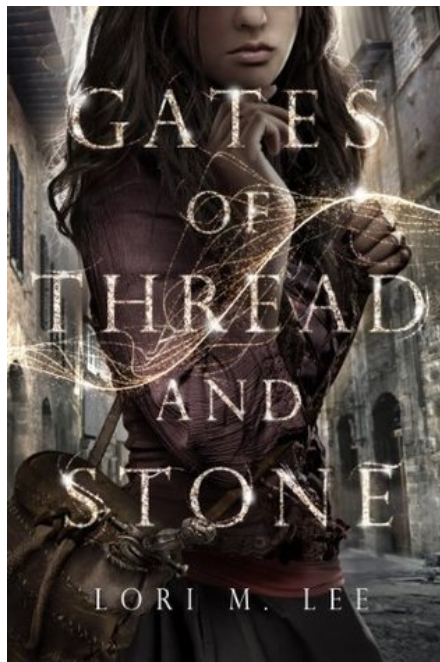




Gates of Thread and Stone

Lori M. Lee

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In the Labyrinth, we had a saying: keep silent, keep still, keep safe.

In a city of walls and secrets, where only one man is supposed to possess magic, seventeen-year-old Kai struggles to keep hidden her own secret—she can manipulate the threads of time. When Kai was eight, she was found by Reev on the riverbank, and her “brother” has taken care of her ever since. Kai doesn’t know where her ability comes from—or where she came from. All that matters is that she and Reev stay together, and maybe one day move out of the freight container they call home, away from the metal walls of the Labyrinth. Kai’s only friend is Avan, the shopkeeper’s son with the scandalous reputation that both frightens and intrigues her.

Then Reev disappears. When keeping silent and safe means losing him forever, Kai vows to do whatever it takes to find him. She will leave the only home she’s ever known and risk getting caught up in a revolution centuries in the making. But to save Reev, Kai must unravel the threads of her past and face shocking truths about her brother, her friendship with Avan, and her unique power.

Gates of Thread and Stone Details

Date : Published August 5th 2014 by Skyscape

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Author : Lori M. Lee

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Time Travel, Romance, Dystopia, Magic

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From Reader Review Gates of Thread and Stone for online ebook

Valeria Andrea says

This gave me a huge Tessa Gray vive. Seriously. I mean, with that Cover (pretty little thing, don't take me wrong) plus the "brother" thing & all the mysterious magic that's just too much to ignore.

So, Tessa's reincarnation, what do you say?
With some random Will, how about that.

I just... I love & miss Tessa so much * tear*
She can't never be replaced, but I will still give this a shot.

Keertana says

Rating: 2.5 Stars

I felt hopeful, sliding open the cover of *Gates of Thread and Stone*. Lee's debut begins with promise, introducing us to Kai, a fierce and headstrong heroine whose ability to slow down time is refreshingly unique. Moreover, the first few chapters of this novel present us with an intriguing fantasy world, one in which Kai, living practically in the slums, must earn credits--opposed to hard cash--to rise above her rank. Kai, who was adopted by an orphan boy, Reev, when she was eight-years-old, has a strong bond with her older foster brother. Seeing the two interact on the page at the opening of *Gates of Thread and Stone* was heart-warming--just as witnessing Kai's frantic worry over Kai's sudden disappearance is heart-wrenching.

With the help of her childhood friend (and crush!), Avan, Kai sets out to find Reev knowing only that he has been taken by the Black Rider, formerly thought to be a mere legend. Unfortunately, I found that this novel gradually declined from this point on-wards. For me, where *Gates of Thread and Stone* is strongest lies within Kai. Unlike typical protagonists, she doesn't allow the presence of her love interest to distract from her mission. Instead, I admired Kai's unflinching devotion to saving Reev and, moreover, her inner strength in challenging herself and overcoming her own hurdles. When it came to the romance I certainly had a bone--or two, really--to pick with Kai but with that slight exception, I found her to be a welcoming heroine.

