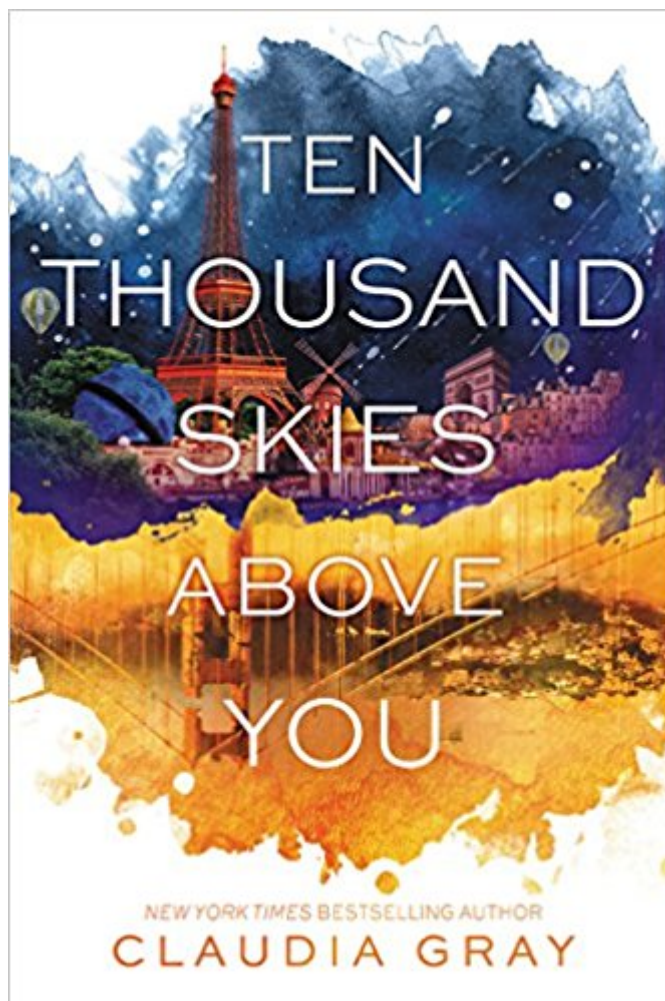


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Ten Thousand Skies Above You (Firebird)



Synopsis

In this sequel to *A Thousand Pieces of You* by New York Times bestselling author Claudia Gray, Marguerite races through various dimensions to save the boy she loves. Ever since she used the Firebird, her parents' invention, to cross through to alternate dimensions, Marguerite has caught the attention of enemies who will do anything to force her into helping them dominate the multiverse— even hurt the people she loves. She resists until her boyfriend, Paul, is attacked, and his consciousness is scattered across multiple dimensions. The hunt for each splinter of Paul's soul sends Marguerite racing through a war-torn San Francisco, the criminal underworld of New York City, and a glittering Paris, where another Marguerite hides a shocking secret. Each dimension brings Marguerite one step closer to rescuing Paul. But with every trial she faces, she begins to question the one constant she's found between the worlds: their love for each other.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up— This follow-up to *A Thousand Pieces of You* (HarperCollins, 2014) blends elements of science fiction, time travel, and romance. Eighteen-year-old Marguerite and her 20-something friend Theo travel to alternate realities including Renaissance Rome, an alternative San Francisco at war, and the futuristic "home office" of the evil Triad corporation to rescue fragments of the splintered soul of Marguerite's boyfriend, Paul. As she meets different versions of Paul, Theo, and her family, the heroine begins to question her earlier notions of destiny and of

people's essential natures. The protagonist's journeys form a travelogue of sorts, and her descriptions of alternate Earth cities and the ways these settings have changed her loved ones' characters are the strongest parts of the book. The parallel worlds allow readers to wonder how different they would be if they lived in different circumstances. Explanations of the mechanics and limits of dimensional travel are skimpy and a bit forced, but that won't bother fans of the previous volume. Attractive characters, plenty of suspense and danger, and a cliff-hanger ending add to the story's appeal. The characters' age and some sexual situations make the book best suited for older teens. VERDICT Purchase where the first title is popular. —Beth Wright Redford, Richmond Elementary School Library, VT --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

“Plenty of suspense and danger, and a cliff-hanger ending add to the story’s appeal.” (School Library Journal) “A fun romance with a plucky main character and a dramatic cliff-hanger ending.” (Booklist) Praise for A THOUSAND PIECES OF YOU: “An action-packed start.” Gray effortlessly moves between the SF, historical, and contemporary aspects of her story. (Publishers Weekly) Praise for A THOUSAND PIECES OF YOU: “This unique science fiction adventure is full of twists, turns, and surprises.” (Booklist) Praise for A THOUSAND PIECES OF YOU: “This well-blended mix of adventure, sci-fi, and romance will appeal to a wide audience.” (School Library Journal) Praise for A THOUSAND PIECES OF YOU: “With on the edge of your seat mystery and suspense, this thrilling fantasy will keep you guessing until the end.” (# 1 NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author Jennifer L. Armentrout)

#2 in the Firebird trilogy. This one was not as predictable as A Thousand Pieces of you; each universe Marguerite jumped into was a nice surprise. But I also enjoyed this one a little less, because it was fairly heavy on the teenage angst. This wasn't all romance related, centering more on the ethics involved in possessing others' lives. In the first book, the heroine could have been any age, really. But in this one M definitely comes across as younger, even more so than her reputed 18 years; a lot of her emotional learning seemed pretty basic. So I could have done without certain sections, but it was still an easy-flow read. It did end in a cliffhanger, something I despise, but since I'm only now reading the series, at least I don't have to wait for resolution. Starting the third and last book now. Recommended.

