



Through Fire & Sea

Nicole Luiken

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Mirror mirror, hear my call...

In the Fire world, seventeen-year-old Leah is the illegitimate daughter of one of the realm's most powerful lords. She's hot-blooded—able to communicate with the tempestuous volcano gods that either bless a civilization or destroy it. But then Leah discovers she's a Caller, gifted with the unique—and dangerous—ability to “call” her Otherselves in mirror worlds. And her father will do anything to use her powers for his own purposes.

In the Water world, Holly nearly drowns when she sees—and interacts with—Leah, a mirror image of herself. She's rescued by Ryan, a boy from school with a secret he'd die to protect. Little do they know, his Otherself is the son of a powerful volcano god at war in the Fire world...and he's about to fall.

As Leah and Holly's lives intersect, the Fire and Water worlds descend into darkness. The only way to protect the mirror worlds is to break every rule they've ever known. If they don't, the evil seeping through the mirrors will destroy everything—and everyone—they love...

Through Fire & Sea Details

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Author : Nicole Luiken

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From Reader Review Through Fire & Sea for online ebook

Diana says

Maybe I wasn't paying attention or maybe this all was as confusing and non-senseish as I feel it was. It began well, with a fantastic world with a kind of an alive volcano and people with power to appease it, and a dragon... and the discovery of mirrors who could grant the people with the ability to look into them to find themselves into other worlds.

Then it all began crashing: insta love in both worlds, specially worse in the water one. Unappealing characters. Plot with holes: what happens to the time lapse in which the girls superpose? One loses the time... the other too? Can the one who is "pososed" do things to regret? Why this can happen? Why nothing makes sense?

I thought I would love the books as their summaries and the idea were great, but... I was wrong.

Kirstie Ellen says

3.5/5 stars

Initial Thoughts on Finishing

This was a really promising start to what I hope will be an epic adventure. I'm definitely going to continue the series with book two because I just *need* to know what's going to happen!

Through Fire and Sea by Nicole Luiken

This was a very interesting book with some cool concepts and an awful lot going on. The idea of the book definitely drew me in, but I feel that the book lost some of its momentum towards the end which knocked off a few stars for me. It's an exciting adventure and a weird blend of fantasy and contemporary young adult - for the most part I really think it works, and I'm excited to continue the series because I have a feeling that things are going to improve as the ideas solidify a bit more.

Fire and Sea, You Say?

This book follows two main character, Leah and Holly. In this universe there are several 'worlds'. Leah lives in the Fire world and Holly lives in Water. Fire is very fantastical, there is a dragon threatening the life of the kingdom, horrible kings, and a distinctly medieval feel. Water is pretty much our world, which I thought was an interesting choice (but more of that later). Most people are either unaware of the existence of these other worlds and do not have access to them. But here's the theory:

1. There are 5 worlds altogether, Fire, Water, Wind, Stone, and the True world.
2. It's possible for people to have 'otherselves' in these other worlds, but you might have none, you might have all five, or you might be the only one.
3. Travel between the worlds is forbidden (but doable via special mirrors).

Leah is the illegitimate daughter of one of the kings in the fire world. A woman who is effectively a master

Caller (someone who has otherselves an access to them) is taking the daughters of the kings to teach them this art. Of course, she has malevolent intentions as 'for the protection of the kingdom' is most definitely not her motivation for doing so. Now, Leah's half-sister (the legitimate daughter of the king) doesn't get taken because the king is greedy and sends Leah under her sister's name to take her place. But as it turns out Leah is a very gifted Caller and gets sucked in to a nefarious plot. Which actually annoyed me a bit, like, Leah honey, YOU'RE DOING THE WRONG THING. Use your silly little brain. Gah.

Holly is a teenage girl living in the water world. She's quite ordinary, studying at school and getting by. But thanks to the activities in the fire world she falls overboard a boat one day and is saved by a merman. Yup. This sends her life off in a spiral as she fights against the Fire people who constantly call her to look into a mirror. Why is she fighting this? Because once she looks into a mirror her otherself (Leah) can take over her body.

It's somewhat complicated and takes a while to set all this up but I did very much so enjoy the concept of the book and thought it had a pretty good storyline going for it. However.