Yet, despite her shining qualities, I feel as if Lee fails to utilize Kai to her fullest potential. We, rather disappointingly, see very little of Kai's marvelous ability and the instant camaraderie I felt upon meeting her during those initial pages vanished only chapters into the narrative. I continued to enjoy Kai, support her decisions, and marvel at her actions *but*, I couldn't feel much for her. In large part, this is due to the lack of development that Lee offers her secondary characters. Reev brings out the best in Kai and, seeing the strength of their bond in the opening of the novel, establishes the reader-character connection that is absolutely essential. Lee fails to sustain that thread throughout the narrative, however, as Kai is constantly on the move from one location to another, meeting characters only to dismiss them at later points in the tale. I never felt grounded, neither to a location nor to a character, over the course of *Gates of Thread and Stone*. I relish secondary characters, not only for their different personalities but more so for what they bring out in the protagonist. Lee's secondary characters are forgettable, at best, and their roles in Kai's life are all-too-similar to those played by other, far more memorable, secondary characters in other novels; whether it be teacher, guide, betrayer, fighter, potential friend...none of these roles are filled in a manner that bears remembrance and I found myself ever-so-slightly saddened by the direction the plot took.

I will say, though, that Lee keeps readers guessing at her plot lines. I often expected the story to travel in one direction and it pleasantly surprised me by taking a different path. Nevertheless, I didn't find the pacing of this novel to be particularly engaging and, once Kai leaves the city gates, the world-building felt confusing at best, nonexistent at worst. Now, that's not to say it isn't there--because it is. Lee infuses her debut with hints of mythology, pulled from various sources, and the result is rather fascinating. I only wish it had been presented in a different light. By the time the entirety of Lee's world becomes evident, the story is winding down and the influx of emotion, detail, and plot twists all packed into the final few chapters isn't lovely.

What's more, the conclusion of this novel banks upon the fact that you, the reader, actually *cared* about the romance. Which, I assure you, I didn't. I found Avan to be a respectable romantic interest--not too perfect but not an asshole either--yet I couldn't summon up much emotion for him. Avan and Kai skirt around their feelings for far too long. Lee takes it to a point where it begins to feel unnatural--seriously, how could they *not* have figured out one another's feelings sooner?--and the romantic tension isn't of the welcome variety. Granted, *Gates of Thread and Stone* avoids a love triangle but--I'll warn you--don't come here looking for swoon. I genuinely felt as if Avan's character, particularly with his past and liberal mindset, could have been utilized in a different--and possibly *better*--manner throughout the narrative. Just...unimpressive, is all.

I am confident that Lee's debut will find its die-hard fans. Of that, I have no doubt. Yet, for me, it wound up being a mash-up of too little magic (Kai, USE YOUR POWERS!), too little chemistry, and far too little connectivity. I just couldn't get into this one and while I truly loved the sibling bond that lies at the core of this novel, not to mention the qualities of Kai's that are truly admirable, *Gates of Thread and Stone* just didn't amaze me.

Lola says

1.5 stars

Book,

The only period of time when this story gripped my attention was at the beginning...obviously because, hey, gorgeous cover + intriguing blurb = hype to me and I've been waiting to read this one for awhile now.

This is a great example of *do not judge a book by its cover*. Still, I don't actually *regret* reading the book since I HAD to try it. And I did, but it didn't work for me.

First of all, the pacing: it was very slow and, even though I can manage slow, it's not working well with the story and concept. I mean, sure, they're (Kai and Avan) searching for Kai's brother and a search is usually slow but you can't just base your plot on that...*except that's what the author did*. Blood Red Road managed it much much better...

Sure, they do meet some people along the way but them meeting those people wasn't interesting. It was just *okay...now can we actually look for the guy now?* You know how some books have some small events and stuff happening between the main ones? Well this one didn't. It felt very very planned and too organized. As if the author had a list of *ok, now Kai goes to see that guy and then they'll go to the school she and Avan and then meet new people who can help them enter the Tournament* (which, by the way, wasn't exciting.)

They kept meeting new characters and meeting new characters ALL THE TIME.

It was seriously boring and repetitive.

Then, there is the romance... *WHAT ROMANCE?* Kai is definitely not looking for a boyfriend! She's looking for her brother and that's all she does. Her mind is focused on finding the person she loves the most and that's all, with some few exceptions.

Sure, she has some sweet moments with Avan but those sweet moments are mostly friendly ones. Because that's what they are: friends! She did have many opportunities though but does she take them? No, because her feelings for him are not clear. She's confused...so I, reader, was annoyed.

At about 90% of the story, she sees more clearly but the happy dance didn't come because I was too exhausted with reading a book I don't enjoy.

There is also the gargoyles.

Gargoyles.

Gargoyles.

Why were there gargoyles in this story? I was always wondering how the characters didn't do anything about those gargoyles and why they were in this story in the first place since they just DON'T FIT.

Well, according to the author, this is why:

Gargoyles had been native reptiles once, before Rebirth happened more than two centuries ago. But the mass collection of magic and technology during the war had changed them and killed off their major predators.

