



Gateway

Sharon Shinn

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Gateway

Sharon Shinn

Gateway Sharon Shinn

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. . . .

Gateway Details

Date : Published October 15th 2009 by Viking Books for Young Readers (first published October 9th 2009)

ISBN : 9780670011780

Author : Sharon Shinn

Format : Hardcover 280 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, Fiction, Teen

 [Download Gateway ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Gateway ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Gateway Sharon Shinn

From Reader Review Gateway for online ebook

Liza Gilbert says

3.5 stars

This was a sweet romance story under the guise of a time-travel, dimension-travel, spy novel, mystery story. Shinn did an excellent job of creating a sense of place. Some of the characters seemed a little too saccharine, but that may be a problem in describing Chinese culture from a few hundred years ago to a modern American audience.

Meagan says

Daiyu, who was adopted from China when she was a baby, lives in St. Louis and is spending her summer as an intern at a headhunting firm. She spends her 4th of July beneath the St. Louis arch, and when a jewelry vendor shows her a ring of black jade, known in Chinese as "daiyu," she impulsively buys it. She soon after passes beneath the arch and is swept into a parallel universe where the ruling class is Chinese.

Alone and confused, Daiyu is rescued by a white (cangbai) boy who seems to be expecting her. It turns out that she has been brought to this world by a pair of world-hopping angel figures who want to send the world's leader back to his own world, or iteration. Daiyu's humanity makes her mind difficult to read in this new world, which makes her an ideal candidate to act as spy and send the purportedly evil man home. But Daiyu is increasingly skeptical about his true nature, and increasingly unsure that she will be willing to leave Kalen, the cangbai boy she has grown to love.

Sharon Shinn has written a very readable but fairly sophisticated world-hopping fantasy story, and while the characters are not always fully developed the story is intriguing enough to make the book worth reading. Daiyu faces a moral dilemma about whether or not she should send back this new world's charismatic leader, faces a few moments of intrigue and peril, and experiences a pleasant and heartwarming romance with Kalen. It is the romance, and the wrenching decision Daiyu faces between her home and her love, that many teenage girls will especially enjoy, but the suspense and new culture give the book a depth that makes it more than just another love story.

Lisa says

I almost want to give it a fifth star because I enjoyed it so much, but there were a few flaws so in good conscience I have to give it 4. Shinn as usual creates a great alternative world, creating amazing scenes in my head. It took a while for me to get acquainted with the main character, and sometimes it went slightly slowly, but overall I had a great time with this one. And what a gorgeous cover, taken from a very nice scene in the story.

Never mind, I'm giving it 5 stars.

Kate says

Sorry if I'm repetitive in my review but I have nothing else to say. :P

Gateway had a wonderful premise sounded somewhat original, so I was *hoping* that I would love it but it did not meet my standards. When I first read the summary, I expected Gateway to be fast-paced with lots of action going on as she was recruited a spy. But the entire book was slow for me and I felt some chapters could have been edited out.

There was a lot of background information provided which I felt that it gave the readers a clear insight of the world. It was well-detailed and readers had a better understanding of the people and the Chinese culture. But still, not all of it was necessary. In fact, the spy training only happened for the first half of the book... which was rather disappointing. The other half was spent preparing for meeting the bad guy and sightseeing.

Daiyu's character was ok, at first, but she quickly grew tiresome and frustrating. She had so many romantic interests that I was confused about her feelings and I felt that she herself had conflicting feelings about the person she truly loves. There was also a lack of character development which really annoyed me. To be honest, the story was boring and the characters were flat.

-MINOR SPOILER-

I was beyond pissed when there was a twist 3/4 way in the book... something around the lines of 'conflicting feelings'. It was unbelievable that Daiyu had a change of heart so quickly. Minus points for being unrealistic. I also hated the ending. It was unsatisfactory, I honestly felt as if I wasted my time reading this book because at the end, nothing big differed from the beginning.

-SPOILER ENDS-

The abrupt ending really killed the book. If the ending had been solid, the book probably would have gotten a higher rating. I am pretty sure this is a stand alone but correct me if I'm wrong. Sorry, but I think you should borrow this book from the library. Overall the writing was pretty good but there just wasn't enough of it to make up for the overall dissatisfaction.

