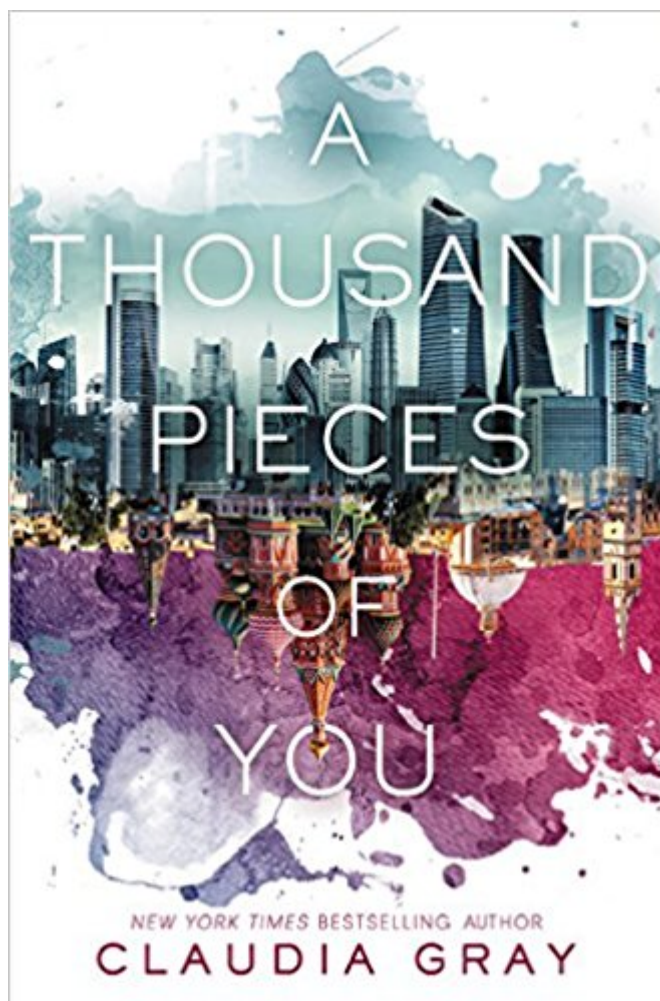


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# A Thousand Pieces Of You (Firebird)



## Synopsis

Cloud Atlas meets Orphan Black in this epic dimension-bending trilogy by New York Times bestselling author Claudia Gray about a girl who must chase her father's killer through multiple dimensions. Marguerite Caine's physicist parents are known for their groundbreaking achievements. Their most astonishing invention, called the Firebird, allows users to jump into multiple universes and promises to revolutionize science forever. But then Marguerite's father is murdered, and the killer—her parent's handsome, enigmatic assistant Paul—escapes into another dimension before the law can touch him. Marguerite refuses to let the man who destroyed her family go free. So she races after Paul through different universes, always leaping into another version of herself. But she also meets alternate versions of the people she knows—including Paul, whose life entangles with hers in increasingly familiar ways. Before long she begins to question Paul's guilt as well as her own heart. And soon she discovers the truth behind her father's death is far more sinister than she expected. *A Thousand Pieces of You* explores an amazingly intricate multi-universe where fate is unavoidable, the truth elusive, and love the greatest mystery of all.

## Book Information

Series: Firebird (Book 1)

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen; Reprint edition (November 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062278975

ISBN-13: 978-0062278975

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 279 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #124,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in Books > Teens >

Mysteries & Thrillers > Law & Crime #263 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Romantic