So yeah...*what?!* It's not a good enough reason, and I wanted to let it go but to me it doesn't make sense for them to be in the story.

Also, the main character is able to slow down time. The problem is that her power is actually so so so boring. She doesn't even use it with perfection, as if she just got it, when that is a false statement. I mean, she SLOWS DOWN TIME. She doesn't stop it. If she were like Piper in the Charmed TV show, then I would have liked her power and her at the same time probably much much more.

The writing was good but the dialogs didn't feel natural. And we don't get a lot of personal information or memories about Kai when that is normally how I get to connect with the main character and get invested in her story...so I didn't. At first, yes, but then it slowly slipped away.

Finally, I think it could get better, as for the sequel being better. It has potential, if only the world-building was more detailed, the romance more present, Kai's powers evolved to a point where she can do many other things with 'time' and if it had more action.

If those things really are applied to the sequel, I probably would enjoy it more than this one.

Oh and, please, a more coherent explanation for the gargoyles' existence because now I just want them to be exterminated and make a forgetting potion so everyone would forget about them so it feels like they never existed so the world-building makes more sense.

A.G. Howard says

OMGOSH! The cover is just as beautiful as the story inside! <3

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

4.5 stars

As voracious readers, we've learned to fear debut authors combined with gorgeous covers. It's a Pavlovian reflex of sorts: see a pretty dress, get a panic attack and run. But the very conditioned response that keeps us away from sad excuses for literature could do some serious damage in this case. Why? Because *The Gates of Thread and Stone* is more than just a pretty cover. It's perhaps one of the best books I've had the pleasure of reading this year.

All the unexpected developments lying in wait are just one of the things to admire about *The Gates of Thread and Stone*. Its most admirable quality might just be the intricacy and richness of Kai's world. Or it could be our Kai herself, stubborn and brave, timid but fierce, smart but not overconfident.

I've been completely surprised by the fierce love and protectiveness I felt for Kai from the start. She has a story that's certainly difficult to forget: she was abandoned when she was eight years old, floating in the river with no memories, only to be rescued by an older boy who then took care of her like she was his own sister. But her tragic past and her upbringing in poverty didn't make her stand out for me. It was her spirit, her fierce loyalty and unconditional love and her unfailing sense of right and wrong.

The mythology in this book is as original as it is surprising. It wasn't until the end, when I had a full picture in front of me, that I really started to appreciate what Lori M. Lee has done. There are a few things that are familiar, yes, but even they often go in unexpected directions. As for the very nature of Kai's journey and her fight, I should say that it wasn't easy to guess at all. I knew exactly what Lee wanted me to know at any given moment and not a thing more.

The only thing that could have been done differently is the romance. Kai and Avan have a fabulous bond and an undeniable chemistry. But they are both prone to dancing around their issues, never speaking things out loud and making all the wrong assumptions. Her feelings for Avan are the only thing Kai is truly afraid of, the only challenge she constantly avoids and even hides from. A part of it can be written off as inexperience, but there were moments that smelled of pure cowardice.

In everything else, though, they were both admirably strong. I enjoyed their journey, colored by their past and years of friendship and admiration from afar. I felt that Kai learned something from every experience, and while she had a hard time admitting her mistakes out loud, she was unfailingly honest to herself.

Shut down the warning signals in your heads that tell you to run away from pretty dresses on book covers. This is one pretty dress you'll be very proud to own.

Stop by The Nocturnal Library on August 12th for a Q&A with Lori M. Lee.

Rusty's Ghost Engine (also known as..... Jinky Spring) says

[It's set in a fantasy world where centuries ago a race of mortal magic wielders felt threatened by the development of technology. There was a big war between the normal humans and magic users known as Rebirth and i

Minni Mouse says

DNF at 52% because this girl was horny beyond sense or reason.

Not since *Shatter Me* have I encountered a book whose "what the what writing" distracted me so wholly and laughably. There was a good 10% of the book where I was engaged...but then I couldn't. BECAUSE THE HORNS.

There are some convincing reviews out there so maybe someday I'll attempt this again...but for now I just can't. BECAUSE THE HORNS.

1) We'd been friends for long enough that he shouldn't have affected me anymore, but try telling that to my stomach.

All right, all right. Nothing wrong with a few butterflies—or a stomach virus—so we'll continue reading...

2) He had nice hands, slender but strong, with long fingers. The muscles in his forearm shifted as he moved. I watched a few beats too long and hastily looked away.

