

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

By Catherynne M. Valente

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The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making By Catherynne M. Valente

"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. 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 a *Publishers Weekly* Best Children's Fiction title for 2011.

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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

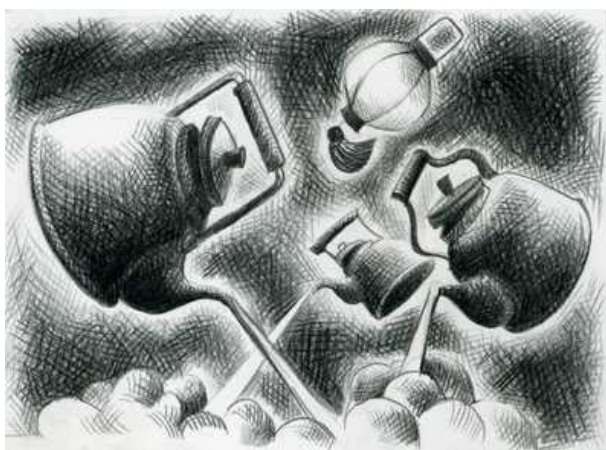
A Look at Ana Juan's Illustrations for *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*



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

"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." -- Holly Black, author of *Zombies vs. Unicorns* and the *Spiderwick Chronicles*

"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*

"This is a kind of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by way of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* -- it's the sort of book one doesn't want to end." -- *Publisher's Weekly*, Starred Review

"[Fairyland creates] a world as bizarre and enchanting as any *Wonderland* or *Oz* and a heroine as curious, resourceful and brave as any *Alice* or *Dorothy*. Complex, rich and memorable." -- *Kirkus*, Starred Review

"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 began *September's* adventures in installments on the Web; the project won legions of fans and also the CultureGeek Best Web Fiction of the Decade award. She lives with her husband on an island off the coast of Maine. She has written many novels for adults, but this is her children's book debut.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Quincy Eddy:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important normally. The book *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making* was making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also being your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with all the book *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*. You never experience lose out for everything should you read some books.

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Dennis Bales:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book particularly book entitled The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get previous to. The The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making giving you a different experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

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