James says

Yes, but no, but yes.

I enjoyed the story and characters, and the book was definitely worth reading, even though I put it off for weeks and weeks, but the ending was a lot less thoughtful and more dawww! than I prefer. I really liked the uniqueness of the perspective - an adopted Sino-American girl - and the alternate world the author built. But the ending was just a tad too predictable and pat.

I would still recommend it for people who like alternate worlds and Chinese stuff.

Meg says

I was very disappointed by this book. It was clumsily written and pointless. Daiyu (American raised Chinese) is whisked away to a parallel universe where the Han Chinese are in the majority. She is met by a Cute Guy, who she trusts because he's cute, and taken to the Good Guys who can move between the parallel universes (called iterations). They tell her there is Bad Guy who can also move between iterations, and she must send him back to his own iteration. She will then be returned to her own iteration with no lost time and no memory of what happened.

Problems: (view spoiler)

Summary (view spoiler)

Victoria says

An intriguing little YA story about a girl who crosses into another world and is given a mission to bring down a tyrant there -- whom she's not entirely convinced really is one -- and her very human adventures along the way. Aside from the magic of the gates and the existence of multiple worlds (and some convenient translation-y business that's not entirely explained) there's no magic here - just a sweet little YA romance/adventure.

As with everything else by Shinn, it's well-written and the characters are compelling and deftly drawn. There's something unique in the structure of this novel's plot that had me flipping ahead to the end when I just couldn't take the suspense any more... and the wonky plot arc almost works. Almost. Despite the obvious ending that the characters should have seen coming sooner. (Arg.)

I love YA, and I adore Sharon Shinn's writing, but the combination of the two is often iffy for me.

Carolynn Markey says

[rung the bell just for him? I mean, she wouldn't have done it at all if she knew he wasn't down t

Rachel Boling says

I had trouble really liking the main character. She travels to another world, but spends most of her time being used in a plot, which she doesn't completely support, and most of her role revolves around being pretty. She has some moments of being strong later in the book, but most of her thoughts center on a boy she meets just after arriving in the world, who she has apparently fallen in love with. There is also a scene where her boyfriend suggests she get naked with him/ expose her breasts to him. Somewhat in context, but most of the rest of the book is very tame, and appropriate for younger readers. This scene threw me off as well.

Melissa says

One of my favorite Shinn book! An amazing love story!

Re-read Nov. 14. I love this sweet story. Shinn has a great way to create a whole new world you believe in. I love the whole story line and I love the way it is written. I wish this book had a sequel about finally catching the bad guy. Most likely one I will let my girls read.

Megan says

This review first published on my blog: <http://starryeyeddreams.wordpress.co...>

Gateway tells the story of Daiyu, a Chinese-American teenager living in St. Louis, who suddenly finds herself transported to an alternate world. In this world, Jia, as Daiyu quickly learns, it is the Han, a people very similar to the Chinese, who explored the new world, and Shengleng--the city Daiyu knew as St. Louis--is the most important city in the world. Because her Chinese heritage lets her pass as Han, Daiyu is recruited to infiltrate the upper tiers of Han society in order to eliminate the prime minister Chenglei. But as she proceeds in her mission, Daiyu has doubts. Is Chenglei really the evil man that her handlers, Ombri and Aurora claim? Can Ombri and Aurora be trusted at all? Complicating everything is Daiyu's budding romance with Kalen, a poor stonepicker boy. If Daiyu does decide to go through with her mission, can she bear to leave Kalen behind?

I have a kind of uneven history with Sharon Shinn's works, of which I haven't read as many as I probably should. I loved the world she created for *The Safe-Keeper's Secret* and its sequels, but *General Winston's Daughter* frustrated me on so many levels, not the least of which was the heavy-handed anti-imperialism message and the tacit approval for, essentially, a terrorist attack. When I picked up *Gateway* from my local library, I wondered which work it would resemble more.