Things are starting to heat up a bit now...because you know what nice hands, strong long fingers, and muscles in the forearms means...! *waggles eyebrows*

3) I was too worried about Reev to let Avan distract me—much. His long legs were clad in gray pants, and he held a cup of water in his hand. He looked like he belonged on a White Court poster, the ones with people too pretty to be real.

Pretty boys *and* cups of water in their hands? Wearing gray pants?! Be still, oh beating heart.

4) I avoided his eyes, dark and searching, and instead focused on his lips. They were great lips.

Yeah, girl, git at 'em lips, you saucy thing.

5 He touched my arm. This was the closest we'd been in weeks.

OH, IT IS ON.

6) *Avan's hand brushed my face. Heat shot down my neck, and I stumbled over the crooked boards of the bridge.*

Gah, I hate it when I spontaneously combust. Damn inconvenient, that is.

7) *I leaned away, catching his wrist. His arm tensed. The muscles in his forearm stood out. The inside of his wrist felt smooth against my thumb. My hand looked so pale next to his. **Was I seriously ogling his wrist?***

You're thinking about where that sexy, muscle-popping wrist has been you, aren't you? You naughty, saucy little horndog, you.

8) *He was so close. Beneath the disinfectant, I could smell the earthy, almost spicy scent of his soap—and his own scent underneath it, fresh like a cool wind. He hadn't trimmed his hair in months, and it had begun to grow past his ears. I almost gave in to the urge to skim my fingertips along the hair that fell across his brow.*

Old Spice + skipped trip to Supercuts = be still, oh beating heart.

9) *The angle of the seat forced me flush against Avan. My pulse fluttered wildly beneath my skin. Good thing the darkness hid my blushing.*

One of the girls from *Cruel Intentions 2* discovered a similar pleasure.

10) *Without Avan in front of me, I felt unsteady. I leaned forward, resting my hands on the seat. It was warm. I drew away, flustered.*

Pssst. It's called fresh fart fumes.

11) *And sometimes, like now, with his body heat still clinging to the front of my shirt, the sight of his silhouette through the mottled windows left me unbalanced, and I didn't know if reaching out would steady me or knock me off my feet.*

If that window hadn't been mottled, homegirl would have fainted already.

12) *The heat from the energy stone warmed the metal, but it wasn't as hot as Avan pressed against the entire front half of my body.*

YOU NAUGHTY, SAUCY LITTLE HORNDOG, YOU.

13) *With nothing to focus on but the red glow of the Gray's chest and the windblown smell of Avan's shirt, I slept in intervals.*

Either Avan's shirt was soaked in pine trees and sandalwood or homebody spilled caffeine all over his clothes.

14) *It was almost like being with Reev. But Reev didn't also **make me hyperaware of every point of contact between us. The shift of his muscles beneath my cheek. The backs of his thighs. The way our hips aligned on the seat.** For the first hour, my heart pounded so hard, it was like a battering ram against my ribs.*

I'd like to point out that homegirl hasn't even kissed this boy yet, much less have sex with him.

Wanted to clear that up because one could assume otherwise by reading these quotes.

15) *The air became steadily hotter as the hour passed. Moisture gathered where our bodies touched, and although the feeling wasn't exactly unpleasant, I tried inching back to give us some space.*

YOU SAID "MOISTURE."

16) *I dug my fingers into his stomach and felt his muscles contract. I slid my hand higher, my palm pressed to his chest, and was somewhat relieved to discover that his heartbeat wasn't nearly as steady as his voice.*

Well, sure, because you're mutilating his heart with your horny fingernails.

17) *His fingertips brushed over my knuckles, coaxing the knife from my rigid hands. **I had to remember how to uncurl my fingers.***

Start with the middle finger.

18) *I ran my hand back up to his shoulder and then trailed my fingers down his chest, searching for injuries.*

He cleared his throat. My fingers stilled over his stomach. He gently pushed my hands away and stood. "I'm not hurt."

*I gripped my shirt. My knuckles stung in protest. **I'd practically groped him.***

It's okay, sweetie. I heard when you're a star, they let you do anything. Whatever you want. Grab 'em by the *****, even.

19) *"Lay on your side," he said, helping me down.*

I did, blushing fiercely as he molded to my back. My head touched fabric; he'd arranged our bags as pillows. His shoulders curved around me, legs cradling mine as his arm draped over my waist. I felt light-headed and a little flushed, my skin tingling everywhere we touched.