The Water World

From what we know, the Water world is basically identical to our world. Yet every other world is fantastical and very different. I was a little disappointed with this because I would have thought that Water would be an underwater world or something really cool like that. It does make the story stick out a little from everything else that's going on which was a little frustrating. On top of this, everyone is pretty clued up about things in Fire as to there being otherworlds (if you're told, anyway) and we know that the True world knows about everything. So why is it that Water has absolutely no idea? Why go to so much effort to create four other magical worlds and then throw in our one? It seems strange to have this out of sync world in the mix and I think sticking to pure fantasy could have been a great benefit for this book. Perhaps it's to toy with the idea that our world is not the only world. Either way for me this seemed . . . odd.

Multiple Perspectives

I wasn't the biggest fan of how this was split between the two stories. I felt like either of the narrators could have told the story or had their own entire story within one book. It felt a lot like two books accidentally bumped into each other, got their hair tangled together, and just went with it. Which is cool and not as painful as it sounds, but I didn't *quite* work. It starts off really strong but I feel like everything gets bogged down with when to switch back and forth and we sort of forget why it's so important. Also the coming together of the two worlds didn't feel like as big of a thing as I'd hoped it would. It was sort of like, yeah, that happened.

I think it would've been better to stick to Leah's perspective and let her tell the whole story. And to add to that, I think it would've been really cool if the people from all the different worlds were educated about each other and weren't so like, what's a bowl? How do I turn on a tap? It should've gone one way or the other: either no-one has any idea about there being other worlds and it's like OH JIMMINY CRICKET, LOOK THROUGH THIS MIRROR EUSTACE. Or like, oomf, looks like Fire and Water are at odds again. I think

the problems I had with this book was that it was too long, there were too many chefs and not enough cooks, and it felt a little like a jigsaw piece that didn't fit but was smushed together anyway.

And Then There Was a Dragon

So hi, I'm Kirstie and if you don't know I love dragons. Okay? Okay. THERE WAS A DRAGON. Albeit not for very long. But there *was* a dragon and that made me happy. This fantasy element of bringing in a fire-breathing dragon of ROAR into the book made me very excited and I loved it. Every book should spontaneously throw a dragon in it - even if it's like a toy, or a dream. Dragons make everything all right.

That being said, I think it would have been amazing to see even more of the dragon wreaking havoc on Fire. And this is where I think having so many things happening in the one book detracted from its overall WOW factor. There was not enough action for the length of this book and spicing things up with more dragon activity, more adventures into volcanoes, a discovery of an underwater kingdom where a king called Triton rules the-...okay. I like The Littlemaid, alright? But d'you see my point? Too much umming and erring and drama productions and not enough smashing of buildings with fire and brimstone.

Relationships

Well. Relationships were interesting in this book. Of course, there is a love interest for both of our ladies and they're quite . . . nice. But (because you knew there was going to be a but) the weight of the relationship between Holly and her man stole the story and flipped the Fire world almost out of the picture for a good long while. A lot of things in this book could've done with a handy ~~shove~~ push to get things rolling nicely.

Holly and Mr. Merman

This relationship really reminded me of a slightly less flustery version of the one in Of Poseidon. And it just took forever. He saves her when she initially falls overboard and she's not supposed to remember him but she does and he's all like, what do you mean? And then 998768 pages later we can start calling it a relationship. Eurgh. There was a lot of potential for this one and I think things definitely did get better towards the end but there was too much not happening for too long.

Leah and Mr. Is This Going to be a Thing?

I'm not going to say too much about this one because I'll start spoiling things for you, but I thought this was great but that there was not enough of it. I was shocked by some of the events that happened involving these two but I would've loved to see their relationship really develop into something that *lasted*. Luiken, you ruin my soul!! I loved how they met, I loved that Leah hid her identity, and I loved that they made a great couple. If we'd've had less of the other two and more of these two I think it could've been reasonably (definitely) spectacular.

Why 3.5?

I considered this long and hard. Aside from being a reasonably positive reviewer most of the time, I think that this genuinely deserves that extra half a star. It was tempting to give it a flat three but at the end of the day I found myself really enjoying the story, I came to really care for the characters, and I *loved* how unique all the ideas were in this book. I won't hesitate to pick up another of Luiken's books in the future.

Summary

Anyway. Enough rambling. I did really enjoy this book but I would say that it's a bit of a rocky start to the series. There were quite a few things that I flagged up but I always wanted to keep reading and find out what would happen to the characters. I would recommend giving this a go if you enjoy fantasy and are looking for something new. I'm definitely going to read book two because I have high hopes that things are just going to get better - I feel like the book and story really started coming into itself towards the end of this book. And let's not bring up how much I love the cover, *drools*. Let's hope I enjoy book two!

