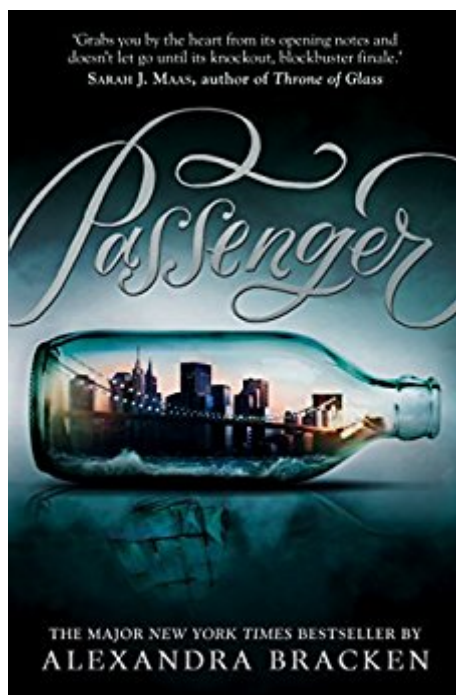


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Passenger: Book 1



Synopsis

'Riveting. Romantic characters and an immense world with no end in sight' - Victoria Aveyard
New York City, present day
In one night, Etta Spencer is wrenched from everything she knows and loves. Thrown into an unfamiliar world, she can be certain of only one thing: she has travelled not just miles, but years from home.
The Atlantic, 1776
Captain Nicholas Carter is tasked with delivering Etta to the dangerous Ironwood family. They are searching for something - a stolen object they believe only she can reclaim. But Nicholas is drawn to his mysterious passenger, and the closer he gets to her, the further he is from freedom.
The Edges of the World
Together, Etta and Nicholas embark on a perilous journey across centuries and continents, piecing together clues left behind by a desperate thief. But as Etta plays deeper into the Ironwoods' game, treacherous forces threaten to separate her not only from Nicholas, but from her path home - for ever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Though our main character is a teen, these books read like an adult novel. That is not to say that they are inappropriate for young adult readers, there is just a different tone to the writing that speaks more to adult historical fiction than sassy time traveling ya adventures. The novel is very well written,

so each jump through time and space feels authentic. It reads like a historical fiction novel with rich details and time period-specific obstacles for the characters to overcome. The writing is very poetic and descriptive allowing you to vividly imagine what is taking place. You view each time period through two different lenses. Etta is from our time and marvels at the quiet, the rights of the people in that era or the restricting style of dress. Nicholas is from the time of our country's founding and is amazed by the flying machines or rattled by the loudness and speed of cars. He has travelled before, but not enough to desensitize him or dampen his wonder. It adds this wonderful layer of authenticity to the world we're being introduced to. Our two main characters are likable, believable people with flaws. You hope that the conflict of interest resolves itself without betrayal, but worry the entirety of the book that their friendship (or potential future relationship) will be destroyed. Even as a reader you feel the turmoil and wonder what you would choose when everything was on the line. My critique is that it feels a little like instalove. Nothing happens right away, but the thoughts in their heads betray the speedy attachment and unexplainable immediate need to protect one another. Highly recommended to young adult/teen readers who enjoy historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy and contemporary novels. This is hard to place in a genre but I expect it to be well liked by most readers as it is wonderfully written.

I feel like I have been waiting for this book for so long. I heard the premise ages back, and I knew then that I would love it. However, *Passenger* is different than Alexandra Bracken's other books. Slow to the build, *Passenger* strengthens itself through Alexandra Bracken's gorgeous prose and the unique premise that this tale is spun around. I found it to read more closely as a contemporary with simplicity, rather than a more science fiction read. This was primarily from the pacing of the novel. Rather than building upon itself for more action, *Passenger* progresses more slowly, allowing readers to savor all the different moments. To me, the peak of the novel seemed to unfold in the last 50 pages of the novel with a beyond brilliant ending, but I had wanted more of that sooner. That being said, however, doesn't take away from the world Bracken has expertly crafted. I felt as if I was transported alongside Etta and Nicholas as they made their journey. *Passenger* is a bit more of a romance than Alexandra Bracken's other reads, and I loved how it seamlessly fit into the plot, without making the romance the most important element. I loved Etta and Nicholas from the start that that love only grew as I got to know them better as the book went on. Reading *Passenger* was quite the experience. Rarely do I find myself moved by quotes I find within the pages, but for *Passenger*, I stopped so many times to reread a paragraph or to write it down. They were passages that seemed so right and just expertly crafted. I have some new favorite Bracken lines to pair with

my favorite quote from Brightly Woven all these years later. I also loved the different time periods that Etta and Nicholas journey to; Passenger is clearly very well-researched. The ending threw me for a loop. I knew something specific needed to happen, but how it would get there? I had no idea. This was a bit of an underdog moment, and it was pretty badass. Things are very interesting now, and I am dying to know how they play out in Wayfarer, which will be even more awesome than Passenger. The ending is what solidified this book for me. I wasn't completely sold until I turned that final page. As much as the ending killed me a little, it was just right. I liked this one, I did, but it definitely holds a different place for me than The Darkest Minds trilogy or Brightly Woven. Diverse and rich, Passenger is a story of a heroine who doesn't let herself be persuaded or forced by expectations of others. Instead, she reaches out and goes after what she wants.

I may no longer be the target audience for this book but I still enjoy some YA fiction now and again. This was pretty bad. I haven't even been able to force myself to finish it to even see if there were any redeeming qualities. The romance springs from pretty much nothing which is fairly common in the genre. But what really irritates me is that this book tries so hard to preach equality. Which can definitely be a good thing but not so much in this story. It detracts all reality. She thinks someone she loves is murdered and she doesn't seem to give two s**ts but travel back in time (when it's pretty common that people would be racist/sexist) and she gets very offended whenever anyone slights someone for gender or race. Her emotions don't come across as real whatsoever which makes it incredibly hard to feel any emotional attachment to her at all. The same could be said for most of the characters. I liked the concept of the story and even thought it'd be fascinating to see a modern girl in previous times trying to adjust to expectations. But it fell flat. Very flat. Her lack of emotion in what drove her to complete tasks makes it a slow drag which is pretty much the enemy of quick fun YA reads.

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