Homeboy's just as horny as you now...

20) *I traced my fingers down Avan's forearm and wrist until I found the bumps of his knuckles. I could tell he was holding his breath. I pretended not to notice when I felt the light pressure of his lips against my hair. I imagined turning in his arms and meeting his mouth with mine.*

Sure. Nothing turns me on more than a boy with a forearm, wrist, and bumps on his knuckles.
winks

21) *He leaned against my side to talk to G-10, his arm pressed against mine. Even now, after all the time spent clinging to him on a Gray or sharing his body heat on the cold dirt, his touch sent ribbons of warmth spiraling through me.*

Riiiiibons!

22) *The clothes were much tighter than what we were used to, **and as Avan brushed off his***

backside, I had to admire the view.

AWW, YEE-AAH, GIT IT. THE BEND AND SNAP.

23) *Seconds passed in silence before I cracked open an eyelid and glanced over.*

He was watching me. The moment our eyes met, he looked away, his neck turning red from having been caught staring at me instead of the sky. I could feel my own blush rising hot in my cheeks.

I wanted to say something, but my mind had gone utterly blank. I felt aware of every blade of grass prickling my arm, of the cool air against my burning face. I stretched out my fingers and touched his wrist.

This boy's freaking wrist is the new G-Spot, apparently.

24) *Lying on my side, I reached over the bed, and Avan's hand found mine. Even with everything on my mind, heat danced down my spine as warmth crossed from his fingers to mine.*

*Not for the first time, I wanted to tug on his hand, to pull him into the cot with me. I wanted him beside me the way we'd been that night in the Void. Close enough to feel his breath against my skin. The weight of his arm around me. **Maybe this time I'd be brave enough to kiss him.***

Well, I'll never know whether or not homegirl got to git it with her horndog because I DNFed this puppy at the halfway mark.

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Gates of Thread and Stone by Lori M. Lee
Book One of the Gates of Thread and Stone series
Publisher: Skyscape
Publication Date: August 5, 2014
Rating: 3 stars
Source: eARC from NetGalley

Summary (from Goodreads):

In the Labyrinth, we had a saying: keep silent, keep still, keep safe.

In a city of walls and secrets, where only one man is supposed to possess magic, seventeen-year-old Kai struggles to keep hidden her own secret—she can manipulate the threads of time. When Kai was eight, she was found by Reev on the riverbank, and her “brother” has taken care of her ever since. Kai doesn't know where her ability comes from—or where she came from. All that matters is that she and Reev stay together, and maybe one day move out of the freight container they call home, away from the metal walls of the Labyrinth. Kai's only friend is Avan, the shopkeeper's son with the scandalous reputation that both frightens

and intrigues her.

Then Reeve disappears. When keeping silent and safe means losing him forever, Kai vows to do whatever it takes to find him. She will leave the only home she's ever known and risk getting caught up in a revolution centuries in the making. But to save Reeve, Kai must unravel the threads of her past and face shocking truths about her brother, her friendship with Avan, and her unique power.

What I Liked:

I think I liked this book. It's going to seem like I really didn't, because I have a lot to say in the next section, but it's not entirely the case! My overall view of this book is positive. But this one needed some work, in my opinion. I was seriously not impressed, which is really sad, because I love the author and I was extremely excited to read this book.

Kai can (sort of) manipulate time, but her not-blood-related brother Reeve doesn't want her using her ability. When Reeve disappears, Kai and her friend Avan go searching for him. They're told that the Black Rider is taking citizens, but nothing is as it seems, when Kai and Avan go looking for answers themselves.

You'll see in the next section that I wasn't Kai's biggest fan. Nor did I love the plot of this one. The world-building was on point though. I was intrigued from the start with the ins and outs of Ninurta. The very beginning of the book is spent really fleshing out the setting, and I liked this! Once we get away from Ninurta, well, then the world-building kind of dissipates. Sad, I know.

I REALLY liked Avan. He seemed a little flat at first, and at times throughout the story, but he is a true friend, protective guy, well-meaning person. I hate how much Kai uses him, thinks the worst of him, gets irritated with him. He doesn't deserve it. I like him so much!

That being said, I'm all about Kai and Avan (despite the fact that I may or may not dislike Kai). There is no love triangle in this novel (thank goodness, because it really seemed like there would be a love square or something). I'm not going to say I'm happy with the romance (gosh, does Lee trifle with the romance. I HATE the direction she took it, from the start), but I do hope for good things for Kai and Avan. Even though Kai does not deserve Avan.