Happy reading!

YA Reads Book Reviews says

Originally posted on www.yareads.com, reviewed by Nichole.

Through Fire & Sea was a solid YA fantasy that I would recommend to YA fantasy lovers, especially leaning toward the younger side. It has everything you could ask for: magic, different realms, dragons, sea creatures, and a ton more! It's fast paced and constantly keeps you on your toes, wondering what will happen next!

I have mixed feelings about Through Fire & Sea, but I mostly really enjoyed it! Part of my thing was that sometimes I really liked Leah and sometimes I didn't. Likewise, sometimes I really liked Holly, and sometimes I didn't. It was never consistent. I thought all of the characters could have used a bit more development, but overall it was a really good start!

I found the different worlds, as well as the dual perspectives, to be a little confusing. I wish that the focus would have just been on one girl and one world with a storyline there. There was just a lot going on all at once. Sometimes, that worked out really well! I enjoyed the fast paced non-ending action that went on throughout this whole book. It was just a lot to take in.

One thing that I really enjoyed about this book was the dragon theme it had going on. Not only did I really like the dragon and the volcano people, but I thought they added oomph to the storyline. I'm really curious to see where that storyline will take place in the next book. IT BETTER CONTINUE!

While I did really enjoy this book, sometimes to the point of staying up well into the night, I did think that it had a bit too much going on at once. Not only did you have the four different realms and the two perspectives, but there was also the Hollywood & acting scene, the two different relationships, the mom drama, etc, etc, etc. It was just a little too much all at once. It was sometimes difficult to keep up on

everything that was going on all at once.

I did really enjoy *Through Fire & Sea*. The only thing that I'll say is that it did seem to edge a little bit on the younger side. Not to the point of being middle grade, but more like a younger teenager book. Not that there's anything wrong with that! I still enjoyed it! Based on the cover, though, I expected this one to be a little more upper fantasy/paranormal than it actually was.

Overall, I did enjoy this book. I'm interested to see what will happen next in *Amid Wind & Stone*!

Olivia Farr says

"*Through Fire and Sea*" is a fascinating YA sci-fi/fantasy that begins with Leah, an unrecognized daughter of a hot-blooded duke. The dukes control the volcanoes, making it safe to live on their planet, which is full of fire. Leah's mother had her out of wedlock and tries to keep her away from her father, but Leah has always wanted to connect with him. At the beginning of the book, she does and learns why her mother wanted to keep her from him- the duke is not a kind or nice man. A dragon has been stirring up the volcanoes wrath and as they threaten to explode, the dukes are summoning Qeturah, a woman with her own duchy, to get rid of the dragon. However, she asks for a big price- sometimes wealth and sometimes their daughters. To protect his legal daughter, Jehannah, he asks Leah to pose as her, so that Qeturah will take her instead of the real Jehannah.

The duke's plan works, and Leah is off to stay with Qeturah instead of Jehannah. We begin to see a relationship to another girl, Holly, as they see each other through the water. Holly is the daughter of a famous director on another world, and she is on a boat with her father when she almost drowns. She is saved by a boy who looks like a merman. We flip back and forth between Leah and Holly, as they both fall in love and learn more about the Mirror Worlds. We soon learn that there is one true world and four Mirror Worlds which have one prevailing element (e.g. fire, water, etc.). Both worlds are threatened by an unforeseen enemy and Holly and Leah will each battle them in their own ways.

It is a really intriguing story, and the perspectives of Holly and Leah were interesting to flip between. It's a relatively long book, but well written and keeps the reader engaged. It moves pretty fast, story-wise. There were a few places where the scenes felt too long, but were mainly there to give character insight into our two leading ladies. Holly was my favorite of the two, and I was glad as we started to glimpse more and more of her life. The relationships each had were really adorable and sweet/romantic. There is nothing more than kissing between them though, so it's very clean (as YA often are). The Mirror Worlds idea is really fascinating and I'm really curious to see how this series evolves with these different (yet similar) alternate reality-type existences. I also loved the idea of a prevailing sense of a person which exists across experiences (I won't say more to avoid spoilers). Overall, it is a fascinating and lovely story, and I am excited to read the next!

Please note that I received this book from the publisher through netgalley. All opinions are my own.