Marguerite Caine is a perfect traveler - able to travel between alternate dimensions using the

Firebird while being aware of her real self as well as the self of the Marguerite she is occupying in the dimension she is in. Perfect travelers are rare and powerful and Wyatt Conley will do whatever he can to get Marguerite on his side. His latest attempt involves splintering the soul of the love of Marguerite's life Paul Markov. Marguerite will attempt to save Paul's soul but to do so will hurt not only her parents but her friend Theo Beck. Still Marguerite will do what she can but the cost will be far deeper than she realizes.

A Thousand Pieces of You is the first book in Claudia Gray's Firebird trilogy - I was immediately caught up in the story as Marguerite traveled from dimension to dimension - and was eager to read the sequel *Ten Thousand Skies Above You*. Truthfully, it took me a bit longer to get into this book at first as it felt a bit repetitive. However, halfway through the book - around the time Marguerite began to learn the repercussions of actions she took while in other bodies - I became hooked again and couldn't stop reading until I got to the end of the book. Each dimension Gray has created is very interesting, at times heartbreaking, and I was left at times wanting to know what happened to the Marguerite, Paul, or Theo left behind in certain dimensions. Speaking of Marguerite, Paul, or Theo - love triangles in books can be a bit frustrating for me but I love the twist Gray puts on the love triangle as each Marguerite, Theo, and Paul are different in each dimension. There are some nice twists here and makes for some interesting thoughts about soulmates. To be sure, the travel between dimensions can be confusing at times (it is best not to think too much about it) but there are a few nifty surprises in this book. Gray ends the book on one heck of a cliffhanger and I can't wait to read the next book to see what happens to Marguerite.

Ten Thousand Skies Above You is another nicely done young adult novel by Claudia Gray.

In *Ten Thousand Skies Above You* (Book 2), the saga continues from *A Thousand Worlds With You* and unfolds more of the story line. This continues to getting a little weird and requires a good amount of imagination by the reader (and reading book one helps.) The story line is solid, but the defining of the story is lacking in some parts. There is plenty of action, plenty of intimate settings, and suspense. With more twist and turns. It can almost make you dizzy trying to follow the story.

Ten Thousand Skies Above You takes the reader traveling across dimensions again, this time to save the life of the person Marguerite has come to love so dearly, Paul. Conley is using him as a bargaining piece in his scheme to rule the multiverse. As she travels to each new dimension, she

takes the place of another Marguerite and sees the differences in her loved ones and their lives across dimensions. She's lead to question her beliefs on fate and love and eventually, everything she thinks she knows about the Firebird project. My initial reaction to this book was: WOW. Claudia Gray has continued the amazing world of Marguerite and the Firebird and woven in some incredible details, twists, and turns. The layering and world building is truly incredible. I absolutely could not put this book down. Each dimension that Marguerite visits is so distinct, different, and well developed that it's easy to become fully immersed in each world. Nothing in the plot is predictable and Claudia Gray keeps you on your toes the entire time, with a twist at the end that will shock you to the core. The characters and their stories are captivating: so much of Marguerite's adventure is trial-and-error and I kept thinking, "How on earth is she going to get out of this one?" There are so many things I loved about this book that I couldn't possibly list them all but these are some of the most important ones:

1. Marguerite's relationship with Paul and Theo: It's obvious that Marguerite cares for both of them and they both definitely love her and care for each other. The conflict and love-triangle is very well done and sometimes I didn't know who was better or "right" for Marguerite. Gray doesn't make it easy for her and I loved getting to see the different Pauls and Theos across dimensions.
2. The different dimensions. I already said this but each one is so creative and fascinating. I loved getting to "go" to different dimensions and imagine what our world could be if something different had happened in history or technological development. I also loved getting to revisit one of the dimensions from *A Thousand Pieces of You*, where we see that the decisions Marguerite makes really do have an impact.
3. Marguerite's strength and determination. She's already been through a lot with everything that happened in the first book and then she's thrown for another loop as yet another one of the people she cares for is torn away from her. I love that she's willing to do whatever it takes for the people she cares about, even if she doesn't always do it in the right way, and that we see her internal struggles. No matter what is thrown at her in each dimension, Marguerite pushes through the tough and keeps going to save Paul, just like she did when it was her dad's life in question. The poor girl has a lot of emotional baggage to deal with and the toll it takes is definitely visible. She's strong and admirable but not without flaws, which ultimately make her more relatable. I highly recommend both *A Thousand Pieces of You* and *Ten Thousand Skies Above You*. As it says in the description, "Ten Thousand Skies Above You features Claudia

Gray's lush, romantic language and smart, exciting action, and will have readers clamoring for the next book. This is a new favorite for sure and I can't wait for the last book in the trilogy.

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