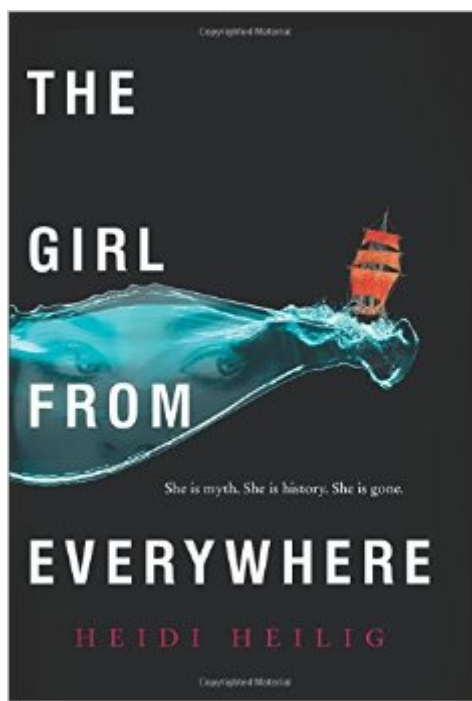


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The Girl From Everywhere



Synopsis

Heidi Heilig's debut teen fantasy sweeps from modern-day New York City, to nineteenth-century Hawaii, to places of myth and legend. Sixteen-year-old Nix has sailed across the globe and through centuries aboard her time-traveling father's ship. But when he gambles with her very existence, it all may be about to end. *The Girl from Everywhere*, the first of two books, blends fantasy, history, and a modern sensibility. Its witty, fast-paced dialogue, breathless adventure, multicultural cast, and enchanting romance will dazzle readers of Sabaa Tahir, Rae Carson, and Rachel Hartman. Nix's life began in Honolulu in 1868. Since then she has traveled to mythic Scandinavia, a land from the tales of *One Thousand and One Nights*, modern-day New York City, and many more places both real and imagined. As long as he has a map, Nix's father can sail his ship, *The Temptation*, to any place, any time. But now he's uncovered the one map he's always sought—1868 Honolulu, 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. If Nix helps her father reunite with the love of his life, it will cost her her own.

Book Information

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Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: This was an incredible, original novel that was a lot of fun to read.

Opening Sentence: It was the kind of August day that hinted at monsoons, and the year was 1774, though not for very much longer.

The Review: Nix and her father travel the globe. They are not restrained by any time, place, or even mythical regions. All they need is a map, signed and dated, to steer themselves to a brand new world. Kashmir, Nix's best friend and possibly more, was from the early Persian empires before he was picked up by the crew. But Nix's father, the captain, is planning a voyage that could mean danger to Nix and the only version of herself she's ever known. She doesn't know what will happen when they return to save her mother, who died in Honolulu in 1868. But she does know that it will change everything.

It's Nix's final week in San Diego, so I've been stressed stressed stressed. It just so happened I was brushing up on my AP World textbook when I was reading something about the early Chinese dynasties, and the ruthless ruler Qin Shingandi. For those who don't have any background on Qin, he led a highly centralized empire that died very quickly after he did, but he was brutal and ambitious, and any scholars or writings that questioned him were burned alive. He was killed when he drank mercury, which he believed to be an elixir to mortality, but was poisoned; a tomb was built with hundreds of terra cotta soldiers, rivers running with lethal mercury, and models of his realm.

What did this little history lesson have to do with my review? Well, one, it makes me feel like I'm studying (which is definitely what I should be doing now), but also, while I was reading about this ruthless leader, he turned up in the book. Nix and the crew travel back to the time of late Qin china, and you can't imagine how excited I was to draw parallels to my studies. It also demonstrated how well researched the book was; everything was matching what my textbook said. It was a lot of fun for me, and that really increased my reading experience tenfold, because I related to it much more. This was a random little note "believe me, I know." Anyway, even without my fun relating it to my favorite class, this novel was a good one. The characters were well developed and had depth. My favorite was Nix's father the captain, Slate, who had so many layers and was very intriguing. I did enjoy Kashmir, who I also related back to my studies "he came from the Persian empires and was an Arab thief before Nix's crew picked him up. His different upbringing made him interesting as well. There seems to be a romance between Nix and him, but it was only one part of the novel, not the main focus by a long shot. The concept of the book was also so unique. I absolutely adored the idea of traveling all of those amazing places, all with the