Lexie says

When is the next book? When can I see Gideon again? When can we convince Hollywood to make a Violet

Eyes movie? Why can't I have my own Otherself?

These are the questions in my mind the second after the last word. Sigh. But really. When can I read about Gideon again?

+++

Here's the thing – I've followed Luiken from VIOLET EYES all the way to now; it's been a long road. I think I read VIOLET EYES (and its sequel SILVER EYES) my sophomore year of college? So over a decade ago? Luiken was one of the first authors I ever wrote a fan letter to and I've eagerly anticipated further books.

THROUGH FIRE & SEA is the first book in her new series "Otherselves" in which we follow Leah (I presume, based on the ending) as she battles against the evil machinations of Quetrah. I'll point out her battle against Quetrah is incidental to the fact she's really trying to escape the guilt and pain of losing someone, which was Quetrah's fault.

I really liked Leah – you saw her growth from a servant girl hoping to please her estranged father Duke Ruben to a powerful young woman using her grief and anger to cut a swath through any who would think to wreck Gideon's Otherselves' lives. She made mistakes (plenty of them) and she paid dearly for each one, but that didn't lessen her belief that she had a purpose. Though it came at a cost, she believed in herself and her abilities.

Gideon, oh my poor sweet tormented Gideon. This guy. Comparatively speaking we don't see him as much as Leah, Holly or Ryan, but honestly he makes his moments count. Like Leah he finds himself torn between a parent who obviously did NOT have his best interests at heart and a new sense of wonder that he could make his own life. His and Leah's stories parallel each other as much as they intertwine.

Holly and Ryan, Leah and Gideon's Otherselves, are...complicated. How I feel about them is complicated. On the one hand Holly finds herself thrust into a situation she never had control over, fighting to regain control and understand what was happening. Leah is not, at the best of times in these moments, communicative beyond the most basic "I'm right so do what I say". So I can understand Holly's hesitation to trust Leah. RYAN HAS NO EXCUSE.

Okay that's not fair he does. He's lived with the burden of a parent two steps from the mental hospital and a secret so damaging that he hides himself away rather than risk anything. Except...he gets the chance at the life he thought would make his world better and somehow becomes a total d-bag with no consideration for how his actions looked to others at all. His naiveté about Hollywood was, as Holly puts it, exasperating. Not that her jadedness helps matters.

Together though, I wanted to smack them both up side their heads and shake them. Even without the gift of being a reader, so I know way more than they know, the amount of suspiciousness should have tipped them off.

Quetrah was both a great villain—the build up to her real purpose and her real mission is handled nicely and a bit overplayed. She worked better in the Fire World (where Leah is from) than in the Water World (where Holly was from), though I have to give her props for the fact she never gives up. She's resourceful, clever, driven and ruthless – giving as good as she got and willing to sacrifice everything for her goals.

Really this everything I could have asked for and I look forward to the next book. Especially if Holly and Ryan don't make an appearance. Because Leah doesn't need that stress in her life.

Michael (Mai) says

Through Fire & Sea is a really unique look of parallel universes. There are 4 elemental worlds like Fire and Water that the book takes place in and one True World. Someone people have otherselves that exist on these different worlds. Through mirror magic someone people can “call” their otherselves and interact with them, possibly even take over their bodies. Of course, in the story you can see how this can be used for good and bad.

I think the settings are really cool, especially Fire World. Here there are volcanos that are essentially gods and everything is dictated by their whims. Water is Earth, so nothing new there. I won't tell you too much of the details so I don't include spoilers.

The characters are the reason why this book is only getting four stars out of five instead of a perfect five. Leah, for the most part was pretty good. She's strong even in the face of danger and has a real likeable quality. She makes bad decisions and learns from them which is great. I hate it when characters remain dumb especially after they make a mistake. She also cares about her mom. So many parents are written out of YA books that it's disheartening. Not this one!

Holly on the other hand took a while to like. She's whiny and a little spoiled. I took more than half of the book to realize she wasn't too worthless. I suddenly liked her and thought her growth as a person/character was realist and valid.

Ryan and Gideon...meh. They could have been replaced by anyone. I liked their abilities but their personalities just didn't stand out.

The plot was great. I was kept in rapt wonder about how the two worlds would be tied together. At first I was pretty disgruntled with the change from Fire to Water World. It was so abrupt. I was sure I wasn't going to like the changes. (Because my track record clearly shows I don't like that) But like I said I became more and more interested in how the world were going to be tied together. And that ENDING! Yes! It was great.

