivened by vivid sensory detail and moments of emotional and philosophical depth.” —[A] nonstop time-travel romp.” —(Kirkus Reviews) —“With time travel, fantasy, Hawaiian history, mythology, cute animals, and a feisty female protagonist, romance and fantasy readers will find much to enjoy.” —(Booklist) —“[A] time-travel adventure” —Heilig’s writing is richly immersive, and a mature exploration of complicated love, both familial and romantic, underlies the story. A riveting and far-reaching fantasy that crosses seamlessly across the centuries, posing questions about fate, loyalty, and belonging.” —(Publishers Weekly) —“This thrilling swashbuckler-steeped in history, myth, and legend-finds a solid anchor in its colorful characters.” —[Fascinating, thought-provoking and wonderfully imagined, *The Girl From Everywhere* will spark the adventurer inside every reader.” —(Shelf Awareness) —“The world Heilig has built is a creative blend of actual history and fantasy elements grounded in ancient and modern myths. Her novel is simultaneously an adventure story, a love triangle, and a meditation on big topics like the idea of home and the tension between fate and free will.” —

(BookPage)“Heilig presents a dizzying array of intermeshed events, dates, and maps. The plot is rooted in actual Hawaiian history, and redolent with realistic details and Hawaiian folklore. The reader may ultimately be surprised at how smoothly the fantastical elements here mesh with the real.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))“This debut catapults delightfully from one map to the next, offering a fresh and captivating approach to time travel.” (NPR Books)“A truly exciting book, brimming with adventure, history, and sinuous potential. The Girl from Everywhere is a bewilderingly good book. Heidi Heilig is one to watch.” (Christian Science Monitor)

How can you be a "girl from everywhere" except, as Heilig presents, to be a time traveler? Nix has been many places, in many times, on her father's masted sailing ship, The Temptation. But she does not know how these travels, with a remarkable distinctive skeleton crew, might have effected historical timelines. Or what it might mean when her father achieves his goal: to prevent her mother's death in 1868 Honolulu. A major strength of this novel is the author's facility with language. The descriptions are vivid, brimming with vibrancy. She is just as adept at the depictions of the core of this YA novel - the constantly changing relationships with adults for this coming-of-age girl. This novel may not be every YA reader's cup of tea with its historical and literary references. However, Heilig has constructed an enchanting and powerful tale set in a wonderfully fantastical world that addresses the underlying theme for all adolescents - Who Am I?

Like several other reviewers, I found the story a bit slow going at first but once it hit its stride, it was a breeze to be taken along for the ride. Let me quickly run through the aspects of the book that I found enjoyable before covering some major issues (eg. plot holes). The banter between Nix and Kash was pretty entertaining, and I really appreciated that the author had taken the effort to weave several mythologies into the story, which imparted an element of mysticism that really suited the story. There were also some beautiful turns of phrase that made you (or at least, me) pause and linger over the page. But there were some aspects of this novel that really made it hard for me to stay engaged with the story. I'll just focus on the 2 biggest issues here: 1) How the romance was handled - so much effort was spent on building up Kash as a character and love interest that it was frankly a massive let down that the heroine herself seemed to pay him so little heed, right up to the end. The scenes that were meant to be romantic were handled laconically, almost as if the author didn't want to write about it, or as if the heroine herself just didn't feel a strong attraction to one who was clearly meant to be a love interest. 2) PLOT HOLES - There were at least 2 plot holes that

bugged me enough to mention here, because they REALLY affected my reading of the story. I imagine this would only be an issue for you as well if you're the sort of reader who needs logic in the story to remain intact in order for you to continue to suspend your disbelief and remain engaged. Obviously, SPOILERS are ahead so stop reading now if you haven't read the book yet! (And if you've read the book and feel that the following aren't plot holes at all, I'd love to hear your explanation on them. God knows I can't stand it when a story trips over the logic it established itself.) * * * SPOILERS AHEAD * * *