I'm so glad this book has a sequel, otherwise this one would get maybe one or one point five stars. I'll be reading the sequel, once it's available - I have hopes that this series will be redeemed in general, with a subsequent novel. I guess we'll have to see though.

What I Did Not Like:

There were a few things that stuck out to me as I was reading. I'm not a huge fan of Kai, to be honest. I absolutely abhor the ending, and the messy romance. Actually, to be honest, this book in general is kind of a mess, but that goes without saying.

So... I don't like Kai. Usually when I dislike the heroine, I dislike the book. Kai was kind of on and off for me - some moments I didn't mind her, other moments I couldn't stand her. I found her to be extremely selfish throughout the book, not just in the beginning. I didn't see much character development in her. She's just as selfish and impulsive and somewhat stupid as she was in the beginning of the book as in the end. She's also extremely naive, and thinks she can take care of herself. Ha! Two weeks of physically training, and suddenly you can take on the world? Yeah, right.

Also, she has the ability to MANIPULATE FREAKING TIME. In the very end, it would have been really helpful if she could have stopped time and escaped with Avan. Or something. Apparently she can't go back

in time, she can only slightly slow it down or slightly speed it up. But her ability would have been really helpful throughout the story. She barely ever used it, even though it's her right, her gift. How frustrating, as a reader, to watch the heroine NOT embrace her power, from start to finish.

The ending is awful, in my very honest opinion. Lee made a mess of the ending. She drops "bombshell" after "bombshell", cooks up some nice blackmail, takes away several important aspects to the book, and the conveniently drops some back in... no. Just, no. I was not amused by this. I HATE it when authors think they can just take something out of a story, and then plop it back in five seconds later in a different way, shape, form. I'm not a fan of this. Especially in this instance. You'll know what I mean if/when you read the book.

The romance is messy as well. There is no love triangle, but it seems like Kai doesn't want to care about Avan, and then when she finally does, she works it into her head that he never actually cared about her like that because of a sense of duty. UGH. UGH UGH UGH. STOP WITH THIS TROPE, AUTHORS.

I mentioned that the story in general was messy... I'm sticking by that. Kai wants to get her brother back, She goes on a wild-goose chase, meets some random god-like immortal, goes back to be thrown into a tournament - the plot was twisty and winding and random, honestly. Everything seemed RANDOM. The Infinite beings seemed random, the author's explanation not good enough. The lore to this story didn't suffice, for me.

And the title makes no sense. The "threads" part, I get. But the gates, the stone? Not so much. What gates are we talking about? The only gates I know that were mentioned are the ones in and out of the city/province, and the gates of death. And I don't think we're talking about either of those. And stone? Completely unsure of that one. And the tagline goes right along that theme of randomness - not once does it really appear in the story. In fact, I really didn't FEEL the whole be-silent-be-still-be-safe thing. Lee's world of Ninurta really didn't feel that dangerous. Honestly. It adds to the randomness of the novel, I suppose. Random random random!

Would I Recommend It:

I definitely think this one is still worth the read. The series has potential, and I'm looking forward to reading the next book. However, I was a little disappointed by the quality of the story - this book was a highly anticipated one of mine, and the way the other authors made it sound... well, I was expecting something different. Better, perhaps. Next book, hopefully!

Rating:

2.5 stars -> rounded up to 3 stars. An okay debut, an okay novel, but disappointing (I had expectations for this one, but there were obviously other reasons for my disappointment). I'm hoping the next book makes more sense.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

www.melissa413readsalot.blogspot.com

That was a really good book! Kai and her brother Reev just try to get through each day without any trouble finding them. Kai works as a mail carrier and Reev is a bouncer/guard at some sleazy bar. They earn credits for a living through work.

Kai can thread and weave time, it's just too cool when she does it. She has no idea what she really is and when she finds out it's.. well pretty shocking to her.

Her brother Reev gets taken by the evil Kahl Ninu to fight in the tournaments and Kai with the help of her friend Avan have to go to the Void to try to get help. This help would come from the Black Rider who seems to be taking kids off the streets and no one knows why. Kai and Avan have to make it through the wasteland without getting killed by gargoyles. It's always something right?

When they get there nothing is what it seems, but it rarely is. I actually liked the Black Rider and I loved two of the characters that lived there, Mason and Hina. They are good people.