Great job. I'll definitely read the sequel.

Angie says

Leah is the illegitimate child of a Duke who has always hoped her father would acknowledge her, even if just to get a dowry. Now he has, and not in a good way. He wants Leah to pretend to be his legitimate daughter, so she will get sent away in her place.

Holly is Leah's otherhalf if the water world. Life is hard as the daughter of a director. You get unwanted (and embarrassing) tabloid photos and attention only because of who your father is.

This story was interesting, and I'm not usually a fan of following two completely different characters at the same time, but this made it work. Can't wait to see what happens next!

*I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Nandini Bharadwaj says

Actual rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

Characters:

I'm still undecided as to who I liked better, Leah or Holly. They're both smart, resourceful and practical, which I instantly loved because I'm tired of the 'badass-but-not-really' kind of female leads. The Otherselves each have their own distinct voices, desires and thinking patterns. They felt well-rounded and most importantly, real. I understood what drove each one of them to act the way they did. The love interests of the girls also were complex in their own distinct ways and I adored them both. However, Leah's romance was a case of insta-love, which is the first of the two reasons why I docked half a star.

Plot and Setting:

The plot starts off at a flat-out sprint, pulling the reader along for a ride that was unexpectedly brilliant. I started forming a few theories in the initial chapters, but I was so glad I was wrong. The world-building is detailed, compelling and wonderfully imaginative. The story explores so many themes and the different threads weave together really well. I was pleasantly surprised at the turn of events and I was blown away by the end. I must mention that I devoured this in one sitting, which speaks volumes about the quality. Two initial chapters stood out because I felt like it mimicked Twilight, which is the second reason for the 4.5 stars, but I couldn't find any fault in the narrative after that.

Writing Style:

The author's style took a couple of chapters to get used to. However, I understood why she decided to start from Leah's 'point-of-no-return' and skipped the background. There were no unnecessary filler scenes or any kind of boring info-dumping sessions, so I became a huge fan of the author's writing prowess.

Conclusion:

I bought the book for a very low price (lowered because of the recent release of book #3 in the series), but it gave me so much more than I was expecting. The average rating needs to be higher for this book and also I wish more people would read it. I'm definitely looking forward to the next book, especially after that last sentence.

Portia Lynn (itsportiasbooks) says

I received this ARC from Entangled Teen in exchange for an honest review.

This was so much more fun than I expected it to be! I'm going to try to describe things without using any spoilers!

In this book, there is the True World, and 4 other worlds. The two worlds present here are Fire, which is ruled by volcanoes, and Water, which is our world. Everyone has an otherself in each world. But most people aren't aware of that. It requires magic and mirrors, and knowledge of the other worlds, of course.

This story has 2 perspectives, Leah from Fire world and Holly from the Water world. (The back and forth could have been annoying, but I really enjoyed it.) Through a series of events, Leah becomes aware of the other worlds, and learns that she is a Caller, someone who can communicate with the other worlds. But there

is someone trying to use Leah's gift for her own evil deeds.

In these two worlds, we also have the 2 love interests. They are SPECIAL. And totally lovable. But someone is trying to kill them and destroy the worlds they live in, and the girls must learn to communicate and work together to save the ones they love and the place they call home.

Even though they were the same person, they were completely different kinds of people. The author was able to create heroines that I actually really like, and the boys too. I especially loved Holly and Ryan, but felt so much for Leah also. The world that Luiken created was so interesting. The system for using the mirrors and accessing the world was interesting and fun. I absolutely LOVED the fantasy elements used in the book. Everything moved at a great pace, and the end was really exciting.

I knew going into this that it would be a series, as everything is now. I didn't know whether to expect a huge cliffhanger or not. But I was so pleased with how it ended. It wrapped up a lot of things, while still leaving an opening for the next book. I mean, there are still 3 worlds that we haven't even been to yet! While I know that Leah will be a large part of the next book, I hope that we still get some Holly and Ryan time.

I will definitely be looking out for the sequel! Thanks, Entangled!!

****EDIT:** I forgot to mention, this book needs some serious editing. But I accepted that as a flaw of an ARC. Hopefully its fixed before it releases!!**

kariny v says

FREE ARC PROVIDED FOR BOOK TOUR

Okay i am big goner for legends and myths in a story. This one was actually amazing and super original! So basically there were two bothers, Aesok and Besok. Aesok created a wold-The True World and kept adding to it and it became beautiful. Besok got jealous and copied his brother's world exactly four times-with the exact same people-therefore the explanation of the 'otherselves' In the first one he used too much heat so it became the Fire World. In the second, too much water-Water World. In the third too much mud- Stone world and in the fourth too much breath and that became the Air world. Awesome concept right??