Plot holes: 1) "54" as the solution to waking the terracotta army simply doesn't work if you happen to know how the Chinese numeric system works. When Nix figures out that the number 54 is the answer to waking the army, she inscribes the Chinese characters for "five" and "four" onto the general to denote "54". Problem is, the number "54" in Chinese is NEVER expressed by just combining the characters for "five" and "four". "54" is always expressed as "five-ten-four" and this "five four = 54" is a mistake that no native Chinese speaker (such as Joss) would ever dream of making. This is akin to someone trying to write "five-four" instead of "fifty-four" when trying to express the same number in English. There are other issues with how the Chinese is used as a key part of the plot within this story but the above was just the gravest mistake of them all that unfortunately killed my suspension of disbelief. For a story that tries so hard to be clever, this semantic issue is just that much more jarring since it was supposed to be a key point in the story. Again, this is probably only something that would irk someone who knows how to count in Chinese.

2) Time travel: time travel as a concept has always had the potential to break logic, so when introduced in a story it needs to be explained clearly so we know how it works within that story's universe. As another reviewer already mentioned, with the rules of Navigation laid out in the book, a very fundamental problem is that the characters are essentially just sailing into parallel worlds and getting further and further from reality with each turn of navigation they make. In Inception terminology, everyone is essentially going deeper and deeper into the next dream level, with no hope of ever going back to reality. The premise of a ship that can sail into any point in time - including mythical worlds - is cool if you don't think too hard about it but it gets trapped by its own rule, making all the events of the story just a shadow of reality and not reality itself. All in all, given that it's a debut novel, I'd say it's worth 4-stars because clearly some serious effort went into it and I still enjoyed it as a whole despite the plot holes.

These books (GIRL FROM EVERYWHERE and THE SHIP BEYOND TIME) are incredible. If you don't want to read this whole review stop here and just go buy the books. You will not be disappointed. I read each book in two days (and I'm insanely busy and have

zero free time. Yet somehow this was possible. I simply couldn't stop reading). I'm not going to describe the plot here, the summary above does a great job of doing that. Instead I'll talk about why I loved these books. I was hooked immediately by Nix's voice. This voice grabs you from the first page. Voice is one of those things that's hard to describe, but for me, this voice is like listening to an old friend. One you wish you got to hang out with more and you just want to spend time with. This is how I've felt about series like THE GRISHA TRILOGY, RED QUEEN, A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES and THE LUANAR CHRONICLES. The world is completely immersive and you won't want it to end. Nix is a great character. She's smart, tough, vulnerable and kind all at once. You feel her plight and her longing. Her relationships with the other characters, especially with her father, is nuanced and complex. With her father, it's not the stereotypical teenage angst we often see in young adult novels. It's unique. Nix also has a relationship with a boy, Kashmir that grabs you by the heartstrings and doesn't let go. We slowly fall in love with Kashmir as the story unfolds, which makes it feel real and sticks with you after the last page. This is all fine and good, you might say, but what about the plot? Does the plot keep the story moving? The answer is a resounding yes. This story is brilliantly told (I won't spoil the plot by describing it here though!). Time travel stories are so interesting to me because they are all different. They all have a different method of travel, a different set of rules and complications. The method Heidi devised for her novels is so unique yet so easy to get on board with. Maps that become reality based on the beliefs of the navigator and the mapmaker? I love it. The characters transport themselves to the most unusual places as well as the most common, and watching them fit in in either is so much fun. 2016 NY, ancient China, mythological and real places, they are all delivered with such (not boring) detail that you wonder if Heidi was actually in all of them and more importantly you feel like you've gone there yourself. Also, she weaves in just the right amount of mind-bending time hopping, where characters meet each other in non-linear timelines so you have to stop and get your head around it. Still, she manages to describe it in such a way that it's never confusing. Just complicated, which is the perfect balance. I'm going to post this review under both because it applies to both GIRL FROM EVERYWHERE and THE SHIP BEYOND TIME. I'd recommend reading them in order, though I suppose you could start with the second but I can't imagine why on earth you'd want to skip the first.

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