So Kai and Avan join the Tournament to try to save Reev and a whole bunch of stuff goes down that I'm not going to tell you about :)

Now let me say that I have left out many things in order not to give away spoilers! The end of the book is filled with some sadness, some pretty cool things and me ready to read the next adventures of this crew as soon as I can :)

Irena says

What I like to do when a certain book catches my attention is to read some of it's reviews here on Goodreads. What makes this particular book interesting is that it has so many different reviews. Some of my friends really liked it while others found it boring. That made me curious about how I'm going to feel about this story.

I can gladly say **I had a good time reading this novel.**

To be perfectly honest with you, I don't really know where to put it when it comes to genre declaration. Maybe in the epic fantasy box? I think it could fit there...

The world the writer built is unique.

I do confess it took me some time to get used to it and, even if the book comes with the map, I was lost at times. I wouldn't ascribe that to places as much as to this world's technology.

I didn't mind being lost though, because, I found the way eventually.

The main character, **Kai**, is a strong girl who knows what she wants - to find and save her brother - and will not let anyone or anything stop her in her path. Not even the love interest.

We do get some strong chemistry at times but love is not what takes a big part of the story. It's the journey and the aim.

Of other characters I would single out Mason, introduced to us as **G-10** (and strangely enough I liked that name more). He was likeable and interesting enough to make me hope for more of him in the sequel.

The other character I would like to read more about is **Irra**. I found him diverting and I would like to read a short story or novella written in his POV one day.

Other characters were okay but no one kept my attention enough to make me care about them. Actually, that's a lie. I cared about **Reev** at times. Of course I did. If I didn't, the whole point of the story wouldn't be achieved.

I'm going to end this review here and I'm off to read The Infinite simply because I want to know how this series is going to conclude.
It is a duology, right?

Edit: No, it's not a duology. It's a series and I'm glad it is because the second book was soooo good!

Emily May says

Just in case you missed the blurb, let me remind us all what this book is supposed to be about:

In a city of walls and secrets, where only one man is supposed to possess magic, seventeen-year-old Kai struggles to keep hidden her own secret—she can manipulate the threads of time... She will leave the only home she's ever known and risk getting caught up in a revolution centuries in the making. But to save Reev, Kai must unravel the threads of her past and face shocking truths about her brother, her friendship with Avan, and her unique power.

Magic... check.

Adventure... check.

Sibling love... check.

Recipe for awesomeness... sure sounds like it to me!

But, you see, here's the thing. Apparently, Kai is some badass, talented manipulator of time - that's what we're told. But I guess I missed all her hardcore magical talents somewhere between her poetic ramblings about Avan and her "oh my, Avan's sexy arm just brushed against my innocent, blushing virginal arm" nonsense. Okay no, the author didn't say her arm blushed (or was a virgin), I made it up. But I'm sure you catch my drift.

And apparently there was some adventure and apparently their lives were in danger and maybe I would have got a better sense of that if not every single one of Kai's thoughts were about Avan. The original plot line of her brother being kidnapped intrigued me, but it was quickly lost beneath the romancing and angsty. I felt like I kept waiting for the good stuff to happen in this book. It has such a great title and interesting premise that I was sure something really good was just around the corner.

So... I waited. And got:

“Without Avan in front of me, I felt unsteady. I leaned forward, resting my hands on the seat. It was warm. I drew away, flustered.

Sometimes, with the shop counter between us, it was easy to look at Avan and admire him from the safe standpoint of a friend, to see him as just a boy from the Alley.”

And then:

“Being this close to Avan was a practice in contradictions. His body heat and the solid comfort of his back

soothed me. I could relax against him and feel secure enough to sleep, even if only lightly. It was almost like being with Reev. But Reev didn't also make me hyperaware of every point of contact between us. The shift of his muscles beneath my cheek. The backs of his thighs. The way our hips aligned on the seat. For the first hour, my heart pounded so hard, it was like a battering ram against my ribs."

And: *"I leaned against his side and felt his arm circle my shoulders. Even though I knew it wasn't true, I imagined his warmth like a Sun that shone just for me."*

I thought this was going to be fantasy, not romance. And interesting, not boring. But this book was about 90% romantic angst; and boring romantic angst at that. The "heroine" was prudish to the point that even thinking about a kiss made her blush... I just lost interest so quickly that I'm amazed I managed to force myself through. I will say that the last quarter is marginally better than the rest but it wasn't enough to rescue the book, in my opinion.

So disappointed.

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Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Amazon Publishing and NetGalley.)

This started out okay, but I lost interest.

Kai was an okay character, and she certainly wanted more than anything to find her brother.