The Fire world is made up of erupting volcanoes who are also the gods in each duchy. Each duchy has a duke that can keep the volcano lords from erupting-kind of like a peacekeeper. However a dragon has been terrorizing these duchies and angering the volcano lords, When the dragon attacks Duke Ruben's duchy, he calls the famous woman, Quetrah, who gets rid of the dragon in exchange for the dukes' daughters. But instead, Duke Ruben sends his illegitimate daughter, Leah. But when Leah goes to live with Quetrah she discovers that she has 'otherselves' in the other elemental worlds she never knew existed. There is a true world but it is not the one we live in, the one we live in is actually the water world!!

Leah has spent her life wanting to get her father's attention. But she knows the duke is only using her. When she is taken away, the Duke threatens to kill her mother if she does not spy Quetrah for him. Leah has no choice but to obey.

Holly belongs to our world-well the water world. She has no notion of her 'otherselves' but her world changes when she catches a glimpse of her reflection. Staring back is someone identical to her but not her.

When she is saved from drowning by a merman, Holly starts to see her black and white world differently. Turns out her saviour, is a poor lonesome boy at her school who's compelled her to forget he saved her. And top of that there's his crazy mother who is scared to look at her reflection because she fears it will take over. But how crazy is she? Holly is the daughter of one of the most famous movie directors and everyone uses her to get to her dad. She has a slightly rocky relationship with her father but no where as intense as Leah and the Duke. Holly is swept into Ryan's world. But what they don't know is that Ryan's other self in the fire world is Gideon, Leah's soulmate and the son of a powerful volcano lord.

Gideon is cursed and Leah will do anything to save him. But her actions unknowingly unleash someone into the water world that wants to hurt Ryan. And if Ryan isn't safe then Gideon won't be either, Despite the fact that otherselves are identical and supposed to be mirror images, Holly, Leah, Ryan and Gideon were totally unique! And it was told in alternating POV's so you got to experience the best of both worlds :D !

There was an epic clash of setting for me but it worked wonderfully! The water world is modern and stuff whereas the fire world has a medieval setting! Plus from the glimpse i've got, the True World gives me a kind of computerized cyborg feel! Maybe i'm wrong but i expected the True world to be our world but it wasn't! I hope we get to see more of that! Holly and Leah will have to work together to save the ones they love. Another good aspect was that i didn't find myself looking forward to Holly's POV or vice versa. Both were balanced and i enjoyed the shifting!

I can only describe the last half of the book as a collision of worlds!! And definitely BITTERSWEET. I was kinda heartbroken at some point but i found myself totally able to pass through that and get myself completely immersed in the ongoing story! Oh and don't even get me started on that cliffhanger!! HOPE!!! I really LOVED LOVED LOVED the whole book and i cannot wait till the next! I'm guessing it will include the stone and air world! I'm just soooo excited to find out what happens next!

Forever Young Adult says

Graded By: Savannah

Cover Story: Inaccurate Big Face

BFF Charm: Yay x 2

Swoonworthy Scale: 3

Talky Talk: She Said/She Said

Bonus Factor: Canada

Anti-Bonus Factor: Patty Chase Award for Awful Parenting

Relationship Status: Pleasantly Surprised

Read the full book report [here](#).

Anna (Enchanted by YA) says

****I received the eBook free as a review copy from the publisher Entangled Teen via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review****

For a very long time Through Fire & Sea was a 3 star book for me, because I lacked any solid emotional investment to the characters, also it was clear from the start that I'd favour one out of the two perspectives - Holly and Leah - since they were both so different. After reading about so many strong heroines lately, Holly's more feeble attitude rubbed me up the wrong way and even Leah had moments where I rolled my eyes in exasperation.

It was only when I found myself crying half way through, that I realised it was nothing more than a rocky start and I *had* actually grown attached. Maybe it took a little longer than I'd have liked but by the end of the book I had a new appreciation for the characters, which was worth the initial "*oh come on*" stage.

