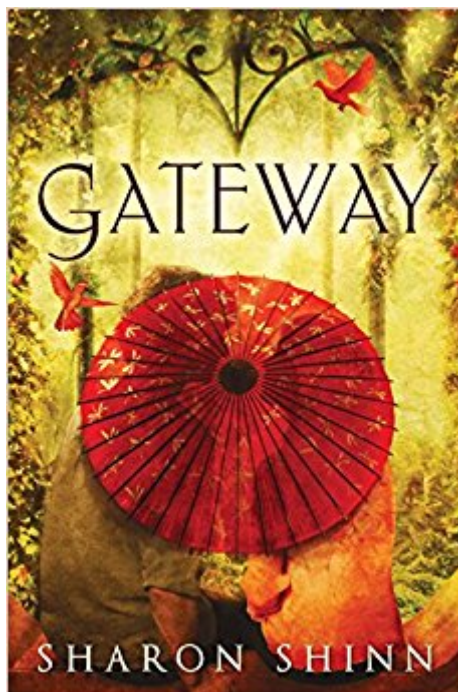


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# Gateway



## Synopsis

As a Chinese adoptee in St. Louis, teenage Daiyu often feels out of place. When an elderly Asian jewelry seller at a street fair shows her a black jade ring and tells her that "black jade" translates to "Daiyu" she buys it as a talisman of her heritage. But it's more than that; it's magic. It takes Daiyu through a gateway into a version of St. Louis much like 19th century China. Almost immediately she is recruited as a spy, which means hours of training in manners and niceties and sleight of hand. It also means stealing time to be with handsome Kalen, who is in on the plan. There's only one problem. Once her task is done, she must go back to St. Louis and leave him behind forever. . . .

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (October 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670011789

ISBN-13: 978-0670011780

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #733,590 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #273 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #370 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6 "9" When Daiyu, a St. Louis high school student adopted as a baby from China, buys a black jade ring from an old woman and then walks through the Gateway Arch, her life instantly changes. The Arch has been replaced by an enormous pagodalike gate, and most of the people around her are Chinese. A young man assures her that everything is fine and takes her to the people who have been expecting her. Daiyu discovers that the world she knows is only one of many "iterations" created by contentious gods who wanted different versions of the world when it was created. Because she is Chinese, she has been brought to this particular iteration, a place where the ruling class is Chinese, to help eliminate one of the gods' rogue servants. The fantasy is

coherent and engaging and has the potential for sequels that explore other iterations. Shinn is a prolific and skillful writer, and the world in which Daiyu finds herself is full of interesting detail, though its use of Chinese culture is superficial. The story itself moves slowly. Daiyu is placed into the household of an upper-class woman who claims the teen as her niece because she is desperate to get certain invitations only available to families with girls being introduced into society. Daiyu falls in love with the young man who rescued her and is also courted by a wealthy suitor. In the end, it is the hint of a happy ending to the slight love story that will satisfy most readers.â "Barbara Scotto, Children's Literature New England, Brookline, MA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"...intelligent and convincing characterization..." --Kirkus  
"The fantasy is coherent and engaging...Shinn is a prolific and skillful writer." --School Library Journal

I love (almost) all of Sharon Shinn's novels. To be honest, this one was one of my least favorite, but rereading it lately has changed my mind. One of the many things I love about Shinn's writing is the way she talks about love, and this book is about a love that surpasses literally every obstacle. In a world where hate seems to scream more strongly every day, this was a message that really soaked in to me.

After reading some reviews that were lukewarm on this book of Ms. Shinn's, I was a little hesitant to purchase it on the Kindle, but since it's seldom that I dislike a book by Sharon Shinn, I decided to go ahead and order it on my Kindle, throwing caution to the winds. First, let me mention that, due to earlier reviews, I was expecting an excessive amount of formatting problems/"typos" due to the conversion to Kindle format, but frankly they were far fewer than I had been led to expect, and most were easily-decipherable mash-ups of words, and not frequent enough to be much noticeable to me. Your mileage may vary, as it were. As for the book itself, maybe it was because my expectations were lowered, but frankly, I don't think so. Being a St. Louis native, all of the descriptions of St. Louis settings/events just charmed and delighted me, and I instantly warmed to the main character and her family, a knack of imparting an instant connection that Shinn often has with her character depictions. The young man who was the romantic interest was also instantaneously likable and trustworthy, while Shinn conveyed the heroine's sense of distrust in other characters and her confusion and conflicting feelings regarding the charming villain with her usual deftness. The story was straightforward, yet still filled with the wonderful character-driven complexities and nuances of

Shinn's best works. It was such a satisfying read that I was disappointed when it ended and would love to see a sequel.

OK- I love Sharon Shinn. All of her books are automatic pre-orders. Gateway is one of her YA Fantasy novels. Since her other YA Fantasy "Summers at Castle Auburn" is one of my all time favorites, I was eager to read this book. Our heroine is Asian and her adventure takes place in a parallel Universe with Ancient Chinese overtone. As usual a gentle romance accompanies the fantasy adventure. Although the premise and setting are great, somehow the execution was dull. The usual depth and richness of a Shinn novel was missing. The adventure was flimsy. The romance felt forced. My feelings towards the heroine were lukewarm. I am sorry to give this book just 3 stars. If you want to get a sample of Ms. Shinn at her best- try out her anthology of novellas that was just released: Quatrain. If you want a better written YA Historical Fantasy with an Asian heroine in an Ancient Chinese setting try out Cindy Pon's "Silver Phoenix: Beyond the Kingdom of Xia".

I should start out by saying that I love Sharon Shinn's novels. Her Samaria Novels and The Twelve Houses Novels are my favorites. When I picked up Gateway I somehow failed to miss the fact that it's a young adult novel. Not that there's anything wrong with young adult novels. I read plenty of them. It's just not what I was expecting when I picked up Gateway. That said, even though it's not what I was expecting, this is an amazing story. I love Daiyu, and her quirky family reminded me of my own family. The descriptions of the worlds and the people were fascinating and rich with a new culture. Kalen and Daiyu stole my heart with their young love and innocence. As a bonus surprise Gateway didn't end the way that I thought it was going to. Usually I can have the ending of a novel figured out about halfway through reading it, and with Gateway I thought that I had. Nope, surprise! This was a delightful, quick read that I highly recommend. If you like this book you may want to read: Archangel by Sharon Shinn (ISBN: 978-0441004324) Abarat by Clive Barker (ISBN: 978-0062094100)[...]

Sharon Shinn has been one of my favorite authors for a long time, so when I realized there was a young adult novel by her out there that I hadn't read, I was fairly ecstatic. The novel definitely lived up to my expectations - I got it and immediately read it all, without putting it down. It kept me enthralled until the last page. Loved it. Recommend to all lovers of love stories in fantastical settings.

Fabulous story! Can't wait for a sequel! Please Sharon, you are my favorite author, and I am a well read senior citizen, please write a sequel about other iterations. Love you!

This was the first book I read by Sharon Shinn. It was really creative - what would life be like if a different culture was the majority? I enjoyed the twists and turns and followed the wild changes easily, thanks to the writer. I thought the hero-girl was realistic, although I didn't feel like I became Daiyu. It was more like watching someone and wishing I could tell her what I would do if I was her, but not being sure of anything in such a strange situation.

A creativve story of different worlds and classes of society. A pleasure to read - there's nothing like it!

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