The storyline in this just lost me. I got bored, I didn't care what was going on, and I just wanted to put this book down and never pick it up again.

There was some romance, and it was sweet, I wasn't particularly interested though.

The ending was okay, I was just pleased that the book was over though.

4.5 out of 10

Cait • A Page with a View says

This is so underrated! Why aren't more people talking about it?!

I was just skimming the first few pages trying to get a feel for the book when the main character's voice totally pulled me in. The writing was strong, the worldbuilding was creative, and I loved the characters! Kai was a pretty likable MC and her voice was believable. This book is very YA, though... think love triangles &

cheesy tension. But those elements can be fun if they're used well and I thought they were.

Kai can control the threads of time, but doesn't know why and can't remember her life from before she was eight. An older teen found her and raised her, so the story begins with him going missing. Kai and her super attractive guy friend Avan go into the wastelands outside the city in search of her "brother" and the Black Rider who supposedly kidnapped him. **They eventually wind up in this Essen Tasch-type tournament** and... a bunch of weird stuff involving Famine, Death, Time, and other immortals comes into play. (This stuff was equal parts fascinating and confusing/weird).

The first part in the city was my favorite. The worldbuilding was really unique -- it felt like some **medieval fantasy city with dystopian & futuristic elements because they rode around on mechanical beasts powered by magic stones**. Some parts were kind of complicated and unclear, though. I guess it's all explained in the end, but I didn't care too much because everything had turned into an info dump. So the first 85% of the book was good but the end lost my interest.

I'm not sure if I'll check out the sequel, but the rest of the book was good! It's nothing particularly memorable, but is still a really fun YA fantasy book!

J.L. Sutton says

Unfortunately, I had difficulty connecting to the main characters (Kai, Reev or Avan) of Lori Lee's Gates of Thread and Stone (Gates of Thread and Stone #1) for most of the book. I kept holding out hope because I felt the writing was good and the pacing worked. Gates of Thread and Stone gets more interesting as we move to the conclusion and learn more about where Kai's magic comes from. Still, that was a long time without feeling very invested in what happened. So I can't say I was overwhelmed by the first book in this installment, but I am curious to see what happens next.

Sophia Sardothien says

Thank you netgalley for providing me this book in exchange of an honest review

Okay I'll be perfectly honest here, this book was a bit better than I first thought it would be, as the reviews in goodreads wasn't high and I did not have to request to read this book in netgalley **it was just there** . Therefore I did not have a high expectation, but luckily this book exceed it/

I thought the concept was pretty interesting and unique as it's base of a mythology thats really originally, as Kai the protagonist could manipulate the time.

HOWEVER I do have issues with this book.

The plot was not the best, I thought most of the time things were a bit too convenient as Kai does not seems to have any major struggle along her journey to find her brother. The other thing is that the world building is really undeveloped and confusing, even after starting the second one I'm still confuse by the world from times to times.

BUT BUT BUT

I wasn't a fan of the writing style, it feels extremely plain and lack of depth to me. <-- This is a really personal thing so I'm not saying its bad its just I did not 100% adjust to it.

Whatever the drek

Apparently drek is a swear word in this book. *"insert no mouth emoji"*

Moving onto the characters:

Kai the protagonist is fine, I don't have any particular emotion towards her, I felt like she's just there. Man just there.

Avan is Kai's childhood best friend, he does not have a good reputation in their street. Ya know classic use to be bad boy but now very sweet. By all means I'm intrigued by his character but I did not come to love him. His freaking mood swings annoys me a lot "eye rolls"

Reev Kai's brother, of all the characters I think like him the best. I thought his characterization has the most depth comparing to the others. I'm captivated by his action and all, but once again I did not come to love him either.

Yeah, the characters are a tiny bit hollow to me.

OKAY THE ROMANCE

HoNestly I thought that the ROMANCE OVERLOAD THE PLOT. Every time Kai and Avan gets all touchy and stuff I just get all pissed.

Kai: AVAN SMIRKS AT ME

Me: aww good for you

Kai: AVAN TOUCHS MY HAND

Me: Ahaah sweet don't care

Kai: AVAN TOUCHS MY THIGH

Me: Hehe nOW sHuT Up

Kai: AVAN KISSES ME

Me: FOR THE LOVE OF EVERYTHING SHUT UP

Yup thats me reading in her pov when she's getting all Avanish.

Overall, I would not recommend you to read this book if you're having a reading slump but if you want to try something new then umm why not :DD