What kept the pages turning was my interest to see how everything would come together. The premise for this story with its multiple worlds is incredible and I applaud Nicole Luiken for the amount of depth she's given the idea. As a reader it's great to see this in books, but only when you don't get lost trying to follow the complex plotlines which thankfully didn't happen in Through Fire & Sea. For the most part.

What's more, is that when looking up what other books the author has written I found her other series Violet Eyes which actually plays an important (but subtle) part to this book's plot and for some reason that really stuck out to me as a mind-blowing moment!

There were plenty of these treasurable moments like this which made it worth the read. Including an ending which tied everything together beautifully and has made me eager for a sequel I'm yet to hear anything about...

Conclusively, I would recommend Through Fire and Sea to YA fantasy lovers along with this one piece of advice: stick with it.

Posted on: <http://enchantedbyya.blogspot.co.uk/>

Brittany (Brittany's Book Rambles) says

2.5/5 Stars

I wanted to love this book so much. It had such a unique plot. It was intense, complicated, extremely interesting, and fast-paced. Unfortunately, it failed in its execution. There were so many fantastical details that I was in awe of as I was reading but the writing didn't evoke the right emotions out of me to be hooked. The book is *so* fast-paced that it seems like the authors uses this as her reason as to why the relationships and characters are under-developed but it didn't work. The one thing that will always knock a book down a couple stars for me is instalove, and unfortunately, this book has **a lot** of it. I definitely didn't hate it and the ending piqued my interest about the sequel. I guess we'll see what the future holds.

To read my full review, visit my blog [HERE](#).

Melissa (YA Book Shelf) says

I really loved *Through Fire & Sea*. The worlds depicted are complex, including a Water world that very much resembles our current world except with the addition of real, siren magic, and a smaller, but equally complex Fire world, which resembles what the Medieval period have been like had it been ruled by volcanic eruptions, fire wasps, fire-breathing dragons that kill people at will.

I particularly love the idea that each of the parallel worlds are similar, but different with some people having comparable relationships and abilities. It's also interesting how Leah, who is the illegitimate daughter of one of Fire world's dukes, has otherselves on each of the four mirror worlds and the True World. The mythology of how each of the world's began is simple, which makes me wonder if fantasy readers would find it not clear enough or lacking in some way, but personally, I think that we get enough in this book to allow it to make sense and to understand the terrible possibilities of someone, like Qeturah, toying with the worlds for her own gain.

I also loved the similarities and differences between Leah and Holly. They both have fathers who haven't been there for them, but meeting and seeing the world from their otherselves' perspective demonstrates just how much force one was than the other. I also loved how ill equipped they were to deal with the realities of their otherworld's world, even when they had access to all of their otherworld's memories. It made for some hilarious moments as they struggled for power and control. Finally, I loved how both Leah and Holly were both forced to grow up, and in the case of Leah, try to do something selfless in the memory of someone she cared about and to protect Holly's world from Qeturah's machinations.

I love the romances that developed between Leah and Gideon and Holly and Ryan, and I think it's funny that the movie Holly's father directs, starring Ryan is one of Nicole Luiken's other, older books, which was originally published in 2001.

I can't wait to see how the story continues in *Amid Wind & Stone*, what Holly and Leah's otherselves on the Air and Stone world are like, to see if our two fave heroines are able to make an appearance and interact in these other worlds, and to see what becomes of the Phoenix and what that reveal means for each of the otherworlds.

Dion says

NOTE: I was given this book as an ARC by Entangled publishing

4.5 STARS

This was my first of Luiken's books, although on finishing I discovered that she has previously written other books which I'm sure I'll be exploring soon enough ;)

This book was AWESOME! It mixes high and low fantasy with two stories which could almost exist as totally separate from one another. I found myself entwined in both books so much that I didn't even care which main character I was reading about, I was just happy to be there! The plot, the complexity of the story, the interwoven tales and the writing was what really grasped me and enticed me, creating a great novel! Some parts of the plot fell short and a lot of the characters were missing depth and complexity, but the

narrative spoke for itself in this manner.

The premise and overarching idea was very well thought out; complex from any side you looked at it! I commend Luiken tremendously for this whole idea - it's incredible! Brava!

Overall, this was a great book when I was in the thick of it! The stories kept me engaged and the language was sophisticated enough that I didn't feel like I was reading a picture book but not too complex that I needed my dictionary by my side! After the post-novel haze faded, the book overall seemed less incredible, but either way it was a fun read!

Definitely worth a try, and probably worth a re-read if you're ever in the mood!