As it turns out, *Gateway* is completely its own book, with a unique voice and style. While Shinn's richly detailed world-building is definitely present, as is her penchant for exploring the interactions of different cultures, *Gateway* didn't forcefully remind me of any of Shinn's previous books. Like *General Winston's*

Daughter, it features a teenager girl entering another culture and becoming enthralled with it, but instead of trying to drive home a political message, Gateway simply seeks to be a romantic fantasy adventure.

Daiyu, the protagonist, almost represents what any savvy reader would hope to be like if they got swept into another world. She's open to the mysterious strangers, but she weighs her options before making decisions. She's eager to see this new world she's in, but she keeps an escape route handy. She uses people as she has to, but feels genuinely bad for any collateral damage, even just of the emotional variety, she leaves in her wake. She tries to avoid relationships that can only end painfully, but in the end her heart just can't help itself. Most importantly, she remains skeptical of everyone. I found this both interesting and frustrating. Intellectually, I approved of her reluctance to trust Aurora and Ombri. Emotionally, I longed for her to invest in one side or another. When she finally makes her decision and commits herself, the story rockets with intensity, but it's a little late in the story.

As a character, Daiyu is a little bland. She's a bit too much a placeholder, constantly responding to the actions of others, instead of shaping her own path. However, as placeholders go, at least she's an inoffensive one. Her voice is crisp and modern, in pleasant contrast to the ornate fantasy culture around her, but never jarring with slang or pop culture references. She quickly picks up on what's she's told, minimizing info dumps. Although she falls for Kalen pretty quickly, she doesn't spend pages drooling over him. Despite her initial irritating indecisiveness, when she does decide to act she handily proves herself no damsel in distress. Daiyu won't be joining the pantheon of most-beloved characters any time soon, but being inside her head for the space of a novel is a painless, mostly pleasant experience.

The plot, which mainly revolves around Daiyu insinuating herself into high society and trying to decide whether Prime Minister Chenglei is really a bad guy or not, meanders a little at times. Readers who are looking for fast-paced action will probably tire of Daiyu's detailed descriptions of the gorgeous outfits and intricate customs of the Han elite. Gateway chooses to focus on the world-building over the adventure aspects, probably to the book's benefit. It also places a lot of emphasis on the romantic subplot, which grows in importance until it's a little hard to tell whether this is a fantasy adventure with romantic elements or a romance with fantasy and adventure elements. Daiyu's relationship with Kalen, the poor cangbai (that 's Fantasy Chinese for "white") stonepicker, moves at a whirlwind speed. It could have benefited from a slightly slower pace and more development, however the interactions between the two always feel natural and the progression of the relationship, while rapid, doesn't come across as forced. Shinn keeps the romance as a thread entwining throughout the novel, never overwhelming the main plot, yet never wholly disconnected from it, either. There are some very sweet scenes between them that become very poignant by the end of the book. On my first reading, I "dinged" them some points for the cliched "I'd never met him before, but he seemed so familiar" routine, but the ending forced me to reevaluate as it brought some very teasing possibilities to my mind.

The real delight here, though, is the world that Shinn creates. Inspired by Chinese culture, yet not bound to it, Jia is a beautiful, exotic wonderland, yet with a palpable darkness to it as well. Shinn has an eye for "domestic" details, adding countless tiny customs, fashions, and other particulars that make her world feel real. Whether we're joining Daiyu for a formal tea with society's elite, or wading for precious qiji stones in the river with Kalen and the poorest of the poor, every layer and facet of the world resonates realistically. Because Shinn brings Jia to such vivid life, we are almost as enthralled with it as Daiyu is, which makes more powerful the poignancy of her inevitable departure.

Whatever gripes I had with the first three quarters of the novels, the last fourth is wonderful. The stakes ratchet up, Daiyu takes an active role, and the romance has fantastic emotional payoff. The very last chapter was both intensely enjoyable and frustrating. It made me completely re-evaluate the beginning of the book.

I'm not sure if the possibilities it raises were intentional, but it would fit the rest of the book beautifully in a very poignant way. (view spoiler)

Judy says

Recently, I have read quite a number of books that I would call "readable". I only use this term to describe a book when I had a lot of problems with the story, but the problems do not stop me from finishing the book. However, this does not mean that I enjoyed it either.