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## Customer Reviews

“An action-packed start. Gray effortlessly moves between the SF, historical, and contemporary aspects of her story.” (Publishers Weekly) “This unique science fiction adventure is full of twists, turns, and surprises.” (Booklist) “This well-blended mix of adventure, sci-fi, and romance will appeal to a wide audience.” (School Library Journal) “With on the edge of

your seat mystery and suspense, this thrilling fantasy will keep you guessing until the end. • (# 1 NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author Jennifer L. Armentrout) Praise for SPELLCASTER: • "SPELLCASTER is a whip" "smart read, sinister and delightful at once." • (Kiersten White, NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of PARANORMALCY) • "Three wounded but valiant protagonists confront a monstrous evil with human roots in this promising series opener. This riveting tale will keep readers up late and clamoring for the next installment." • (Kirkus Reviews) • "The author's intricate portrayal of witchcraft" "including its theories, rules, spells, and history" "raises this novel a notch above others in the genre, and Nadia is an appealing heroine as she juggles personal pain and looming supernatural disaster." • (Publishers Weekly) • "this is a compelling plot that mines the lore and history surrounding witchcraft to pit good against evil in a literally earth-shaking battle." • (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books) • "A pleasant surprise. A series opener that has its roots in old-fashioned science fiction, and the wings to carry that to modern teen readers." • (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) • "As a spirited romantic adventure, this novel is a delicious success." • (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

A thousand lives. A thousand possibilities. One fate. Marguerite Caine grew up surrounded by cutting-edge scientific theories, thanks to her brilliant physicist parents. Yet nothing is more astounding than her mother's latest invention, a device called the Firebird that allows people to leap into alternate dimensions. When Marguerite's father is murdered, all the evidence points to one person—Paul, her parents' enigmatic star student. Before the law can touch him, Paul slips into another dimension, having committed what seems like the perfect crime. But he didn't count on Marguerite. With the help of another physics student, Theo, Marguerite chases Paul through various dimensions. In each new world Marguerite leaps into, she meets another version of Paul that has her doubting his guilt and questioning her heart. Soon, she is swept into an epic love affair as dangerous as it is irresistible.

2.5 Stars. There's no doubt that Claudia Gray knows how to write well. She strings sentences and paragraphs together quite coherently (unlike many others I've tried to read) and her best-selling status reflects that a lot of readers appreciate her writing skills. I don't disagree with that at all. Now, because Gray is a good writer (no spelling errors, can write dialog, etc), other readers may very well enjoy this book so I'm going to lay out exactly why I didn't like it so everyone else can decide if that applies to them as well. If it does, skip the book. If not, you will probably really like it. So read on to see what bugged the heck out of me: The problems I had with her most recent release, A Thousand

Pieces of You, had nothing to do with her technical writing skills. Rather, it was the plot and development of the story itself that fell into, well, a thousand pieces. A quick synopsis: Marguerite's parents are famous scientists who not only discover that multiple dimensions co-exist all around us, but invent a small device that allows a person to travel among these dimensions and inhabit our "other dimension" self, one at a time. Needless to say, it's a world-altering discovery/invention but Marguerite's father is murdered immediately following the discovery. One of his two trusted lab assistants, Paul, is accused of the murder (we don't know by what evidence), and Paul skips town. Or rather, he skips their dimension entirely using the newly invented device called the Firebird, hence the series title. Marguerite and the other lab assistant, smarmy Theo, take two more Firebirds and chase after Paul to extract revenge. So you might think this book is a thriller. It is \*not a thriller.\* There is very little action in this book. It is more a romance because Marguerite is in love with Paul. It's not a spoiler to tell you that she catches up with Paul very early in the book and based on the look on Paul's face, she determines Paul did not kill her dad. I was cool with this. Unfortunately, Marguerite expressed zero interest in even asking who did then kill her dad. None at all. From there on out it was just all about her crush/love for Paul. So this is really a love triangle book since the other lab assistant Theo is crushing on Marguerite big time and trying to convince her Paul really \*is\* a killer. Who to believe, who to believe? Most of the book from there on out is all about whether you are Team Paul or Team Theo? Marguerite can't really seem to be definitive about it....when she's with Paul she's all about him, when she's with Theo she gets all weak in the knees for him. So if you like that kind of story....well, this may be right up your alley. There were other inconsistencies that bugged me, as well. For example, when Marguerite would arrive in a new dimension and occupy her other dimension "self" she would retain this other "self's" abilities (like language and motor abilities), which I was completely good with - it made sense, right? But then it was as if the author would forget it all of a sudden....like when she was in her Russian Tsarina self. She knew how to speak Russian and all that, but all of a sudden didn't know how to waltz? The author did that so that she would have to take "private" dancing lessons from her guard who was really Paul. Convenient, yes. Inconsistent though. Grrrrrr. It bugs me when authors break their own rules to make something happen....don't be lazy, find another way to write around it!! Anyway. It's a romance. Like Twilight books were. But the Twilight books (forgive me for saying so) brought forth a visceral emotional reaction on the part of the reader and that's why they sold millions and millions of copies. This book doesn't evoke that same emotion. Mostly I was irritated with Marguerite for being a do-nothing whiner who just wanted in Paul's pants. And sometime's Theo's. I wanted her to be MORE than that. Then she could get in their pants, lol. Your mileage may vary, of course. And this is