help of a map. The book had so many different plotlines going at once, but by the end they all connected and came full circle. When it ended, I was excited to hear it was a series, because it could very well have ended as a stand alone. Rejoice! Another book of Nix and her adventures is to come! Notable Scene: "And I'm glad to earn my keep. I never learned to beg." He shrugged. "Besides, liked you said, it's for love." "Love?" The word was bitter as hemlock. "It's just another addiction." FTC Advisory: HarperTeen provided me with a copy of *The Girl from Everywhere*. No goody bags, sponsorships, or material connections, or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Time travel. Those are magic words to me. Words to which I perk up and think, "OH YES PLEASE." Throw in some pirate-y shenanigans and how on earth was I supposed to resist this book? Well, maybe I'll take more care in the future. *The Girl from Everywhere* wasn't exactly what I was hoping it would be. *The Girl from Everywhere* tells the story of Nix, a sixteen-year-old girl on a ship that travels through time. Her father, the captain, is trying to find his way back to her mother in Hawaii, 1868, but to get there he needs to get the right map which involves some thievery and some shenanigans. How cool does that sound, right? Right? Eh. Okay. I am a character reader, so I do have to say it: I felt zero connection to these characters. Nix had practically no personality. No voice. She wasn't completely cardboard, but there was nothing there to entice me. Her father seemed like a druggie fool that I couldn't imagine wanting to be around. Her two love interests (yes, hello triangle) gave me basically zero feels. The feels should have been there. But they weren't. The romance almost felt forced. I didn't actively dislike anyone or anything but it was all so average. I have some problems with the time travel in this book. Time travel, to me, is a science fiction concept that definitely needs some logical reasoning behind it. Heilig took a more fantastical approach to it, though. And maybe it's just me, but I didn't care for it. You see, Nix and her father can travel anywhere they have a map to. They travel to the date when the map was completed. I was okay till there. But then. If the mapmaker believed in mythological beings or stories and incorporated them into their map, that's the version of the world they travel to. And they always need a "fresh" map to get back to where they were before "maps are a one-time use thing. See, that's where it lost me. I know I'm maybe being too nitpicky right now. Time travel is not real, therefore it's fantastical, therefore it doesn't HAVE to make sense. By all means, let go and enjoy the story. But no. I couldn't. Because if they need a map every time they travel somewhere, and the mapmakers' BELIEFS are incorporated into

the world they journey to, really every time they travel they're going to a parallel universe and getting farther and farther away from the real world. Plot-wise, it also got confusing as hell. At a certain point I honestly didn't know where they were going anymore and how it all tied together. The bare bones are clear enough: they need to pull off a heist in exchange for the map that will finally probably get them to 1868. But there are suspicions and backstories that all get jumbled together and I no longer knew what the goal was or what their plan was to get there. Not to mention Nix's fragile relationship with her father "one minute she wants to leave him, then she doesn't, then she does, then HE doesn't. It felt like I was playing catch up to this book and that's not a cool feeling to have. The timestreams got so jumbled that I honestly believe there may be plot holes but my brain hurt too much to try to figure it out. In particular, I'm so confused about Joss's timestream. I mean, if I read over it three times, I would probably get it. But words cannot describe how badly I don't want to do that. The longer I think about it, the more frustrated I become. In theory, *The Girl from Everywhere* is an okay book maybe even a good book, but it just confused me. And that alone I could maybe handle if it weren't for the fact that I had such a low to middling connection to the characters that I did not for a second feel like putting in the mental effort to figure this book out. It actually gave me a headache. It actually made me think, "I don't get it, but ugh, whatever, just keep reading and I'll be done with it eventually." •Summing Up: A swing and a miss for Heidi Heilig. *The Girl from Everywhere* had a pretty cool concept, but with average characters with zero spark, I never really got drawn into this story. Her take on time travel actually made me grumbly, and the jumbled timestreams just confused me. I'm not saying it's worthless, but it didn't work for me. To appreciate it, this book needed more of my attention than I was willing to give it. At the end of the day, I was pretty bored. Recommended To: I'm on the black sheep side of things, so | readers who don't mind some fantasy blending into their time travel? *An electronic advance review copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the contents of the review.

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