Gateway would have been such an interesting novel. I mean, what a great concept. Daiyu is an adopted Chinese daughter of Caucasian parents. She buys a ring from a vendor and then is whisked away into an alternate universe (called 'iterations') where what we could call Chinese or what are known as Han populate North America.

Unfortunately, from the very first moment that Daiyu steps into this new world, I had problems with the story. She is saved by a good looking (but poor) young man called Kalen, who is Caucasian, and even though she is disoriented by the whole experience, she is not suspicious at all and instead trusts him blindly to lead her away. She finds out she is "chosen" for a specific task, predictably, to fight a villain, because of the way she looks like the upper class.

I know that 'Han' is not supposed to be Chinese at all, but maybe an alternate universe 'inspired' by Chinese influences, but honestly - pagodas? Yin and yang gardens? Colorful tops with black trousers? I found myself rolling my eyes at all of these details. And why is it that a Chinese girl living in a Caucasian city, being whisked away to a place where everybody looks Chinese, she has to be saved by AND fall in love with a CAUCASIAN GUY?

This just blows my mind.

I am ALL about interracial romances. I am in one myself. However, I hate the use of it in stories especially when the connotations that it brings are problematic. On one hand you have the poor, white, liberal thinking guy who is a labourer. While in the other hand, you have a rich, scholarly, Chinese type, who is conservative and admires the traditionalist prime minister. Yes, let's just continue to portray Asian men in this way, even though Asian men have been seen in the media as either small, lean and mean kung-fu martial artist Bruce Lee types, or they are evil, gangster villains who are conservative and who think of women as their lessers.

Writers, even if you want to casually mention race such as black, white, Asian in your stories to make it more diverse, the stereotypes that you are presenting are still important. You have to ask yourself, why am I choosing this particular skin color for this particular person? Is it because I have a preconception of this race? Would it have mattered at all if all of the people that Daiyu encountered were of Han descent? NO. She could have had the exact same story, but just made people of different castes or given her a birthmark / hair color / whatever that would be a signifier for nobility.

I know, I know, love triumphs over all, including cultural divides, but in this story it was so unnecessary. Really, the 'Han' elements didn't make the story original. At the heart of this, it's a story about a bland and plain girl who could have been white, going to a place where she looks like royalty, prepares for some sort of

ball, and then has to save this world from the evil prince (or in this case, the prime minister). I feel like I've read this before in many past books, some done well (Shadows on the Moon), while others not so much (Throne of Glass, what I've heard of The Selection).

I am so sick of tired of these stories where girls have to be static mannequins where getting a new hairdo and some make-up and some dance lessons and underneath it all it is their beauty that will win the heart of the prince. They have to practice to be meek and docile. I mean, in this story, she is basically told to sit there and smile and not talk too much. And one of the men she fake an interest in basically refers to her as a "possession". And she is totally ok with that.

I want a story where the girl fights besides the prince, dammit. Where the girl gets down and dirty and is vicious, but she doesn't have to do this with her physical prowess, she can also do this with her wit and her intelligence. I want the prince to have his eyes opened and be like - hey, this girl is pretty kick-ass even with her hair all messed up and mud smeared on her face - she's so beautiful because she's my best friend and we've gotten to know each other these past few months and developed a genuine relationship based on TIME SPENT WITH EACH OTHER.

It takes all of a day in this strange new world for Daiyu to constantly think about Kalen and moon over him. Kalen is also the stumbling block constantly for Daiyu. I like that she questions her purpose, but it's only because "when can I see Kalen?" "Why can't we be together?" "What if we? What if that?" And because she's so focused on her stupid romance, she doesn't take the proper time to figure out WHY exactly she has this task to perform, and bumbles along believing everything the villain says. I also hate how her mentors are all vague and say things like "evil can be seductive". What does that even MEAN? Why can't you just explain to her "Hey, this person has done xyz in these other worlds. Let me show you what he is doing in this world." A few thrilling close calls later where they are almost discovered, HEY she can understand why!

