



The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making

By Catherynne M. Valente



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"One of the most extraordinary works of fantasy, for adults or children, published so far this century."?Time magazine on the Fairyland series

Twelve-year-old September lives in Omaha, and used to have an ordinary life, until her father went to war and her mother went to work. One day, September is met at her kitchen window by a Green Wind (taking the form of a gentleman in a green jacket), who invites her on an adventure, implying that her help is needed in Fairyland. The new Marquess is unpredictable and fickle, and also not much older than September. Only September can retrieve a talisman the Marquess wants from the enchanted woods, and if she doesn't . . . then the Marquess will make life impossible for the inhabitants of Fairyland. September is already making new friends, including a book-loving Wyvern and a mysterious boy named Saturday.

With exquisite illustrations by acclaimed artist Ana Juan, *Fairyland* lives up to the sensation it created when author Catherynne M. Valente first posted it online as a serialized novel. For readers of all ages who love the charm of *Alice in Wonderland* and the soul of *The Golden Compass*, here is a reading experience unto itself: unforgettable, and so very beautiful.

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making is the first book in the Fairyland series by Catherynne M. Valente, with beautiful black-and-white illustrations by Ana Juan. Catherynne M. Valente is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Fairyland series, for young readers, and the author of many books for adults, including *Radiance*.

The adventures continue in the rest of the Fairyland series, including *The Girl Who Fell Beneath Fairyland and Led the Revels There* (Volume Two), *The Girl Who Soared Over Fairyland and Cut the Moon in Two* (Volume Three), *The Boy Who Lost Fairyland* (Volume Four), and *The Girl Who Raced Fairyland All the Way Home* (Volume Five.) Not since Oz has there been a land, or a cast of characters, so rich and entrancing. This deluxe paperback edition contains bonus materials, including interviews with the author and the illustrator.

A New York Times Bestseller

A Publishers Weekly Best Children's Fiction Title

Winner, Andre Norton Award for YA Science Fiction and Fantasy
A National Public Radio Best Middle-Grade Book of the Year
A National Public Radio Top Five Science Fiction/Fantasy Title of the Year
An Amazon Best Book of the Year
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Teen Book of the Year
A *Booklist* Editors' Choice
A New York Public Library Top 100 Books for Reading and Sharing

“A glorious balancing act between modernism and the Victorian Fairy Tale, done with heart and wisdom.” ?Neil Gaiman, *Newbery Award–winning author of The Graveyard Book*

“September is a clever, fun, stronghearted addition to the ranks of bold, adventurous girls. Valente's subversive storytelling is **sheer magic**.” ?*Tamora Pierce, author of The Immortals series*

“A mad, toothsome romp of a fairy tale?full of oddments, whimsy, and joy.”
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“When I saw that this book reminds me simultaneously of E. Nesbit, James Thurber, and the late Eva Ibbotson, I don't mean to take anything away from its astonishing originality. It's a charmer from the first page, managing the remarkable parlay of being at once ridiculously funny and surprisingly suspenseful. **Catherynne Valente is a find, at any age!**” ?*Peter S. Beagle, author of The Last Unicorn*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, May 2011: Bibliophilic wyverns, enchanted woods, an evil Marquess, a magical talisman, dwarven customs agents, djinns, velocipedes--and that doesn't even take into account what's in the title of *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*. A fantastical tale that's somewhere between Lewis Carroll and Terry Pratchett, Cathrynne Valente's book follows twelve-year-old September, a girl from Omaha, Nebraska, who finds herself whisked away by a fast-talking gentleman called the Green Wind to the world of Fairyland where she has to retrieve a witch's spoon from the fickle Marquess. Still, Cathrynne Valente's imaginative cast of characters and spirited prose turn what could be a standard heroine-on-a-quest story into something on par with the best (and weirdest) classics. -- *Darryl Campbell*

A Look at Ana Juan's Illustrations for *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*



Exeunt on a Leopard



The Wyverary



Amazon Exclusive: Cory Doctorow Reviews *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*

Cory Doctorow is a co-editor of the popular weblog BoingBoing and the author of *Little Brother*, *Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse*, and several other books.

Valente's *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*: sweet fairytale, shot through with salty tears -- magic!

Feiwei & Friends has done the world an enormous service by putting *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*, Catherynne M. Valente's extraordinary, award-winning, free web-novel, between covers. What's more, they've augmented it with Ana Juan's wonderful illustrations, one for every chapter.

Fairyland is a book that is both deeply in love with fairy tales and sharply critical of them: the story of September, a girl who flies from her dreary and sad life in Nebraska to Fairyland on the Green Wind. In Fairyland, she meets every sort of wonderful mythical beast (including a wyvern that's half library), eats the most wonderful and strange things, and has the most wonderful and extraordinary adventures and quests. And it really is wonderful: whimsical and lyrical and shot through with an imagination that simultaneously renders the traditional furniture of fairy tales fresh, and manages to make the author's own inventions seem as mythic as the first story told in the first cave in front of the first fire.

But Valente's fairytale broods and seethes, and it is not always such a nice place. For every velocipede herd thundering across the plain, ridden by a marvelous fairy in aviator's leathers and jodhpurs, there's a whipped blue water-djinn who bears the emotional scars of slavery. For every autumn kingdom filled with fiery sylvan alchemists, there is a political exile in the winter country, banished and sorrowing. For every brave sacrifice from September's companions, there's an abandoned soap golem that wishes the good queen would restore Fairyland to its glory.

And that's what makes Valente's work so truly fairytale fantastic: the sense that the magic sweetness is alloyed with a pinch of salty tears that makes it all so flavorful and complex, a wonder streaked with anxiety. So as September embarks on her quest to topple the evil Marquess who is bent on remaking Fairyland so that it is as dull and regimented as Omaha, Nebraska, we cheer her on, fear for her, and wonder, a little, if she might not be on the wrong side of the war.

Valente's lyrical fairytale is billed as a young adult novel, but like all the very best young adult novels, this is a book that can (and should be!) enjoyed by grown ups too.

Review

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“This book is quite simply a gold mine.” ?*Booklist, starred review*

“Amusing, wrenching, and thought-provoking.” ?*The Horn Book*

About the Author

Catherynne M. Valente is the author of over a dozen books of fiction and poetry, and is best-known for her urban speculative fiction, including *Palimpsest* (winner of the 2010 Lambda Award), and *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden*. This, her first novel for young readers, was posted online in 2009 and won the Andre Norton Award?the first book to ever win before traditional publication. Cat Valente lives on an island off the coast of Maine with her partner, two dogs, and an enormous cat.

Ana Juan is a world-renowned illustrator known in this country for her wonderful covers for the *New Yorker* magazine, as well as the children's books *The Night Eater*, and *Frida*, written by Jonah Winter. She lives in Spain.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Brown:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The particular *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making* is kind of guide which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Harry Oliver:

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Cindy Johnson:

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