supposed to be a trilogy so the books may get better. Someone will have to let me know because I won't stick around to find out. Good luck and happy reading!

\*\*\*\*\*4.5 Star Review\*\*\*\*\*I had this book sitting on my shelf for over a year and can't believe it took me so long to read it. All I can say is Wow! This book was amazing and I devoured every page. I love how this book incorporates science, string theory and alternative universes as part of the story. I have always thought about different planes and alternative universes that might exist and it was fun to see this played out in this story. It was such an interesting take on traditional YA books and made for a very complex and interesting read. Marguerite believes that a man she trusted has killed her father. She sets out on a quest for revenge by trying to track down her father's killer through different universes. It is through her travels that she soon learns that all is not as it appears to be, and she may be the biggest target of all. Claudia Gray does a good job of weaving in the ethical dilemma of such travel. As Marguerite jumps from universe to the next she takes over the body of a different Marguerite. Marguerite is taking over another life and making choices for this other self and the consequences of these actions. We also see how others would love to have this power to control others and take over different universes for their personal gain. The book is also a love story. It asks the question, if two people are destined to be together, will they be together no matter the circumstances. Is fate such a powerful force that it doesn't matter what universe they find themselves in, they will always find a way to each other. A Thousand Pieces of You is a thought provoking and interesting read. It will keep you guessing with each page as Marguerite traverses these different worlds trying to put the pieces of her father's death together and fight for her great love.

Marguerite grew up with physicists for parents, so she's no stranger to experiments and gadgets strewn about her house. Her parents and their research assistants Paul and Theo develop a device that they call the Firebird that allows people to jump through different dimensions. This invention is set to change science forever until her dad is killed and Paul appears to be the killer. Paul takes off to another dimension, and Marguerite and Theo quickly follow, hoping to get justice for her father. Before long, Marguerite starts doubting Paul's guilt, and begins to realize her feelings for him. As she jumps through dimensions, she begins to learn there was far more to her father's death than she ever could have imagined. Let me just say again, I loved this book! I've never read a book with the same concept, so that made it unique for me. I really enjoyed that the book was told with a scientific mindset, similar to Dark Matter. There

was a lot of talk about the science and physics that allowed Marguerite to jump between dimensions but it was never overwhelming to the point where I was confused. I also likes that there were rules put in place, such as not being able to jump backward or forward in time, or to dimensions where Marguerite hadn't been born. There was a brief time where I thought we were going to end up with a love triangle, and I got slightly annoyed for a few minutes, worrying that we had another young woman who fell in love with any man who showed her attention, HOWEVER, the author did a great job at making Marguerite quickly learn who she actually had feelings for without dragging that decision out. I appreciated that. I found myself really engaged in the story and I was dying to find out where the story would go and whether or not Marguerite would make it home safely. All of my questions were answered and the resolution of this book set the second book up perfectly, without leaving us with a huge cliffhanger. I cannot wait to read book two I'm planning to start it tonight so I can find out what happens next! I definitely recommend this one to fans of YA sci-fi who are looking for an adventurous story!

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