I also despise the "eavesdropping to reveal secrets" scene that appears in bad movies where it's just another plot device that is awkward and could have been done so much better. I feel the romance only exists for Daiyu to make a fool of herself and reveal all of her secrets.

And the ENDING! Oh the ending. If you read it you will understand my frustration with it explained in the next paragraph.

Ok, I have read many books of Sharon Shinn's. I enjoyed many of her books greatly, but underneath it all, let's not pretend they are ground-breaking works of sci-fi or fantasy here. They are romance. Mostly excellent romances, light on the sci-fi or the fantasy world-building elements. I've read a few of her other YA books and they just do not work for me. Insta-love and bland heroines abound. She wrapped up this book with an ending that was more romance than realism, and I thought that my ebook was wrong and that I had missed a page or two where the story ACTUALLY wrapped up. But no. It ended at the particular point where nothing was ever resolved, but hey, the two of them are together and that's all that matters right? Let's tuck the actual story and purpose of the story away, never to be seen again.

Sharon Shinn explores ideas of race/class much better in 'Heart of Gold' and 'Jenna Starborn'. I give this book two stars because a) I managed to finish it, b) I wanted to write a review on all of the issues that I saw, because it means there was something worth talking about here and not something utterly dull and/or truly rage inducing.

Daniela807 says

Oh "instalove"... how I hate you...

Let's start with the fact it is very clear where the author decided to actually take an interest with this book. We know absolutely nothing about Daiyu before she is thrown into another universe and told she has to get rid of this evil man. Her character is never truly developed. Most of the time, when something happens, I'm sitting thinking "umm, okay." I don't know if her actions are within her normal character because Shinn never told us what that is! The only time Shinn seems to want to give any details at all appears in the form of clothing. Really? Really.

I liked the character of Kalen. He was sweet... but like a puppy. But of course, "instalove"~! So while Daiyu is supposed to be on this secret mission, these two fall in love... eh. I did like Quan's character, but since the author doesn't like to develop anything, I don't feel like I truly met anyone in this book.

And the so-called bad guy? Highly disappointed. It was as if he was an afterthought.

Overall, if you don't mind reading a book clearly designed for someone around 10-12 (but that's a stretch), go ahead with this one. I feel like I mostly read a summary of a book instead of a clear, loved, and developed novel. Boo.

April says

Gateway by Sharon Shinn has a rather beautiful, colorful cover featuring two people hiding behind a red parasol. Frankly, that was the most striking thing about Gateway. It had all of the elements to be really awesome: parallel universes, cultural subversion, the fact that it's YA, and a romantical element. (Romantical is a word frequently used by Flava Flav). However, Gateway was one of those books which, well, I read it, and moved on to the next book without any sort of a second thought.

[Read the rest of my review here](#)

Jamie Lau says

Gateway is a novel written by author Sharon Shinn. This story revolves around Daiyu, a teenage girl who was adopted from China as a young child. She finds herself in another universe after walking through some sort of gateway with a strange necklace. At first the plot of this book was kind of slow and I almost gave up on it. However once the story line started unfolding I started getting interested. I Have to say that the ending surprised me because it wasn't expected, but it was a good way to end the novel.

The characters I found, were a bit hard to connect with, but not unpleasant. Starting with Daiyu, she seems to me like a very independent and strait forward person. She is very quick witted and has her sights set tightly on her objectives. Evidence of this is shown with her bold speech. Her physical appearance as I imagined would be that she has raven black hair, brown eyes like fine wood, and a sort of short stature. She is described in the book with chin length hair and pierced ears. The author did a good job describing the characters.

Kalen is the next main character, and he is more gentle compared to Daiyu. He's always there to lend a helping hand and many details in the book showcase his generosity. He always says things to comfort others, especially when Daiyu is in times of panic or crisis. His physical features include being a tall, having brown curly hair and hazel eyes. I was absolutely charmed by Kalen's personality.

I enjoyed this novel, though not as much as I thought i would. The ideas and little details that Sharon Shinn put into not only the plot but also the characters made the book worth reading. It offered fresh thoughts
